

CALEB — "GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN"

Joshua 14:6-15

(Josh 14:6-15), "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 spy 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 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. {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. {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: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, 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; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war."

HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS BECAUSE TODAY WE COVER **SEVEN CHAPTERS** (13-19). **THE OVERVIEW** of those seven chapters can be easily summarized. **THE MAIN FOCUS** of this message will concentrate on the man named **CALEB**.



SEVEN CHAPTERS CAN BE QUICKLY SUMMARIZED:

- (1) **JOSHUA 13:2-6** DESCRIBE THE **LAND ISRAEL HAD NOT YET CONQUERED**.
- (2) **INTERSPERSED** IN CHAPTERS 13-14 **IS THE SPECIAL INHERITANCE** GIVEN TO THE **TRIBE OF LEVI**, the priestly tribe:
 - **THE OFFERINGS MADE BY FIRE** were theirs (13:14)
 - **THE GOD OF ISRAEL** was their inheritance (13:33).
 - **THE CITIES OF REFUGE** and **THE SURROUNDING PASTURELAND** was their inheritance (14:4)
 - **THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE LORD** was their inheritance (18:7)
- 3) **CHAPT13:7**, THROUGH **CHAPTER 19**, spells out in detail **THE DIVISION OF THE LAND AMONG THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL**. **THE BEST WAY TO GRASP** THOSE SEVEN CHAPTERS is to take **A LOOK** at **A GOOD BIBLE MAP** and see how the land was apportioned among the twelve tribes. This is a good example of **A PICTURE TRULY BEING WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS**.
- (4) **THE METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE DIVISION OF THE LAND WAS CASTING LOTS:**
 - **(Josh 13:6)**, "... **ONLY DIVIDE THOU IT BY LOT** unto

the Israelites for an inheritance, as I have commanded thee."

- **(Josh 14:2)**, "BY LOT was their inheritance, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses, . . . "

THE ALLOTMENT

- **(Josh 15:1)**, "This then was **THE LOT** of the tribe of the children of **JUDAH** . . . "
- **(Josh 16:1)**, "And **THE LOT** of the children of **JOSEPH** . . . "
- **(Josh 17:1)**, "There was also **A LOT** for the tribe of **MANASSEH**; . . . "
- **ETC.**

S IN THESE SEVEN CHAPTERS the word for "**LOT**" IS MENTIONED **20 TIMES**. The word for "**LOT**" occurs **70 TIMES** in the **O.T.**, and **SEVEN TIMES** in the **N.T.** For example, **MATTHIAS** was chosen to replace **JUDAS** as one of the twelve disciples BY CASTING "**LOTS**" (Acts 1:26).

S "**LOTS**" WERE objects of some type that were cast down and used to determine a decision SEPARATE FROM **human predispositions**. CASTING A "**LOT**" WOULD BE **SIMILAR TO DRAWING STRAWS**, or PICKING **NAMES FROM A HAT**, in order to determine which **five soldiers** would be chosen to go on an exceptionally dangerous mission. The very nature of casting lots **ELIMINATED HUMAN BIAS**.

Perhaps you have **HEARD THE COMMENT**, "WELL, THAT WAS **THEIR LOT IN LIFE**." It was a way of expressing the belief that the things that had come that person's way had come separate, and apart from, their personal intervention. That person had **NO CONTROL** over their present situation or circumstances.

S THE USE OF "**LOTS**" TO DIVIDE THE LAND **PREVENTED FAVORITISM** toward any individual tribe. **IF GOD WANTED** a certain tribe to have a certain partial of the land, God would have to intervene in the process.

IN THE PROCESS OF ALLOTING THE LAND, SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE TRIBE OF JUDAH in chapters 14-15. Within the tribe of Judah, special attention was given to the individual NAMED **CALEB**. In his case, **THE NORMAL PROCESS** of casting "lots" was set aside and **HIS portion WAS ASSIGNED ON THE BASIS OF A PREVIOUS PROMISE**. While others had to wait on the casting of the lot, **CALEB SIMPLY STATED, "GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN."**

THE TEXT READS:

(Josh 14:6), "Then **THE CHILDREN OF JUDAH** came unto Joshua in GILGAL: and **CALEB** . . . "

CALEB SAID:

(Josh 14:12), "Now therefore **GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN**, whereof the LORD spake in that day; . . . "

JOSHUA SAID:

(Josh 14:13), "Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance."

