

“The Lord Has Let Me Live” Joshua 14:7-14

Introduction: Joshua and Caleb were the only two of the twelve spies who surveyed the promised land and came back with a positive report. As a result of the majority opinion, the nation waited 40 years to enter the land of Canaan. Once there, however, Joshua began to divide the land. He allotted an inheritance to Caleb who had surpassed his 85th birthday waiting some 45 years for this day.

There were some uniquenesses in Caleb’s life that brought great success and great glory to God. These uniquenesses could prove very beneficial to the church today.

- I. The Lord let him live because of HIS UNUSUAL OPTIMISM
(v.7b “I brought word back to him as it was in my heart.” - Numbers 13:30 “...we shall by all means go up and take possession of it...”)
 - A. He was optimistic about the POWER OF THE LORD.
 - Joshua 14:11
 - B. He was optimistic about the POSSESSION OF THE LAND.
 - Joshua 14:9
 - C. He was optimistic about the PROSPECT OF HIS LIFE.
 - Numbers 14:37-38

- II. The Lord let him live because of HIS UNRESERVED OBEDIENCE
(v.7a “Moses sent me...to spy out the land...” vv.8b,9b,14b “...I followed the Lord my God fully.”)
 - A. His obedience brought PLEASURE TO THE LORD.
 - Numbers 14:8a
 - B. His obedience brought POSSESSION FROM THE LORD.
 - Numbers 14:8b
 - C. His obedience brought PROTECTION BY THE LORD.
 - Numbers 14:9b

- III. The Lord let him live because of HIS UNFORGOTTEN OBJECTIVE
(vv.12-14 “Now then, give me this hill country...” KJV = “mountain”)
 - At the age of 85 Caleb is ready to take possession of that which God had promised him 45 years earlier. He never forgot his objective
 - A. His objective was TO FOLLOW THE LORD’S INSTRUCTION
(v.12a “about which the Lord spoke...” - follow God’s Word!
 - Deuteronomy 13:4
 - B. His objective was to FIND THE LORD’S INHERITANCE
(vv.13-14 “Joshua gave Hebron to Caleb as an inheritance. Therefore, Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb...”)
 - Joshua 24:28

CONCLUSION. God allowed Caleb to live so that he could experience the maximum blessings of God. Caleb kept an OPTIMISTIC ATTITUDE and was always ready to OBEY and follow the Lord. God may very well be allowing you to live that you might effectively serve Him all the rest of the days of your life. - rrc