

A Man Called Caleb.  
Numbers 13; Joshua 14

## I. CONSIDER THE MAN CALLED CALEB.

### A. Caleb Was a Real Person Living at a Real Time in History.

The Holman Bible Dictionary gives only this brief note on the Man Called Caleb:

CALEB (cay' lihb) CALEBITE Personal and clan name meaning, "dog." Caleb the son of Jephunneh, was one of the twelve spies sent by Moses to reconnoiter the territory of Canaan (Num. 13:6). He was one of only two who brought back a positive report (Num. 13:30). Because of his steadfast loyalty to the Lord, God rewarded him by letting him survive the years of wilderness wandering and giving him the region of Hebron as his portion in the Promised Land. At the age of eighty-five Caleb conquered Hebron (Josh. 14). – Holman Bible Dictionary

The Holman Bible Dictionary and the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia differ on the meaning of the name Caleb. The Holman Bible Dictionary states that the name Caleb means "dog;" however the ISBE holds that the name denotes someone who fights like a dog. Whatever the meaning of the word, let us remember that Caleb was a mature man before the Conquest of Canaan.

Recently, I had another of my many conversations with my longtime friend, Dr. Leon Hyatt, who has blessed my life and ministry since I first met him in the late sixties. When I told Dr. Hyatt what I was working on at the time, he asked me what I thought about Caleb's name. During our conversation he pointed out the significance of his name. It was not a traditional Hebrew name. It may have been a Canaanite name. If so, Caleb may not have been a Hebrew at all, but if not he had obviously been drafted into the Hebrew nation. If that is true Caleb would never have been qualified to serve in certain positions among the Hebrew leadership. For example, he would not have been qualified to serve as a priest, and certainly not the high priest.

He would have been born in slavery in Egypt and there is every reason to assume that he was working for the Pharaoh when the Lord appeared to Moses at the burning bush which was not being consumed. He may well have seen and heard Moses when he appeared before the Children of Israel to announce that Yahweh had sent him to deliver the His Chosen People from their terrible task masters.

God had told Abraham that He was choosing him to accomplish His mission, and to fulfill His promise to give the Land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants, but first, they would live in a strange land for 400 years (they were actually in Egypt around 430 years. So, the Lord knew His Chosen People would live in Egypt for 400 years before assuming possession of the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey. The

question is “Why?” Doesn’t it seem like a terrible waste of time, lives, and energy to send His Chosen People off to Egypt for 400 years? And why Egypt?

1. Egypt was a highly advanced nation at the time.
2. Egypt was a center for learning at the time.
3. Egypt was powerful enough to protect these Israelites.
4. Egypt could inflict upon them a harsh enough treatment to make them long for deliverance.

Even with that in mind, someone might still ask, “Why Egypt? Wasn’t Egypt a pagan nation? Yes, it was, but what nation anywhere in the world at the time was not pagan? There were the Canaanites, the Philistines, Edomites, and Amalekites, right? And that speaks only of nations in their part of the world. Look to the east and what do you find? More pagan nations, nations in which the people worshiped pagan gods. What advantage did Egypt have to offer these people? Of course, there were only 70 children of Jacob (Israel) who were settled in the very fertile land called Goshen where the people could multiply and prosper. They provided education that was beyond almost every nation on earth. They were miraculously settled in the fertile land of Goshen, because of God’s miraculous deliverance of Joseph after his brothers had sold him into slavery. Little could they imagine how their brutal act of selling their baby brother to those who would take him down to Egypt and sell him.

Years later, they would be standing before Joseph begging for grain, and even for their survival. Joseph secured for them the ideal place where to be separated from the Egyptians who would someday force them into slavery.

#### B. Caleb Was One of Those Slaves in Egypt.

At the end of the four hundred years in Egypt there is no indication that the Israelites were ready to leave their prosperity in Egypt to go to Canaan to fight against the various tribes and nations who were in control of the Holy Land at the time. When would they realize that the Lord did not place them in Egypt permanently? He sent them into captivity when Joseph, the young man his brothers had sold into slavery, but a man whom the Lord established as the second most powerful man in all of Egypt, second only to the Pharaoh. When famine swept the nations of that part of the world, Joseph had been miraculously established as second only to Pharaoh in power. In that position he secured the fertile land of Goshen for his family. They prospered for generations, but one day a new Pharaoh realized that the Israelites had grown so numerous and so powerful that, should another nation invade Egypt, Israel, and should they align themselves with an invading army, might well defeat Egypt. God provided deliverance for the Israelites from bondage and set them of the course that would reveal His great salvation for Israel and for the world.

Moses was Yahweh's choice to lead the Children out of slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness, and eventually into the land of promise. Because of a sin the Lord would not permit him to enter the Promised Land, but he did take him up to the top of a mountain and permit him to view the Land of Promise.

