Lesson 53 – The Division of Canaan Part I

based on Joshua 10:40-43; 11; 14:14.

Joshua, now in the heart of the Promised Land, making great strides in claiming their inheritance.

1) How does the Bible record that?
   Joshua 10:41-43 And Joshua smote them from Kadeshbarnea even unto Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even unto Gibeon. And all these _____ and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel _____ for Israel. And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.

The tribes of northern Palestine, terrified at the success which had attended the armies of Israel, now entered into a league together against Israel. At the head of this confederacy was Jabin, king of Hazor, a territory to the west of Lake Merom.

2) How big was their army?
   Joshua 11:4 And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, _____ people, even as the sand that is upon the sea shore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many.

This army was much larger than any that the Israelites had before encountered in Canaan.

3) What did the LORD tell Joshua?
   Joshua 11:6 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Be not afraid because of them: for to morrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel: thou shalt _____ their horses, and _____ their chariots with fire.
4) How did the battle go?
   Joshua 11:8-9 And the LORD _____ them into the hand of Israel, who smote them, and chased them unto great Zidon, and unto Misrephothmaim, and unto the valley of Mizpeh eastward; and they smote them, until they left them _____ remaining. And Joshua did unto them as the LORD bade him: he houghed their horses, and burnt their chariots with fire.

The chariots and horses that had been the pride and boast of the Canaanites were not to be appropriated by Israel. At the command of God the chariots were burned, and the horses lamed, and thus rendered unfit for use in battle. The Israelites were not to put their trust in chariots or horses, but ***"in the name of the Lord their God."***

One by one the cities were taken, and Hazor, the stronghold of the confederacy, was burned. The war was continued for several years, but its close found Joshua master of Canaan.

5) What does the Bible record about that?
   Joshua 11:23 So Joshua took the _____ land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land _____ from war.

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6) What was next for Joshua?
Joshua 13:1, 7 Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art _____ and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed… …Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance unto the _____ tribes, and the half tribe of Manasseh,

There was another work for the great leader to perform before he should relinquish the command of Israel. The whole land, both the parts already conquered and that which was yet unsubdued, was to be apportioned among the tribes. And it was the duty of each tribe to fully subdue its own inheritance. If the people should prove faithful to God, He would drive out their enemies from before them; and He promised to give them still greater possessions if they would but be true to His covenant.

7) Which tribe was left out?
Joshua 13:14 Only unto the tribe of _____ he gave none inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as he said unto them.

The tribe of Levi, being devoted to the sanctuary service, was not counted in this allotment; but forty-eight cities in different parts of the country were assigned the Levites as their inheritance.

8) At the distribution, who stepped up to make a special request?
Joshua 14:6 Then the children of _____ came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and _____ the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea.
9) What promise from Moses did he claim?
Joshua 14:9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have _____ shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

Except Joshua, Caleb was now the oldest man in Israel. Caleb and Joshua were the only ones among the spies who had brought a good report of the Land of Promise, encouraging the people to go up and possess it in the name of the Lord. He therefore presented a request that Hebron be given him for a possession. Here had been for many years the home of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and here, in the cave of Machpelah, they were buried. Hebron was the seat of the dreaded Anakim, whose formidable appearance had so terrified the spies, and through them destroyed the courage of all Israel. This, above all others, was the place which Caleb, trusting in the strength of God, chose for his inheritance.

10) How old was he?
Joshua 14:10 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day _____ and _____ years old.

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11) What did he intend to do?
Joshua 14:11-12 As yet I am as _____ this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this _____, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

This request was supported by the chief men of Judah. Caleb himself being the one appointed from this tribe to apportion the land, he had chosen to unite these men with him in presenting his claim, that there might be no appearance of having employed his authority for selfish advantage.

12) What did Joshua do?
Joshua 14:13 And Joshua _____ him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

13) What was the end result?
Joshua 14:14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he _____ _____ the LORD God of Israel.

Caleb's faith now was just what it was when his testimony had contradicted the evil report of the spies. He had believed God's promise that He would put His people in possession of Canaan, and in this he had followed the Lord fully. He had endured with his people the long wandering in the wilderness, thus sharing the disappointments and burdens of the guilty; yet he made no complaint of this, but exalted the mercy of God that had preserved him in the wilderness when his brethren were cut off. Amid all the hardships, perils, and plagues of the desert wanderings, and during the years of warfare since entering Canaan, the Lord had preserved him; and now at upwards of fourscore his vigor was unabated.

The brave old warrior was desirous of giving to the people an example that would honor God and encourage the tribes fully to subdue the land which their fathers had deemed unconquerable.

The cowards and rebels had perished in the wilderness, but the righteous spies ate of the grapes of Eshcol. To each was given according to his faith. The unbelieving had seen their fears fulfilled.

14) How important is faith in God's promises?
1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God _____ the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Can you see God keeps His Word?

Would you like God to be mighty in God's sight?

When is it time to walk by faith?

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