S **CALEB DID SIX THINGS** IN ORDER TO CLAIM HIS MOUNTAIN.

S **THOSE SIX THINGS** are the same things we need to do in order to claim the promises God has for us.

- I. **BECOME A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY**
- II. **ACCEPT GOD'S ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOUR LIFE**
- III. **STAND TRUE TO GOD'S WILL EVEN IF YOU STAND ALONE**
- IV. **ENJOY THE ABUNDANT LIFE**
- V. **DON'T GIVE UP IN TIMES OF DELAY & DISCOURAGEMENT**
- VI. **APPROPRIATE GOD'S PROMISE AT THE PROPER TIME**

I. BECOME A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY

(V. 6), "Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and **CALEB** . . ."

S **THE MEANING OF THE NAME "CALEB" is DEBATABLE. SOME SUGGEST** that it comes from the Hebrew word for "**DOG.**" Hopefully no mother in her right mind would name her little boy, "Dog." It is suggested that "in the light of the cognate Syriac and Arabic words, the meaning is **NOT "DOG,"** which is "**KELEBH,**" in Hebrew, but "**RAGING WITH CANINE MADNESS**"; "**CHALEB**" (MAX. L. MARGOLIS, from International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Electronic Database Copyright (C) 1996 by BibleSoft). **OTHERS SUGGEST** that his name meant "**ALL HEART,**" because Caleb followed God with all his heart (Stephen Olford, *Going Places with God*, pg. 102 / J. Oswald Sander, *Promised Land Living*, pg. 101).

(V. 6), ". . . **CALEB THE SON OF JEPHUNNEH THE KENEZITE . . .**"

S **IT IS POSSIBLE** that **CALEB'S ANCESTORS ON HIS FATHER'S SIDE**, were originally **outside the covenant bond** of the Children of Israel. The reason for suggesting such a view is based upon Caleb's **FAMILY TREE** mentioned in Joshua **14:6**.

(V. 6), ". . . Caleb the son of Jephunneh the **KENEZITE . . .**" (It is mentioned again in VV. 13-14)

S **THE KENIZZITES** were **FIRST MENTIONED** in **GENESIS 15:19** where God established His covenant with Abraham and promised the land to him and his descendants. God listed the nations that would be dispossessed by Abraham's descendants. In that list with the **Hittites, Perizzites, Amorites, Canaanites,** and **Jebusites** were the **KENIZZITES**.

S **IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE** that Caleb's relatives from his father's side, were descendants of the very people that would be expelled from the land of Canaan. **THAT MAKES ONE ASK THE QUESTION**, "How did Caleb's ancestors from his father's side come to know the Lord?" No clue is given. All we know is that at some point in time, someone in the family of the Kenizzites placed their faith in the LORD God of Israel. Perhaps **JEPHUNNEH**, the father of Caleb, met Caleb's mother and she led him to faith. **WE DO NOT KNOW. WHAT IS INDICATED IS** that Caleb came FROM A FAMILY OF FAITH that had been included in the lineage of Israel.

S **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FACT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. IF CALEB** came from a family that was originally outside God's covenant, then God again has brought to the forefront the fact that **anyone who turns to Him by faith** can be included in the household of faith. Caleb is **THE THIRD EXAMPLE** of such inclusion

in the Book of Joshua alone. The first foreigner to be included was **RAHAB**, the harlot (chapter 6). The second were the inhabitants of the city of **GIBEON** (chapters 9-10). As we discovered earlier, some of the Gibeonites became servants of the Lord. **THE SIGNIFICANCE** is that **ALL THE INHABITANTS** of the land of Canaan could have been spared destruction had they come to God by faith. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. God wants all people to turn from their sins and live (Ezek 33:11; 2 Pet 3:9).

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- **RAHAB CAME!**
 - **GIBEON CAME!**
 - **CALEB CAME!**
 - **ANYONE CAN COME!**

(Rev 22:17), "And the Spirit and the bride say, **COME**. And let him that heareth say, **COME**. And let him that is athirst **COME**. **AND WHOSOEVER WILL**, let him take the water of life freely."

S **LIKE CALEB**, ALL OF US WERE ORIGINALLY ON THE OUTSIDE OF GOD'S KINGDOM **seeking** ENTRANCE. Without adoption, none of us would be on the inside.

- **(Eph 2:19)**, "Now therefore ye are **NO MORE STRANGERS AND FOREIGNERS, BUT FELLOWCITIZENS** with the saints, and **OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD**;"
- **(Rom 8:15)**, "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received **THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION**, whereby **WE CRY, ABBA, FATHER**."