When we look back on Caleb today we may only remember that he was one of the twelve spies who had been chosen to reconnoiter the Promised Land before Israel invaded the land. There was one spy chosen from each of the twelve tribes and Caleb was one of them. Upon their return, Joshua and Caleb were the only ones who brought back the positive report that Israel would indeed be able to invade and conquer the land Yahweh had promised to Abraham over four hundred years earlier when the Lord entered a covenant with Abraham.

Caleb had been there when Moses came back to the Land of Goshen and told the Israelites that the Lord had heard their cry of despair and was ready to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians. In fact, He was planning to deliver the Israelites miraculously from the most powerful nation in the region, if not the most powerful nation on earth. Caleb may well have been one of those who heard Moses tell the Israelites that God was about to deliver them. That deliverance would be like no other in the history of the world. They would see the hand of Yahweh on a nation of slaves, not a trained military. Whether or not Caleb was born a Hebrew, or simply adopted into the nation of Israel, he was a valued member of the army that fought for their freedom under the leadership of Moses. When the time came Caleb would not only fight under Joshua for the Land of Promise, he would say, at age 85, that he could conquer the region Joshua gave him.

It is reasonable to ponder the qualifications of the man called Caleb. Did Caleb simply surface out of a nation of some two million people to get the eye of Moses, or the eye of Joshua, the commanding officer who served as Moses' right hand man during the wanderings in the wilderness, the special time at Mt. Sinai when Yahweh handed down the Law to Moses. Would it be too far-fetched to assume that Moses knew the ones who would become the leaders of each of the twelve tribes of Israel? Would we be on the right track if we conclude that Joshua, Moses' commander of the Israeli military knew he was fighting under the guidance of Yahweh? Then, we can see Caleb's place in the Conquest of Israel. We can be sure that Caleb's ability and commitment would be a factor in the conquest of the Promised Land.

The next question may well be, how did Moses and Joshua know what kind of man Caleb was? I have always had an appreciation for the accomplishments of our military. For example, how did George Washington, the commander of one of the weakest armies in the world win the Revolutionary War against the mightiest army in the world at the time, if not the mightiest army in the history of the world? How would the Confederate army have measured up to the Union army during the Civil War - a war

which is remembered in the history books as a war to free slaves, let alone the fact that Robert E. Lee freed his slaves before either Abraham Lincoln or Grant freed theirs. Robert E. Lee depended on two very capable and qualified generals, Stonewall Jackson, a mighty man of God, and Nathan Bedford Forest - called by one British military historian the greatest single soldier in that war.

One of my very good friends was the late Lt. General (three star) Dutch Shoffner. He helped to educate me about certain military things. He was the Commander of the Third Infantry Division in Europe during the Cold War, leading up to the destruction of the "Wall" in Berlin. Just before the Wall came down, someone asked General Shoffner what would happen if the Soviet Union collapsed and the military took over. He said, "I don't know, but I will find out." He called top Russian generals and admirals and asked them. They told him they didn't know, but asked him to fly to Moscow and teach them in a seminar how the military functions in a democracy. He did fly to Moscow and lead that seminar, and he flew back many times to meet with their top leaders.

One day, as we were talking, and I have forgotten how it came up, General Shoffner said, "I had to write an evaluation of 52 Lt. Colonels. In order to do that honestly, and for the best advantage of our Army, I had to get to know each one personally." Do you think Moses and Joshua had observed and made a judgment of Caleb? I am sure they had come to know something about his potential and his qualifications. They had every opportunity to evaluate this very capable man. The question is, how did Caleb prove himself? Did he not fear the Egyptians as their chariots charged after them as they reached the Red Sea? Did he not complain as most people did for want of water, lack of food, and protection against the Amalekites and other enemies of the Chosen People? Did he not turn his back on YAHWEH, the only true God there ever has been when Moses did not come down from Mount Sinai in what the people considered a reasonable time? The people demanded of Aaron a golden calf to worship as they had worshiped in Egypt. At one point the Lord told Moses He was considering destroying the entire nation and started over with him. Moses interceded for the people and Yahweh relented.

## II. CALEB HAD SEEN THE LORD PART THE WATERS OF THE RED SEA.

### A. The Israelites Had Witnessed Something No One Else Had Ever Seen.

1. God parted the waters and let the Israelites walk across on dry land. Two million people escaped the army of Pharaoh across what may well have been a land bridge under surface of the Sea. There is definitely a land bridge, or shallow strip across the Gulf of Aqaba, beginning near the southeastern tip of what we know today as the Sinai Peninsula and running slightly to the northeast to the land of Midian (Arabia). Out in the main channel, the water was deep enough for ships to sail through, but it was not so deep that steep banks would have created problems for the Israelites, their carts and

livestock in crossing. It was, however, deep enough to drown the Egyptians and their horses when they chased after them and the walls of water collapsed upon them. Caleb was one of those who crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, and not doubt one of those who saw the bodies of Egyptians floating near the shores.

