

220928-4 Jos 14, Caleb Represents Judah to Have Southern Canaan, Including Hebron–CThurman

In the previous chapter Joshua is now old and well stricken in years when the LORD states that there remained much land to be possessed. The LORD cites several places throughout Canaan where the nations are prominent: the Philistines in the southwest, from there the Canaanites through central Canaan, and the Giblites and Sidonians in the north and over to the east. In spite of this Joshua is to distribute the land to the remaining 9 ½ tribes which inherit here. The remainder of the chapter (vss.8-23) was a recitation of the allotment of land which the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh inherited on the other side of Jordan. And they too have nations yet to expel there; the Geshurites and the Maachathites.

Chapter 14

1 ¶ And these [are the countries] which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan,

In other words, the account which follows through to the end of ch. 19 concerns the allotment of Canaan to the remaining 9 ½ tribes.

which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, distributed for inheritance to them.

Eleazar is the son of Aaron. Aaron was the first to be appointed by the LORD to be Israel's chief priest or high priest among priests.

Ezr 7:5 The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest ...

When Aaron died the LORD appointed Eleazar to be the next high priest in his father's place.

Nu.20.27 And Moses did as the LORD commanded: and they went up into mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation.

28 And Moses stripped Aaron of his [high priestly] garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.

So, Eleazar and Joshua, with the princes oversaw the distribution of the land to the tribes of Israel.

*Nu.34.16 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
17 These are the names of the men which shall divide the land unto you: Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun.
18 And ye shall take one prince of every tribe, to divide the land by inheritance.
19 And the names of the men are these: Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.*

Beginning at v.6 in our present chapter Caleb comes to Joshua who is at Gilgal. What we just read in Nu.34.18, 19 gives us part of the reason why Caleb came to Joshua. Because he was a prince, נָשִׂיא, nah-see', also tss. *a ruler, captain, chief and governor*, of the tribe of Judah.

In Jos.19.51, the verse that brings to a close this section dealing with the land allotments. Here again we read that Eleazar, Joshua, with the heads, רֹאשֵׁי, rōsh, also tss. *the top, the principal, the captain, the chief, ruler* (so synonymous to נָשִׂיא, nah-see') of the tribes carried out the major work of distributing the land. But we also find out where it was done. It was done at Shiloh. At Shiloh the tabernacle shall be erect and remain here until the reign of King David. (cf. Ps.78.60)

Jos.19.51 These are the inheritances, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, divided for an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. So they made an end of dividing the country.

2 By lot was their inheritance, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses,

by lot, בְּגוֹרָל, *by*, and the masc. noun גּוֹרָל, *gōh-rahl*, and is always tss. with the English *lot*.

for the nine tribes, and for the half tribe.

[of Manasseh that shall inherit on this side Jordan]

Some land was by special grant, such as the ½ tribe of Manasseh on the other side Jordan.

*Nu.32.39 And the children of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead, and took it, and dispossessed the Amorite which was in it.
40 And Moses gave Gilead unto Machir the son of Manasseh; and he dwelt therein.*

And as will be shown in the following verses Judah also receives their land at request.

*Jos.18.1 ¶ And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.
2 ¶ And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance.
3 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?
4 Give out from among you three men for each tribe: and I will send them, and they shall rise, and go through the land, and describe [כָּתַב, write] it according to the inheritance of them; and they shall come again to me.
5 And they shall divide it into seven parts: Judah shall abide in their coast on the south, and the house of Joseph (Ephraim & ½ of Manasseh) shall abide in their coasts on the north [of Judah].
6 Ye shall therefore describe the land into seven parts, and bring the description hither to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.*

Most of the land is given by casting lots. But every tribe of the 9 ½ tribes shall receive their part of Canaan. The more numerous the tribe the larger the parcel; the smaller tribe receives a smaller part, though some tribes will quibble about the size of their inheritance later. But every able-bodied man, the man that was 20 yrs. of age and upward, the warrior, was to receive a part of his tribe's allotted land.

