

# God Always Keeps His Promises

**Psalm 111**

**Joshua 12-21**

# Psalm 111

- Hymn of Thanksgiving for God's redemption of ancient Israel
- From the exodus to inheriting the Promised Land

Great are the works of the Lord;  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.  
(Psalm 111: 2)

the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

... he remembers his covenant forever.

He has shown his people the power of his works,  
giving them the lands of other nations.

(Psalm 111: 4b, 5b, 6)

He provided redemption for his people;

he ordained his covenant forever—

holy and awesome is his name.

(Psalm 111: 9)

... he remembers his covenant forever.

(Psalm 111: 5b)

he ordained his covenant forever ...

(Psalm 111: 9, NIV)

He has guaranteed his covenant with them forever.

(Psalm 111: 9, NLT)

# Covenant

- Agreements/promises made between two parties in a loving, lasting relationship
- best illustrated by a marriage covenant
- responsibilities / privileges
- blessings and curses of the covenant  
(see Joshua 8: 32-35; cf. Deut. 27: 12-26; Deut. 28)
- God always keeps His promises: a double edged sword

# Covenant = Testament

- Bible: Old Testament / New Testament
- Sin always destroys our relationship with God
- God always provides a means for sins to be removed (atoned for)
- Old Testament: animal sacrifices required for sins to be atoned for ... temporarily
- New Testament: Jesus, Lamb of God was sacrificed for sins to be atoned for ... permanently
- Testament: also refers to the will of a person

# Conquest of the Promised Land

- Joshua 6 – victory at Jericho
- Joshua 7 – defeat at Ai
- Joshua 8 (1<sup>st</sup> section) – victory at Ai
- Joshua 8 (last section) – renewal of covenant at Mount Ebal & Mount Gerizim (see Deut. 11: 26-32, 27: 11-26)
- Joshua 9 – the Gibeonite deception
- Joshua 10 – Southern kings formed coalition; defeated by Joshua and Co
- Joshua 11 – Northern kings form coalition; defeated by Joshua and Co

# Joshua 12-21 – Division of Land

- Joshua 12: List of defeated kings: 2 by Moses (east of Jordan); 31 by Joshua (west of Jordan)
- Joshua 13: Division of land east of Jordan
- Joshua 14 – 21: Division of land west of Jordan



So Joshua took the entire land, just as the Lord had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war. (Joshua 11: 23)

# How was the land divided ?

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.

(Joshua 14: 1-2)

# OF ISRAEL

Around 1200-1050 B.C.  
(according to the Book of Joshua)



ARAMEANS

9 1/2

2 1/2

# Caleb remembers God's promise

Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh ... said to him, "You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. <sup>7</sup> 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,

# Caleb remembers God's promise

8 but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in 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.'

# Caleb remembers God's promise

“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 wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.”

# Caleb remembers God's promise

Then Joshua blessed Caleb ... and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. <sup>14</sup> So Hebron has belonged to Caleb ... ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. (Joshua 14: 6-14)

# Lessons from Caleb

- 85 and still 45!
- “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.” (Joshua 14: 10b-11)



# Lessons from Caleb

- Caleb trusted the Lord with his whole heart
- Followed the Lord wholeheartedly – at 45 and at 85

“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.” (Joshua 14: 12)

# Lessons from Caleb

- Did not “retire” from battling for his inheritance
- Let’s continue to fight our spiritual battles through our prayer life!

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

(2 Cor. 10: 3-4)

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters ... has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;

(Rev. 12: 10b-11a)

# But what if I'm feeling 85?

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

(2 Cor. 4: 16-18, NLT)

# Jacob's Family

JACOB

Leah

Zilpah

Rachel

Bilhah








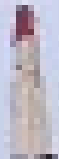






Leah's  
servant



Rachel's  
servant



# The Family of Jacob

Leah	Bilhah	Rachel	Zilpah
 1. Reuben	 5. Dan	 11. Joseph	 7. Gad
 2. Simeon	 6. Naphtali	 12. Benjamin	 8. Asher
 3. Levi			
 4. Judah			
 9. Issachar			
 10. Zebulun			
<small>(Dinah)</small> Dinah			

# Which tribe did not get any land?

Their inheritances were assigned by lot to the nine and a half tribes, as the Lord had commanded through Moses. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> for Joseph's descendants 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. (Joshua 14: 2-4)

Leah's sons (6 - 1 = 5)    Rachel's sons (2 + 1 = 3) + 2 (Bilhah's sons) = + 2 (Zilpah's sons)

Reuben

Simeon

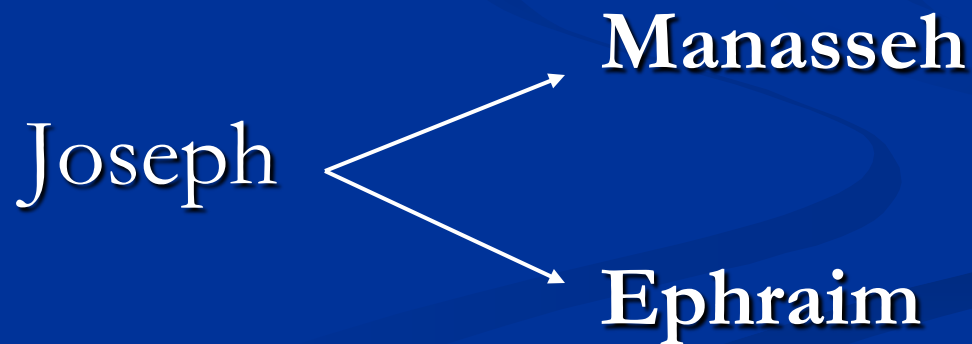
Levi (no land)

$$\underline{5 + 2 + 2 + (2) + 1 = 12}$$

Judah

Isacchar

Zebulun



Benjamin

# OF ISRAEL

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9 1/2

2 1/2



- Which tribes got the largest pieces of real estate?
- What happened to the double portion of Reuben, the first-born?
- Why is the inheritance of Simeon found within the territory of Judah?

# True or False ?

- Once I have been saved, God guarantees me an “inheritance” in heaven.
- There’s nothing I could do to make God love me more.
- There’s nothing I could do to make God love me less.
- No matter what I do once I have been saved, I won’t lose my “inheritance” in heaven.
- Why then should I strive to follow God faithfully and walk the straight and narrow path?

# In a father's last will and testament ...

- First-born son gets double inheritance
- First-born son gets father's blessing – takes on father's role as head of the family
- Reuben was Jacob's 1<sup>st</sup> born
- What happened to his inheritance?

# Jacob (Israel) and his 1<sup>st</sup> born Reuben

Israel moved on again and pitched his tent beyond Migdal Eder. While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with his father's concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard of it.

(Gen. 35: 21-22)

“Reuben, you are my firstborn,  
my might, the first sign of my strength,  
excelling in honor, excelling in power.  
Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel,  
for you went up onto your father's bed,  
onto my couch and defiled it.” (Gen. 49: 3-4)

# Jacob (Israel) and his 1<sup>st</sup> born Reuben

The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (he was the firstborn, but when he defiled his father's marriage bed, his rights as firstborn were given to the sons of Joseph son of Israel; so he could not be listed in the genealogical record in accordance with his birthright, and though Judah was the strongest of his brothers and a ruler came from him, the rights of the firstborn belonged to Joseph) ...

(1 Chronicles 5: 1-2)

# In a father's last will and testament ...

- First-born son gets double inheritance
- 1<sup>st</sup> born son usually inherits role as head of the family
- Reuben was Jacob's 1<sup>st</sup> born
- What happened to Reuben's inheritance?
- Double portion stripped from him and given to Joseph's two sons – Manasseh and Ephraim
- Not because Joseph was Jacob's favorite son, but because Joseph was the 1<sup>st</sup> born of his intended wife Rachel

# Jacob adopted Joseph's first two sons

“Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers.” (Gen. 48: 5-6)

## Leah's sons

Ephraim (instead of Reuben)

Manasseh (instead of Simeon)

Levi (no land)

Judah

Isacchar

Zebulun

## Rachel's sons

Joseph

Benjamin

Manasseh

Ephraim





# In a father's last will and testament ...

- First-born son gets double inheritance
- 1<sup>st</sup> born son usually becomes the head of the family
- Reuben was Jacob's 1<sup>st</sup> born
- What happened to Reuben's inheritance?
- Double portion stripped from him and given to Joseph's two sons – Manasseh and Ephraim
- Who assumed the role of head of the family?

# Simeon and Levi

- Notorious for their anger and cruelty
- Endangered entire family by killing all the male inhabitants of Shechem because prince Shechem raped their sister Dinah (see Genesis 34)

# Simeon and Levi

“Simeon and Levi are two of a kind;  
their weapons are instruments of violence.

May I never join in their meetings;  
may I never be a party to their plans.

For in their anger they murdered men,  
and they crippled oxen just for sport.

A curse on their anger, for it is fierce;  
a curse on their wrath, for it is cruel.

I will scatter them among the descendants of Jacob;  
I will disperse them throughout Israel.”

(Gen. 49: 5-7)

# God's Redemption of Levi

- Levi acted foolishly when he (and Simeon) killed the Shechemites in defense of their sister's honour (Genesis 34)
- The sons of Levi acted righteously by killing fellow Israelites in defense of God's honour (Exodus 32)
- “God's incredible goodness unexpectedly shone forth, when that which was the punishment of Levi became changed into the reward of the priesthood.”

– John Calvin

- Once I have been saved, God guarantees me an “inheritance” in heaven.
- No matter what I do once I have been saved, I won’t lose my “inheritance” in heaven.
- Why then should I strive to follow God faithfully and walk the straight and narrow path?

# OF ISRAEL

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9 1/2

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# Jacob prophecy concerning Judah

“Judah, your brothers will praise you.  
You will grasp your enemies by the neck.  
All your relatives will bow before you. ...  
The scepter will not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler’s staff from his  
descendants, until the coming of the one  
to whom it belongs, the one whom all  
nations will honor.” (Genesis 49: 8, 10; NLT)

## In a father's last will and testament ...

- First-born son gets double inheritance
- 1<sup>st</sup> born son becomes the head of the family
- Reuben's double portion given to Joseph's two sons – Manasseh and Ephraim
- Simeon and Levi disqualified themselves because of their rash violent anger
- Judah received Jacob's blessing and became the head of the family



Praise the Lord.

I will extol the Lord with all my heart  
in the council of the upright  
and in the assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the Lord;  
they are pondered by all who delight in  
them.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious and majestic are his deeds,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has caused his wonders  
to be remembered;

the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

He has shown his people the power  
of his works,

giving them the lands of other nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

8 They are established for ever and ever,  
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He provided redemption for his people;  
he ordained his covenant forever—  
holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning  
of wisdom;  
all who follow his precepts have  
good understanding.  
To him belongs eternal praise.