As they approached the Red Sea they looked and the might of the Egyptian army was charging toward them to recapture them. The Lord blocked the Egyptians! Can you imagine a Pharaoh being some downright stupid as to think that, after God had sent ten plagues upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians that He would allow them to recapture the slaves whose freedom He had demanded? The Lord blocked the Egyptians until He parted the waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape.

The Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them on their way during the day and in a pillar of fire to give them light at night, so that they could travel day or night. 22 The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night never left its place in front of the people. Ex 13:21-22 (HCSB)

God parted the waters of the Red Sea and allowed the Israelites to cross over on dry land, as the waters stood like a mountain on either side of them. The Lord sent a pillar of cloud to guide the people by day and a pillar of fire to light the encampment by night. He had placed that pillar between the Israelites and the Egyptians so they could not attack them before they crossed the Red Sea. Once they had crossed over to the other side, the Egyptians pursued them with all the force of their chariots and cavalry, and then the Lord dropped the two walls of water onto them and they perished. The Hebrews, including Caleb, not only walked across the Red Sea on dry ground, they watched the bodies of the Egyptians wash up upon the shore after the water collapsed upon them. The Israelites were free! They were delivered from the death that was Egypt by the mighty hand of God. It took a miracle to set them free, just as it takes a miracle to set the spiritually dead person free from death, hell, and the grave.

If explorers Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams are right, and I am beginning to believe they are, the Lord led them to the ideal place for them to cross the Red Sea, a place where a ridge stretched all the way across the sea, from the southeastern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, across the Gulf of Aqaba in a northeasterly direction to the coast of Midian, as I have already mentioned. The Midianites seemed to have been located in various places in the region, at various times, but one place they had settled was in Arabia. Now, that is interesting because Paul, in Galatians 4:25, refers to, "Mount Sinai in Arabia." This adds support to the claims of Cornuke and Williams that the real Mount Sinai is in Midian, or Arabia - Mount Sinai - in Arabia!

2. Those ancient Israelites witnessed something the world had never seen before. Have you ever seen the waters of the Mississippi River part like that? Of course not, but if we had been there when the earthquake jiggled the New Madrid Fault and the Mississippi

River ran backward for a while you might have wondered if the world was coming to an end. However, the only time the world had seen anything more amazing than this was when the Lord sent the great Flood in Noah's day. So, what did the Israelites do after they crossed the Red Sea? They stopped to sing a song! They sang praises of the Lord, Who by His mighty hand had delivered them. A man called Caleb sang with them.

3. Now, I want to tell you a little story. Okay, it is not little story, it is a great story. In the first place, I was taught, like most everyone else, that the traditional site of Mount Sinai was in the tip of the Sinai Peninsula between the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba. Explorers, Larry Williams and Bob Cornuke set out to find the biblical Mt. Sinai, after Bob Cornuke and Astronaut Jim Irwin had climbed to the top of the traditional site and found nothing like that which is described in Exodus. Bob Cornuke is a retired police detective who had spent years investigating evidence in criminal cases. He says evidence does not tell you anything, the interpretation of the evidence does.

Larry Williams, a highly successful investment broker, financed this and other explorations. Through his Bible study, Bob Cornuke was convinced that the Israelites crossed the Red Sea at the point where the land bridge mentioned previously runs beneath the surface of the Gulf of Aqaba. He says that if you get the crossing point right you don't have to worry about Mt. Sinai, and if you get Mt. Sinai, the Mountain of Moses, right you will have the crossing point right. We will come back to this later.

4. These Israelites were a part of one of the most amazing things the world has ever seen. They saw it up close and personal. They lived it! They had been delivered from the place of death and slavery by the mighty hand of God. No other people had ever been delivered like this, and no other people had ever been protected from an enemy quite like they had.

#### B. They Left the Red Sea and Began Their Long Journey.

"Then Moses led Israel on from the Red Sea, and they went out to the Wilderness of Shur. They journeyed for three days in the wilderness without finding water" (Ex. 15:22).

1. They must have been in a high spirit as they began their march. A long day's march can take a lot out of people, but in ancient time most people did a lot of walking. Caleb walked the whole distance with them. The Lord's presence was with the Israelites as they marched and they had to sense it. He gave them a pillar of cloud which testified to His presence during the day, and the pillar of fire to illuminate the camp at night. The Lord provided everything they needed to survive in the wilderness. Just imagine two million people camped out in a desert area with no light, no indoor bathrooms, no refrigerators, and hundreds of children crying out for water or asking to go to the

bathroom! Imagine all those adults who had to get up at night! I don't even want to think about what it would have been like in the dark. The Lord took care of that problem by providing light for them. No doubt, they had some water with them when they began the journey from the Red Sea, so they traveled one day without a problem.

