



**CHRISTIAN  
ENDEAVOUR**  
*for Christ and the Church*



# Conquering the Land

## God has been faithful

### Caleb

Deut 1:34-37; Joshua 14: 6-15

#### Teaching aim

To show that God is faithful to those who trust in Him.

#### Setting the scene

Read Deut. 1:34-37. Over forty years earlier Moses chose one man from each of the twelve tribes and sent them into Canaan to spy out the land. Only two came back with a good report, Joshua and Caleb, the rest were afraid to go in. This showed that they were not trusting in God. As a result of this, God said that not a man of that evil generation would see the good land except Caleb, son of Jephunneh. God said he and his descendants would be given the land he set his feet on, because he followed the Lord wholeheartedly. God sent the rest of the people back into the wilderness until all that generation had died out.

#### Caleb's claim

Joshua 14:6-9. Caleb who belonged to the tribe of Judah would receive his inheritance first. He approached Joshua, the other faithful spy, and reminded him of God's promise to himself and Joshua forty-five years previously. How Caleb must have been encouraged during all those years of wandering in the wilderness when he remembered the promise God had given him.

This should be an encouragement to each of one of us who is a Christian.

Q. What are some of the promises that God has given to those who put their trust in Christ?

A few of the promises are listed below:

- The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. Psalm 23:1
- The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Psalm 34:10
- Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:11-13.
- ... I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:20
- Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me ...I am going there to prepare a place for you ... I will come back and take you to be with me John 14:1-3
- ... I am coming soon. Rev. 22:20

## Caleb's faith

Read Joshua 14:10-15. Caleb did not look at himself and say "I am strong and healthy" but he gave the glory to God. He said that everything that had happened to him was due to the Lord's promise. His strength had not diminished even though he was now eighty-five years old.

Caleb did not ask Joshua for some easy conquest suited to an old man. No, his strength was in the Lord so he asked for the mountainous region of Hebron.

Q. Why did he ask for the hill country of Hebron? - *The Lord promised it to him when the spies returned forty-five years previously.*

Q. Would it be easy for Caleb to take this land? - *No, their cities were large and fortified.*

Q. What was Caleb sure about in the coming battle? - *The Lord helping him, he would drive them out.* Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him Hebron as his inheritance and the tribes each received their inheritance and the fighting for the land was over.

## Summing up

Caleb had faith in God. He knew that nothing was too hard for the Lord and so, even at eighty-five years of age, he knew that he could conquer the enemy no matter how strong they were. God was faithful to Caleb and, even though forty-five years had elapsed since God gave him the promise, God fulfilled his promise.

## Resources

### Discussion

- Are we ever too old to make new conquests for God?
- Caleb trusted in God through all the years of wandering in the wilderness. Has this any lesson for us in today?
- Jesus said "... I am with you always, to the very end of the age" Matthew 28:20. What is meant by that for Christians living in the 21st century?
- In Romans 8:28 it says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." What is meant by this promise of God?

### Prayer points

Thank God that:

- He has protected you many times even when you were not aware of it at the time.

Pray for:

- Older members of your church, that God will keep them faithful.
- Those known to you who are going through difficult times.

God is faithful and He will never leave us or forsake us, provided we are leaning on Him day by day.