S **THE FIRST STEP** TO GETTING THAT MOUNTAIN IS: "**COME!**"

I. **BECOME A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY**

II. ACCEPT GOD'S ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOUR LIFE

THE FIRST MENTION OF CALEB is found in **NUMBERS 13**. Israel had already left **MOUNT SINAI** where God had given them the O.T. LAW. They traveled from there to **KADESH BARNEA**. TIME HAD COME for Israel to **POSSESS THE LAND** that God had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. BEFORE SENDING ISRAEL INTO THE LAND TO TAKE IT, **MOSES CALLED FOR 12 SPIES**, one from each of the **12 TRIBES**, and sent them into Canaan to survey it. It would have been **A HIGH HONOR** to have been the one selected to represent your tribe. The names of the twelve spies were:

- 1) Of the tribe of **REUBEN**, **SHAMMUA** the son of ZACCUR.
- 2) Of the tribe of **SIMEON**, **SHAPHAT** the son of HORI.
- 3) Of the tribe of **ISSACHAR**, **IGAL** the son of JOSEPH.
- 4) Of the tribe of **EPHRAIM**, **OSHEA** the son of NUN.
- 5) Of the tribe of **BENJAMIN**, **PALTI** the son of RAPHU.
- 6) Of the tribe of **ZEBULUN**, **GADDIEL** the son of SODI.
- 7) Of the tribe of **MANASSEH**, **GADDI** the son of SUSI.
- 8) Of the tribe of **DAN**, **AMMIEL** the son of GEMALLI.
- 9) Of the tribe of **ASHER**, **SETHUR** the son of MICHAEL.

(10) Of the tribe of **NAPHTALI**, **NAHBI** the son of VOPHSI.

(11) Of the tribe of **EPHRAIM**, **JOSHUA** the son of NUN.

(12) Of the tribe of **JUDAH**, **CALEB** the son of JEPHUNNEH.

(Caleb was **40 YEARS OLD** at the time he was called)

S MOSES' INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TWELVE SPIES WAS CLEAR

(Numb 13):

- **(V. 18)**, "See what **THE LAND** is like and whether **THE PEOPLE** who live there are **STRONG** or **WEAK**, few or **MANY**."
- **(V. 19)**, "What kind of **TOWNS** do they live in? Are they **UNWALLED** or **FORTIFIED**?"
- **(V. 20)**, "How is the **SOIL**? Is it fertile or poor? Are there **TREES** on it or not? Do your best to **BRING BACK SOME OF THE FRUIT** of the land. . . "

S AFTER FINDING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES, WE HAVE TO ACCEPT IT. God has **NOT CALLED** us to all serve in the same areas of life. He only called **TWELVE** to spy out the land of Canaan. It is not my responsibility to find God's will for another person's life. **MY RESPONSIBILITY IS** to find God's will for my life. **AFTER I FIND IT**, I need to **ACCEPT IT**. If I refuse to accept it, I might miss that mountain God has designed just for me.

S LITTLE DID CALEB KNOW that his selection as a spy would be **THE EVENTUAL SOURCE** of his name going down in history as a positive example of a life that would bring honor to God. He would never have guessed that his name would be mentioned in the year 2001 by a preacher in Washington State. **THE REASON** his name is being mentioned is he **ACCEPTED GOD'S ASSIGNMENT FOR HIS LIFE**.

QUESTION - HAVE WE FOUND & ACCEPTED GOD'S ASSIGNMENT FOR OUR LIVES? IT IS **ONE THING** to be saved, to be a member of God's family, it **IS ANOTHER THING** to find God's will for life and do it.

S IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW SUCCESSFUL we are in the eyes of the world, **IF WE FAIL TO FIND AND DO GOD'S WILL**, we are not really successful.

S GEORGE W. TRUETT HAD A GREAT DEFINITION OF SUCCESS:

"Success is to find the will of God for your life and get in it."

S SUCCESS WILL BE TO HEAR GOD SAY ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT:

"... **WELL DONE**, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Mat 25:21).

S IT IS ESSENTIAL that we find God's plan for our lives and get in it. **TWO PASSAGES** help us to know how to find God's will for our lives:

- (1) **(Prov 3:5-6)**, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. {6} In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
- (2) **(Rom 12:1-2)**, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

S GOD HAS **A PLAN AND PLACE JUST FOR YOU.**
DON'T MISS IT!

