

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

New Year's Day

Date 1st January 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles, Ps/Par/Hymns Paraphrase 2v1-5, T Salzburg, 729 T480, 526, 489

Read: Joshua 14:6-14 Text Joshua 14:12-13

Title: Give Me This Mountain (1).

Whenever the children of Israel had entered the Land of Canaan, a land which God had promised to give them by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we discover in **Joshua Chapters 13-14**, the land was divided by Joshua, among the tribes of Israel, allocating their inheritance.

When it came to the inheritance of the tribe of Judah there was a man named Caleb who was a member of that tribe.

God had promised Caleb for his inheritance, a mountainous area called Hebron, and its surrounding places.

Hebron was a city that stood in an area (about twenty two miles) south of Jerusalem.

As a place, Hebron had been long associated with the Lord's people. It is first mentioned in **Gen 13** as one of the dwelling places of Abraham.

Years later because of Israel's departure down into Egypt, Hebron again fell into the hands of the Canaanites.

Soon, after their deliverance from Egypt and entrance into the land of promise, at the command of God, under Joshua's leadership, Israel retook Canaan.

In relation to Mount Hebron Caleb, the mighty man of God and servant of Jehovah said, '**Now therefore give me this mountain**'.

In other words, let me now enter into and enjoy my inheritance, all that the Lord has promised me, let me take it and enjoy it.

There are many spiritual lessons to learn, the people of God, as a whole, and individually are given a spiritual inheritance, because of Christ's work for them and their union with Him.

The Lord desires His people to take possession and enjoy all that Christ has covenanted for them by the shedding of His blood.

The Lord has given promises to bring before Him, as a church and personally.

There are many mountains symbolic of obstacles, surrounding the work, and in our lives, such as the lusts of the flesh, love of the world, unsaved family, neighbours, this city of London, this area of Walthamstow are need to be claimed for the gospel.

Therefore, let our prayer this new year and throughout the year be concerning the work in London and the souls of men and woman, '**Now therefore give me this mountain**'.

Give me this city and its citizens, this place, it's people, and its surrounding areas for thy Glory, for thy name's sake of O Lord.

I FIRST CALEBS CLAIM

When Caleb spoke to Joshua about his inheritance, he had every right to claim, "**Now therefore give me this mountain**".

The land of Canaan was appointed by God for His people.

The promises go right back to **Gen 12** when the Lord spoke to Abraham while he was in Canaan.

The **end of verse 6-7** "**And the Canaanite was then in the land. 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto**

thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.”

This land is described in the first half of **Ex 3:8** “... a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;...”

Num 13 describes the fruit of the land, cluster of grapes and much more. **Num 14:7** states it “***is an exceeding good land***

It was a land of plenty, of abundance, and good things.

It was this exact land that the Lord gave His people, and now its divided among them. Notice Caleb said in **verse 9** “***surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance.***”

Therefore, Caleb has a God given claim to the land, and he says to Joshua “***Now therefore give me this mountain***”.

It is interesting to note that both Joshua and Jesus are closely connected some go as far to say a type of Christ. The name **Joshua** means ***Jehovah is Salvation, or Jesus saves.***

The name **Jesus** means ***Saviour, Salvation or Jesus Saves.***

The names speak of a mighty deliverer one chosen by God who leads His people into victory. One who blesses the people.

Joshua was divinely appointed to deliver his people and to bring them into a land of blessing to enjoy the promises of God physically.

But there is a greater than Joshua, the Lord Jesus.

Jesus Christ delivers His people from sin, and we are blessed with all spiritual blessing in Christ. **1 Cor 3:22** “***ye are Christs.***”

Col 2:10 “***ye are complete in Him.***”

All we have and all we need for Salvation and Service is supplied by Christ’s glorious person and gospel ministry.

The enjoyment of blessings is because of Christ and through Christ.

As Caleb approaches Joshua, and seeks to claim his inheritance, blessings that God has promised Him, **verse 13 states** “**Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.**”

Dear beloved we approach the throne of grace in prayer to our Greater, our heavenly Joshua the Lord Jesus Christ, we have every right to claim the purchased blessings.

As the adopted sons and daughters of God, We have entered all the privileges of the people of God.

The blessings Christ secured are ours.

To enter the enjoyment of the promises of God, means to be blessed more than tongue can ever tell.

To have a perfect pardon, to walk with God, to have an everlasting home in glory. To know He hears and answers prayer. He has called us to witness of the gospel of grace.

May our desire this year be of claiming the blessings of what God has for us as a church, family, individually. “**Now therefore give me this mountain**”.

We this year we lay come with boldness to the throne of grace, personally to enjoy the eternal blessings of God, and the furtherance of the gospel, Lord **Now therefore give me this London, South Grove, Walthamstow.**

II SECOND CALEB'S CONFIDENCE.

