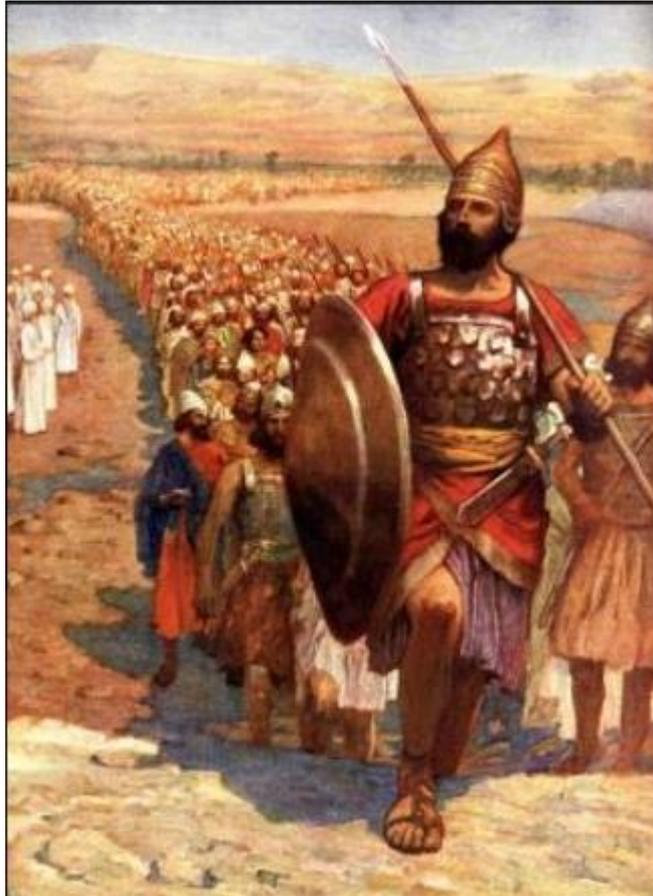


JOSHUA CHAPTERS 14-15 DIVISION OF THE LAND



Receiving Our Inheritance

- 1) The land of Canaan was **conquered AS FAR AS**
 - a) its standing armies were concerned.
 - b) its principal strongholds (city-states) were destroyed
 - c) its kings were slain

Nevertheless much of the **ACTUAL** territory given to Israel was **still** in the hands of its **original** inhabitants...

- Israel seemed to have no idea **how great** was the territory given to her.
 - She had no maps to help her. Her army consisted of **foot soldiers!**
- **Their mandate** was **Joshua 1:3** **Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I HAVE GIVEN YOU**
- 2) At this stage Israel had a **FOOTHOLD** in the country yet she had her work cut out for her in the future as we read in **Judges 2:20-22, 3:1-4**
 - a few battles had been won, but a long drawn out struggle lay in the future, because the enemy doesn't give up with a few set-backs.
 - It is the same **with Redemption:** Jesus paid for our Redemption on Calvary but that was just the beginning of the long campaign to evangelise the world.
 - which is not completed 2,000 years later! How much of Redemption have **we** absorbed?
 - 3) Yet the time has come to allocate the land to the various tribes because families needed to settle down and let their tribes grow and develop. **Deut 32:8-9**