HOW DO YOU CLAIM YOUR MOUNTAIN?

- I. **BECOME A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY**
- II. **ACCEPT GOD'S ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOUR LIFE**

III. STAND TRUE TO GOD'S WILL EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO STAND ALONE

AFTER FORTY DAYS the 12 spies came back with **TWO REPORTS**: one report was **faithful & inspiring**, while the other was **faithless & frightening**. One was a **majority report**, and the other was a **minority report**.

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE they brought back **A SINGLE CLUSTER OF GRAPES** from the Valley of Eshcol that took two men to carry. They brought **POMEGRANATES** and **FIGS**. They said to Moses the land **DOES TRULY FLOW WITH MILK AND HONEY!**

ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE they made some **FRIGHTENING DISCOVERIES**. The **TOWNS** were **FORTIFIED WITH WALLS**. **THE PEOPLE** were **MANY AND STRONG**. **ANAKIMS** were in the land. The Anakims were giants. **GOLIATH** was one such Anakim and he was 9'9" tall. **TEN OF THE SPIES** emphasized the negative and discouraged Israel from taking the land. They told how they "**SEEMED LIKE GRASSHOPPERS**" in comparison to the giants (Numb 13:33).

- S THINGS WENT **FROM "BAD" TO "WORSE" ACCORDING TO NUMBERS 14**. The negative report became **CONTAGIOUS**.
- The people began to **CRY & WEEP** THAT NIGHT (V. 1).
 - They began to **MURMUR** against Moses. They began to cry out saying, '**WOULD TO GOD** we had died in Egypt or in the wilderness' (V. 2).
 - They began to make plans to elect a **NEW CAPTAIN** and **RETURN** to Egypt (V. 3-4)
 - **THINGS GOT SO BAD** before it was finished that the Children of Israel began discussing **STONING THEIR LEADERSHIP** (Num 14:10).

S Be reminded, **THAT WAS THE MAJORITY. THE MAJORITY IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT.**

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE CONFUSION WAS FOUND A VOICE OF FAITH. IT WAS THE VOICE OF CALEB. He brought **THE MINORITY REPORT:**

- **(Num 13:30)**, “And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for **WE ARE WELL ABLE** to overcome it.”
- **(Num 14:6-9)**, “. . . Joshua . . . and Caleb . . . rent their clothes: {7} And they spoke unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, . . . {8} ‘If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; . . . {9} Only **REBEL NOT** ye against the LORD, **NEITHER FEAR** ye the people of the land; for **THEY ARE BREAD** for us: **THEIR DEFENSE IS DEPARTED** from them, and **THE LORD IS WITH US: FEAR THEM NOT.**”

S **CALEB STOOD AGAINST THE MULTITUDES.** He is a good example of:

(Prov 28:1), “The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but **THE RIGHTEOUS ARE BOLD AS A LION.**”

S **CALEB WAS LIKE MANY OTHERS IN SCRIPTURE** who were willing to stand alone:

- 1) **DANIEL** stood alone in a lions’ den.
- 2) **SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEGO** were willing to stand alone before a king.
- 3) **JOSEPH** stood alone in Potiphar’s house (Gen 39:20).
- 4) **PETER & JOHN** were told by the Sanhedrin not to preach Jesus anymore. They simply asked whether they were to obey God or man. They continued to preach Jesus.

IF WE ARE GOING TO CLAIM THE “MOUNTAIN” GOD HAS FOR US, we have to STAND TRUE TO GOD’S WILL, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO STAND ALONE.

(1) **WHEN MARTIN LUTHER** was in the throes of the Reformation and the Pope was trying to bring him back to the Catholic Church, he sent **a cardinal** to deal with Luther and buy him with gold. The cardinal wrote to the Pope, “**The fool does not live gold.**” The cardinal, when he could not convince Luther, said to him, “**What do you think the Pope cares for the opinion of a German boor? The Pope’s little finger is stronger than all Germany. Do you expect your princes to take up arms to defend you — you, a wretched worm like you? I tell you, No. And where will you be then?**” Luther’s reply was simple: “**Where I am now. In the hands of the Almighty God.**” (Walter B. Knight, *Knights Master Book of New Illustrations*, pg. 527).

MARTIN LUTHER STOOD TRUE TO GOD’S WILL, EVEN though he HAD TO STAND ALONE.

