**Joshua**

Chapter 14

*Division of the Land West of the Jordan*

**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. 2 Their inheritances were assigned by lot to the nine-and-a-half tribes, as the Lord had commanded through Moses. 3 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, 4 for the sons of Joseph 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. 5 So the Israelites divided the land, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.**

**14:1–15** A short introductory chapter for the following section (chs. 15–19), with a special note on the Lord’s faithfulness to Caleb. (CSB)

**14:1** *Eleazar the priest.* Son of Aaron, Eleazar as high priest was the highest official over the casting of the lots. The Urim and Thummim (see notes on Ex 28:30; 1Sa 2:28) may have been used. (CSB)

Third of Aaron’s sons; he survived and remained faithful throughout the wilderness wanderings. (TLSB)

*heads of the fathers’ houses*. Each tribe had one representative in the process—their chief or most prominent member. (TLSB)

**14:2** *by lot*. Method to determine God’s will in the distribution of lands; exact procedure is not clearly known, but the process required faith that God would indeed guide the choice, as well as a willingness to abide by the choice as being from God. Such a method would exclude favoritism. (TLSB)

**14:4** *Manasseh and Ephraim.* Sons of Joseph. Since Jacob had adopted them as his own sons (Ge 48:5), they constituted two separate tribes. This made possible the 12-part nation, with the Levites serving as a nonpolitical tribe. (CSB)

Right of firstborn included a double portion; as Joseph had been given that right, each of his two sons received one portion. *no portion* … *Levites*. Because Levi inherited the sacrifices of the tabernacle, he received no major portion of the land. (TLSB)

*cities to dwell in, with their pasturelands*. Agricultural communities frequently had common and private pasturelands surrounding the community. The Levites were assigned to live in such communities, allowing them to keep animals for their own needs. (TLSB)

**14:1–5** Final preparations and explanatory remarks are given before the land is apportioned to the remaining tribes. All the tribes have a place in the Promised Land! God does not fail to bless even one member of His people in Christ. • O Lord, though I may not always have tangible rewards as a member of Your people, still I give thanks for the greater blessings, which the world cannot understand: the death and resurrection of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (TLSB)

*Hebron Given to Caleb*

**6 Now the men 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. 7 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, 8 but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly. 9 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.’10 “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 desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! 11 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. 12 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.” 13 Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. 14 So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. 15 (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.) Then the land had rest from war.**

**14:6** *what the Lord said.* Caleb now recalls the promise from the Lord 38 years earlier at Kadesh Barnea when he brought back a good report of the land (Nu 13:30; 14:6–9; Dt 1:34–36). (CSB)

**14:7** *spy*. Cf Nu 13:1–16. (TLSB)

*as it was in my heart*. Caleb’s positive report reflected the confidence that God would provide what was needed to conquer the land. (TLSB)

**14:8** *melt*. Majority report of the spies provoked fear in the hearts of the people (Nu 14:1–4). See note, 2:9.

**14:9** *forever*. Added to the promise of Nu 14:24; Dt 1:36. Hbr phrase can mean simply “for a very long time” instead of “into eternity.” The promise would be conditioned on Caleb’s descendants continuing in the Lord’s ways. *wholly followed*. Caleb did not waver in his wholehearted trust in God.

**14:10** *forty-five years*. It had been 38 years since the spying episode and 7 years since entering the land. (TLSB)

**14:11** *still as strong*. Considering the description of Moses at his death at age 120 (Dt 34:7) and that Joshua lived to age 110 (24:29), this is no exaggeration. (TLSB)

*strength*. Caleb counts on God being his strength in battle. (TLSB)

**14:12** *this hill country.* Hebron is situated high in the Judahite hill country, about 25 miles south of Jerusalem. (CSB)

*Anakites.* See note on 11:21. (CSB)

*the Lord* *will be with me*. Further example of Caleb following wholly after God (v 9), counting on His promise to help, and taking up the challenge to possess the remaining land (13:6). (TLSB)

**14:13** *Joshua blessed him*. Perhaps along the lines of Ru 2:4 and Nu 6:22–27. (TLSB)

**14:15** *Kiriath Arba.* Means “the town of Arba” and was named for Arba, the father of the Anakites (15:13; 21:11). It can also mean “the town of four.” Hebron means “union.” (CSB)

*Then the land had rest from war.* Since the Judahites and Caleb approached Joshua concerning their territory while he was still headquartered at Gilgal, it may be that they did so shortly before the wars fought under Joshua were ended (see 11:23). (CSB)

No further efforts take place to secure more land until after the land distribution is complete. There are no attacks on the people of Israel as they settle into their new possession. (TLSB)

**14:6–15** The first allotment begins with Caleb. His story reminds us of God’s judgment on faithless Israel (the conquest was delayed) and God’s faithfulness to the faithful (His promises are completed to Caleb). Throughout, Caleb shows that the Lord is the strength of the faithful. • Lord, thank You for all that You have promised me. Keep me faithful and counting on Your help until I am able to enjoy the very last portion of Your promises, in Jesus Christ. Amen. (TLSB)