In Caleb requesting “**Now therefore give me this mountain**”. It is clear he did so with boldness, assurance and it is vital to see the basis of his confidence that he would be able to take Hebron.

He does because God gave it to him. Caleb's confidence rests on the word of God.

Notice his word in **verse 9** "***And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.***"

Verse 10 there are other important terms such as '***as He said***' '***even since the Lord spake this word***'.

The reference is to the promise that Caleb along with Joshua would enter the land.

These details are recorded in **Num 14:25** "***him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.***" Caleb's confidence is grounded upon the word of Lord, and he has held unto that word for many years.

Notice **verse 10** Caleb states he has rested upon the Lord's promise for 45 years. That is amazing in itself, because in **verse 7** Caleb says "***forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land;***"

When the promise was given to Caleb he was 40 years old, now 45 years later, Caleb is now 85, and He *has been living on the word of God.*

Not a day went past when Caleb didn't think about his inheritance, and he looked forward to claiming and enjoying the blessings of the Lord.

But here is the blessed truth, since the promise was given to Caleb, then he was confident to know that no matter how long the wait was God would never let him down.

In Caleb's case, it was 45 years later, but it he never took his eye of the word. He continually waited with expectation upon the promise of God.

He said in **verse 10** "*the Lord hath kept me alive as He said these forty five years....*"

Many others who were with Caleb and Joshua, died in the wilderness, through unbelief, disobedience, murmuring against the Lord, as recorded in **Number 14:29**

Remember in the NT, in **Luke gospel ch 2** we read of a man named Simeon, who was as **verse 25** says waiting for the consolation or the comfort for Israel, who was the promised messiah. The word **waiting** has the idea of **expectancy**.

Simeon expected the one who would come and comfort His people, and deliver them from sin. He waited with confidence as **verse 26** states "*And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*" The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that before he would die he would see "...**the Lord's Christ,**" now the waiting is ended.

When he came into the temple. He saw there a little babe and he recognized, in that newly born child, Jesus the promised Saviour! **Verse 28** "*Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God...*" He had seen God's salvation for sinners.

The Lord Jesus is God's salvation. God prepared and promised a Saviour for sinners. God has no message except in Christ. All God promised for the saving of men he does through Christ. His saving purposes are all in Christ.

Now, that time had come, and he was ready for Glory, he had a sight of Christ. "**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.**"

Both Caleb and Simeon had confidence in the promise of God. They would enjoy all the Lord had for them.

These words are the testimony of every believer in the spiritual sense.

The Lord has kept us alive for another year, another day, that we might enter into a deeper, richer knowledge of our inheritance in Christ, to abound more and more in love to Christ.

(He preserves His people in order for them to enjoy more on earth and claim of the promises of what they have in Christ.)

May this year we enter our possession, to know more of the Lord, to enjoy the Lord, to see the Saviour in His house each time we enter.

We only have one life on this earth and as vapour is passing away, therefore, what time you have upon this earth, have confidence in praying to God, **“Now therefore give me this mountain”**.

III THIRD, CALEB'S CHARACTER.

The Holy Spirit has recorded in His word, for our encouragement, a certain characteristic of the one who will claim what the Lord has for them, and be blessed. It is the one who follows the Lord fully and filled with the Holy spirit.

Caleb asked Joshua **“Now therefore give me this mountain”**, he did so because **verse 8 records “but I wholly followed the LORD my God.”** These words are also repeated in **verse 9 and verse 14**. Three times we have the words **wholly followed the LORD**.

These words **wholly followed the LORD** signify **“To close the gap.”** It is a phrase used by hunters to refer to **“closing the gap between themselves and their prey.”** It refers to the fact that Caleb stayed close to the Lord, He did not remain at a distance.

Caleb walked with God. He took the Lord at His word. He spent time in communion with God.

On this basis, Caleb request's his promised inheritance.

You see the one who does not follow the Lord, but keeps at a distance from the Lord, will not ask great things of God and attempt great things for God.

What is wonderful about these words, is the Lord Himself testified to this characteristic of Caleb. In **Num 14:24** "***But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.***" Caleb has another spirit means he was filled with spirit. Empowered for service. He had the blessing of God upon His life, He was blessed for he claimed his mountain.

Keep in mind, 45 years before there were others with Caleb who didn't follow the Lord and they lost out.

The believer who follows the Lord fully, is filled with the spirit, as Caleb, and will have power in prayer, and have confidence to request, claim and enjoy all the Lord has promised you.

Is there today and there is a distance between you are the Lord, maybe one not saved, sin has separated you from God, only Christ can remove all your sin, come to Him just by faith and trust in Him. start this new year in Christ.

Dear believer, how long has it been since you prayed over the promises God gave you personally and for His work.

They have been left, abandoned, rededicate yourself to Christ, fully follow the Lord and start praying over the promises of work once more. "***Now therefore give me this mountain***".