

221005-4 Jos 15, The Tribe of Judah's Inheritance Described—CThurman

In the study of the book of Joshua we have learned that chs. 1-12 concerned Israel's conquest of Canaan. It was not a conquest that was as thorough as it should have been. The LORD stated this to be the case at a time when Joshua was old and well-stricken in years. In spite of this the LORD commands Joshua to divide the land to the tribes that inherit on the west of the Jordan River. Chapters 13-19 is that account. In the 14th chapter Caleb, prince of the tribe of Judah, came to Joshua at Gilgal desiring the city of Hebron as his inheritance. It seems that this leads to the tribe of Judah receiving their lot in the same area. Remember that some of the land allotments took place at Gilgal. Others took place at Shiloh, where the tabernacle shall be erected shortly. Chapter 15 shows that Judah receives their allotment of land with Caleb.

What Caleb received when he was given Hebron for an inheritance needed some discussion. The city of Hebron will be one of 48 cities that the nation of Israel shall give to the Levites on both sides of the Jordan River. The limits of each city include 3,000 cubits of land around it for livestock, feed and fields. Also, Hebron will be designated one of the six cities of refuge (three on both sides Jordan situated in the north, south and in the middle); cities to which anyone involved in the accidental death of another may flee to for refuge from the avenger of blood. So, Caleb's grant of Hebron actually involves all the fields and villages around the city of Hebron. (cf. Jos.21.11-13; Nu.35.2-7)

Chapter 15

Vss. 1-12, Defines the tribe of Judah's allotment of land

First the southern border is defined. (vss.1-5)

1 ¶ This then was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah by their families; even to the border of Edom the wilderness of Zin southward was the uttermost part of the south coast.

The southernmost border of Judah's land would reach to the south side of the wilderness of Zin to the border of Edom. It is to be noted that Simeon's inheritance is *within* Judah's.

Jos.19.9 Out of the portion of the children of Judah was the inheritance of the children of Simeon: for the part of the children of Judah was too much for them: therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of them.

This southern area will also be allotted to Simeon. Later Simeon's land will be absorbed by Judah. And this description kind of implies that much.

2 And their south border was from the shore of the salt sea,

At the southernmost point of the Dead Sea.

from the bay that looketh southward:

3 And it went out to the south side to Maalehacrabim,

So, continue south to the Accent of Acrabbim, then west.

and passed along to Zin,

The wilderness of Zin's south border.

and ascended up on the south side unto Kadeshbarnea, and passed along to Hezron, and went up to Adar, and fetched a compass to Karkaa:

4 From thence it passed toward Azmon, and went out unto the river of Egypt;

Or, and the southern border extended to the Brook of Egypt.

and the goings out of that coast were at the sea:

The sea being the Mediterranean Sea.

this shall be your south coast.

The east border is defined. (v. 5)

5 And the east border was the salt sea, even unto the end of Jordan.

In other words the Dead Sea marks Judah's eastern border to its very north position where the Jordan River empties into it.

The north border defined. (vss.6-

And their border in the north quarter was from the bay of the sea at the uttermost part of Jordan:

Again, where the Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea, from this northern position continue northward.

6 And the border went up to Bethhogla,

A city to mark Benjamin's southern border. (cf.Jos.18.19, 21)

and passed along by the north of Betharabah;

This city helps mark Judah's northern boundary, but belong to Benjamin. (cf. Jos.18.22) Betharabah means, 'The House of the Desert.'

and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben:

7 And the border went up toward Debir from the valley of Achor, and so northward, looking toward Gilgal,

The same is called Geliloth in Jos.18.17, marking Benjamin's southern border.

that is before the going up to Adummim, which is on the south side of the river: and the border passed toward the waters of Enshemesh, and the goings out thereof were at Enrogel:

Heading west out of the Jordan River valley everything is *going up*.

8 And the border went up by the valley of the son of Hinnom unto the south side of the Jebusite; the same is Jerusalem:

The valley south of Jerusalem shall be called the Valley of Hinnom, or Gehenna.

and the border went up to the top of the mountain that lieth before the valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the end of the valley of the giants northward:

A place also noted for a giants people, Hebrew, Rephaims, though not necessarily of the Anakims.

