

Joshua 14:6-15 & 18:1-10 (NIV)



Joshua 14:6-15 - Allotment for Caleb

⁶ Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. ⁷ 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, 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.’^[a]

¹⁰ “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! 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. ¹² 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.”

¹³ Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. ¹⁴ So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. ¹⁵ (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.)

Then the land had rest from war.

Joshua 18:1-10 - Division of the Rest of the Land

18 The whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The country was brought under their control, ² but there were still seven Israelite tribes who had not yet received their inheritance.

³ So Joshua said to the Israelites: “How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has given you? ⁴ Appoint three men from each tribe. I will send them out to make a survey of the land and to write a description of it, according to the inheritance of each. Then they will return to me. ⁵ You are to divide the land into seven parts. Judah is to remain in its territory on the south and the tribes of Joseph in their territory on the north. ⁶ After you have written descriptions of the seven parts of the land, bring them here to me and I will cast lots for you in the presence of the LORD our God. ⁷ The Levites, however, do not get a portion among you, because the priestly service of the LORD is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben and the half-tribe of Manasseh have already received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan. Moses the servant of the LORD gave it to them.”

⁸ As the men started on their way to map out the land, Joshua instructed them, “Go and make a survey of the land and write a description of it. Then return to me, and I will cast lots for you here at Shiloh in the presence of the LORD.” ⁹ So the men left and went through the land. They wrote its description on a scroll, town by town, in seven parts, and returned to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh. ¹⁰ Joshua then cast lots for them in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD, and there he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their tribal divisions.

Joshua 14:6-15 & 18:1-10 (HCSB)

Joshua 14:6-15 - Caleb's Inheritance

⁶The descendants of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the Lord promised Moses the man of God at Kadesh-barnea about you and me. ⁷I was 40 years old when Moses the Lord's servant sent me from Kadesh-barnea to scout the land, and I brought back an honest report. ⁸My brothers who went with me caused the people's hearts to melt with fear, but I remained loyal to the Lord my God. ⁹On that day Moses promised me: 'The land where you have set foot will be an inheritance for you and your descendants forever, because you have remained loyal to the Lord my God.'

¹⁰"As you see, the Lord has kept me alive these 45 years as He promised, since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel was journeying in the wilderness. Here I am today, 85 years old. ¹¹I am still as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out. My strength for battle and for daily tasks^[b] is now as it was then. ¹²Now give me this hill country the Lord promised me on that day, because you heard then that the Anakim are there, as well as large fortified cities. Perhaps the Lord will be with me and I will drive them out as the Lord promised."

¹³Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as an inheritance. ¹⁴Therefore, Hebron belongs to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite as an inheritance to this day, because he remained loyal to the Lord, the God of Israel. ¹⁵Hebron's name used to be Kiriath-arba; Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim. After this, the land had rest from war.

Joshua 18:1-10 - Land Distribution at Shiloh

18 The entire Israelite community assembled at Shiloh where it set up the tent of meeting there; the land had been subdued by them. ²Seven tribes among the Israelites were left who had not divided up their inheritance. ³So Joshua said to the Israelites, "How long will you delay going out to take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, gave you? ⁴Appoint for yourselves three men from each tribe, and I will send them out. They are to go and survey the land, write a description of it for the purpose of their inheritance, and return to me. ⁵Then they are to divide it into seven portions. Judah is to remain in its territory in the south and Joseph's family in their^[a] territory in the north. ⁶When you have written a description of the seven portions of land and brought it to me, I will cast lots for you here in the presence of the Lord our God. ⁷But the Levites among you do not get a portion, because their inheritance is the priesthood of the Lord. Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh have taken their inheritance beyond the Jordan to the east, which Moses the Lord's servant gave them."

⁸As the men prepared to go, Joshua commanded them^[b] to write down a description of the land, saying, "Go and survey the land, write a description of it, and return to me. I will then cast lots for you here in Shiloh in the presence of the Lord." ⁹So the men left, went through the land, and described it by towns in a document of seven sections. They returned to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh. ¹⁰Joshua cast lots for them at Shiloh in the presence of the Lord where he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their divisions.

