



Caleb: A Hero

“And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers, you shall send a man, everyone a leader among them.”

So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the Lord, all of them men who were heads of the children of Israel...”

” ...From the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh...”

“...From the tribe of Ephraim, Joshua the son of Nun...”(Numbers 13:1-3, 6, 8)

Caleb and Joshua Stand on the Lord’s Side

“Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” (Numbers 13:30)

“But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes...” (Numbers 14:6)

“Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.” (Numbers 14:30)

Caleb

1. Caleb and Joshua were the only two who came from Egypt, crossed the wilderness, and entered Canaan. All others of the first generation died in the wilderness because of unbelief.
2. Caleb saw the oppression of slavery in Egypt.
 - a. He saw the rise of Moses to deliver.
 - b. He saw the ten miracles performed by God through Moses on the land of Egypt.
 - c. He saw the crossing of the Red Sea and the drowning of the Egyptian army.
3. Caleb and Joshua were the two spies who went into Canaan and brought back a report of faith in the promises of God.
4. Caleb saw the death of Moses and experienced the transition of leadership to himself and Joshua.

5. Caleb and Joshua led the second generation, born in the desert, into Canaan.

The Reflections of Caleb at the Dividing of the Land

“Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: “You know the word which the Lord said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. Nevertheless, my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.’ And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said.” (Joshua 14:6-12)

1. Many began well, but finished poorly, or did not finish at all.
 - a. Solomon
 - b. King Saul
 - c. Lot
 - d. Samson
 - e. Demas
2. Beginning is not a problem Finishing is what God looks for.
 - a. Abraham began at the age of seventy-five to become the father of all believers. At ninety-nine he became a father and also began the Jewish race.
 - b. Moses began at the age of eighty to be the deliverer of Israel. He led them through the wilderness until he was one hundred twenty.
3. At eighty-five, Caleb took a mountain and the sons of Anak, the Anakim.
 - a. The Anakim people were the largest of the giants of Canaan.
 - b. The Anakim people were the ones who put fear into the hearts of the ten spies. They said, “we were as grasshoppers in their sight.

- c. Giants were the offspring of angels and women. This took place before and after the flood. The last were killed by David (Genesis 6:1-4).

Caleb Conquers

“Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak. Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher).

And Caleb said, “He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife.” So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.” (Joshua 15:14-17)

1. Caleb is tiring out but wants to finish defeating the sons of Anak.
2. He offers his daughter to be the wife of the one who will conquer.

Caleb is Generous

“Now it was so, when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, “What do you wish?” She answered, “Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water.” So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.” (Joshua 15:18-19)

1. Caleb knew the inheritance was for himself and his children.
2. Caleb thought more of others than himself.
3. Caleb still provided for his family in his later years.

Caleb’s Final Inheritance

“And they gave them Kirjath Arba (Arba was the father of Anak), which is Hebron, in the mountains of Judah, with the common-land surrounding it. 12 But the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as his possession.” (Joshua 21:11-12)

What About You?

1. Do you feel as if your calling has come to an end?
2. Are you already planning more for your death than the rest of your life?
3. Do you see each day as if your life is winding down?
4. It’s time to conquer something new.
5. God instructed the children of Israel to conquer Canaan.
 - a. It is not sure if God told Caleb to take on the sons of Anak.

- b. Caleb decided to live a while longer and defeat new enemies.
6. There are always more enemies to be conquered.