Nu.26.52 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

53 Unto these (warriors, Nu.26.2) the land shall be divided for an inheritance according to the number of names.

54 To many thou shalt give the more inheritance, and to few thou shalt give the less inheritance: to every one shall his inheritance be given according to those that were numbered of him.

55 Notwithstanding the land shall be divided by lot: according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

56 According to the lot shall the possession thereof be divided between many and few.

In effect the lot, which to them appeared to be a random method to distribute the land, was the method which left it in the hands of God.

3 For Moses had given the inheritance of two tribes and an half tribe on the other side Jordan: but unto the Levites he gave none inheritance among them.

4 For the children of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim: therefore they gave no part unto the Levites in the land, save cities to dwell in, with their suburbs for their cattle and for their substance.

Verses 1-4 make it plain that the land under consideration now only pertains to the remaining 9 ½ tribes because 2 ½ tribes (Reuben, Gad and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh) have already received their allotments. Here, it is also very clear that the tribe of Levi is excluded from receiving a land allotment on either side of Jordan.

Also, this text makes plain that *twelve* tribes that shall inherit land. How is it that Jacob has twelve sons, one of which is Levi, but Levi doesn't receive land yet there are still twelve tribes that inherit land? Removing Levi leaves

only eleven tribes. Years and years ago Jacob, the father of all of these tribes did something for Joseph a most beloved son. He put in Joseph's place Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Ge 48:5 [Jacob speaking to Joseph] And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

Sons of Jacob

Reuben – Simeon – **Levi** – Judah – Dan – Naphtali – Gad – Asher – Issachar – Zebulon – **Joseph** – Benjamin

Tribal Allotment

Reuben – Simeon – Judah – Dan – Naphtali – Gad – Asher – Issachar – Zebulon – **Manasseh** – **Ephraim** – Benjamin

So with Levi and Joseph removed and Manasseh and Ephraim added we have the twelve tribes that receive land grants in Palestine.

About Levi, the priestly tribe, though he receives no land he receives tithes of all his brethren and 48 cities in the nation, 6 of which are designated cities of refuge. There shall be 3 cities of refuge, one in the south, one in the middle, and one in the north, on both sides of Jordan. (cf. Deu.4.43)

Nu.35.2 Command the children of Israel, that they give unto the Levites of the inheritance of their possession cities to dwell in; and ye shall give also unto the Levites suburbs for the cities round about them.

3 And the cities shall they have to dwell in; and the suburbs of them shall be for their cattle, and for their goods, and for all their beasts.

4 And the suburbs of the cities, which ye shall give unto the Levites, shall reach from the wall of the city and outward a thousand cubits round about.

5 And ye shall measure from without the city on the east side two thousand cubits, and on the south side two thousand cubits, and on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two

thousand cubits; and the city shall be in the midst: this shall be to them the suburbs of the cities.

suburbs, מְגֵרֶת, a masc. noun tss. suburb (oft), and cast out; so this refers to the outlying area around the city.

The place where the livestock and store for the livestock are kept is in the first area which measures from the wall of the city outward, 1,000 cubits. Then what follows is the land stretching out another 2,000 cubits on every side of the city, which is likely for growing the grains for their livestock.

6 And among the cities which ye shall give unto the Levites there shall be six cities for refuge, which ye shall appoint for the manslayer, that he may flee thither: and to them ye shall add forty and two cities.

7 So all the cities which ye shall give to the Levites shall be forty and eight cities: them shall ye give with their suburbs.

...

13 And of these cities which ye shall give six cities shall ye have for refuge.

14 Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which shall be cities of refuge.

Remember that these cities of refuge are for the protection of any that cause another's accidental death. (cf. Nu.35.15, 22-25; Deu.4.42; Jos.20.2)

5 As the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land.

And this is what is given in chs. 14-19.

6 ¶ Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb 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.

7 Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

9 And Moses sware 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.

Nu 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

....

Nu.14.30 Doubtless ye [the unbelieving of Israel] shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

*De 1:35 Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers,
36 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.*

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 fourscore and five years old.