Holman Christian Standard Bible - *Study Bible*¹

Joshua 14:6-15 & 18:1-10

14:6 Judah's relative importance, if only because of its larger size than the other tribes, may give it the right to go first. Caleb was one of the two spies, along with Joshua, who were sent to spy out the promised land and returned with a good report ([Num 13-14](#)). Caleb's designation as a Kenizzite is otherwise unattested, but may be related to the name of Caleb's brother, Kenaz ([15:17](#)).

14:7 Caleb's age of 40 at the time of the first spying out of the land puts him with the first generation of Israel who left Egypt. He now spoke to the new generation and recounted what they might not know.

14:8 For Israel to melt with fear recalls the defeat at the first assault on Ai ([7:5](#)). The defeat made Israel "melt with fear," just as the Canaanites had "melted with fear" when they learned of Israel's victories ([2:11](#); [5:1](#); [Ex 15:15](#)).

14:9 See [Num 14:24](#) and [Dt 1:36](#) for the promise of God to Caleb through Moses.

14:10 Caleb's reference to 45 years suggests that, following the wilderness wanderings of about 40 years, the time spent in the battles of chapters 1-12 amounted to about five years.

14:11 The ongoing strength of Caleb despite his old age compares with that of Moses ([Dt 34:7](#)). He was still capable of fighting for his land and settling on it.

14:13-14 When the spies searched the land, they traveled its length. However, the description of their activity focused on Hebron and the nearby Valley of Eshcol ([Num 13:22-24](#)). These were located in the southern hill country of Judah. This would have been among the closest major inland towns in Canaan from their base at Kadesh-barnea. Thus the gift of land to Caleb involved the area of Hebron where he had visited and spent more time than anywhere else ([Dt 1:36](#)).

14:15 The note about Hebron's name recalls the mighty Anakim ([11:21](#)) who were there, and it anticipates Caleb's defeat of them in [15:14](#). Kiriath-arba is a second and earlier name for Hebron. The first part of the name means "city." Thus the note suggests the meaning, "city of Arba," where Arba is the name of the greatest man among the Anakim. This would predate Israel's appearance because none of the Anakim that Caleb fought ([15:14](#)) bore this name. The note that the land had rest from war indicates success for Caleb.

18:1-4 This is the first mention of the tent of meeting in the book of Joshua. Shiloh (modern Khirbet Seilun) lay to the south of Shechem and was situated in the middle of the earliest settlement of Israel in the hill country. It would remain a center for Israel's worship until the time of Samuel ([1Sam 1-4](#)). From this secure area, mapmakers were sent out. The proximity to the tent of meeting, the symbol of the presence of God, suggests that all was done in agreement with the Lord's will. The recurrence of the tent of meeting at the end of these allotments ([Jos 19:51](#)) implies that God's will was upheld in this activity.

18:5-7 Mention of the five tribes who had already received their inheritance meant that seven tribes remained. Levi, who did not receive such an inheritance, is again mentioned in anticipation of chapter 21.

1. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Joshua 14 & 18".

chalaq

Hebrew Pronunciation	[khah LAK]
HCSB Translation	divide, share, apportion
Uses in Joshua	7
Uses in the OT	55
Focus Passage	Joshua 18:2,5,10

Chalaq, a homonym of *chalaq* meaning "be smooth," denotes *divide* ([Gen 49:27](#)) or *share* ([Pr 17:2](#)). It signifies *endow* ([Job 39:17](#)), *appoint* ([2Ch 23:18](#)), *be a partner* ([Pr 29:24](#)), or *provide* ([Dt 4:19](#)). Intensives imply *divide up* ([Joel 3:2](#)), *disperse* ([Gen 49:7](#)), *allot* ([Mic 2:4](#)), *apportion* ([Job 21:17](#)), *assign* ([Neh 9:22](#)), or *distribute* ([Jos 18:10](#)). People *allot* (give, claim) as a portion ([Isa 34:17](#); [Jer 37:12](#)). *Cheleq* (66x) means *portion* ([Gen 31:14](#)), *section*, or *share*. It represents *fate* ([Isa 17:14](#)), *lot* ([Job 20:29](#)), or *reward* ([Ec 2:10](#)). It is *plot of land* ([2Ki 9:10](#)), *allotted land* ([Mic 2:4](#)), *land*, or *field* ([Hos 5:7](#)). It connotes *association* ([Ps 50:18](#)) and *what one knows* ([Job 32:17](#)). *Machaloqeth* (42x) is *division* ([Neh 11:36](#)), *allotment*, *portion*, and *tour of duty*. *Chelqah* (23x) indicates *field* and *portion* ([Dt 33:21](#)), *section*, *plot*, *piece*, or *parcel* of land. *Chaluqqah* means *distribution* ([2Ch 35:5](#)).