(2) **CALEB STOOD TRUE TO GOD’S WILL, EVEN though he HAD TO STAND ALONE.** Caleb **DARED TO BE DIFFERENT** in a crowd of **LOOK-A-LIKES.** He had made a decision to go through with God, regardless of the cost or circumstances.

(3) **HOW ABOUT US?** Have we made the commitment to stand alone

with God? With God's help, we will be able to make that stand at **SCHOOL, WORK** and at **HOME**.

HOW TO CLAIM GOD'S "MOUNTAIN"

- I. **BECOME A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY**
- II. **ACCEPT GOD'S ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOUR LIFE**
- III. **STAND TRUE TO GOD'S WILL EVEN IF YOU STAND ALONE**

IV. ENJOY THE ABUNDANT LIFE WHILE ON THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

S WHEN THE **CENSUS** of Israel was taken in Moses' day, there were **MORE THAN 600,000 MEN OVER THE AGE OF 20**. That number did not include the women or any children under the age of twenty.

#1. GOD'S WORD REGARDING THE MAJORITY OF FOLKS IN THE WILDERNESS

(Num 14:32-33), "But as for you, **YOUR CARCASSES**, they **SHALL FALL** in this wilderness. {33} And **YOUR CHILDREN SHALL WANDER IN THE WILDERNESS FORTY YEARS, . . .**"

THE N.T. INTERPRETATION:

(Heb 3:10-11), "Wherefore **I WAS GRIEVED** with that generation, and said, 'They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.' {11} So I swore in my wrath, '**THEY SHALL NOT ENTER INTO MY REST.**'"

S **THE MAJORITY** of folks in the wilderness **MISSED GOD'S ABUNDANT LIFE. THE ONE WORD THAT BEST CHARACTERIZED** the majority the forty years they wandered in the wilderness was "**UNREST.**" God told them they would not enter into His rest because they refused to believe (Heb 3:19)

(Heb 3:19), "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

S **BECAUSE THE MAJORITY REFUSED TO BELIEVE**, they lived under the "**REBUKE**" OF GOD, RATHER THAN THE "**BLESSING**" OF GOD. **THE MAJORITY MISSED THE ABUNDANT LIFE.**

IN LIKE MANNER, SOME CHRISTIANS **ARE NOT ENCOURAGED BY GOD** because their lives **GRIEVE** GOD. They are saved and on their way to heaven, but they are walking under the **REBUKE** of God. They are missing the **ABUNDANT LIFE**. That is why the Scripture says:

(Eph 4:30), "And **GRIEVE NOT** the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

S **"A PROMINENT EMPLOYEE OF A LARGE FIRM** said he **WAS SICK**. His wife took him to a **celebrated clinic**. Nothing of an organic nature showed up. Yet he kept insisting he was sick and was going to die. **A pastor** was called to the home and the good wife met him at the door. She explained the situation and then said, 'He claims now he is paralyzed; he won't eat and says he is going to die, and he is dying before my very eyes. He is back in his bedroom now and refuses to say

anything except, 'I am going to die.'" THE PASTOR **URGED** her to be in **PRAYER** while he went back to talk to this man, whom he knew. After a warm greeting, the pastor set forth the reason he knew the man was not really sick, after all, a reputable clinic had given him every possible test. But the man insisted, 'They have missed it; I am dying, and now I am paralyzed from my waist down.' The pastor suddenly realized he was a thousand miles off track on his counseling. So he leaned over, put his hand on the other man's hand, and looking him in the eye said, '**WHAT IS YOUR SIN?**' It was as if he had **struck him**. A look of **sheer agony** came to the man's face. He **turned over**, wrapping his face in his pillow, and **began to sob** like a child, shaking the very bed. In a moment he turned back and said to the minister, '**Why did you ask me that?**' The man of God replied, 'Because I am convinced your trouble is **not physical**, but **moral and spiritual**.' Then the story poured forth like hot lava. It was a sad story, too often told and heard; a story of trust betrayed, of prodigality unrestrained. The man asked, '**Is there anything you can do to help me?**' The preacher went to his knees and led the man in a verbal prayer of **CONFESSION**. When it was ended, this man reached over and took the preacher by the arms, **still weeping** and **began to give thanks** to the Lord for His cleansing mercy. The preacher said, 'Now get up, put on your clothes and let's go out and tell your wife God has healed you — yes, healed you.'" (Perry Webb, pg 16-17)

