

## Sunday Night Message

March 11, 2018

Joshua 15 – *Land Distribution for Judah*

Series – *Joshua*

Text – Joshua 15

### Introduction

In chapter 14, we saw the general division of the Land of Israel, noting the two and one half tribes located on the eastern side of the Jordan River, and then the nine tribes plus two half tribes located on the western side of the river, with the half tribe of Manasseh receiving portions of land on both sides. Also, the Levites were dispersed throughout the Land on both sides in 48 cities, but receiving no specific land inheritance. (See Map)

Chapter fifteen deals with the land distribution of the tribe of Judah. (See Map) Judah was the largest of all of the tribes according to the census taken in Numbers 26. The numbers given there are for the men, twenty years of age and older who could go to war.

*"These are the families of Judah according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and sixteen thousand and five hundred."* (Numbers 26:22)

### I The Borders of Judah (vs. 1 – 12)

The Book of Genesis give us Jacob's prophecy regarding Judah. (See [Genesis 49:8 – 12](#))

From Genesis, we learn that Judah's land would be particularly suited for vineyards. The grapes of Eschol come from Judah.

We also learn that Judah would be surrounded by enemies. Moab was to the east; Edom to the southeast; the Amalekites to the south-west; the Philistines to the west; Jebusites to the north in and near Jerusalem. Even in the Promised Land, there will be battles to fight and hurdles to get over. Note – In the spirit-filled Christian life, there will be battles to fight as well.

### II The Portion for Caleb (vs. 13 – 19)

This story is repeated in [Judges 1](#).

Caleb not only provided land for his children and grandchildren, but he also instilled in them his determination and zeal as can be seen in his daughter Achsah, and his son-in-law Othniel who later became a judge in Israel. (See Judges 3:7 – 11)

We talked last week about the Caleb's zeal and his willingness to keep fighting for the Lord when he could have been enjoying his retirement years.



Let's consider for a moment his impact on his children. His daughter seems to be a "chip off of the old block." His son-in-law seems to also have the same zeal and faith in the Lord that Caleb did?

Why is it that oftentimes our children have less faith, and less zeal than we do? What can we do to help our children fall in love with the Lord like we did?

- 1 Be consistent – in your walk with God
- 2 Be compassionate – flood your children with genuine love.
- 3 Be cautious – Don't do things or say things that will send a mixed message to your children.
- 4 Be cheerful – make serving God look good.
- 5 Be concerned – Stay involved in the lives of your kids and grandkids.

### III The Cities of Judah (vs. 20 – 62)

According to Ryrie:

The cities of Judah are listed by four geographical areas: (1) the south (vv. 20–32); (2) the Shephelah (western foothills, vv. 33–47); (3) the hill country (vv. 48–60); and (4) the desert (or wilderness) of Judea that slopes down to the Dead Sea (vv. 61–62).<sup>1</sup>

### IV The City of Jerusalem (v. 63)

First mentioned as Salem (Genesis 14:18 – 20; Psalm 76:2; see also Hebrews 7:1 – 2)

The men of Judah eventually do conquer the lower city, but the men of Benjamin could not completely drive out the Jebusites from upper city:

*"Now the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and had taken it, and smitten it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire. ... And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day." (Judges 1:8, 21)*

David eventually drove out the Jebusites and made the city His capitol.

*"And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David." (2 Samuel 5:6-7)*

The Jebusites could not be driven out – why? Was it a lack of strength or a lack of faith? Perhaps, they just got tired of fighting.

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<sup>1</sup> Ryrie, C. C. (1994). *Ryrie study Bible: King James Version* (Expanded ed., p. 361). Chicago: Moody Press.



# TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION OF PALESTINE

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- ▨ Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon

0 15 30 Miles  
0 15 30 Kilometers

MEDITERRANEAN  
SEA





**THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS  
OF ISRAEL**

JOSH 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak

