

Let us begin with the fourteenth lecture on Joshua. / The word of God is from chapter 15. / Chapter 15 is about the allotment concerning the tribe of Judah. / Many names of boundaries and places are mentioned in this chapter.

/God did not generalize, "They have conquered all the lands of Canaan." / What is the reason behind recording all the names of places? / To affirm us with the historical facts.

/God specifically mentions which land was given to which tribe. / The same goes for Judah, God has given a clear portion of the lands. / God is a God of order. / There are places and boundaries God has clearly ordained.

/There are more than 240 countries in the world today. / God has chosen the boundary for each country / and set nations to live in various places.

/It seems as though the presidents and kings of the countries are ruling their countries. / However, it is God who rules the entire course of history. / He has chosen some to live in South Korea, / some in China, / in Russia, / and in the United States.

/He has set the limits of the boundary and granted that land. / In verses 1-12, we can read about the boundary of the tribe of Judah.

*/Please read verses 1-2. / The allotment for the tribe of Judah, according to its clans, extended down to the territory of Edom, to the Desert of Zin in the extreme south. Their southern boundary started from the bay at the southern end of the Dead Sea,*

/If we read until verse 12, we can see that God has clearly set a boundary for them. / The end of Jordan is its eastern boundary. / Its western boundary is up to the Mediterranean Sea, / while the northern one is up to Jerusalem. / God has reserved the boundary even to each family.

/Why did He do so? / To avoid conflict among people fighting for the better land. / Since we are corrupt, we are very greedy.

/Why do nations wage war against each other these days? / To fill up their greed and take over the land. / Had God not set allotments to the tribe of Judah, / the strong would have taken the good lands.

/They would have fought for more lands as well. / God wants His people to be in harmonious relationships with one another. / He wants us not to be filled up with greed, but to take lands based on His guidance.

/We fight / and sin because we are greedy. / We also leave God behind because of it. / Secondly, why did God set boundary for each of the tribe? /God has set boundaries for people to live in.

/God said, "You live here." / They may have thought that they came to live there by accident. / But a person can be born only according to His providence, / as well as places for one to dwell.

/Thus we should serve Him at the place we are living right now. / We need not be envious of another country or compare it. / We just have to serve Him in our given circumstances. / The lands were distributed by drawing lots as well.

/The people drew lots / to find out His will. /Though worldly people live for their greed and self, / we believers should always seek His will and obey it. / We should do just as God wants it.

/How can we find out His will? / The entire Bible is His will. / At times He reveals His will through the work of the Holy Spirit. /At times He reveals through our good conscience.

/At times He just leads us by His Providence. / There is no such thing as coincidence. / In every country or nation, / behind all the things that people do / God intervenes and leads through His Providence.

/We can read in this chapter that God let the Judah tribe take the best lands. / Why so? / Because through this tribe Christ will be born.

/Even today God gives grace and blessing to those who serve Jesus in faith. / God has distributed the lands. / Everything happens just as God promised. / There is no such thing as coincidence.

/We plan, but the one who makes that plan happen is God. / Things won't happen to us if He did not let it happen. / We should believe then that everything happens just as God promised.

/When we begin to trust in the sovereignty of God, we begin to stop blaming or getting upset with things. / On the other hand, we will begin to blame and be resentful if we do not trust His sovereignty. / The people may have said, "What is up with this bad land?" / "Why did our tribe receive the land later than the others?"

/Such resentment / can lead to act of blaming God. / But if the people trust His sovereignty, / they can be thankful by saying, "He has given us this inheritance because we need it."

/We can also understand the truth through this process. / It is that there are places God has chosen for us. / God is a God of order. /Even in our family, there are places for husbands, wives, and children.

/Even in our church, we all have our own places. / The master of the church is Jesus. / He is the head of the church as well. / We all are members of Christ.

/Look at yourselves in a mirror. / Aren't there many body parts? / Are they mixed up together in one chunk or are they placed in right places? / God has ordained a specific place for each member of the body.

/We can then know how majestic and mysterious His works are every time we look at ourselves through mirror. / Look, we have two eyes, / and our noses are not facing upward, but downward. / We have a mouth, which is at the center.

/We have two hands, not one. / We have two feet, which make walking much easier. / When these things function properly, we can say then we are healthy.

/We also should serve God in our own places at our churches. / We should obey Him in our given circumstances. / It is easy for believers to turn to wicked ways once they leave their places.

/Did God create Satan? / He did not create it. / He created all the natural world

and spiritual world. / He created the entire world and said it was good.

/But what about Satan? / It was once an angel who left his place and became corrupted. / In the same way, it is easy for believers to get corrupt and commit sin once they leave their place. /We only must walk the proper path.