2. Then came day two. Surely, Moses knew where to find water. They marched on and on, but they found no water. No matter how many miracles they had seen in Egypt, no matter how great a miracle they had seen at the Red Sea, no matter how they had sung the Lord's praises by the sea side, they were marching into the wilderness - away from water. The temperature was perhaps 128 degrees in the day time and it was extremely dry. Breathing dried the mouth and throat. There was no water along the way and their faith began to falter.

3. Then day three came and still they had found no water. And then they did. Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams had carefully calculated the distance of a three day march as about 33 kilometers. They drove that distance and there they found the spring.

“(23) They came to Marah, but they could not drink the water at Marah because it was bitter – that is why it was named Marah. (24) The people grumbled to Moses, “What are we going to drink?”

The word Marah means bitter and according to Cornuke and Williams, and after all those centuries, the water was still extremely bitter: “We tasted the water and three or four hours later we still had a bitter taste in our mouth.” Notice what happened when this great multitude of escaped slaves finally reached Marah, the bitter spring. Before condemning the people you and I should remember what these people had experienced. There is no doubt that these people were like a lot of believers today: as long as the going is easy their faith seems strong, but let their faith be tested and many will begin to complain, criticize their leadership, and try to come up with their own solutions.

The people grumbled to Moses, “What shall we drink?” Imagine the frustration when they finally found water and it was not drinkable. This may be the first indication we have that these people were Baptists! Ask any experienced pastor what happens when the latest plan for the church does not meet all the benefits the program promised. People begin to grumble and complain. I was pastor of a church in a village with a very high quality school next door. We had somewhere around 6 or 7 students to graduate each year for the first ten years I was pastor there. I had so many funerals that a two men from the funeral home came to me before the beginning of the third funeral that week and said, “We are going to have to help recruit some new members for you. We are burying all of yours!” After about ten years like that someone commented on the fact that we did not have as many members as the church once had. I said, “For one thing, I have buried about one hundred of them and not one has come back.” We

graduated a lot of students who went on to college and never returned. There was no industry to bring them back, so they had to find work somewhere else.

4. God told Moses to throw a tree into the water. "So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he threw it into the water, the water became drinkable" (15:25). Did they have to throw a tree into the water in order to make it drinkable? No. The Lord could have simply spoken the word, or just thought it and it would have happened. When the world He created was dark all He had to do to throw light into it was say, "Be light," and there was light.

#### C. The Lord Made a Statute for Them at Marah, and Tested Them There (15:25-26).

"He made a statute and ordinance for them at Marah and He tested them there. (26) He said, "If you will carefully obey the Lord your God, do what is right in His eyes, pay attention to His commands, and keep all His statutes, I will not inflict any illnesses on you that I inflicted on the Egyptians. For I am Yahweh who heals you."

What's in a name, you may ask. And, I am glad you asked! In Genesis 1:1, we read: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The word for God there is Adonai (the emphasis is His power). Later, we will see another name used for the Creator and Redeemer: Elohim, which denotes His sovereignty - that which He created He has the sovereign right to rule or control. At the burning bush, the Lord gave Moses a new name for Himself: YAHWEH, which tells us a little more about the only God there could possibly be. When Moses asked Him what he would say when people asked him the name of the God who sent him to deliver them. His answer was YAHWEH.

In seminary, and in commentaries, students of the Word of the Lord are taught that the name YAHWEH means "I am." However, it goes as little deeper than that. YAHWEH means, "I am what I am, I was what I was, and I shall be what I shall be." In a discussion, either in my home or in my office, back around 1970, I visited with Dr. H. Leo Eddleman, who had been president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Eddleman, according to the FBI Director, had the best working knowledge of Hebrew of any non-Jew in the United States (He had majored in Math at Mississippi College and Greek in Southern Seminary). When I mentioned the common definition of the word ELOHIM, Dr. Eddleman said, "It means more than that. It means what I had said, but it also means, "I am the source of your being." Caleb and his numerous friends heard that Commandment and committed themselves to our holy, powerful, and ever present Lord.

Someone, in a recent television movie, showed another person a comet, with what looked like a lighted tail or cloud, as the comet speeded away. The so-called expert pointed this out to another person and said, "You and I came from that. All the stars came from that - and so on. The three names for our Lord in the Bible makes a lie of



what that so-called expert said. He exists of Himself, and He is the source of your being. Is it any wonder that one of the Ten Commandments states that we shall not take the name of the Lord our God in vain - meaning that we should not take the name of God casually or lightly? Therefore, when one declares, Oh My God (OMG), they are breaking one of the Ten Commandments.

