

# CALEB LEGACY ON THE THRESHOLD

*<sup>9</sup> But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. <sup>10</sup> The Spirit of the LORD came on him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. <sup>11</sup> So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.*

Judges 3:9-11

*<sup>24</sup> One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. <sup>25</sup> A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:24,25

## I. The Dog chooses a Lion.

- A. Othniel - the Lion of God was the first judge over Israel. Only lions and lionesses will mark this epoch.
- B. Othniel was from the blood and faith of Caleb.
- C. Othniel's mentor was the only man alive from the first generation out of Egypt.
- D. Othniel, himself, grew up in the wilderness with Caleb and his family. (In it, but not of it.)
- E. Othniel absorbed all the positive character traits of his mentor.

- F. Caleb's generosity was revealed in how he freely and fully passed on his entire legacy to one couple.
  - G. Othniel is without moral blemish, unless one counts his kennizzite foreign blood
  - H. Nothing in his story distracts the reader from God.
  - I. Othniel's skeletal story gives absolute attention to God
  - J. In no other story does God permeate as fully as this one
  - K. The Spirit of God uniquely comes upon Othniel.
- II. Hebron - Caleb's first and last planting place  
(Joshua 15:13-16)

*<sup>13</sup> In accordance with the LORD's command to him, Joshua gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah--Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.) <sup>14</sup> From Hebron Caleb drove out the three Anakites--Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmi, the sons of Anak. <sup>15</sup> From there he marched against the people living in Debir (formerly called Kiriath Sepher). <sup>16</sup> And Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Aksah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher."*

- A. Hebron was an ancient city – built seven years before Zoan in Egypt. (Psalm 78:12,42-43)
- B. Abraham moved to Hebron and built an altar after Lot departed from him. Here, God revealed the land that would belong to him and his ancestors. (Genesis 13:8)
- C. Hebron was the second holiest place, next to Jerusalem.
- D. Hebron belonged initially to the Hittites, allies of Abraham. (Genesis 23:17-20)

- E. Hebron was a priestly city given to the Kohathites – the shoulders. (I Chronicles 6:54-57)
  - F. Hebron became a city of refuge – a sanctuary for the unintentional manslayer. (Exodus 21:12-14; Numbers 35:6-29; Deuteronomy 19:1-13)
  - G. Hebron became the capital of Judah, and the first city and planting of King David for 7 1/2 years. (II Samuel 2:1-4;5:3)
  - H. Hebron was the hallowed ground where the matriarchs and patriarchs were buried. Abraham (Genesis 25:10), Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob (Genesis 47:29-30), and Leah (Genesis 49:30-32).
  - I. Hebron was fruitful and famous for fruits, herbage, honey, vines, olives, grains, and water.
  - J. David's son and false king of Israel, Absalom, was crowned in Hebron. (2 Samuel 15:7-9)
  - K. At Hebron, all power came to David. (II Samuel 21:15- 22)
  - L. Hebron, when violated, became a place of legitimate cursing. (II Samuel 3:28,29)
  - M. In Hebron true justice reigned, revealing David's integrity. (II Samuel 4)
- III. Debir - the city of books (Joshua 15:14,15)
- A. This additional, fortified citadel of the Anakim originally was called Kirjath Sepher, and then Debir (It's third name: Kirjath Sannah - Joshua 15:49)
  - B. It was the city of books, or law, or sacred learning, or city of doctrine.

- C. It was evidently the repository of the sacred books of the Anakim.
- D. This is where the priesthood lived - a strongly fortified city from which all of their worldview evil proceeded.
- E. Debir - “sanctuary or shrine”, and it is derived from the word “dabar” which has a variety of meanings that mostly preserve or promulgate the teachings of the Anakim.
- F. To talk, teach, tell, think, command, commune, declare, pronounce, rehearse, say, speak.
- G. The city had an outer wall, which was relatively easy to breach, and an inner wall, which was much much stronger. In between, there was a maze blind alleys. Anyone who breached the wall would be trapped in these blind alleys.
- H. Caleb places an offer to any brave young men who would take this city. He would be given his daughter, Achsah, to wife. (Joshua 15:16; Judges 1:11,12)
- I. Debir was a town later assigned to the Levites.
- J. The city contained a notable school, and was the site of an oracle. This was the critical nerve center of the Canaanite culture.
- K. This city was the key to the land. Its ideology, its worldview, its records, all its learning, genealogical records, treaties, land ownership documents, etc.
- L. These were smart giants. Only lions and lionesses could destroy them.
- M. You must destroy a worldview and dismantle it at the root level, or you can never conquer a land.