

July 12, 2026 Session 6 Unwavering Determination Joshua 14:1-15

Overview: Chapter 14 describes the process of how land was distributed to the various tribes by inheritance. The allotted lands were distributed by Eleazar, Joshua, and one representative from each tribe. Eleazar was Aaron's third son, and his successor as the high priest. What happened to Aaron's other two sons? (Leviticus 10:1-2) The descendants of Joseph became two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. The tribe of Levi was not to be given land but was to live in cities throughout Canaan, and were to be given "common land" outside the cities. Starting with the 12 tribes of Abraham, minus Levi and Joseph = 10 tribes. Ten tribes plus Manasseh and Ephraim = 12. Like splitting a stock, one tribe becomes two.

Obedience (Joshua 14:1-5) p. 57

The Lord had previously given Moses instructions on how the promised land would be allotted among the Israelite tribes (Numbers 34). God gave Moses detailed instructions, even naming the person who was to represent each tribe. Caleb was named to represent the tribe of Judah. Joshua and Israel's leaders meticulously obeyed God's instructions. The allocation of the land was done in the Lord's presence at Shiloh at the entrance to the tent of meeting, and took place five years after Israel's entry into Canaan.

Vs. 2 The casting of lots was a practice instituted by God. It is not gambling. Lots are used to determine which familiar option would be best, not making an uneducated random choice. Biblical lots were used to seek God's direction.

Proverbs 16:33 *"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."* Through this process, God revealed which portions of the land went to each tribe. Directed by God, Moses gave the land to the two and a half tribes on the eastern side of the Jordan river to Ruben, Gad and half of Manasse's tribes. The land within Canaan, west of the Jordan River, was allotted by God through Joshua and Eleazar. The Levites received no inheritance but did receive their own cities located throughout Israel. In the wilderness, the tribe of Levi stood with Moses when the rest of the people disobeyed God by making the golden calf. Therefore, Moses gave this tribe the responsibility for assisting with the sacrifices and caring for the tabernacle. Joseph was one of the twelve sons of Jacob, but there was no tribe named after him. Instead, two tribes were named after his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Vs. 5 The Israelites did as the Lord commanded. This is an area where I need to make improvements, especially in making better use of my time. I want to spend less time doing nonproductive things and more time serving God.

Devotion (Joshua 14:6-9) p. 59

Before Jacob's death, he prophesied concerning his twelve sons (Genesis 49). It is an interesting read. Some of the sons got negative prophecies, but Judah's prophecy was very positive. Judah was Jacob's fourth son whose mother was Leah. **Genesis 49:8** *"Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you."* Caleb spoke to Joshua at Gilgal, and represented the descendants of Judah. He was a remarkable man among the Israelites.

Vs. 7 Caleb was now eighty-five years old. Forty-five years is a long time to wait in faith for God's promise to come to completion. He was one of the twelve spies sent out by Moses to explore the promised land of Canaan. Only Caleb and Joshua gave a good report concerning the land and encouraged the Israelites to move forward with faith in God that through Him they could conquer the land. Caleb's faith comes from following the Lord his God completely. This is an example for me to follow. The other ten scouts were fearful and had a dissuading report. It caused the people to lose heart and not trust God to overcome the obstacles and enter the promised land. It was because of their unwavering faith and devotion to God that Caleb and Joshua, along with their families, were the only ones God permitted to enter into the promised land. All other Israelites from Caleb's generation of Israelites died in the desert. The tribe of Judah received their land allotment first. This tribe would occupy the important territory west of the Dead Sea. In the New Testament, Jesus came from the tribe of Judah. Some of the tribal allotments were given at Shiloh, but the tribe of Judah met Joshua at Gilgal. Gilgal was the place where Israel first erected a monument to the Lord after crossing the Jordan river. Gilgal was also the home base for Israel's first sorties into the land of Canaan. Judah received the largest portion of land with the most detailed description of all the tribes.

Vs. 9 Caleb remembered Moses's oath that he swore. This promise was not only for Caleb, but also for his descendants. The Hebrew term for forever is used when God promised King David that He would establish an eternal kingdom through one of David's own descendants who would rule on His throne forever. Instead of a land inheritance for Christians, there remains a promise of an eternal inheritance. **Hebrews 9:14-15** *"...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."* **Numbers 14:24** *"But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it."* Wouldn't you like this to be said about you, "he/she has followed the Lord God fully." It brings a song to my mind: "Trust and obey, for there is no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

Inheritance (Joshua 14:10-15) ps. 60-61

The personal nature of Caleb's profession continued. This entire section highlights Caleb's unwavering assurance of the promises of God. Caleb was forty-five years old when he first saw the promised land. He was eager to receive the inheritance God had promised him and his family. Not because of any wrong he had done but because of the lack of faith and the disobedience of others, Caleb was forced to wait forty-five years to receive the inheritance. He waited through forty years wandering in the wilderness and five years involved in the conquest of Canaan. Even at age eighty-five, Caleb still had the strength for battle and for daily tasks.

Vs. 12 Caleb wanted the hill country that the Lord originally promised him. He wanted the fight. He was ready to take on the giants that terrified the other ten spies who caused Israel to be too frightened to trust God and conquer the land. The descendants of Anak lived in the hill country around Hebron. The destruction of the Anakim is recorded in Joshua 11:21-22, but some still remained in Hebron and the surrounding regions.

Vs. 13 Joshua blessed Caleb. In the Bible, a blessing is not just wishing someone well, but it is a bestowal of vitality and power via the spoken word. It is a big deal. Joshua placed his full authority in support of Caleb's task ahead. Hebron was about nineteen miles south of Jerusalem and fifteen miles west of the Dead Sea. It was and is one of the highest points in the hill country. Hebron has a prolific spring and plenty of fertile soil. It was a lively center of grape and olive oil production. The city of Arba, named after a powerful man of the Anakim, was renamed Hebron, meaning "the place of alliance." After forty years the Israelite tribes finally trusted God and joined together to conquer the land of Canaan.