As soon as the Lord gave the Israelites good water to drink He promised that He would not inflict any of the illnesses on them He had inflicted on the Egyptians. The gods of Egypt promised healing. Yahweh, the God who inflicted illness and pestilence on the Egyptians (which, their gods could not heal!), is the One Who does heal. He said, "I am Yahweh who heals you." Why is the lost world so determine to question that? Why do so many Christians wonder how God could judge anyone, how could He permit this accident or why did He permit that accident? Would a God of love send anyone to hell? He is "Yahweh who heals you," not a heartless god who only seeks to destroy. He wants to heal, protect, and bless. His grace and mercy are so great, and so freely given, that anyone who looks Him in the face and says, "I don't want You!", is bringing death and destruction on himself.

#### D. They Then Marched on to Elim.

Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams drove away from Marah and their next stop was Elim. What did they find at Elim. There is no mention of the 70 palm trees, which would have been a surprise after nearly some 3500 years! Their report, however, is still powerful, for they did find the 12 springs at Elim, When the Israelites "came to Elim, where there were 12 springs of water and 70 date palms, and they camped there by the waters" (Ex 15:27, HCSB). There was never a moment when Yahweh had to wring his hands, wondering what He would do next. He knew.

## II. YAHWEH PROVIDES BREAD FOR HIS PEOPLE, 16:1-36.

### A. As They Marched on into the Wilderness, the People Grumbled and Complained (16:1-3).

"The entire Israelite community departed from Elim and came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left the land of Egypt. (2) The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. (3) The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by pots of meat and ate all the bread we wanted. Instead, you brought us into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of hunger!"

1. They put the Lord to the test. God cannot be tempted to sin, but people may try to put Him to the test. The Lord had put them to the test before, and now they grumble

and complain against Him. They had marched out of Egypt, desperate for freedom, desperately clinging to their children, and eating what food they had taken with them from Egypt. The thing that amazes the modern reader is that they had been miraculously preserved during the plagues in Egypt, and they were protected at the Red Sea, and they had been given good water at Marah. Now, their grumbling becomes more intense and more sustained as the people turn on Moses. They had every reason to trust the Lord, but they had begun complaining against Moses and the Lord.

2. The Lord rained bread from heaven for His people (16:4-5).

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. This way I will test them to see whether or not they will follow My instructions. (5) On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” (Exodus 16:4-5)

The Lord told Moses that he was going to rain down bread from heaven to satisfy the needs of the people. All their food needs would be met and in doing it this way He was putting the people to the test. The food supply would be adequate to meet the needs of the people until they reached Canaan, at which time the manna would cease and they would eat the produce of the land. I have heard people pray, “Lord, send us manna from heaven today,” and my silent prayer is, “Lord, please don’t do it!” I want the true Bread of Heaven, not something that does not satisfy. Those people who spent years living on manna were not happy. They fussed, complained and attacked their leaders. Those who pray, “Lord, send us manna from heaven,” are not voicing my prayers. Manna was the food of the wilderness, not the food of the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Manna kept the Children of Israel alive for 40 years in the wilderness, but that is all it did. It did not satisfy, but then they were not supposed to linger in the wilderness for forty years. They did not die for want of food in the wilderness, but they were never satisfied and they constantly griped and complained. Had they not rebelled against the Lord they would have been in the Promised Land very soon.

Come to think of it, maybe some of our people have been living on manna! They are out of Egypt but they are lingering in the wilderness instead of possessing their possessions in the Land of Promise. We have been delivered from death to live with and for the Lord, as He brought the Israelites out of Egypt to take them into Canaan. Major Ian Thomas wrote that “He brought them out to take them in” - out of Egypt, into Canaan. Never did He plan for them to waste away in a miserable wilderness for forty years. I don’t know about you but I don’t want to spend my life eating manna, when Jesus offers us the Bread of Life: “I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again” (John 6:35).

## B. The Lord Provided Quail and Manna for the People (Ex. 16:6-32).

### 1. The Lord offered Himself to bless the people (Ex. 16:6-10).

“So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites: “This evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt; (7) in the morning you will see the Lord’s glory because He has heard your complaints about Him. For who are we that you complain about us?” (8) Moses continued, “The Lord will give you meat to eat this evening and more than enough bread in the morning, for He has heard the complaints that you are raising against Him. Who are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord.” (16:6-8, HCSB)

That evening they would have proof that it was the Lord who had brought them out of Egypt. Moses declared that their complaints were against the Lord, not against Moses and Aaron. Yahweh promised to give meat in the evening and bread the next morning. Moses told Aaron to invite the Israelites to “come before the Lord for He has heard your complaints” (Vs. 9). The people turned toward the wilderness and, “as Aaron was speaking and to the entire Israelite community, they turned toward the wilderness, and there in a cloud the Lord’s glory appeared” (16:10). I sometimes wonder how seriously Christians consider, desire, or seek the glory of the Lord. What does the glory of the Lord mean to you? I must confess that this is an area in which I know I have failed to appreciate the glory of the Lord. What about you?

