

Judges 1 Jerusalem Is Captured

Now it came about after the death of Joshua that the sons of Israel inquired of the LORD, saying, "Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?" 2 The LORD said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have handed the land over to him." 3 Then Judah said to his brother Simeon, "Go up with me into the territory allotted me, and let's fight the Canaanites; and I in turn will go with you into the territory allotted you." So Simeon went with him.

4 Judah went up, and the LORD handed over to them the Canaanites and the Perizzites, and they defeated ten thousand men at Bezek. 5 They found Adoni-bezek in Bezek and fought against him, and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. 6 But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued him and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and big toes. 7 And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to gather up scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me." So they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

8 Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it, and struck it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire. 9 Afterward, the sons of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites living in the hill country, and in the Negev, and in the lowland. 10 So Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (the name of Hebron was previously Kiriath-arba); and they struck Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai.

Capture of Other Cities

11 Then from there he went against the inhabitants of Debir (the name of Debir was previously Kiriath-sepher). 12 And Caleb said, "Whoever attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him my daughter Achsah as a wife." 13 Now Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as a wife.

14 Then it happened that when she came to him, she incited him to ask her father for a field. Then later, she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?" 15 She said to him, "Give me a blessing: since you have given me the land of the Negev, give me springs of water also." So Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

16 Now the descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the city of palms with the sons of Judah, to the wilderness of Judah which is in the south of Arad; and they went and lived with the people. 17 Then Judah went with his brother Simeon, and they struck the Canaanites living in Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah. 18 And Judah took Gaza with its territory, Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.

19 Now the LORD was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had iron chariots. 20 Then they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had promised; and he drove out from there the three sons of Anak. 21 But the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; so the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

22 Likewise the house of Joseph went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them. 23 The house of Joseph had men spy out Bethel (the name of the city previously was Luz). 24 And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city, and we will treat you kindly." 25 So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go free. 26 Then the man went to the land of the Hittites and built a city, and named it Luz, which is its name to this day.

Places Not Conquered

27 But Manasseh did not take possession of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; so the Canaanites persisted in living in this land. 28 And it came about, when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor; but they did not drive them out completely. 29 And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who were living in Gezer; so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them. 30 Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites lived among them and became subject to forced labor. 31 Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or of Rehob.

32 So the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.

33 Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; and the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath became forced labor for them.

34 Then the Amorites forced the sons of Dan into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the valley; 35 yet the Amorites persisted in living on Mount Heres, in Aijalon and Shaalbim; but when the [q]power of the house of Joseph grew strong, they became forced labor. 36 The border of the Amorites ran from the ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela and upward.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?
Did God instruct you to do something?
Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's Questions and insights

1. Having lost their leader again, Moses had gone and now Joshua had gone, Israel had become used to the security of being led. What is a leader?
2. The tension question they were facing was 'who will lead us into battle against our enemy?'
3. No need to worry, Judah had been chosen by God, the house of praise would lead Israel to conquer the land?
4. Judah supports the eleven tribes in the attempt to possess the land.
5. Everyone needs a right hand man!
6. Together they would take possession of the land and defeat the enemy! Or, would they?
7. The term Hallelujah is the victory cry having defeated the enemy and established a righteous reign – praise the Lord!
8. Having captured the enemy, why did they cut off toes and thumbs?
9. It would appear that a similar thing had been done to other Kings, that this King had captured, while he was in authority. He saw this as his recompense on his wrong doing. Was this correct?
10. Did God recompense in the time before Jesus?
11. Then Israel takes Jerusalem and rids it of the enemy and burns the city to the ground.
12. Land after land - Israel took possession of its lands, destroying as it went.
13. Caleb said 'whoever captures Kiriath-sepher I will give him my daughter as a wife'.
14. His brother's son, Othniel, did so and married Achsah.
15. Caleb gives a field to his daughter and his new son in law, known as the land of the Negev.
16. What were the lands of the Negev like and why does she ask for springs of water?
17. Caleb gives her the upper and the lower springs.
18. Judah continues to take lands with his brother Simeon as the Lord had promised as an inheritance, destroying the enemy as commanded.
19. Why is it important to completely destroy your enemy?
20. This conquest was successful and they took the hill country, but they were unsuccessful with the people in the valley as they had iron chariots advanced in warfare.
21. Caleb took Heron from Anak – who was Anak?
22. Benjamin failed to take the land of the enemy in Jerusalem, the Jebusites became part of Benjamin.
23. Was this a good thing or not?

24. Joseph took Bethel with the help of an informer, or betrayer?
25. Manasseh failed to take Beth-shean and all the surrounding lands, so the Canaanites lived amongst Manasseh. Was this good or bad?
26. They used the Canaanites as slaves but they did not drive them out completely as the Lord had instructed, likewise they did not drive out the Canaanites amongst the other communities, Ephraim, Asher, Nephtali, Zebulun.
27. The Amorites forced Dan back and repossessed their land.
28. As Joseph grew in strength they were forced to be their slaves.