

Giants!

Joshua 15

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Last Sunday Bo expounded on Joshua 14, today 15

- Got me thinking about Caleb
- *wholly followed the Lord* – Joshua 14:8, 9, 14
- More details about Caleb in Joshua 15
- Merits a bit of a character study of Caleb

There is a lot of tedious details on land allotment

- Why is this important?
- Meant a lot to the people involved – their livelihood
- History, confirmed by archeology

The key to understanding these details: very end of Bible

- What is that? ...Maps

Big picture of Joshua 13-19:

- Total: 70 mi wide x 170 mi long; 12K mi² Vermont
- (Marathon – Valentine, Alpine – Midland)
- Dead Sea 45x10 mi, Jordan 60 mi, Galilee 250 mi²
- Judah 2500 mi² – Simeon 600 mi² = 1900 mi²
- Dan NW, Benjamin NE; 200 mi² each
- Ephraim 400 mi² N
- West Manasseh 1600 mi² East Manasseh 1800 mi²
- Also East of Jordan: Gad 400 mi² Reuben 400 mi²
- N. of West Manasseh: Issachar & Zebulun 200 mi²
- Also, Asher 400 mi² Naphtali 600 mi² E

God promised Abraham Nile - Euphrates (Gen 15:18)

Northern tribes will spit from Judah (+ Benjamin, Simeon)

- Judah 20 kings, 6 righteous, 2 mixed
- Israel 19 kings, all evil

Caleb

delivered from bondage in Egypt

- border of Canaan, God had promised they would inherit (Exodus 3:8, 17)
- Moses chose 12 men, one from each tribe, to scout
- Caleb represented Judah, Joshua Ephraim
- spied out the land for 40 days, reported to Moses
- land was fruitful but there be giants...
- inhabitants were the mighty descendants of Anak
- 10 spies warned Moses not to enter Canaan (Numbers 13:23–33).

Caleb silenced the murmuring, fearful men...

Numbers 13:30 - *"We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it"*

Why? he *followed the Lord wholeheartedly*

- he had faith that God would give them victory

the people of Israel ignored Caleb

- so frightened that they wept all night
- even wished they had died at the hands of their slave masters in Egypt (Numbers 14:1–4).
- They turned on Caleb & Joshua wanting to stone them (Numbers 14:6–10)
- Congregation (mob) stopped by God directly...

Numbers 14:10 – *And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.*

God was pretty angry with the people and threatened to destroy them until Moses interceded

- God relented, but He decreed they would wander in the wilderness until that faithless generation had died
Numbers 14:24 – *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.*

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years all of that generation, except Joshua and Caleb, died

- After the 40 years of wandering + 5 more years of war within Canaan, Caleb was 85 years old
- he was as strong as ever and able to fight the same Anakites that had frightened his countrymen

Observation: Israel always gets it right the second time

- 2nd son Jacob gets birthright
- 2nd set Ten Commandments had to be given
- 2nd generation entered the promised land
- They missed the Messiah when He came the first time
- had to be booted from the land twice before faithful
Amos 9:15 – *"I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," says the Lord your God.*

Be less like the nation of Israel, and more like Caleb...

Character of Caleb

- His confidence (& courage) was born out of his absolute faith in the promises of God
- faithful man who trusted God even with opposition
- remained steadfast in faith even into his later years
- God blessed Caleb for his faithfulness... an encouragement to us to believe God ourselves
- Like Caleb, we should be prepared to follow God in every circumstance – even facing giants
- Expect God to fulfill His promises and be ready to take action when the time is right
- Joshua 15 – Not even giants can keep us from realizing the promises of God

Joshua 15:8 – Jerusalem (Jebusite city) Judah, northern 15:63 – *As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.*

Not conquered until David was king >400 years later

- Why? ...not told... too strong; on border
- Sluggishness, unbelief

More light on character of Caleb: Joshua 15:13-19

¹³ *Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he (Joshua) gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).*

¹⁴ *Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.*

¹⁵ *Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher).*

¹⁶ *And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife."*

¹⁷ *So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife. ¹⁸ Now it was so, when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?"*

¹⁹ *She answered, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.*

v13 – *Kirjath Arba = Hebron ...Arba, father of Anak*

- Hebron means "friend" in Hebrew, refers to Abraham
- Abraham purchased the Cave of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite
- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and wives were buried
- David was anointed king of Israel in Hebron.

v14 – Caleb drove out the 3 sons of Anak

- Inherited the land but still had to conquer it
- Of course, God did all the heavy lifting here
- Miracles require a step of faith
- Inheriting the land was not enough, they had to possess it to realize their inheritance

Like the gospel; the free gift of salvation is not a gift unless you take possession of it, or receive it

- That is why, in order to have eternal life, you must "Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior."

What exactly does it mean to "receive" Jesus?

John 1:11–12 – *He [Jesus] came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

John equates "receiving" Jesus with "believing" in Him, which results in one's becoming a child of God.

- So, receiving Jesus has to do with faith.
- We trust who Jesus is and what He has done on our behalf.

When we "receive" a package, we take it to ourselves.

- When a running back "receives" the football, he pulls it to himself and clings to it.
- When we "receive" Jesus, we take Him to ourselves and cling to the truth about Him.

Back to Joshua 15:14...

Why didn't Caleb *utterly destroy* the Anakim as God commanded? ...he'd have had to pursue them

Deuteronomy 7:1-22 – *When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess... and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them.*

letting them flee was also consistent with God's promises:

Deuteronomy 7:22-23 – *the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. But the Lord your God will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed.*

The sons of Anak heard that Caleb was coming, get out!