2. That night they would eat quail. The Lord provided quail for their meat for the evening meal. Jim Caldwell worked in Saudi Arabia for a number of years, and while Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams were searching for Mt. Sinai from the west, Jim and Penny Caldwell and their son and daughter approached the area from the east and camped out around Mt. Sinai. They did some serious research into the location before they found what they believed to be Mt. Sinai. They continued their studies as they camped out and explored the area. The Caldwells visited Mt. Sinai fourteen times over a period of eight years. Jim worked in Saudi Arabia for a number of years and each year they were required by the Saudi government to leave the land for 24 days. They spent that time camped out around Mt. Sinai, exploring, and finding things of interest to serious students of the Word of God.

The Caldwells showed pictures of quail running around all over the area. They stated that there was a belief that the quail would fly over the Red Sea, and when they arrived they may have been too weak to continue without resting. One study Bible I consulted noted that the quails flew over the Mediterranean Sea, but if that had been the case they would have found a place to rest much closer to the sea than Midian. Whatever the case, the quail landed on the desert floor and the people picked them up and ate them. The Lord said that when they found and ate the quails, “Then you will know that I am

Yahweh your God." Yahweh is the Covenant name for God, the name He gave to Moses at the burning bush. It is an especially holy name.

3. The next morning they ate the bread of heaven (16:13-20). The next morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp.

(14) "When the layer of dew evaporated, there were fine flakes on the desert surface, as fine as frost on the ground. (15) When the Israelites saw it, they asked one another, "What is it?" because they didn't know what it was. Moses told them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. (16) This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each person needs to eat. You may take two quarts per individual, according to the number of people each of you has in his tent.'"

(17) So the Israelites did this. Some gathered a lot, some a little. (18) When they measured it by quarts, the person who gathered a lot had no surplus, and the person who gathered a little had no shortage. Each gathered as much as he needed to eat. (19) Moses said to them, "No one is to let any of it remain until morning." (20) But they didn't listen to Moses; some people left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and smelled. Therefore Moses was angry with them."

The Lord gave specific instructions with regards to the gathering of the manna, and regardless of how much the people gathered the supply was adequate. If they gathered too much those violating the instructions of the Lord and would find their excess spoiled. (21) "They gathered it every morning. Each gathered as much as he needed to eat, but when the sun grew hot, it melted."

4. Specific instructions were given for the Sabbath (16:22-30). Even on the wilderness journey they were not to forget the Sabbath Day. To forget or misuse the Sabbath was to forget and dishonor the Lord of the Sabbath. Let's look at what happened there on the Wilderness Road.

(22) On the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, four quarts apiece, and all the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. (23) He told them, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Tomorrow is a day of complete rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you want to bake, and boil what you want to boil, and set aside everything left over to be kept until morning.'"

(24) So they set it aside until morning as Moses commanded, and it didn't smell or have any maggots in it. (25) "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a Sabbath to the Lord. Today you won't find any in the field. (26) For six days you may gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."

(27) Yet on the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they did not find any. (28) Then the Lord said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep My commands and instructions? (29) Understand that the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day He will give you two days' worth of bread. Each of you stay where you are; no one is to leave his place on the seventh day." (30) So the people rested on the seventh day.

Caleb was a part of this experience, but with two million people there in the wilderness, how would Moses and Joshua discover what a remarkable man they had with them? Of course, when the Lord chooses to reveal something to His people, it would not have mattered if there had been ten times that many people walking through that miserable wilderness.

5. They were told to save some of the manna for a memorial. This was the Lord's command, not something Moses dreamed up, or something they decided on an impulse to do. This was not optional, since the Lord commanded it.

(16:31) The house of Israel named the substance manna. It resembled coriander seed, was white, and tasted like wafers made with honey. (32) Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Two quarts of it are to be preserved throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread I fed you in the wilderness when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

(33) Moses told Aaron, "Take a container and put two quarts of manna in it. Then place it before the Lord to be preserved throughout your generations." (34) As the Lord commanded Moses, Aaron placed it before the testimony to be preserved.

(35) The Israelites ate manna for 40 years, until they came to an inhabited land. They ate manna until they reached the border of the land of Canaan. (36) (Two quarts are a tenth of an ephah.)

