



## JOSHUA - THE MAN WHO WAS DIFFERENT

The land east of the Jordan has already been divided between the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh. The Levites received no share of the land, but only towns to live in, with pasture-lands for their flocks and herds. Now the rest of the tribes of Israel are about to find out which portion of land has been allocated to each of them, west of the Jordan.

1. *Numbers 13:1-3, 21-33* This passage tells of what happened 45 years previously. What report did the majority of the spies bring back?

2. *Numbers 14:1-10* What was the attitude of Joshua and Caleb?

3. *Numbers 14:24* What promise did the Lord make to Caleb?

Read Joshua 14:6-15

4. What request did Caleb make to Joshua?

5. How old was Caleb when God promised Him the land? How old was he now?

*Joshua 14:8-9, 14*

6. What do these verses tell us about Caleb?

7. How were Caleb and Joshua different from the other spies?

Read Joshua 15:13-19

8. How did Caleb prove that God was true to His word? (Compare Numbers 13:33 and 14:9 with Joshua 15:14)

9. What did Caleb's daughter ask for as a wedding present?

Read Joshua 15:20, 63; 16:1, 10; 17:1, 12-13

10. Which tribes are mentioned here?

11. How was Caleb different from these people?

12. *Numbers 33:55; Judges 2:1-5, 10-15* What was the result of the inaction of the other tribes?

Read Joshua 17:1-6

13. *Numbers 27:1-7* Why did the 5 daughters of Zelophehad ask for a part of the land for themselves? Who had originally commanded that they should be given the land?

Joshua 17:14-18

14. Why did the descendants of Joseph ask for more land?

15. What were they told to do?

### The End Bit!

How was Caleb different?

#### **1. His faith was based on God's Word, not his own ability**

It was obvious that the people of Israel could not conquer the enemy in their own strength, but God had said, 'Go in and possess the land. Don't be afraid, I will fight for you.' Caleb refused to let go of God's promises, while the rest of the people were plunged into despair.

#### **2. He brought back an honest report**

No half-truths for Caleb – he was straight-forward in all he said. The other spies changed things to suit themselves and exaggerated the difficulties because they were scared and didn't want to enter the land. Caleb trusted in the Lord, so he had no reason to falsify the report.

#### **3. He 'wholly followed the Lord'**

Can you honestly say this about yourself? If you are a Christian, you should be able to describe yourself in this way – a Christian is one who is totally committed to Jesus Christ. Is there any part of your life not yielded to Him? This is sin and is just as bad as the rebellion of the people of Israel. Search your heart, confess your sin and hand over everything to Jesus and you too will be one who 'wholly follows the Lord.'

#### **4. He did not doubt God's promise**

It is one thing to claim the promises of God in a day of spiritual excitement and blessing, but when our feet are firmly on the ground again, how easily we can be made to doubt. If ever people poured cold water on a person's enthusiasm for God, it was when the 12 spies returned with their reports.

Not only did Caleb stake everything on God's promise at that time, he refused to let go of the promise for 45 years. God is looking for people who are different, in the way Caleb was. Will you be a volunteer?

#### Verses to remember

"Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

Romans 4:20-21