18:8-10 The ability of these scouts to write down a description of the land meant that they prepared a document that resembled chapters 18-19 with seven sections, one for each of the remaining tribes. In [7:16-18](#) lots had been used to identify the guilty person and separate him from the rest of Israel. Here they were used to connect each parcel of land with its tribe. The borders probably followed natural topographic boundaries that had already been used by Canaanite city-states and their regional control.

HCSB Apologetics Study Bible²

Joshua 14:6-15 & 18:1-10

14:6-15 The tribal allotment to Judah began with Caleb's inheritance. Caleb had been a leader in Israel ([Nm 13:6](#)). He was one of two spies who had brought a positive report to Moses at Kadesh-barnea ([Nm 13:30](#)). Together with a delegation of the men of Judah, he presented his claim to Joshua, who gave him the hill country of Hebron as an inheritance.

14:6 The first distribution of the land began from Gilgal, Joshua's location at the time. Gilgal, site of the memorial stones from the Jordan, appears to have been the central encampment for Joshua and the priests at this stage.

18:1-19:48 This section surveys the distribution of land to the remaining tribes of Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan. The Levites did not receive an inheritance of land because of their special role as priests.

18:1 The central encampment of Joshua, the priests, and the whole assembly moved from Gilgal to Shiloh. This is the first mention of the tent of meeting (i.e., the tabernacle) in the book of Joshua. It was the place where the presence of the Lord dwelt and where the people came to meet with God. The account of its origins is found in [Ex 25-27](#). The reference to the tent of meeting here and in [Jos 19:51](#) indicates that all was done according to the Lord's directives.

18:2 Although the land had been subdued ([18:1](#)) the other seven Cisjordan tribes (after Judah and the Joseph tribes) had not taken possession of it or apportioned their inheritance.

18:3 The men of Judah, including Caleb, had approached Joshua about their allotment of land ([14:6](#)). Here Joshua had to confront the remaining seven tribes about completing the allotment of the land.

18:4 Twenty-one surveyors, appointed from among the seven tribes, were to conduct an official survey of the rest of the land so that Joshua could distribute it.

18:6 "I will cast lots for you here in the presence of the Lord our God." Joshua would cast lots before the Lord so the Lord would determine the allotment of each tribe. The casting of lots (see [14:1-5](#)) was the means the Lord had directed for this purpose ([Nm 26:55-56](#)). His presence would determine the extent of the tribal allotments.

2. Ken Fentress, "Notes on Joshua," in *The Apologetics Study Bible: Understanding Why You Believe*, ed. Ted Cabal (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 343, 349-350.

NLT Life Application Study Bible³

Joshua 14:6-15 & 18:1-10

14:6-12 Caleb was faithful from the start. As one of the original scouts sent into the Promised Land ([Numbers 13:30-33](#)), he saw great cities and giants, yet he knew God would help the people conquer the land. Because of Caleb's faith, God promised him a personal inheritance of land ([Numbers 14:24](#); [Deuteronomy 1:34-36](#)). Here, 45 years later, the land was given to him. Caleb's faith was still unwavering. Although his inherited land still had giants, Caleb knew the Lord would help him conquer them. Like Caleb, we must be faithful to God, not only at the start of our walk with him, but throughout our entire lives. We must never allow ourselves to rest on our past accomplishments or reputations.

14:6-12 When Joshua gave Caleb his portion, it fulfilled a promise God had made to Caleb 45 years earlier. We expect such integrity and reliability from God, but do we expect the same from his followers? How about you? Is your word this reliable? Would you honor a 45-year-old promise? God would—and does. Even today he is honoring promises he made *thousands* of years ago. In fact, some of his greatest promises are yet to be fulfilled. This gives us much to look forward to. Let your faith grow as you realize that God keeps his word.