Joshua's account tells us that Caleb's was 40 yrs. of age at the time when Moses sent him and Joshua out with the other spies to survey the land of Canaan. Deu.2.14 tells that it was 38 yrs. later that he, with Israel, crossed the river Zered. He would be 78 years of age then. So, there are two years of the 40-yr. sojourn to be accounted for from Israel's exodus to Kadesh and from Zered to Gilgal. For the first, from Egypt to Kadesh a minimum time of 1 yr.and 40 days.

From the time of the exodus until Israel had arrived to Kadeshbarnea was at least 1 year, 40 days. (comp. Nu.9.1; Nu.10.33, from Sinai to first restingplace is 3 days; Nu.11.31, eating quail for 30 days; Nu.12.15, waiting to travel until Miriam was cleansed of her leprosy= 40 days.)

For the second, all that remains to fulfill the 40-yr. sojourn from Zered to Gilgal cannot exceed 320 days. The Passover which Israel observes at Gilgal marks the first day of the 41st year. The day before Passover would have ended the 40-yr. sojourn.

Jos.5.10 ¶ And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the 8Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. (The day after this Passover would mark the beginning of the 41st year.)

11 And they did eat of the old (ripened) corn of the land on the morrow after the 8passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day.

Caleb's age – At the time of the exodus from Egypt Caleb was about 38 or 39. We do know that he was 40 when Moses sent him to spy out Canaan. At the crossing of the river Zered, 38 yrs. later, he would have been 78 yrs. old. By the time he reaches Gilgal and observes Passover he was probably no more than 79-80 yrs. old. This tells us that Caleb now being 85 yrs. of age has been in Canaan about 5-6 years, during which time would have been the battles at least against Jericho and Ai.

Joshua's age – This requires some speculation because the Scriptures do not give us an accounting of the time lapse of the history of the Book of Joshua. But if it spans a period of 21 yrs., and since we know that he died at the age of 110 (cf. Jos.24.29) then he would be about 89 yrs. old by the time he arrived to Gilgal. He was about ten years older than Caleb. If we work backward, Joshua would have been about 49 yrs. of age at the exodus. (49 at exodus + 40 yrs. sojourn + 21 yrs. historical account of the book of Joshua = 110) It was at the age of 49 yrs. that Joshua is called a young man. (cf.Nu.11.28) He

was no child and unexperienced. He was no upstart. Then he was a great general over Israel's army. (cf.Ex.17.10)

11 As yet I am as strong 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.

12 Now therefore give me this mountain, 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:

Nu 13:28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

...

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.

if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, cause them to be expelled

then I shall be able to drive them out, Hiphil pret. of the verb יָרַשׁ, tss. to expel, to drive out, to cast out, to consume, to come to poverty, etc.

as the LORD said.

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

15 And the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba;

Kirjatharba, אַרְבַּע יְתֵת, means the city of Arba.

which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.

rest, Qal pret. of the Hebrew verb טָקַח, shah-kat, tss. *to rest, to be quiet, to be still, to be idle*.

Again we have the Hebrew tss. *rest*, otherwise tss. *to be quiet, to be still, to be idle*. I'm not sure that this is a good thing in a land that is supposed to be a land of conflict.

A little clarification about what Caleb receives as his parcel. Hebron shall be one of the cities given to the Levites. It shall also be a city of refuge.

Jos.21.9 ¶ And they gave out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, these cities which are here mentioned by name,

10 Which the children of Aaron, being of the families of the Kohathites, who were of the children of Levi, had: for theirs was the first lot.

11 And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it.

The suburbs refers to the area around the city. (cf. Nu.35.5, above) The first 1,000 cubits was for the livestock and feed store. The next 2,000 cubits probably for fields of grain perhaps for their livestock.

12 But the fields of the city, and the villages thereof, gave they to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for his possession.

13 Thus they gave to the children of Aaron the priest Hebron with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer ... [and the text goes on to name several cities and their outlying areas]

Finally, we see that God is faithful. God promised that Caleb and Joshua would receive this land. The LORD strengthened them and kept them to this time. What a powerful, faithful God we serve.