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A Biographical Study of Caleb

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Caleb

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. His faithfulness, as revealed at 40
 - A. His trip
 - 1. Caleb was one of the 12 men sent by Moses to spy out the land of Canaan (Num. 13:1-2, 6).
 - 2. He was from the tribe of Judah (Num. 13:6; 34:19).
 - B. His testimony
 - 1. Along with Joshua, he gave a good report upon returning, urging Israel to enter the land, as opposed to the evil report rendered by the 10 spies (Num. 13:30; 14:6-9).
 - 2. Scripture refers to this act of faith on six specific occasions (Num. 14:24, 30, 38; 26:65; 32:12; Deut. 1:36).
 - 3. Because of his testimony, both Caleb and his descendants were assured by the Lord of a special inheritance in Canaan (Num. 14:24).
- II. His faithfulness, as rewarded at 85
 - A. At age 85, he gave one of Scripture's greatest testimonies concerning the keeping power of God (Josh. 14:6-12).
 - B. He was given Hebron, the land of some huge warriors known as the Anakites, for his inheritance. The old warrior promptly drove them out and occupied the land (Josh. 14:12; 15:13-15).

STATISTICS

Father: Jephunneh (Num. 13:6)

Spouses: Ephah and Maachah (1 Chron. 2:46, 48)

(Note: *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* and *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible* both distinguish between the Caleb who married these concubines and the Caleb being studied here. They distinguish between the Caleb in 1 Chron. 2:18-19, 46, 48 and in 1 Chron. 4:15).

Sons: Mesha, Iru, Elah, and Naam (1 Chron. 2:42; 4:15) (See note above.)

Daughter: Achsah (Josh. 15:16)

Brother: Jerahmeel (1 Chron. 2:42) (See note above.)

Significant descendant: Nabal (1 Sam. 25:3)

First mention: Numbers 13:6

Final mention: 1 Chronicles 6:56

Meaning of his name: "Bold, impetuous," or "dog"

Frequency of his name: Referred to 32 times

Biblical books mentioning him: Six books (Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 1 Chronicles)

Occupation: Soldier (Josh. 14:6-14)

Important fact about his life: He was a faithful partner with Joshua standing against the evil report of the 10 spies (Num. 14:6-9)