

## TURNING MOUNTAINS INTO MOLEHILLS BY GOD'S WORD

Joshua 14: 1-15

Life is full of challenges. Many people spend their lives running from them, while others seem to delight in the competition. Our perspective on God will always determine how we handle the mountains we encounter in life.

### **I. DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS WHEN GOD HAS PROMISED MORE (Joshua 14: 1-5)**

These are the areas which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel distributed as an inheritance to them. [2] Their inheritance was by lot, as the Lord had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe. [3] For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe on the other side of the Jordan; but to the Levites he had given no inheritance among them. [4] For the children of Joseph were two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim. And they gave no part to the Levites in the land, except cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for their livestock and their property. [5] As the Lord had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did; and they divided the land.

- A. Like the two and a half tribes who chose the other side of the Jordan, many people are content to come close to what God has for them. What looks good to you may not be God's best for you!

### **II. THERE IS NO PROSPERITY FOR THE HALF-HEARTED BELIEVER (V. 6-9)**

Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the Lord said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. [7] I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. [8] Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. [9] So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.'

- A. God demands whole-hearted pursuit of Himself (Deut. 1: 35-36)
- B. Caleb means "dog". We should be tenacious, faithful; and right by God's side, reminiscent of how young people today called their friends "dog"
- C. No one can provide an inheritance like the Lord Jesus does.
  - i. Romans 8: 16-17; 1 Peter 1: 1-5

### **III. PLAN TO ATTACK THE MOUNTAIN UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE! (10-14)**

And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. [11] As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. [12] Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard

**in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said."**

**[13] And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. [14] Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.**

A. God preserves and empowers those who want to do something for Him (v.10-11)

B. Jesus said strong faith in Him will cause mountains to be removed

Matthew 17:14-20

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, [15] "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. [16] So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." [17] Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." [18] And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. [19] Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" [20] So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Zech. 4:1-10

Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. [2] And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. [3] Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." [4] So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" [5] Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." [6] So he answered and said to me:

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:  
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'  
Says the Lord of hosts.  
[7] 'Who are you, O great mountain?  
Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!  
And he shall bring forth the capstone  
With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

[8] Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

[9] "The hands of Zerubbabel  
Have laid the foundation of this temple;  
His hands shall also finish it.  
Then you will know  
That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.  
[10] For who has despised the day of small things?  
For these seven rejoice to see  
The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.  
They are the eyes of the Lord,  
Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

C. God will empower His servant to overpower the enemy

**GET OUT OF THE VALLEY AND TAKE THE MOUNTAIN IN JESUS' NAME!**

**Pastor Ronald J. Morrison**