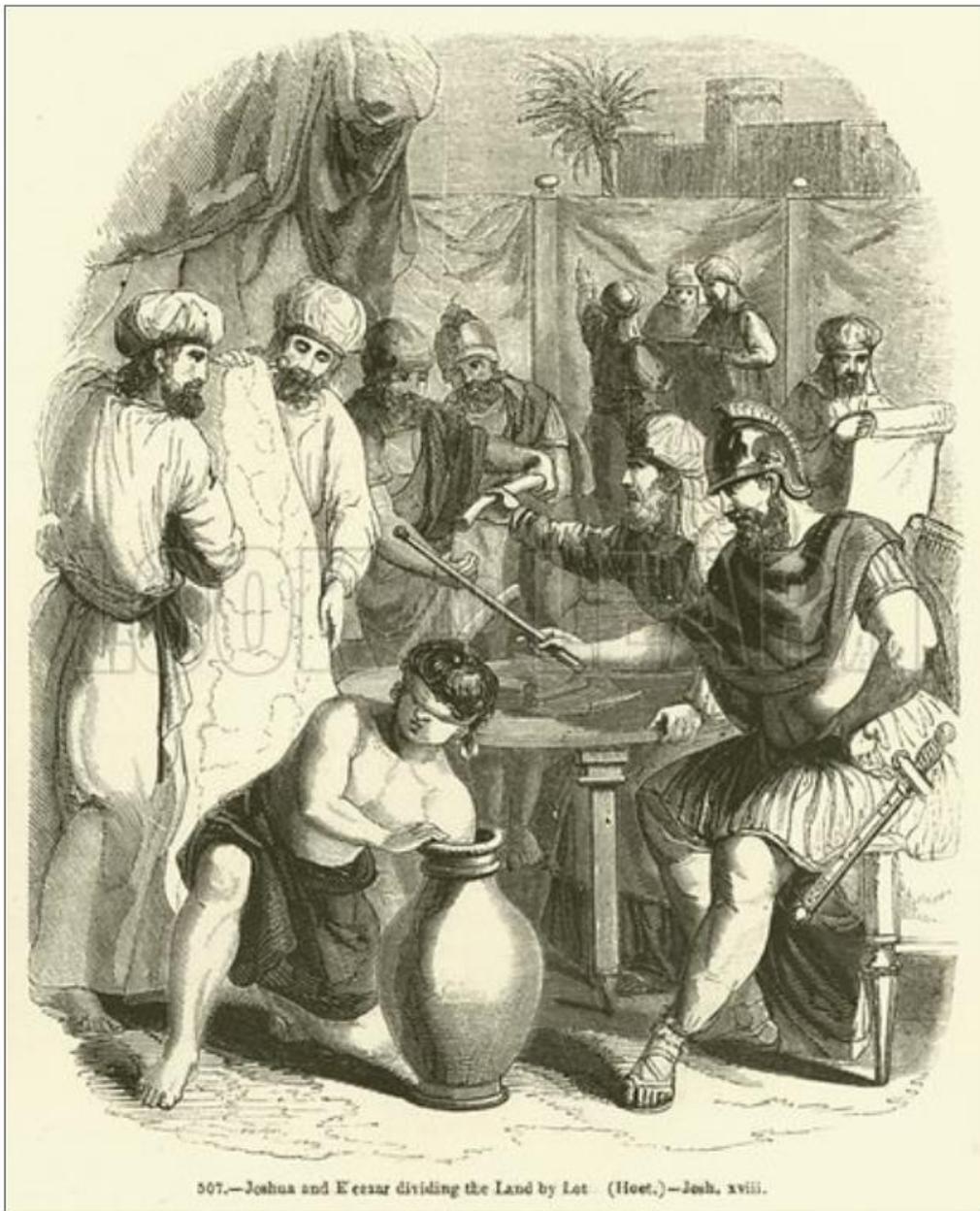
- The **principle** of the allocation was simple and laid down in **Numbers 26:53, 54**

Num 33:54 you shall divide the land **BY LOT** as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; **there** (in P6) everyone's inheritance shall be whatever falls to him **by lot**. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers.

- The principle was to give each tribe what it **NEEDED**, not what it **WANTED!** Therefore they all knew ahead of time what to expect, so that there would be no fighting among themselves!

4) **THE LOTTERY** was amazing. It would **seem** to contradict the giving of both large and small allotments to the tribes – but **not so!**

- The lottery was done in prayer and therefore guided by God.
- The largest tribes **would** get the largest inheritance, **BUT** the lot determined **WHAT PART** of the land of Canaan was allotted to them: North / South / East / West



Prov 16:33 **The lot is cast into the lap but its every decision is from the Lord.**

The Lot:

Two precious stones were placed in the Breastplate of the High Priest which was like a bag or holder (Ex 28:30)

- It was a 'yes' or 'no' decision.

- When they asked God to show **His Will** in the matter to be decided upon, the High Priest would then – after prayer – take one of the stones out – **that** indicated what God wanted.
- The lot was taken at the **ENTRANCE** to the House of God... or shrine, since all the people needed **TO WITNESS** the event.

Joshua 19:57 **These are the inheritances which Eleazar the Priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of each family apportioned by lot among the tribes of Israel AT SHILOH, in the Lord's presence, at the door of the Tent of Meeting (Tabernacle); and thus the apportioning of the land was finished.**

cf Prov 18:18 **The lot stops strife.**

- (NB)
- Neither Joshua, Eleazar nor the heads of the Tribes were allowed to dispose of the land according to **their own** ideas, plans or ambitions.
 - Since God was making the decisions there was **NO ROOM** for Partiality, Favouritism or Greed. Politics wasn't allowed.
 - Therefore the LOT amounted to **DIVINE SUPERVISION** of the process of giving God's People their promised inheritance **peacefully**.

