A Biographical Study of Caleb

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/ot_biographies

Part of the Biblical Studies Commons, Christianity Commons, and the Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons

Recommended Citation

https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/ot_biographies/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the A Biographical Study of Individuals of the Bible at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in Old Testament Biographies by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunication@liberty.edu.
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)