



**There remains
very much land
yet to be
possessed**



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- **Joshua 13:1 - 8**

1 ¶ Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

2 "This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the Philistines and all that of the Geshurites,

3 "from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines — the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites;

Very much land yet to be possessed





- **Joshua 13:1 – 8 (continued)**

4 "from the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, to the border of the Amorites;

5 "the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath;

6 "all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon as far as the Brook Misrephoth, and all the Sidonians — them I will drive out from before the children of Israel; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you.





- **Joshua 13:1 – 8 (continued)**

7 ¶ "Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh."

8 With the other half tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses had given them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the LORD had given them:



Some questions for you



Very much land yet to be possessed

- If the Lord God should come to you at this very moment in time how will He address you in as far as the task He has given you is concerned?
- Will you see the declaration of the Lord as being words of encouragement or will they be bothersome?
- Your first reaction might be: “What task? I did not even know that I had a task”
- Learn from Charles Wesley then – “A charge to keep I have”
- Or else you might say “I am tired, and I am old and I could do with some rest”
- Or else you could be excited and say “there is still life in this old dog”



Why this subject?



Very much land yet to be possessed

- We are not treating this subject as being prescriptive per se and neither are we making a doctrine out of it.
- Rather it is descriptive of what God may say to us.
- And even if God does not exactly say that to us, any God fearing person should stop and ask questions of themselves without condemnation.
- Call it “best practice” if you will.
- The end of the year is upon us and perhaps it gives us reason to consider our progress in the things of God and in life in general knowing that we will one day give an account to the One who called us.



Subject in context ~ 1



- **Joshua 1:1 - 9**

1 ¶ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them — the children of Israel.

3 "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

4 "From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

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Subject in context ~ 2



- **Joshua 1:1 - 9**

5 "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

6 "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Very much land yet to be possessed



Subject in context ~ 3



Very much land yet to be possessed

- **Joshua 1:1 - 9**

8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."



The call of Joshua - Some points



Very much land yet to be possessed

- 1. God had given Joshua a task**
- 2. God had put the task in context so that Joshua would not misunderstand.**
- 3. Joshua was continuing where Moses had left off. "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. Verse 3"**
- 4. God had made promises to Him.**
- 5. God had given him assurances.**
- 6. God had empowered him.**



The performance of Joshua



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- The fulfilment of the promises of God was dependent upon the ministry of Joshua.
- The God of Israel is a God of continuity. God had called Joshua to continue where Moses left off.
- Joshua was not to start his own thing.
- Rather, the baton had been passed on to him and he had to perform according to the agenda of the One who had called him.
- The inheritance of the tribes was dependant on Joshua getting on with the job; for example, Caleb was waiting for him to do his God given task of apportioning the territory or giving the go ahead to the respective tribes or families.



The five lords of the Philistines



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- I said that this message is descriptive rather than prescriptive.
- Let us look at some possible “descriptive scenarios.”
- 3 "from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines — the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites;
- Any student of scripture should be aware of these “five lords of the Philistines”
- What are the possible “five lords of the Philistines” in the task and territory that the Lord has given to you?



There are territories to be won ~ 1



- **Joshua 14:6 - 14**

6 ¶ Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.

7 "I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.

8 "Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

Very much land yet to be possessed



There are territories to be won ~ 2



Very much land yet to be possessed

- **Joshua 14:10 - 14**

9 "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'

10 "And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

11 "As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.

There are territories to be won ~ 3



Very much land yet to be possessed

- **Joshua 14:10 - 14**

12 "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.



Descriptive ~ The Caleb spirit



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- The promise made to Caleb under Moses took forty five years to be fulfilled under the leadership of Joshua. Remember I said to you that the work of God is progressive, continuous and His promises are without repentance.
- Even then, Caleb came to remind Joshua of the promise.
- There are still more territory to be conquered.
- Do not wait for something good in God to happen. Make it happen as Caleb did.
- The presence of the Anakim – giants – did not serve as a deterrent.



Application ~ 1



Very much land yet to be possessed

- **What are the territories in our lives that need to be won?**
- **What are the giants- the perennial Anakim – that need to be dealt with?**
- **What are the hindrances to our “coming into our inheritance”**
- **Are there any promises that need to be cashed in?**
- **Who is the Joshua?**
- **Where are the men and women with the Caleb spirit?**
- **"So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’ (Joshua 14:9)**



Application ~ 2



Very much land yet to be possessed

- Notice how the Joshua and Caleb spirit never changed.
- Mutual respect. This did not change when the “40 year old” spies became statesmen and revered leaders.
- There are territories to be won.
- How is your character?
- Proverbs 16:32
Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.



Application ~ 3



- **Ephesians 4:20 - 32**

20 But you have not so learned Christ,

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

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Application ~ 4



Very much land yet to be possessed

- **Ephesians 4:20 - 32**

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour," for we are members of one another.

26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil.

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.



Current day application ~ 3



- **Ephesians 4:20 - 32**

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

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Joshua's challenge



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- **Joshua 18:1 - 4**

1 ¶ Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.

2 ¶ But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.

3 Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?"

4 "Pick out from among you three men for each tribe, and I will send them; they shall rise and go through the land, survey it according to their inheritance, and come back to me.



Conclusion and challenge



Very much land yet to be possessed

- 1. Do you think you have gone as far as you can go in life and in God?**
- 2. Are you using “old age” as an excuse not to get on with the job?**
- 3. Are you aware that your performance affects the purposes of God for others?**
- 4. Are you aware that God is waiting on you to make the move to possess territory because He has already gone before you?**
- 5. What is your attitude towards the Joshua's in your life?**
- 6. What is your attitude of those with the Caleb spirit in your life? It took Caleb 45 years. How long will it take you and will you be patient enough?**