- S **GOD'S WORD TO THE MAJORITY OF FOLKS IN THE WILDERNESS WAS:**
(Num 14:32-33), "But as for you, **YOUR CARCASSES**, they **SHALL FALL** in this wilderness. {33} And **YOUR CHILDREN SHALL WANDER IN THE WILDERNESS FORTY YEARS**, . . . "

#2. GOD'S WORD TO THE MINORITY OF FOLKS IN THE WILDERNESS

(NUMBERS 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.**"

- S **CALEB FOUND GOD'S REST SMACK-DAB in the middle** of the wilderness. Caleb found rest, **not by escaping** the wilderness, but **in the middle** of the wilderness. **WHILE THE MAJORITY** of Israel was living in **UNREST** constantly **murmuring, complaining, fighting** and **challenging God's authority**, **CALEB** was walking in **confidence, peace & rest**.
- S **BIG QUESTION** - why did Caleb find rest and the majority did not? Hebrews 3:19 said the majority missed it because of unbelief. They missed God's rest because of faithlessness. **SECOND QUESTION** - if *faithlessness* leads to *unrest*, is it safe to conclude that *faithfulness* brings *rest*? **YES, ABSOLUTELY!** Faithlessness leads to hopelessness and despair. Faithfulness leads to great joy and abundance.
(Heb 11:6), "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

1 COR. 10 APPLIES THAT O.T. STORY TO THE N.T. CHRISTIAN: (V. 11), "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and

they are written **FOR OUR ADMONITION . . .**”

- (1) **CALEB’S STORY OF FAITH WAS RECORDED TO HELP US** grow in our faith. God wants to teach each of us how to walk in HIS **SUPERNATURAL REST**. He wants all of His children to experience **THE ABUNDANT LIFE**.
- (2) **PAUL’S STORY OF FAITH WAS RECORDED TO HELP US** grow in our faith. **PAUL WAS IN PRISON** in Rome awaiting **TRIAL** and **POSSIBLE EXECUTION** when he wrote:
 - **(Phil 4:4)**, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”
 - **(Phil 4:11)**, “. . . I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”
 - **SIXTEEN TIMES PAUL REFERS TO JOY** or **PEACE** in the little Book of Philippians.
- (3) **HABAKKUK’S STORY WAS RECORDED TO HELP US** grow in our faith. Habakkuk could not understand how God would allow Babylon to destroy Israel. His faith grew to the point that he wrote the following words:
(Hab 3:17-19), “Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: {18} Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. {19} The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.”
- (3) **LUTHER B. BRIDGERS’ STORY HELPS OUR FAITH TO GROW:**

Pastor Bridgers was a **Methodist preacher**. In **1910 MRS. BRIDGERS AND THEIR THREE SONS** were visiting in her parent’s home while **LUTHER BRIDGERS** was away in **KENTUCKY** in **REVIVAL SERVICES**. Mrs. Bridgers and the three sons died in a fire that consumed the home in which they were visiting. It is reported that Luther Bridgers composed the words to this famous hymn while on the train going back home. It is a depiction of the **ABUNDANT LIFE IN THE MIDST OF A GREAT WILDERNESS**.

Verse 4, Tho' sometimes He leads thro' waters deep,

Trials fall across the way;
Tho' sometimes the path seems rough and steep,
See His footprints all the way.

Verse 1, There's within my heart a melody;

Jesus whispers sweet and low,
"Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still,"
In all of life's ebb and flow."

Chorus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Sweetest name I know,

Fills my every longing,
Keeps me singing as I go.
"There's within my heart a melody."

PASTOR BRIDGERS had ABUNDANCE IN THE WILDERNESS!

GOD SAYS:

- **(Isa 26:3)**, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."
- **(John 10:10)**, "... I am come that they might have **LIFE**, and that they might have it **MORE ABUNDANTLY**."
- **(Mat 11:28-29)**, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you **REST**. {29} Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find **REST** unto your souls."