/We should be people blessed by God by serving Him in our given life. / In verses 13-19, Caleb's allotment is mentioned.

*/Verse 13. /In accordance with the LORD's command to him, Joshua gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah—Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.)*

/It is written, "Joshua gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah - Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron." / Caleb was 85 years old. / Despite his age, he drove out the strong Anakites with faith. / He did his best in his given situation.

/He trusted the promise of God and conquered the land with faith. / It is difficult to drive out the Anakites in his human capability. / But since God was with him, he was able to drive out all the enemies.

*/Verse 14. / From Hebron Caleb drove out the three Anakites—Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai, the sons of Anak.*

/It is written, "Caleb drove out the three Anakites - Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talami, the sons of Anak. / They need to drive out all these forces to extend their lands. /It is humanly difficult to drive them out. / But the victory and defeat is in the hands of God.

/Hebron is the land God promised to give to Caleb. / And thus Caleb was able to drive out the Anakites because God was with him. / Aren't there many elements of Anakites in our churches and in us? / There are many enemies that try to prevent us from worshipping God.

/At times the old self opposes us. / Thoughts of flesh does so as well. / We can receive the blessing God has prepared to give us once we drive out all the things that oppose us.

/We should examine ourselves and see what these are. / Our enemy is Satan, / sin, /and thoughts of the flesh. /We are endlessly fighting a spiritual battle against Satan. / He relentlessly tries to take us down.

/Satan tries to separate us from God / and from church. / He tries to plant distrust in God's words / and lure us to sin. / But no matter how strong the army of Satan is, / we can drive them out by standing firm in faith.

/We can live a blessed life every day when we drive them out. / What are other things that we need to drive out as well? / We should drive out sins. / We humans sin with our mouth.

/How so? / We sin by saying words that are in our heart without any moment of thought. / We should root out everything in us that stands in opposition against God. / We should garden our heart, so it will be fruitful.

/Are there weeds in our heart? / Let us exterminate every dirty thing in our heart and fill it with His words and the Holy Spirit. / Caleb did his best and drove out the Anakites, conquering the land.

/Caleb was old, so he was not very strong. / So Caleb says / that he will give his beloved daughter to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher.

*/Verses 15-16. / From there he marched against the people living in Debir (formerly called Kiriath Sepher). And Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Aksah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher."*

/Caleb had many things to do but he was too old. / He was pretty tired, yet he had to receive God's promise. / He was to drive out the Anakites, just as the Lord said, but he was short in strength.

/So he proposes, / which is written in verse 16. / He promised to give a man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher his daughter Achsah. / Who was the man who came forward and attacked the Anakites?

*/Verse 17. / Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, took it; so Caleb gave his daughter Aksah to him in marriage.*

/Othniel / captures Kiriath Sepher. / Caleb then gave his daughter to Othniel, just as he promised. / Othniel was given a wife to marry, / a field, / and lower and upper springs.

/What can we learn from this today? / We can learn that God gives many grace and blessing to the loyal ones. / Othiel is a faithful worker. / He is sacrificial / and responsible. / He also had the strength to attack and defeat enemies.

/Othniel won the battle and God gave him many grace and blessings. / He won the battle and received glory. / After destroying the enemy, he was blessed with many blessings too.

/He was a man with deep faith. / He was very brave as well. / If you guys have a daughter, who do you want to have as a son-in-law? / Many churches talk about these to their young members. / What are the characteristics of best wives or husbands?

/First, a person's faith is important. / Blessing comes upon those who serve Him faithfully. / Second, / is one's pleasing personality. / One's personality is hard to be changed.

/One has to have pleasing personality to lead a conflict-free and loving life. / Such a personality helps his or her faith to grow as well. / The third feature is diligence.

/We can live on wherever as long as we are diligent. / No matter how good-looking or studious one is, / a lazy person is bound to face considerable difficulties in living. / Diligent people are more prone to carry out their lives since they work hard in any situation.

/Fourth, one's appearance or education is important. / In the chapter today, Othniel was the perfect husband for Caleb's daughter. / He was devout, / brave, /

responsible, /and capable.

/So he gave his daughter to Othniel, just as he promised. / His daughter asks her father for a field.

*/Verse 18. / One day when she came to Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What can I do for you?"*

/Aksah meant to ask her father for a field. / Caleb asked her, / "What can I do for you?" / Then she requested.

*/Verse 19. / She replied, "Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.*

/She requested to do her a special favor. / God at times gives His blessing directly/ or indirectly, through other people. / When she asked for springs of water, / Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

/Parents want to give their daughter the best. / Daughters have the tendency to get things from their parents' house. / Some people say / that daughters are licensed robbers. / They take many things from their parents' house after their visit.

