

GIVE ME ALSO SPRINGS OF WATER: THE REQUEST OF ACHSAH

Joshua 15:16 And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife.

Achsah must have been a very special young lady otherwise her father Caleb would not have had the boldness to make such a declaration. Now some fathers may be blind to the graces of their daughters, but this was clearly not the case with Caleb because he didn't have to wait long for a response. His own younger brother, Othniel, conquered Kirjathsepher and won the hand of Achsah. Yes, a niece marrying her own uncle offends our modern sensibilities but remember this was not specifically forbidden in the law of Moses. Also, earlier, Abram married his sister Sarai and Amram, Moses' father, married his father's sister or aunt. Ultimately, Eve was taken out of Adam's own body. From a spiritual perspective, the focus is on familial bonds, we are of the flesh and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." (Ephesians 5:30). Othniel demonstrated the same spirit of bravery and boldness that his older brother Caleb was famous for. He appeared determined to keep everything within the family. May God help us to inherit everything that belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ!

Joshua 15:18 And it came to pass, as she came unto him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wouldest thou?

Achsah is a type of the church of Jesus Christ. She pushed her husband Othniel to ask a field of her father Caleb. We can imagine her prompting and pushing Othniel until he could no longer forbear. This is the privilege of the daughter. The church is the daughter of Christ. Sisters and mothers in the Lord often push their husband and brothers to pray and seek the Lord. I encourage all our sisters to continue pleading, praying and pushing your husbands to go to Jesus, as Achsah pushed her husband to go to her father Caleb. She asked for a field and received it through Othniel. However, something was missing – water. What is the use of inheriting a piece of land with no water? She must have tried pushing her husband again, but Othniel may have had enough. Othniel had asked for Achsah and then the land and now he felt the buck stopped there. That is how some people are with the Lord. They think of their dignity and do not want to appear greedy etc. Not so with Achsah. This where Achsah was more like her father Caleb than Othniel. Let us not forget the legacy of Caleb. He and Joshua alone believed they would inherit the land. Caleb outlived even Joshua and was fighting the

Lord's battles at the age of 85. The man had a passion for life and the blessings of God that no one could match.

***Joshua 14:10** And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.*

***Joshua 14:11** As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.*

***Joshua 14:12** Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.*

***Joshua 14:13** And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.*

Achsah decided like her father before her to go boldly to her own father. She demonstrated her great respect for this famous man in alighting from her donkey and reverencing him. It is good to go before the Lord with worship and honor. Then her father asked her, "What wouldest thou?" By the way, God knows whether we came to just enjoy his company or ask for something. It is ok to be forthright – we can't deceive God. Achsah was bold, direct and concrete. "Who answered, Give me a blessing; for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And he gave her the upper springs, and the nether springs" (Joshua 15:19). Let us liken the piece of field to receiving a new body through baptism in Jesus name. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). Once we have put on the new man who is made in the image of Christ, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. "He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost" (Acts 19:2). A piece of land which receives no showers of water is quite useless. The body of Jesus Christ must be constantly showered with the waters of the Holy Spirit.

***Romans 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

Notice first that Achsah said to her father, "Give me a blessing!" Praise God! Allow me to speak to the young for a moment. Young people you need to get the blessing of your fathers on this earth also. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). Whether Achsah would receive her second request was another matter. She first asked for a general blessing. Once we

have the blessing of the Lord Jesus it doesn't matter what problems come our way – we are blessed. It doesn't matter that Peter was arrested and beaten, he was blessed of Jesus and would soon be released by an angel. It didn't matter that Lazarus was dying, he was blessed by Jesus and would soon be raised up from the dead. Let us come to our Father Jesus and first ask for a general blessing. Remember the blessings of Deuteronomy 28? “And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God” (Deut 28:2).

Next, Achsah reminded her father that he had given her the south land. “for thou hast given me a south land” (Joshua 15:19). When we come to ask our petitions from God, we must first thank him for all the former blessings he gave us. We must never forget God's generosity over the years. Gratitude is very important. Always remind and thank the Lord for all his past blessings. On this earth, if you remind people of their past generosity, they will use it to say that they have done enough, ask someone else. With God, however, it is different. He never gets tired of giving. Finally, Achsah asked for springs of water, but her father gave her more than she asked for – he gave her the upper springs and the nether springs. Praise Jesus! She was asking for a constant, perpetual flow of water and this pleased her father so much so that he gave her the springs in the north and the south of the land she received. This is what we should also ask the Lord Jesus – give us springs of living water from above our heads and below our heads. Ever been in a Jacuzzi? The jet streams seem to issue from everywhere – below the soles of your feet, the sides etc. I pray we receive a jet stream supply of the Holy Spirit from every direction! The land that Achsah received fit the description of the Land of Canaan that God spoke about years before. It was well watered.

Deut 11:11 But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

Deut 11:12 A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

May we all be like the land that Achsah inherited – a land with the upper and nether springs! May we all be like the Land of Canaan – a land that drinketh water of the rain of heaven! Don't be like Othniel who stopped asking after he received the land. Let us be like Achsah who wanted springs of water and received two. May your cup flow over!