However

- The Israelites were **NEVER** the **owners** of the land.
- The land belonged to **God alone**, its Creator and Lord.
- Their true homeland was in Heaven. On Earth they were strangers and foreigners. see Hebrews 11:13-16, 13:14 Eph 2:9

Since the land was for **THEIR use** only they were not permitted to **SELL** for **MONEY**.

See **Lev 25:23-28** **v23 The land shall not be sold permanently for the LAND IS MINE.**

cf 1 Kg 18: The case of King Ahab wanting to **BUY NABOTH'S VINEYARD**

The Promised Land was a **symbol** of Heaven... it was **NOT** Paradise!!

- The new People of God taking over this land belonged to a **Fallen Race** that urgently needed Redemption – which was more than 1,000 years still in **the future**.
 - The promised land is a **symbol** of our inheritance in Christ.
 - there are no enemies in Heaven, but Earth has continuous warfare.
 - there are no victories to be won in Heaven... they **all** belong to the **Exile** on Earth.
 - **part of the strife** comes from the personal decision of **some** people to choose God's ways and others to choose the way of the world, e.g. Cain/Abel; Ishmael/Isaac etc. **in O.T.**
- NT:** the wheat/cockle; good/bad seed or fish, etc. Wise/foolish virgins; good/bad thief...

Eph 3:19 • God's people in every generation find themselves **strangers and foreigners** on Earth.

Phil 3:20-21 **But our citizenship is in Heaven...**

Heb 11:16 **They were longing for a better country – a heavenly one.**

- During our lifetime God permits all of us to have an allotment where the mystery of our lives is worked out.
 - Since everything about our lives has been **CHOSEN** by God – then the **TRIALS** we must endure, and the **VICTORIES** we must gain – are all chosen by Him also! cf Matt 16:24-27
 - Therefore we can trust God **BEYOND ALL REASON** to enable us to carry out His Divine Will in His way to achieve His goals for the Earth.

Acts 17:26-28 From one man He made every nation of men that they should inhabit the Earth; and **HE** determined THE TIMES set for them **AND** the EXACT places where they should live.

Ps 31:15 My times are in Your Hands; deliver me from my enemies...
Let Your Face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Joshua 14:1 The leaders of the 12 Tribes who worked with Joshua and the High Priest Eleazar are all named in **Numbers 34:16-29!**

- it was all arranged by **Moses** in his last days.

Notice that these men have survived all the battles in Canaan!!

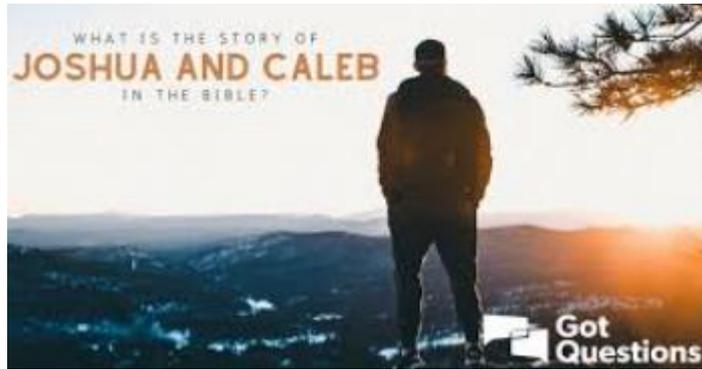
How the Lottery worked out: Joshua 14-19

- A human way of dividing the land would have been to make **12 equal parts** but God acted differently for they were not 12 equal tribes and besides, God alone knew the future.
 - Some of the Tribes were very large – some, like **Benjamin**, were very small.
 - Some were prominent and would take Leadership into the future – like **Judah**
 - Some would be lost to Israel forever at a future date – like **Dan**
 - and some would simply disappear into larger tribes – like **Simeon**
 - Finally, some would just “fade away” – either to be absorbed into larger tribes – or even to be absorbed into the surrounding pagan culture!
 - the phenomenon of disciples walking away from the Lord didn’t wait for the **New** Testament! cf John 6:66 **From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him.**
cf Book of Judges!
 - God’s way of distributing **His Gifts** excludes human injustice, avarice and strife. God’s way ensured that **No Tribe** would challenge the **Rights** of **Another** and take possession of the land they received.
- 14:5 • They all had to accept **God’s Will** for **THEMSELVES** and for all the other tribes.