- Caleb had a reputation as being a warrior of great & bold deeds who wasn't intimidated by giants

v15 – *Debir = Kirjath Sepher ~10 mi from Hebron*

- meant city of a book – a place of learning

v16 – Why did Caleb offer up daughter *Achsah* as wife?

- Encouraged others to do great and bold deeds
- Sign of a great leader to give others opportunities
- Wanted daughter to marry well (who had courage)

v17 – *Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb*

- Why? ...maybe Othniel was sweet on Achsah
- Othniel, Caleb's nephew & son-in-law, became Israel's first judge (Judges 3:7–11).

Othniel & Achsah were Cousins...

- Adam & Eve's grandchildren
- Noah's grandchildren
- Isaac & Rebekah
- Not prohibited in Scripture
- Problems from inbreeding became issue since Bible times

v18-19 – Achsah asks Caleb for a choice piece of land

- she had father's boldness; compensation for being obedient in marriage
- took advantage of Caleb looking favorably at Othniel
- got off her ride, showed father respect
- called her land gift a blessing
- Knew father's nature who did bless her liberally

The Anakim

a formidable race of giant, warlike people

Deuteronomy 9:2 – *a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, 'Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?'*

“Anakim” means “long-necked,” or “tall”

- Joshua expelled the Anakim from the hill country
- Caleb finally drove them out of Hebron completely
- a small remnant found refuge in the cities of Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod (Joshua 11:22)

the Anakim's descendants were the Philistine giants around during the time of David...

1 Samuel 17:4 – *a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span*

a cubit = 18” a span = 6” ~ 9’ 6”

The report of the 12 spies:

Numbers 13-32-33 – *The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the nephilim (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight*

They thought the descendants of Anak were nephilim

- They had only heard of the Nephilim – pre-flood
- bad report made out of fear, unbelief; not nephilim

Since we are talking about giants: Nephilim

“fallen ones, mighty ones, giants”

Genesis 6:1–4 – *Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose... There were nephilim on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.*

Sons of God – Old Testament term for angels (Job)

- Some say the Nephilim were offspring of sexual relationships between angels and women

Nephilim were formidable beings, giants, *men of renown*

- Sources for myths of ancient gods?

Why were angels mixing it up with humans?

Thwart God's plan; pollute bloodline of the Messiah...

protoevangelium—the first gospel :

Genesis 3:15 – *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*

Why Noah & sons were chosen...

Genesis 6:9 – *Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God*

And God was none too happy with the angels involved:

Jude 1:6 – *the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day*

Nephilim were humans with altered DNA

- not angelic-human hybrids

Angels do not procreate...

Matthew 22:30 – *For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven*

Angels do appear as men...

Hebrews 13:2 – *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels*

But that doesn't mean angels have a physical nature, they are non-corporeal spirit-beings

Hebrews 1:7 – *of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire."*

resurrected Jesus made it clear He had a physical body:

Luke 24:39 – *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have*

So how could the angels bear children?

Theory: possessing men who bore possessed children who somehow had their DNA altered along the way

Mark 5:9 – *My name is Legion; for we are many*

How did the angels alter human DNA?

- Don't know; angels are highly intelligent
2 Cor 11:3 – *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness*
2 Samuel 14:20 – *my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know everything that is in the earth*
- Doing that today with a tool called CRISPR
- Unethical to alter human DNA; but nonetheless...
- Vision of Transhumanism... if we are evolved, maybe we can speed up the process & make humans better
- Altering human DNA is a sign of the end of the Age
Matthew 24:37 – *as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be*

Context: people will be oblivious to the coming wrath

- Secondary implication here is that the very things that triggered God's wrath in the flood will be the same bringing the Tribulation
- God didn't tolerate angels altering human DNA and neither will He tolerate humans doing the same

Are demons the disembodied spirits of Nephilim?

- No, demons are another term for fallen angels
- angels are spirit-beings (a soul but no physical nature)
- animals have souls, but not spirits
- Humans are a triunity of body, soul & spirit...
1 Thess 5:23 – *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Soul vs spirit:
Hebrews 4:12 – *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
- Born again – resurrected spirit – presence of H. S.
Ephesians 1:13-14 – *When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory*
- This idea comes from book of Enoch, not inspired

Joshua, Caleb & David were not the only ones to confront giants... Moses

- Og Amorite king of Bashan fought Israelites on their way to the Promised Land east of the Jordan River
- Og was king over 60 fortified cities captured by Israel
- The battle between the forces of Og and Moses is described in greater detail in Deuteronomy.
- Deut 3:11 – his bed was made of iron: 9 cubits long, by 4 cubits wide (13.5 feet long, 6 feet wide; 10-11')
- Og was one of the last of the Rephaites (or Rephaim) ...not an ethnic but rather a descriptive term; it literally means "terrible ones."

So, if Nephilim were destroyed in the flood, why were there giants after the flood?

- Speculate: fallen angels seeking to thwart God's plan to give the promised land to Israel
- More likely a natural occurrence
- Certain genetic traits were able to become dominant after Babel – that's how we have different races
- If Chihuahua & Great Dane are the same species, it is easy to see how giants could be a natural occurrence
- 23 NBA players over 7'

Giants were not a problem to those on God's side.

- Moses, Joshua, Caleb, and David were victorious because they believed God and trusted in Him

We have plenty of metaphorical giants today; giant problems that are humanly impossible to address

- This is part of the human condition
Job 5:7 – *man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward*

But with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26)

- God allows giants in our lives so that we will learn to depend on Him

What is the greatest giant humans have to confront, the elephant in the room? ...**Death.**

- Jesus tackled that giant for us; paid the penalty for sin
1 Corinthians 15:57 – *thanks be to God, who gives us the victory [over death] through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- All we need to do is trust in Jesus' promise that...
John 3:16 – *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*