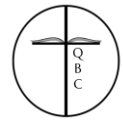


# Putting Down Roots, Receiving God's Inheritance



**Worship:** This is Amazing Grace, Here I am to Worship

**Word:** Joshua 13-19

Joshua 14

*<sup>1</sup> Now these are the areas the Israelites received as an inheritance in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the tribal clans of Israel allotted to them. <sup>2</sup> Their inheritances were assigned by lot to the nine and a half tribes, as the Lord had commanded through Moses. <sup>3</sup> Moses had granted the two and a half tribes their inheritance east of the Jordan but had not granted the Levites an inheritance among the rest, <sup>4</sup> for Joseph's descendants had become two tribes—Manasseh and Ephraim. The Levites received no share of the land but only towns to live in, with pasturelands for their flocks and herds. <sup>5</sup> So the Israelites divided the land, just as the Lord had commanded Moses. <sup>6</sup> Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. <sup>7</sup> I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, <sup>8</sup> but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly. <sup>9</sup> So on that day Moses swore to me, "The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly." <sup>10</sup> "Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! <sup>11</sup> I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. <sup>12</sup> Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said." <sup>13</sup> Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. <sup>14</sup> So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. <sup>15</sup> (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.) Then the land had rest from war.*

# Putting Down Roots, Receiving God's Inheritance



Chapter 13 begins a new chapter in Israel's life under Joshua's leadership. This transition can be seen in the appearance of a new word in the story: inheritance. It appeared just once in the first half of the book (Josh. 11:23), but will occur 56 times from chapter 13 on. Though some areas of Canaan remain unconquered, the conquest is over and Israel is ready to settle the land. These chapters record the

meticulous, specific, and at times seemingly monotonous division of the land. Nevertheless, there are a number of important insights to gain from these detailed land assignments.

Through Joshua the Lord divides the land among his people in such a way as to communicate his divine leadership in the process.

## Discussion:

1. But first attention must be given to a special case: Caleb. Caleb was one of the original 12 spies, standing alone with Joshua 40 years earlier with confidence in God's provision of the land. He remains confident in God's promises and unwavering in the face of the remaining Canaanite inhabitants (14:12). Three times in this section it is said of Caleb, he "wholly followed the LORD" (14:8, 9, 14). How does Caleb's life teach us to follow the Lord wholly? For help, use the contrast between Caleb and the other spies recorded in Numbers 13:30–31 and 14:21–24.
2. Do you believe you have received God's inheritance? If so, what are the roots that must be placed down for you to receive His inheritance?