SPECIAL CASES:

- a) **Caleb**
- b) Daughters of Zelophehad (Zelo-fe-had)
 - The special cases had to be sorted **before** the lottery began.



Caleb – the Hidden Hero of the Book of Joshua

- We meet Caleb for the first time at Kadesh Barnea in Num 13-14
 - this was 2 years after they left Egypt
- In that 2 years the Chosen People had witnessed many marvels
 - the opening of the Red Sea... Manna to feed the multitude... water from the Rock
 - the victory over the Amalekites under Joshua's leadership.
 - they had met God on Sinai... received 10 Commandments... ratified the Covenant.
 - They had built **the Ark**, constructed the Tabernacle and established the Priesthood.

Therefore the essentials of their Nationhood under God as their King was established. So, it was now time to enter the Promised Land – after 2 short, eventful years!

- Caleb was 40 years old at this stage... and Leader of the Tribe of Judah
 - this was the **largest** of the 12 Tribes, and the one which was to become the most important one in the Nation's History – to the point that the Chosen People would forever be called "JEWS" (ie) **people of Judah**
 - it was from Judah that the future Messiah would come.

Num 13:2 Caleb and 11 of his peers were sent to reconnoitre **Land of Canaan**.

They travelled along the spine of mountains – which is the backbone of the land – this meant from **Hebron** in the South to North of the land.

- Since they travelled **ON FOOT** the mountain passes and caves made them safe.
- From this vantage point they could see the **walled cities** dotted throughout the land... they observed that the land was fertile and had plenty of water.

Note: • This initial survey was very helpful later both for conquering the land and when assigning land to the various tribes later.

Hebron: stood out. It was a walled city about 3,000 feet above sea-level

- it was an ancient city founded about 1,700 BC
- it was a stronghold of the **ANAKIM** – the giant descendants of **Anak**
Num 13:28,33 By comparison they saw themselves like grasshoppers!

- The bad report from 10 of the 12 spies (Joshua and Caleb were the 2 good spies) had a terrible effect on the people resulting in a general rebellion against **God's expressed Will** for them.

Caleb's Faith:

Num 13:30 **"Then Caleb silenced the people... We should go up and take possession of this land, for we can CERTAINLY do it"**

- The following day both Joshua and Caleb tried to get the nation to obey.
"The Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them." Num 14:7-9
- Note that the negative spies didn't mention God at all! **Fear took over**, so they unwittingly co-operated with Satan's plan to **prevent** them all from achieving their goal.
Jn 15:5 **Without Me, you can do nothing.**
- Joshua and Caleb looked at **the same challenge** through the eyes of Faith, knowing that if the Lord is with them that **He** will enable them to conquer and prevail.
Phil 4:13 **I can do all things IN CHRIST, who gives me the strength.**
- Unfortunately in **that** crisis Fear prevailed resulting in disunity and rebellion.
So, since they refused to allow God **TO BE GOD** for them, the alternative was to wander in the wilderness for another 38 years until all that generation **died!**
* Only Joshua, Caleb and the children of the wilderness (who had never known Egypt!!) actually entered the Promised Land. Heb 3:7-19 Ps 95:7-11

God's Response to Caleb: Num 14:24

But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him, and has followed Me fully, I will bring him into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

(e) with all his heart. cf Deut 6:4-10

- Many people follow the Lord in **good times** – or when it **suits** them...
 - but when things get tough – when they must walk in **FAITH** – not **by sight** they hesitate or pull back.
 - Fear grips them and they descend from a great height.
- We learn from Caleb to walk into the future confidently leaning on the **Strong Arm of God.**
- **Here in Joshua 14** Caleb claims **Hebron** for his inheritance 14:6-15
So before the lottery **begins**, Caleb claims something **Moses** promised him **back then.**
- Here in Joshua 14 **this** Caleb is identified as the Hero of Kadesh Barnea, **45 years ago!** So before the lottery **begins**, Caleb claims something **Moses** promised him **back then.**

Caleb's Testimony

14:8 **I myself did the whole Will of the Lord, my God**

14:9 **Because of this you will inherit the land FOREVER**

14:10 **I'm 85 years old**

14:11 **I am as strong as I was then!**

14:12 **So now, give me this mountain** (with Hebron as capital city)

- Hebron was the highlands fortress of the **Anakim!**

(NB) Caleb was willing to take them on 45 years ago... and he is still ready to obey that order from God: Num 14:9 Judges 1-10

14:13-15

Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him Hebron and its territories.

Note: In the **past** (for Joshua!) Hebron was called **KIRIATH-ARBA** – the fortress of Arba; Arba, the man, was the most important and famous of the Anakim.