/In parents' perspective, it is hard for them to say no. / So in the same way, Aksah asked her father for springs of water, which he gave her. / The spiritual Father today wants to give anything to us. / We should faithfully ask God for His grace and blessings.

/In 1 Chronicles 4:9, / we can read about Jabez. / He was born in a difficult situation. / But he received many blessings after he prayed. / He became honorable among his brothers / and whatever he asked God gave it to him.

/Do you know what he asked for? / He prayed, / "bless me indeed." / He asked God for unending blessing. / We work hard, / but our lives will be well only when God grants us blessings.

/We can live well only when He gives us spiritual blessing / and blessings on material things. / He also prayed, / "enlarge my borders."

/He prayed for it. / He wanted his territory to be extended, so he can live an influential life. / He also asked God, "Let Your hand be with me.

/We can be successful in anything only when God helps us. / In our family, / country, / school, / business, / God has to help us in order for us to succeed. / We can experience success with His help. / Without it, we will fail.

/He also prayed, / "Keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." / Don't we face various temptations and sufferings in our lives? / Life is a path of suffering / and of temptations.

/But with His hand with us, we can overcome them all. /We have to overcome these tribulations and temptations to live a peaceful and blessed life. / Physical

parents give a lot whenever their children ask them.

/God have promised many things for us, and He is telling us to ask and take them today. / So those who do not pray are bound to experience many loss. / We should always pray before God, with our wishes in mind.

/We should pray with faith, trusting His promise. / But it is important that we pray according to His will. / If we ask according to His will, He will answer it for sure. / He answers our prayer in three ways.

/He immediately answers some of our prayer. / What is immediate to God, He answers it right away. / Sometimes, He answers, "wait." / Thus, it is important that we be patient when we are asking to God.

/There are some people who stop praying because they cannot wait any longer. / We need to know that God answers our prayer at the best of time. / We should trust that God will answer our prayers at His time and through His method.

/Everything in this world has its own time as well. / There are times to sow seeds, while there are times to reap. / God works everything in its right time. / Sometimes God answers our prayers with "No."

/Would a mother give her child a knife even at his insistent demand? / Let's say that a mother was cooking and her child keeps asking for a knife. / No matter how she loves her child, she cannot grant that request.

/Why? / Because she knows that her child will wound himself with the knife. / Yet, if the child would still ask for it again and again, / she would replace the knife with something else. / In the same way, God does not give us something that may harm us.

/We should not pray in our greed. / God knows that it will spiritually harm us, so He does not grant that request. / Here in this chapter, Aksah asked her father and her father granted the request right away because he loved her. / Now in verses 20-63, "Judah's towns and villages" are mentioned.

*/Verses 20-21. / This is the inheritance of the tribe of Judah, according to its clans: The southernmost towns of the tribe of Judah in the Negev toward the boundary of Edom were:*

/124 towns are mentioned from verses 20-64. / We are to take only what belongs to us, no matter how many towns exist. / Not in greed, but only what is granted to us by God.

/What can we learn from this record of many towns? /That God gives in details and for sure. / We can also learn that God gives, just as He promised.

/The sky and the earth may change, but God's promises remain the same. / He gives us just as He promised. / When He gives to us, God works specifically and fully.

/Why the record of many towns? / To show that it really happened. / The Bible is His Word. / He does not record anything that is not true.

/We can learn from all the towns given to Judah / that God is good, / that He keeps His promise, / and that He gives to us boundary and inheritance in a

specific way. / We can also learn that God is working in human history.

/What can we learn from the tribe of Judah for taking such number of towns? / We can learn that Heaven is given to those who strive hard. / Of course, we go to Heaven with our faith after we are saved. / But there is a difference between glory and award in Heaven.

/Our glory and award become greater every day as much as we are victorious in faith. / Our territory will be extended if we are victorious in our daily battle with sin.

/We should also have qualities enough to take such number of towns. / Now in verse 63, / the Judah tribe was not able to dislodge the Jebusites.

*/Verse 63. / Judah could not dislodge the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the people of Judah.*

/Thus, they came to live with the people of Judah in Jerusalem. / They become thorns and prick the side of Israel. / The Judah tribe was supposed to root out every one in the land, but they failed. And because of that, they became enemies and afflicted Israel.

/There are many things that we should take out from our heart. / We should get rid of every sin in us, / even a form of it. / When we begin to get rid of every evil in us, we can serve God well.

/This is the end of the fourteenth lecture on Joshua. / Thank you.