HOW TO CLAIM THAT MOUNTAIN

- I. **BECOME A MEMBER** OF GOD'S FAMILY
- II. ACCEPT **GOD'S ASSIGNMENTS** FOR YOUR LIFE
- III. STAND TRUE TO **GOD'S WILL** EVEN IF YOU STAND ALONE
- IV. ENJOY THE **ABUNDANT LIFE**

V. DON'T GIVE UP IN TIMES OF DELAY & DISCOURAGEMENT

- S **CALEB WAS 40 YEARS OLD** when he served as a spy for the tribe of Judah (Josh 14:7). **CALEB WAS 85 YEARS OLD** when he went to Joshua to request his mountain (Josh 14:10). That means that **CALEB HAD TO WAIT 45 YEARS FOR GOD'S PROMISE** to come to pass.
- S **WHAT DID CALEB DO THOSE 45 YEARS?** There is every reason to believe that he enjoyed the journey. He walked in obedience and faith toward God. He enjoyed the abundant life. He refused to let the passing of time become a source of discouragement. Caleb understood that "**God's delays**" do not necessarily mean "**God's denials**."
- S Caleb understood that **GOD WAS A PROMISE KEEPER**. Had **F.B. MEYER** been around in Caleb's day, he could have quoted him.
- **F. B. MEYER**
"If any promise of God should fail, the heavens would clothe themselves in sackcloth. The sun, moon and stars would reel from their from their course. The universe would rock and a hollow wind would moan through a ruined creation the awful message that God can lie"
 - **(Isa 40:8)**, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand **FOREVER**."
 - **(Mat 5:18)**, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."
- S **GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES! EVERY INDICATION IS THAT CALEB** maintained his true dedication to God throughout the years of wilderness wandering.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO WHEN ANSWERS TO GOD'S PROMISES ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING?

- **DON'T GIVE UP IN TIMES OF DELAY & DISCOURAGEMENT**

- **(Gal 6:9)**, “And let us **NOT BE WEARY** in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”
- **(Isa 40:31)**, “**BUT THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD** shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”
- **DON'T GIVE UP!** Continue to **WALK STEADFASTLY**

(1) **BE A JOB**

S **JOB** lost **ten children, his health and wealth**. He was afflicted with boils from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet. His wife encouraged him to curse God and die (Job 2:9-10). Three friends showed up and advised him that his suffering was the result of some personal sin. What person in that condition would not have thought about giving up?

S **BUT LISTEN TO JOB:**

- **(Job 13:15)**, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: . . . ”
- **(Job 23:10)**, “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

(2) **BE A JOSEPH**

S By age seventeen he had been **SOLD INTO SLAVERY** by his own brothers. He ended up in Egypt where Potiphar’s wife told a lie on him and caused him to be sent to **PRISON** for several years for doing what was right.

S **BUT LISTEN TO JOSEPH:**

- **(Gen 50:20)**, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”

(3) **JESUS IS GREATEST EXAMPLE:**

S Jesus was perfect and without sin. He was God himself in human flesh. They took the innocent Lord Jesus and nailed Him to a cross.

S **BUT LISTEN TO JESUS:**

- **HIS FIRST WORDS** from the cross were:
(Luke 23:34), “. . . Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do . . . ”
- **PETER WROTE OF HIM:**
(1 Pet 2:23), “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:”

WHEN LIFE DOES NOT MAKE SENSE, KEEP TRUSTING AND OBEYING THE LORD! CALEB HAD TO WAIT **40 YEARS** to harvest the fruit of God’s promise, but that did not mean God had failed to keep His promise.

WE WILL MAKE ONE OF LIFE’S MOST TRAGIC MISTAKES if we interpret God’s delays as God’s denials. Sometimes **GOD IS AT WORK** accomplishing His purposes and HE GIVES NO EXPLANATION. **TRUST HIM!**

COURTLAND MYERS

"Someday, God is going to reveal the fact to every Christian, that the very principles they now rebel against, have been the `very' instruments He used in perfecting their characters and molding them into perfection, polished stones for His great building yonder."

LAURA A. BARTER WROTE *THIS IS FROM ME:*

"My child, I have a message for you today; let me whisper it in your ear; that it may gild with glory and storm clouds that may arise, and smooth the rough places upon which you may have to tread. It is short, only five words, but let them sink into your inmost soul; use them as a pillow upon which to rest your weary head - THIS THING IS FROM ME!"

