

2018 03 11 Scripture Readings

In Gilgal, the people of Judah approached Joshua. Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the Lord said to Moses—the man of God—about you and me when we were in Kadesh-barnea. I was 40 years old when Moses—the Lord’s servant—sent me from Kadesh-barnea to scout out the land. I brought back a report to him of what I really thought. My companions who had gone with me made the people’s hearts melt. But I remained loyal to the Lord my God. So Moses pledged on that day, ‘The land on which you have walked will forever be a legacy for you and your children. This is because you remained loyal to the Lord my God.’

Now look. The Lord has kept me alive, exactly as He promised. It is forty-five years since the Lord spoke about this to Moses. It was while Israel was journeying in the desert. Now look. Today I’m 85 years old. I’m just as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out. My strength then was as my strength is now, whether for war or for everyday activities. So now, give me this highland that the Lord promised me that day. True, the Anakim are there with large fortified cities, as you yourself heard that day. But if the Lord is with me, I should be able to remove them, exactly as the Lord promised.” So Joshua blessed him. He gave Hebron to Caleb, Jephunneh’s son, as a legacy. So Hebron still belongs to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite as a legacy today. This was because he remained loyal to the Lord God of Israel.

Joshua 14:6-14

The Lord spoke to Moses: Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, which I’m giving to the Israelites. Send one man from each ancestral tribe, each a chief among them. So Moses sent them out from the Paran desert according to the Lord’s command. All the men were leaders among the Israelites. These are their names:

from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua, Zaccur’s son;

from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat, Hori’s son;

from the tribe of Judah, Caleb, Jephunneh’s son;

from the tribe of Issachar, Igal, Joseph’s son;

from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea, Nun’s son; (Moses changed his name to Joshua)

from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti, Raphu’s son;

from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel, Sodi’s son;

from the tribe of Joseph (that is, the tribe of Manasseh, the son of Joseph;) Gaddi, Susi’s son;

from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel, Gemalli’s son;

from the tribe of Asher, Sethur, Michael’s son;

from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi, Vophsi’s son;

from the tribe of Gad, Geuel, Machi’s son.

The spies returned from exploring the land after forty days. They went directly to Moses, Aaron, and the entire Israelite community in the Paran desert at Kadesh. They brought back a report to them and to the entire community and showed them the land’s fruit. Then they gave their report: “We entered the land to which you sent us. It’s actually full of milk and honey, and this is its fruit. There are, however, powerful people who live in the land. The cities have huge fortifications. We even saw the descendants of the Anakites there. The Amalekites live in the land of the arid southern plain; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the mountains; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the Jordan.”

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Now Caleb calmed the people before Moses and said, “We must go up and take possession of the land, because we are more than able to do it.”

But the men who went with Caleb said, “We can’t go up against the people because they are stronger than we are.” They started a rumor about the land they explored, telling the Israelites, “The land we crossed over to explore is a land that devours its residents. All the people we saw in it are huge. We saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We saw ourselves as grasshoppers—that’s how we appeared to them.” **Numbers 13:1-15, 25-33**

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” **Matthew 7:7-8**