14:15 The descendants of Anak were a race of giants who inhabited parts of the land before Joshua's conquest.

18:1, 2 With most of the conquest behind them, Israel moved its religious center from Gilgal (see the note on [5:8, 9](#)) to Shiloh. This was probably the first permanent location for the Tabernacle. Its central location in the land made it easier for the people to attend the special worship services and yearly festivals.

The family of Samuel, a great priest and prophet, later would often travel to Shiloh, and Samuel would be taken there when a small boy ([1 Samuel 1:3, 22](#)). The Tabernacle would remain in Shiloh through the period of the judges (about 300 years). Apparently the city was destroyed by the Philistines when the Ark of the Covenant was captured ([1 Samuel 4-5](#)). Shiloh never lived up to its reputation as Israel's religious center, for later references in the Bible point to the wickedness and idolatry in the city ([Psalm 78:56-60](#); [Jeremiah 7:12-15](#)).

18:2ff Seven of the tribes had not yet been assigned their land. They gathered at Shiloh, where Joshua cast lots to determine which areas would be given to them. Using the sacred lottery, God would make the choice, not Joshua or any other human leader.

By this time, the Canaanites were, in most places, so weakened that they were no longer a threat. Instead of fulfilling God's command to destroy the remaining Canaanites, however, these seven tribes would often take the path of least resistance. As nomadic people, they may have been reluctant to settle down, preferring to depend economically on the people they were supposed to eliminate. Others may have feared the high cost of continued warfare. Trading for goods was easier and more profitable than destroying the suppliers and having to provide for themselves.

3. *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 336, 339.



The Tribes West of the Jordan

Judah, Ephraim, and the other half-tribe of Manasseh were the first tribes to receive land west of the Jordan because of their past acts of faith. The remaining seven tribes—Benjamin, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Simeon, and Dan—were slow to conquer and possess the land allotted to them.

18:3-6 Joshua asked why some of the tribes were putting off the job of possessing the land. Often we delay doing jobs that seem large, difficult, boring, or disagreeable. But to continue putting them off shows lack of discipline, poor stewardship of time, and, in some cases, disobedience to God. Jobs we don't enjoy require concentration, teamwork, twice as much time, lots of encouragement, and accountability. Remember this when you are tempted to procrastinate.

18:8 Making decisions by casting lots was a common practice among the Hebrews. Little is known about the actual method used in Joshua's day. A type of dice may have been used. Another possibility is that two urns were used: one containing tribal names; the other, the divisions of the land. Drawing one name from each urn matched a tribe to a region. The Urim and Thummim (explained in the note on [Leviticus 8:8](#)) may also have been used. No matter how it was done, the process removed human choice from the decision-making process and allowed God to match tribes and lands as he saw fit.

Life Essentials Study Bible

*Rewards for Faithfulness*⁴

from Joshua 14:6-15

**We are to serve God diligently,
Remembering that He will never forget our faithfulness.**

When the land of Canaan was divided among the tribes of Israel, we once again encounter Caleb. He remembered the promise God had made to him 45 years earlier ([Dt 1:34-36](#)). Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him the land God had pledged him for an inheritance. God definitely honors faithfulness, under both the old and the new covenants. The author of Hebrews wrote,

*For God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you showed for His name when you served the saints—and you continue to serve them. ([Heb 6:10](#)) (See *1Co #8: The True Foundation*, p. 1570.)*

Does this mean that God will honor believers with earthly blessings as He did Caleb? God may, and He sometimes does! But our most important inheritance is heavenly, not earthly. This is what Paul had in mind when he wrote from a prison cell in Rome:

When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory. ([Eph 1:13-14](#); see also [Eph 1:3](#).)

For me, living is Christ and dying is gain. Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. I am pressured by both. I have the desire to depart and be with Christ—which is far better. ([Php 1:21-23](#))

Reflection and Response

Though God does at times reward faithfulness in the here and now with material blessings, why is it important to keep our focus on eternal rewards?

4. Gene Getz, *Life Essentials Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2011), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 287.