Now that the general conquest has been completed, it is time to partition the Promised Land among the remaining 9 ½ tribes who will be occupying the land west of the Jordan. (Remember that 2 ½ tribes had been given permission to live on the other side after the fighting.) For some unknown reason (another question we can ask God, if we really care) the tribes of Judah and Ephraim, and the remaining half-tribe of Manasseh, are given a preferential portion of the land, along with a special grant for Caleb, the former faithful spy from Numbers 13. Thereafter, the remaining land will be surveyed and divided by lot among the other tribes. There are some great lessons in chapters 13-21 during this phase of Joshua’s leadership.

- Joshua listened to God (chapter 13). The Lord told him how to divide up the land! Now, God doesn’t tell us which university to attend, or which job offer to accept, but he DOES tell us to be pure, to put him first, to be true to our families, etc, so there are many of God’s words to consider when faced with making a big decision.
- God was enough (13:32). The Levites didn’t get an inheritance, because God said that HE would be there inheritance. This is a wonderful attitude to have. We should have godly ambition and be good stewards if God grants us material wealth, but we should also be surrendered to the fact that we may never have a material inheritance on this earth, and we must become spiritual enough that it will be ok!
- Caleb followed wholeheartedly (14:8). Caleb was able to confidently claim the land that God had promised him because he knew that he had never compromised his heart for God!
- Age wasn’t an issue (14:6-15 and 15:13-15) Caleb was 85 years old! Wow! Look at his vigour and heart to be on the frontline for God! And he was even willing to take the difficult job of driving out feared people! We may or may not have Caleb’s physical stamina, but we should surely have his spiritual drive!
- No “one-size-fits-all” treatment (17:3-6). See Numbers 27:1-4 to remind yourself of the story of Zelophehad’s daughters. God cares about the little things and about the people who might not fit into the “normal” way of doing things!!
- Excuses weren’t tolerated (17:14-18). The tribe of Joseph wanted the easy way out, but Joshua challenged them to clear trees and fight battles in order to have what they needed. We need to have this attitude of taking personal responsibility and not blaming others, and looking for an easy way out.
- Flexibility and faith were needed to get along (chapter 18). Just imagine if they hadn’t trusted God or been willing to bend – they would have thrown a fit over the idea of “casting lots” and all that. We need to make sure that we think and speak up, but we also need hearts that are willing to “Trust and Adjust” if it will help out in the area of unity.
- Good leaders were honoured (19:49). Joshua had apparently asked for a piece of
land, and he got it. In fact, it says that the Lord commanded the Israelites to give Joshua a piece of land. There is nothing wrong with, under the right circumstances, honouring a leader who has been godly and devoted.

- God kept his promises (21:43-45). As he still does and always has, God kept his promises re the Promised Land. The last verse is so beautiful: “Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.”

(Next entry March 13th)

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