

FOR IT IS A WOOD AND THOU SHALT CUT IT DOWN JOSHUA 17

Text: Joshua 17:18

(Joshua 17:18) "But the mountain shall be thine; for it is a wood, and thou shalt cut it down: and the outgoings of it shall be thine: for thou shalt drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots, and though they be strong."

Introduction:

After Moses died Joshua was put in charge of leading the children to the promise land. We need to remember each event that took place prior to the children of Israel entering into Canaan.

The plagues in Egypt

The crossing of the Red Sea

The endless supply of food

The leading of the Lord by cloud and fire

The crossing of the Jordan

The enemies being destroyed

The walls of Jericho falling

Miracle after miracle took place prior to entering into Canaan.

Once entering into Canaan Joshua begins to divide up the land to each tribe of people. Joseph tribe was the largest of the tribe. It was also the tribe from which Joshua was from. However once receiving their portions of land these people were dissatisfied.

Notice:

1. THE COMPLAINT OF THE PEOPLE (VS 14)

(Joshua 17:14) "And the children of Joseph spake unto Joshua, saying, Why hast thou given me but one lot and one portion to inherit, seeing I am a great people, forasmuch as the LORD hath blessed me hitherto?"

A. Pettiness of their question (Why...only one lot?)

1. They thought their lot was too small.
2. They thought they deserved better.

B. Pride in their protest

1. I am a great people.
2. Even used the Lord's blessings and name to complain.

C. Problem of in contentment

1. Causes people to complain.

(1 Timothy 6:6) "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

2. THE COUNSEL OF JOSHUA (VS 15)

(Joshua 17:15) "And Joshua answered them, If thou be a great people, then get thee up to the wood country, and cut down for thyself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the giants, if mount Ephraim be too narrow for thee."

- A. Joshua tells them to cut wood.
- B. Now the truth comes out
 1. Clearing the land will take work
 2. The tribe doesn't want the job.
- C. Lessons from the griping group.

1. Salvation is by faith alone, but works follows salvation. (Eph 2:8-9)

(Ephesians 2:8-9) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast."

2. Reaching our potential requires work.

a. If our Church is going to reach its potential it going to require work.

Illustration:

The words of the song, "We'll work till Jesus comes."

3. What are you doing to develop your lot?

3. CHARIOTS OF IRON (VS 16)

(Joshua 17:16) "And the children of Joseph said, The hill is not enough for us: and all the Canaanites that dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both they who are of Bethshean and her towns, and they who are of the valley of Jezreel."

A. The enemy is strong (Satan)

B. We are at war with powerful forces.
(Eph 6:12-18)

(Ephesians 6:12-18) "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. {13} Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; {15} And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; {16} Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. {17} And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: {18} Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

C. We are equipped to win.

D. The chariots of iron were a distant threat (vs 16)

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both they who are of Bethshean and her towns, and they who are of the valley of Jezreel."

1. They needed to cut wood first.
2. Then they could defeat the iron chariots (vs 18).

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Close:

We need to serve God where we are ... Now
He will give strength to work and win each day.

We need to cut some wood this year!