

## ON HIGHER GROUND

*Joshua 13:8-14:15*

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### Introduction

- We come now to the second half of the book of Joshua (see charts).
- Chapters 13-21 deal with “inheritance” – the division of the land to the tribes.
- This is against the backdrop of 13:1:
  - (a) Joshua was old but God still had work for him to do;
  - (b) the conquest was complete (11:23) but large areas of land remained to be taken.
- God promised that He Himself will drive out their enemies (13:6) but the people repeatedly failed to trust and obey God (13:13; 15:63; 16:10; 18:3).

### Contrasting Lessons from the two and half Eastern tribes and Caleb

#### 1) Borderline Christians (Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh) (13:8-33)

- They chose to live outside God’s Promised Land (refer to Numbers 32).
- Why? Because east of the Jordan, the land was good for their large herds of cattle.
- The choice was good for their cattle but not good for their children (Joshua 22).
- Are you a borderline Christian?
- What do you prioritise in your decisions?

#### 2) Wholehearted Christians (Caleb) (14:1-15)

- 85-year-old Caleb wholeheartedly followed the LORD (14:8, 9, 14)
  - (a) in facing challenges in the different seasons of life (14:6-9);
  - (b) in aspiring to reach higher ground to glorify Him (14:10-12).
- Be a wholehearted Christian, fully committed to pursuing higher spiritual ground (Phil. 3:12-14).

### Our Response

- Both the Eastern tribes and Caleb were visionary, action-oriented and decisive.
- The difference was in their contrasting goals – what they fix their eyes on – earthly treasures or heavenly treasures.
- Which would you choose?
- Be a wholehearted Christian not a borderline Christian.