

Joshua 17

v3-6

"The Lord commanded Moses to give us an inheritance with our brethren."

"the [five] daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his [five] sons."

- Recorded here for posterity and history we see how Joshua adhered to The Law and carried out The Lord's commands without partiality or deceit.
- The request of the women is taken seriously and dealt with reverently.

v12-13

"Yet the sons of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities, but the Canaanites persisted"

- Let us be careful to understand that they absolutely could drive out the inhabitants!
- The "could not" here is a demonstration/exposing of their hearts and faith. Consider Caleb being one man and this is a mighty people/tribe!
- There was no excuse for this lack.

"Yet when the Israelites became strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor but did not utterly drive them out."

- We see the above point emphasised. The sad truth of their heart and lack of faith/obedience is exposed with the "did not"
- The fact that they "became strong" speaks of their blessings in physical numbers and it would have been easy, even in the flesh, to drive out...
- In truth the battle would have been "easy" no matter the numbers if they had gone out in obedience and faith. Believing and trusting The Lord with a desire to purify the land and rid themselves of sin/wickedness.

v14-15

"seeing I am a great people"

"If you be a great people, then get you up"

- Manasseh make a bold claim about being a great people and so worthy of a greater inheritance. They claim they are worthy/deserving of more.
- They have the confidence to assume more land but no substance to back it up.
- Joshua repeats their claim back to them and encourages them to faithfully act upon it and take the land that is theirs to inherit.
- If you are great then go up and get on with it! You have already been allotted a territory. Go and take it!
- They are quick to mention their greatness but do not mention God's!
- We can be guilty of thinking the fight is too much. The battle is too hard for me. This is utter faithlessness and brings God to nothing. When they say the enemy is too strong, they are saying their God is too weak! There is no enemy that can stand before God's people when they fight in faith of His word and promise. There is nothing that can stand before them/us!! Oh may we be careful to fear God more than anything or anyone in this world. May we be careful not to limit Him in His Almighty voice of all creation!
- We can also be tempted to say we are God's people and therefore we deserve His blessing because we claim His name. God hasn't made the enemy disappear for us; we haven't received that victory/blessing yet so we'll just settle here... But that is a lazy, unbiblical ideology. We must go forward in faith! There is a requirement for us to prove The Lord and to take Him at His word. We are commanded to go out and fight in faith of His promise.
- Faith without works(obedience) is dead! If you are truly Born Again and a joint heir with Christ then get up and fight in His obedience, authority and power! Onward Christian soldier! For the glory of our most wonderful God and King!

v16

"And the children of Joseph said, The hill is not enough for us: and all the Canaanites that dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron"

- Consider how Joshua had already seen the might and power of Canaan. He had spied out the land with Caleb but came back with eager excitement knowing that they could take the land! No doubting, no fear... This attitude was similar to the 10 unbelieving spies. Joshua had seen this before.
- Such a lack of faith. Consider all the things that they have witnessed and experienced. How could they doubt The Lord? How could they doubt His willingness to fight for them? How could they doubt the blessing upon them?

v17-18

"You are a great people, and have great power: you shalt not have one lot only"

"for thou shalt drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots, and though they be strong."

- Joshua could have severely rebuked/chastised them at this point for their excuses, lack of faith and obedience. He could have "used the rod"
- Joshua repeats their own claim again "you are a great people". He encourages them. He reminds them of their standing before The Lord. He doesn't reprimand them but He seeks to enthruse them and hearten them to go in faith and lay hold of the promise of God!
- Joshua does not give any concern to the giants. He doesn't offer to go and fight for them. He doesn't offer Caleb... He tells them that they will conquer; they will drive out the enemy; they shall have a victory, a testimony, a land enough for them to dwell in!
- Joshua knows that the enemy is not the problem. No matter the number of the army or whatever the quality of their chariots or however mighty the giants might be, they're inconsequential. So long as the people go forward in faith they will go in victory!