- this is taking the Enemy on in his own den.

Hebron is a V.I.P. city in the history of the Chosen People.

- There is a prophetic level to this inheritance since Caleb was the leader of the Tribe of Judah – destined to bring forth the Messiah.
- This place was V.I.P. for **Abraham**, the Father of their Faith.

Gen 18

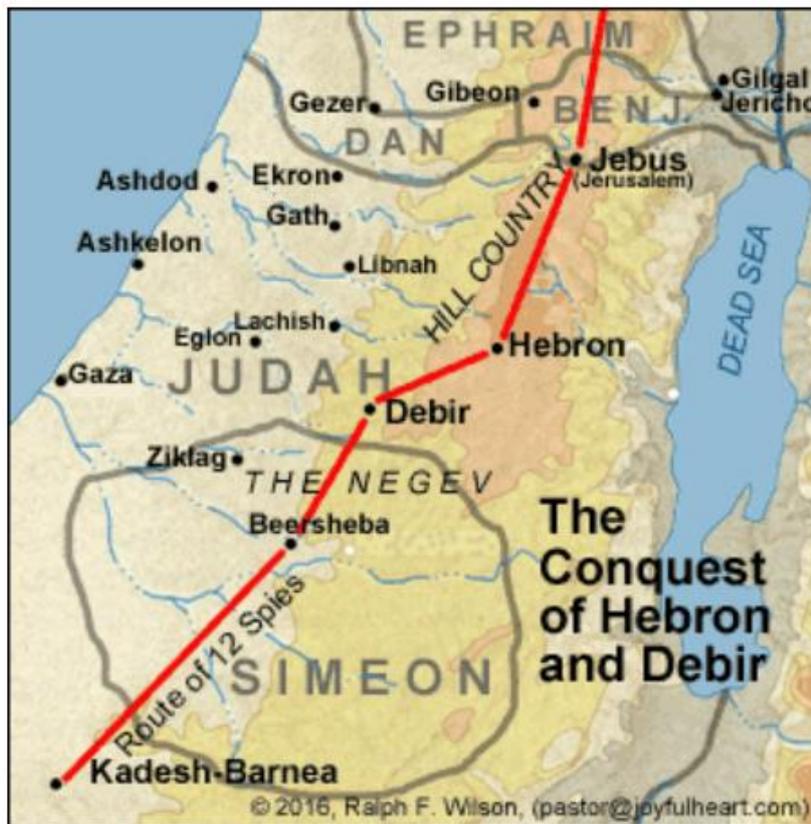
- Mamre was close by. Abraham lived by the Oaks of Mamre for many years.
- The Cave of Machpelah was close by. It held the tombs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives – the fathers and mothers of the Chosen People.
 - today the cave is **INSIDE** the city.
- The surrounding land is fertile with plenty of water...
- Hebron dominated commerce North and South of the land.
 - ∴ it was like giving the capital city to the most important tribe.
 - it was the “crown jewel” of the land of Canaan.

Notice **HEBRON** and **HEBREW** are very close in pronunciation!

Result: Caleb is now in charge of the “hill country of Judah”.

What did he do with his gift? Joshua 15:13-19

- he did what **he said** he would do at Kadesh Barnea 43 years ago!



15:14

Caleb drove out the 3 sons of Anak – Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai

A faith-filled son-in-law: 15:15-17 Judges 1:11-13

- **Debir** was part of the territory associated with Hebron. It had several names from ancient times: Judges 1:11
 - (i) Kiriath – Sepher: 15:5
 - (ii) Kiriath – Sannah: 15:49
- Debir was also an **Anakim** walled fortress: Joshua 10:39, 12:13, 15:49
- Caleb wanted **new leaders** to appear so that the future would be safe.

15:16 Caleb offered his daughter in marriage to any man who would **conquer** Debir
- his nephew Othniel took the challenge, and the **first cousins** married
(there was no prohibition on that at that time)

15:18-19 Caleb's daughter, Acsah, asked her father to give her new family **A FIELD** and **WATER**.
Debir was theirs now but it was in an arid land in the South.
They needed a field for crops and cattle.
They needed a dependable supply of water.

- Upper springs and lower springs – in those days they built subterranean channels in order to get water to places that needed it
- but the **source** might be outside your own territory.
- Caleb agrees because the whole land is to be occupied by the whole people.
- one family or tribe is not more important than another.
- it is clear that Caleb has no greed either for land or power.
He is a true man of God!