From Creation forward great emphasis had been placed on the Sabbath. The Sabbath Day was a holy day, a day of rest - but not simply rest. The Sabbath was a day set aside by the Lord, and as such the people were ordered to desist from their normal routine and keep that day holy before the Lord. Now, all those years later, we find that the Lord places the same emphasis on the Sabbath. Today, we worship on the first day of the week, following the example of certain early saints who commemorated the Resurrection by worshiping the Lord on that day. Let us remind ourselves of the importance the Lord place on the Lord's Day.

How do you honor the Lord on the day set aside to worship and honor Him? When I was a youth minister I visited a faithful family with four children. Little Jeff was five years old and his mother told me about something that had happened the previous

Sunday in Sunday School. The teacher, we will call her Mrs. Jones, asked the class, "Boys and girls, why do we come to Sunday School and church on Sunday?" Several children raised their hands and she gave each one an opportunity to speak. Then she said, "That's right! It's because we love Jesus!" Little Jeff raised his hand and when Mrs. Jones recognized him he said, "Mrs. Jones, don't you love Jesus on Sunday night?" She, by the way, told Jeff's mother what he had said. That is a fair question for a lot of church members today. I have asked church members, "What's more important to you than God on His Day?"

Caleb was there when Moses returned to Egypt from the wilderness to announce that Yahweh was about to deliver the Children of Israel from the ruthless and evil form of slavery to which the Israelites were now being subjected - by the Pharaoh who knew not the promise made by an earlier Pharaoh to Joseph. The Israelites were not about to leave the fertile land of Goshen where they were under the protection of the mightiest army in that part of the world, if not the whole world. Not as long as they were prospering. The cruel form of slavery designed to reduce the population of the Israelites, and to prevent their open rebellion against Egypt.

### III. CALEB WAS THERE.

#### A. There Can Be No Doubt that Caleb Was There.

He was there from the first visit by Moses to announce that Yahweh was about to deliver the Children of Israel from the especially cruel bondage to which they had been subjected by a new Pharaoh who did not know or recognize the covenant an earlier Pharaoh had made with Joseph.

1. Caleb was there during the marching out of Egypt.
2. Caleb was there when the Egyptians caught up with the Israelites at the Red Sea.
3. Caleb was there when he crossed the Red Sea
4. Caleb was there when God turned the bitter springs of Marah into sweet water.
5. Caleb was there when Amalek attacked Israel.
6. Caleb was there when Yahweh split the rock and provided an abundance of water.
7. Caleb was there when Yahweh descended in a cloud over Mt. Sinai.
8. Caleb was there when Aaron made the golden calf for the people and they turned that "worship" into a pagan and immoral orgy.

9. Caleb was there when Moses returned from Sinai with the Ten Commandments.

10. Caleb was there when they received them, at Sinai in Arabia (not Egypt), marching orders from the Lord.

You can be sure of one thing: both Moses and Joshua knew Caleb and trusted him. That seems obvious from the choice of the twelve spies who were sent into Canaan to observe the land and report back to Moses what they had observed.

The late Lt. General Dutch Shoffner was a very good friend of mine and I often asked him questions about the military or some historical battle. One day, he said to me, "I commanded 52 Lt. Cols, and I was required to write an evaluation of each one. I knew I could not do that unless I got acquainted with each one of them." We can be sure that Moses and Joshua observed various men during their travel in the wilderness, as well as their behavior at Mt. Sinai. I don't know this, but it makes sense to me that they must have observed Caleb over a period of time, and that Moses chose him for a purpose - both a military purpose, and as leader of men.

How did Caleb get the attention of Joshua and Moses? We are not given an answer to that question, but is it not reasonable to assume that his worth, his courage, and his military skills would qualify him for the major challenge facing the imminent invasion of Canaan? But, we may ask, what qualified Caleb to be one of the twelve spies Moses chose to go into the land of Canaan to spy out the land to see what the army of Israel would be facing? Obviously, Caleb had come to the attention of Joshua and finally to Moses. For a military commander to be successful in gaining a victory over the inhabitants of the Promised Land, the Israelite leaders would need to know certain things about the enemy. They would also need to know something of the qualifications of those upon whom they looked to gain the victory.

After the Ten Commandments, and then the laws by which the Children of Israel were to live until the coming of the Messiah, the Lord prepared them for the conquest of Canaan. First, they needed someone to reconnoiter the land of Canaan. They needed reports on the military skills of the Canaanite people, which included a number of small nations. Every nation had its own military, as well as its own leaders who studied all the nations around them. They would need to know about the defense of every city or nation. Their world was made up of many small nations, as well as some powerful nations. I have entertained the possibility that the various nations learned a lot about their neighbors and their armies from the trade caravans who traveled from one country to another.

It is not surprising that the Lord told Moses to scout out the land (see Numbers 13). Moses chose one spy from each of the twelve tribes, with Caleb representing Judah and

Joshua representing the Tribe of Ephraim, one of the two tribes named for a son of Joseph. When the twelve spies were prepared for their mission they were sent into the Promised Land. When they returned, from scouting out the land that was said to be a land flowing with milk and honey.