9 And the border was drawn from the top of the hill unto the fountain of the water of Nephtoah, and went out to the cities of mount Ephron; and the border was drawn to Baalah, which is Kirjathjearim:

Kirjathjearim marks Benjamin's furthest western reach into Canaan before turning north, but Judah turns southwest, at this point bordering what shall be the tribe of Dan's allotment until Judah's border reaches the Mediterranean Sea.

10 And the border compassed from Baalah westward unto mount Seir,

Not Seir of Edom, but a city by the same name evidently near to Kirjathjearim.

and passed along unto the side of mount Jearim, which is Chesalon, on the north side, and went down to Bethshemesh, and passed on to Timnah:

11 And the border went out unto the side of Ekron northward: and the border was drawn to Shicron, and passed along to mount Baalah, and went out unto Jabneel; and the goings out of the border were at the sea.

Very likely from Jabneel the border follows the river along until drains into the Mediterranean Sea.

12 And the west border was to the great sea, and the coast thereof. This is the coast of the children of Judah round about according to their families.

So Judah's southern border descended from the Dead Sea, up the Ascent of Acrisson, included the wilderness of Zin and came up to the river of Egypt. The eastern border followed the western side of the Dead Sea up to Bethhoglah. From here the northern border went west to Adummim, went

along beneath Jerusalem through the valley of Hinnom, up to Kirjathjearim, down to Bethshemesh, and then followed the river until it empties into the Mediterranean Sea.

Vss. 13-19, Caleb's military campaign against the hill country of Judah, Hebron
13 ¶ And unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a part among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, even the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron.

so, Kirjatharba

Hebron or Kirjatharba is an ancient city; more ancient than Zoan, Egypt.

Nu 13:22 ... (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

Zoan was evidently one of the cities where the Israelites lived when Jacob and his family moved down into Egypt. This could mean that Zoan existed up to and perhaps 255 years earlier. But Hebron was before this.

[At this time Israel is 45 yrs. from the exodus. Israel was 210 yrs. in Egypt.]

Ps.78.12 Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

Hebron was built before this.

14 And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.

Also called Canaanites. (see below, Jud. 1.10)

Evidently Anak, father of the people called the Anakims was descended of the giants, men which are noted for their great stature. The sons of this man were apparently renowned as great warriors among the Gentiles that lives in the land. It was above forty-five years earlier that Israel heard of the sons of Anak when Moses sent forth spies to survey Canaan.

Nu 13:22 And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the children of Anak, were. ...

...

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

(cf. Deu.1.28; 2.10, 11, Anakims)

Here these same men the children of Israel must battle against now.

Deu.9.1 ¶ Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,

2 A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak!

3 Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.

Caleb and his force not only drove the sons of Anak out of Hebron, but he slew them.

Jud 1:10 And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in Hebron: (now the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba:) and they slew Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi.

The Anakims that remain in the land are found in Gaza, Fath, and in Ashdod. (cf. Jos.11.22)

15 And he went up thence to the inhabitants of Debir: and the name of Debir before was Kirjathsepher.

Kirjathsepher means 'The City of Books.'

16 And Caleb said,

To the warriors of Israel ...

He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife.

17 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it:
younger (cf. Jud.1.13)

Othniel is Caleb's nephew.

and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife.

Othniel's uncle is Caleb and Achsah's uncle is Kenaz. So, Othniel and Achsah are cousins and may become married without violating the law of Moses.

18 And it came to pass, as she came unto him,

her proposed Othniel

that she moved him to ask of her father a field:

Her father promised to give his daughter to the man that could drive out inhabitants of Debir, a city like Hebron, located in the hill country, and dry. Evidently success came with the promise of a wife, but land too. Achsah asked her husband to allow her to ask her father for a field, a field that has water, which he did.

and she lighted off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wouldest thou?