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- V. **DON'T GIVE UP** IN TIMES OF DELAY & DISCOURAGEMENT

VI. APPROPRIATE GOD'S PROMISE AT THE PROPER TIME

OUR TEXT TELLS US (Josh 14:6-14):

- S Caleb was **40 YEARS OLD** when he went to spy (V. 7)
- S Caleb was **85 YEARS OLD** when he went to Joshua and asked for his mountain (V. 10).
- S The mountain that Caleb asked for was **HEBRON** (V. 13). **WHY HEBRON?**
 - 1) Hebron was the place where **CALEB HAD SPIED** forty-five years earlier. **GOD HAD PROMISED** to give Caleb the place where his feet had trod while serving as one of the twelve spies. **GOD IS A PROMISE KEEPER.**
 - 2) Hebron was **THE HIGHEST TOWN** in Israel. The elevation of the city was **3,040 FEET** above sea level. That meant it would have been one of the **coolest spots** in the hot land of Canaan.
 - 3) **HEBRON WAS A PLACE WITH RICH IN BIBLICAL HISTORY:**
 - a) **ABRAM** spent much of his time in **MAMRE**, one or two miles from Hebron (Gen. 13:18).
 - b) Mamre was the place where **ABRAM'S NAME** would be changed to **ABRAHAM** (Gen. 17:5). It was the place where **THE THREE ANGELS** revealed to him he would have a son whom would be called Isaac (Gen. 18:1-15). It was from Mamre that the angels left and went to survey Sodom.
 - c) **ISAAC AND JACOB** spent much of their lives at Hebron (Gen 35:27; 37:14).
 - d) It was from Hebron that **JACOB SENT JOSEPH** to find his brothers (Gen 37:14).
 - e) **SARAH, ABRAHAM'S WIFE, DIED AT HEBRON** (Gen. 23:2). Abraham bought the cave of **MACHPELAH** near Hebron and buried his

wife Sarah there (Gen. 23:9). **ABRAHAM, ISAAC & JACOB WERE BURIED IN THAT SAME CAVE.** Hebron was a place filled with religious significance.

3) **HEBRON WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW AS A PLACE RICH IN BIBLICAL HISTORY:**

- a) Hebron would become one of the **CITIES OF REFUGE** (Josh. 20:7).
- b) Hebron would become **KING DAVID'S CAPITAL** the **first seven and one half years** of his reign (2 Sam. 2:11). He would later move his capital to Jerusalem.

QUESTION - WHAT MOUNTAIN HAS GOD PROMISED TO YOU?

THERE ARE TWO STAGES IN POSSESSING YOUR SPIRITUAL POSSESSIONS:

(1). REALIZE GOD'S PROMISES

We have to realize that God has made a promise to us before we can claim it.

- **A MAN WONDERED INTO A RESCUE MISSION YEARS AGO.** He had been there many times before. This particular evening he listened to the evening service and ate the evening meal. He later made his way to the bed that had been provided and went to sleep. The next morning when he did not rise, they went to him and tried without success to awaken him. They discovered that the man **HAD DIED DURING THE NIGHT.**

When they were making plans for burial of **THIS TRANSIENT**, they made **A SHOCKING DISCOVERY.** As they were making their way through this man's papers, they discovered that he was worth **4 ½ MILLION DOLLARS.** What happened was **A WEALTHY ENGLISH RELATIVE** had died and left him the entire estate, but because he was **A WANDERER** with no permanent address, those responsible for the oversight of the estate were not able to track him down. **HE DIED A PAUPER EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A MILLIONAIRE.**

- **HOW MANY OF US ARE SPIRITUAL MILLIONAIRES** and don't even know it? We have to realize God's promises first of all.

(2) CLAIM GOD'S PROMISES

IT IS ONE THING TO REALIZE that God had made a promise, it is quite another to **POSSESS THAT PROMISE.**

CALEB COULD HAVE SET AROUND THE FIRE at night and talked about the wonderful promise of God that had been granted to him. He could have talked about the promise **week-after-week** and **month-after-month.** **The years** could have passed and he could have just sat around basking in the promise of God. The problem would have been that he would **never have possessed** the promise of God. **A TIME HAD TO COME WHEN CALEB ROSE UP** and **SAID**, "God has given ME THIS MOUNTAIN, **I CLAIM IT AS MY OWN."**

WE, TOO, can sit around talking about the promises to God. We can talk about how God answers our **PRAYERS**. We can talk about **HOW POWERFUL GOD'S WORD IS**. God wants us to do more than just **REALIZE**, He wants us to **POSSESS** his promises.

HAVE YOU CLAIMED GOD'S PROMISES?

- a) The promise of **SALVATION?**
- b) The promise of **PRAYER?**
- c) Try this one on for size **MATT 6:33**
(Mat 6:33), "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

HAVE YOU APPROPRIATED THAT MAGNIFICENT PROMISE OF GOD? Here is how you do it:

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(Heb 11:39-40), "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: {40} God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."