After the twelve spies who had been sent into the Land of Canaan returned, they gave their report and ten of the twelve reported that there was no way they could conquer Canaan. Only two of the twelve spies who reported on the Land of Promise were convinced that they could conquer this land and make it their home. Caleb sought to convince the people that they could, indeed, conquer the land:

Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, “We must go up and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it!”

(31) But the men who had gone up with him responded, “We can’t go up against the people because they are stronger than we are!” (Num 13:30-31, HCSB)

Of the twelve spies, only Joshua and Caleb trusted the Lord to give them the land. The other ten spies did not believe a victory was possible and the Israelites paid a steep price for their lack of faith (See Num. 14). But there is more:

(26) Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron: (27) “How long [must I endure] this evil community that keeps complaining about Me? I have heard the Israelites’ complaints that they make against Me. (28) Tell them: As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you exactly as I heard you say. (29) Your corpses will fall in this wilderness – all of you who were registered [in the census] , the entire number of you 20 years old or more – because you have complained about Me. (30) I swear that none of you will enter the land I promised to settle you in, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. (31) I will bring your children whom you said would become plunder into the land you rejected, and they will enjoy it. (32) But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. (33) Your children will be shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years and bear the penalty for your acts of unfaithfulness until all your corpses lie [scattered] in the wilderness. (34) You will bear the consequences of your sins 40 years based on the number of the 40 days that you scouted the land, a year for each day. You will know My displeasure. (35) I, the Lord, have spoken. I swear that I will do this to the entire evil community that has conspired against Me. They will come to an end in the wilderness, and there they will die.”

(36) So the men Moses sent to scout out the land, and who returned and incited the entire community to complain about him by spreading a bad report about the land – (37) those men who spread the report about the land were struck down by the Lord. (38) Only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh remained alive of those men who went to scout out the land. (Num 14:26-38, HCSB)



There is still more! After all the Israelites twenty years old and older had died, except for Joshua and Caleb, the Lord blessed them in the conquest of the Land of Promise. Even though Joshua was an experienced warrior, the battle plan for the conquest of Israel was God's plan. First, they would attack Jericho and using a battle plan which was unique and God ordained plan they conquered a city with every advantage over the Israelites. Except one! The military strategist was none other than the Lord Himself.

When Israel was delivered from bondage in Egypt by the mighty hand of God. The people received provisions and protection from the YAHWEH, the great I AM. He parted the waters of the Red Sea and brought the Israelites across on dry ground. Now, all these years later He parted the waters of the Jordan River and led His chosen people across on dry ground. In doing so, He gave them specific instructions that should remind every generation of His deliverance from bondage in Egypt, as well as His promise to lead them to the Land of Promise.

It has always seemed to me that Joshua was given a very effective strategy in the Conquest of Canaan. It seemed logical to me, but one day the thought occurred to me that I am not qualified to make that judgment. So, I asked my friend Dutch Shoffner, a retired Lt General (three star) what he thought about that, and he agreed that it was a good strategy. Sometime later, I asked his son, who during the time I knew him had passed through the ranks from Major to Lt. Colonel, to full Colonel. He also agreed that Joshua's divide and conquer strategy was a good one. The first battle was against the well defended city of Jericho. The Lord had promised the victory if they followed His instructions. They obeyed Him and won a miraculous battle and eliminate a great power in the central part of Canaan.

What happened after that? The people either thought they not need God's help, or more likely that He was under an obligation to bless them. Then they attacked the smaller and weaker city of Ai and were defeated. Joshua won a mighty battle in the central part of the country and then marched on to the southern part of the country. After that, he moved the soldiers to the northern part.

Now, here is something very interesting - or it is to me. When they looked to Hebron, which Joshua gave to Caleb, he must have been a little surprised when Caleb announced that he was only 95 years old and he could take Hebron himself, by the grace of God and with the help of family members (see Joshua 14).

There are many examples of the faithful servant of the Lord in the Bible. Caleb is one of them, and he accomplished great things, even when he was 85 years old. I was impressed with Mrs. Sherry McWilliams when she had a baby boy and named him Caleb. I hope she said, "Now, Caleb, I want you to show yourself a man!" That is what David challenged Solomon to do (I Kings 2:2) I remember quoting this verse to my son

John - on more than one occasion, but especially when he was leaving for Law School at LSU. I reminded him that David had said that very thing to Solomon.

When you read the story of Caleb in the Book of Numbers you should be impressed that Caleb really did set a worthy example for all who read his story. In Numbers 13 we find Caleb making a statement that proves his commitment to the Lord.

“Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, “We must go up and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it!” (Num 13:27-30).