19 Who answered, Give me a blessing; for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And he gave her the upper springs, and the nether springs.

springs, the Hebrew fem. noun, גִּלְהָה, gul-lah, tss. *springs, bowls, pommels*; perhaps carries the idea of *pools*.

upper, עֲלִי, [g]il-lee, Hebrew adj. found twice in the OT tss. *upper*.

nether, תַּחַת, tach-tee, an Hebrew adj. tss. *low, lower, lowest, nether, nether parts.*

Vss. 20-62 Judah's cities

20 ¶ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families.

21 And the uttermost cities of the tribe of the children of Judah toward the coast of Edom southward were Kabzeel, and Eder, and Jagur,

22 And Kinah, and Dimonah, and Adadah,

23 And Kedesh, and Hazor, and Ithnan,

24 Ziph, and Telem, and Bealoth,

25 And Hazor, Hadattah, and Kerioth, and Hezron, which is Hazor,

26 Amam, and Shema, and Moladah,

27 And Hazargaddah, and Heshmon, and Bethpalet,

28 And Hazarshual, and Beersheba, and Bizjothjah,

29 Baalah, and Iim, and Azem,

30 And Eltolad, and Chesil, and Hormah,

31 And Ziklag, and Madmannah, and Sansannah,

32 And Lebaoth, and Shilhim, and Ain, and Rimmon: all the cities are twenty and nine, with their villages:

The tally of all of the names of the cities equals 39. Ten of these cities belong to Simeon and are listed AND counted to this tribe.

Jos 19:1 And the second lot came forth to Simeon, even for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families: and their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah.

...

9 Out of the portion of the children of Judah was the inheritance of the children of Simeon: for the part of the children of Judah was too much for them: therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of them.

33 And in the valley, Eshtaol, and Zoreah, and Ashnah,

These cities mark the border of Dan. But they belong to Judah. (cf. Jos.19.40, 41)

**34 And Zanoah, and Engannim, Tappuah, and Enam,
35 Jarmuth, and Adullam, Socoh, and Azekah,
36 And Sharaim, and Adithaim, and Gederah, and Gederothaim; fourteen cities
with their villages:**

15 cities are listed.

**37 Zenan, and Hadashah, and Migdalgad,
38 And Dilean, and Mizpeh, and Joktheel,
39 Lachish, and Bozkath, and Eglon,
40 And Cabbon, and Lahmam, and Kithlish,
41 And Gederoth, Bethdagon, and Naamah, and Makkedah; sixteen cities with
their villages:
42 Libnah, and Ether, and Ashan,
43 And Jiphtah, and Ashnah, and Nezib,
44 And Keilah, and Achzib, and Mareshah; nine cities with their villages:
45 Ekron, with her towns and her villages:
46 From Ekron even unto the sea, all that lay near Ashdod, with their villages:
47 Ashdod with her towns and her villages, Gaza with her towns and her
villages, unto the river of Egypt, and the great sea, and the border thereof:
48 And in the mountains, Shamir, and Jattir, and Socoh,
49 And Dannah, and Kirjathsannah, which is Debir,
50 And Anab, and Eshtemoh, and Anim,
51 And Goshen, and Holon, and Giloh; eleven cities with their villages:
52 Arab, and Dumah, and Eshean,
53 And Janum, and Bethtappuah, and Aphekah,
54 And Humtah, and Kirjatharba, which is Hebron, and Zior; nine cities with
their villages:
55 Maon, Carmel, and Ziph, and Juttah,
56 And Jezreel, and Jokdeam, and Zanoah,
57 Cain, Gibeah, and Timnah; ten cities with their villages:
58 Halhul, Bethzur, and Gedor,
59 And Maarath, and Bethanath, and Eltekon; six cities with their villages:
60 Kirjathbaal, which is Kirjathjearim, and Rabbah; two cities with their
villages:
61 In the wilderness, Betharabah, Middin, and Secacah,**

62 And Nibshan, and the city of Salt, and Engedi; six cities with their villages.

V.63, Jerusalem as stronghold for the Jebusites

63 As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day.

At the time of Joshua's death the Jebusites continued to possess the city of Jerusalem.

*Jud.2.20 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;
21 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:
22 That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not.
23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.*