

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Joshua 14.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Joshua 14.

Topics.

- The inheritance of the nine and one-half tribes in the land of Canaan.
- The inheritance of the two and one-half tribes east of the Jordan River.
- The tribe of Levi was not given an inheritance.
- Hebron was allotted to Caleb for an inheritance.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: the first five books of Moses anticipated the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham concerning the Promised Land. Moses is now dead. Joshua crosses the River Jordan (about 1400 B.C.) and after a string of military victories apportioned the land according to the twelve tribes. These battles shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God fights for His people when they are faithful and courageous and put their full trust in Him. (Josh. 1:6-9).

At the close of the book Joshua says that he and all his house will serve the LORD and invites the people to choose whether they will serve the gods of their fathers or the gods in whose land they dwell or the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The people choose to serve their God. (Josh. 24:15). Although anonymous the book appears to contain eyewitness testimony, some of which may have been written by Joshua himself.

The inheritance of the Nine and One-half Tribes in the Land of Canaan.

Joshua 14:1-2 ----- ¹These are the inheritances that the people of Israel received in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel gave them to inherit. ²Their inheritance was by lot, just as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses for the nine and one-half tribes.

In the book of Numbers the LORD told the people when they have passed over the River Jordan into the land of Canaan and driven out all the inhabitants of the land and destroyed all their figured stones and metal images and demolished all their high places then they were to settle in the land and divide it by lot according to their clans. To a large tribe they were to give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe they were to give a small inheritance wherever the lot falls for anyone, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit. (Num. 33:50-54).

The inheritance was by lot: the particular locality that the nine and a half tribes would take up in the land of Canaan was to be decided by lot which would in this instance be totally in the control of God and according to His determination. Then the extent of territory was to be divided into ten parts. One part for each of the nine and a half tribes according to the largeness or smallness of each tribe (i.e., according to the number names of persons in each tribe) and each inheritance was to bear the name of the ancestor of the tribe. Distributing the land this way is in harmony with the general rule of equity in that too many should be given more and to fewer less. (Num. 33:53-56) (Josh. 14:1-15).

The inheritance of the Two and One-Half Tribes East of the Jordan River.

Joshua 14:3-5 ----- ³For Moses had given an inheritance to the two and one-half tribes beyond the Jordan, but to the Levites he gave no inheritance among them. ⁴For the people of Joseph were two tribes,

Manasseh and Ephraim. And no portion was given to the Levites in the land, but only cities to dwell in, with their pasturelands for their livestock and their substance. ⁵The people of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses; they allotted the land.

Joseph sons Manasseh and Ephraim were the heads of two tribes, because of this there are times when the twelve tribes are mentioned in Scripture that the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim are counted as one tribe under the name of Joseph and at other times as two tribes under the names of Manasseh and Ephraim.

The tribe of Levi was not given an inheritance: this is because their inheritance was the privilege of serving the LORD their God and all the people they served provided for them through their offerings. All the people of Israel were to bring a tithe (10%) of their increase to the temple. The Levitical priests would sacrifice these offerings to the LORD on the altar. These sacrifices (i.e., burnt offerings to the LORD), became food for the priesthood. They are called offerings to the LORD because they provided for the priests who were serving the LORD. This is why the priesthood did not receive an inheritance of the land.

For further information concerning tithing, see the title: -

- Tithing (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Hebron was allotted to Caleb for an Inheritance.

Joshua 14:6-15 ----- ⁶Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. ⁷I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. ⁸But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the LORD my God. ⁹And Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.' ¹⁰And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. ¹¹I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. ¹²So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said." ¹³Then Joshua blessed him, and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. ¹⁴Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁵Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba. (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.

How amazing is this: Caleb is eighty-five years old and is still as strong as he was forty-five years ago and his strength for war is still as his strength was when Moses sent him to spy out the land. Caleb wholly followed the LORD in that he believed God and strongly told the people of Israel they should enter the Promised Land and drive out the inhabitants of Canaan, but the other spies with him spoke fear and instilled doubt into the heart of the people so Israel refused to obey God and remained in the wilderness forty years. Joshua gave Hebron and the hill country to Caleb and his children forever because he wholly followed the LORD the God of Israel.

The Anakim: Anakim were the people of Anak, the father of Anak was Arba he was the greatest man among the Anakim (Joshua 21:11) (Joshua 14:12-15). The Anakim were a people that lived at Hebron during Joshua's conquest of Canaan. Their land included Kiriath-arba (the original name of Hebron) and the Valley of Rephaim which connected to the valley of Hinnon. The people of Joshua took the land of Rephaim and gave Hebron to Caleb, but some of the Anakim remained in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod (Josh. 11:21-22) (Josh. 15:8, 13-16) (Josh. 18:16) (Josh. 17:15). In the book of Deuteronomy it is written: -

- Like the Anakim they are also counted as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim. (Deut. 2:11).
- (It is also counted as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly lived there—but the Ammonites call them Zamzummim (Deut. 2:20)

These verses show that the Anakim are also called: -

1. Rephaim.
2. Zamzummim.
3. Emim.

End.