

Joshua - Commentaries by Grandma Smith

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 3, Girl Named Achsah, A (15:16-19)

Achsah was a little girl born in the wilderness long ago. She had many adventures; some were fun and some were unhappy. But there was one thing that made her different from other little girls. Her father was Caleb, and he was one of the few older men in camp.

Why was he still alive when the other older men had died? I will tell you why. God had promised to give the children of Israel the land of Canaan, and Caleb and another man named Joshua were two of the twelve men sent to spy out the land and see how good it was. The men came back and said that it was a very good land, but all but Caleb and Joshua said it would be impossible to take it over because the people living there were too strong.

But Caleb and Joshua knew the unbreakable promises of God. They knew that God would keep His promise to give them the land of Canaan no matter how strong the people were who lived there.

The other men died who spied out the land and gave a bad report. But Caleb and Joshua lived, and they got the land just as God had promised.

Do you know some of God's unbreakable promises? Can you name one or two? Here's one: "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). No earthquake or explosion in the world can ever break that promise! Do you believe that promise from God?

Caleb's daughter Achsah grew up to be a very nice young lady, and Caleb looked for a brave, young warrior to be her husband. He said, Whoever conquers the city of Kirjath-sepher can marry my daughter!

The brave young man who conquered Kirjath-sepher was Othniel, and he and Achsah were soon married. But that isn't the end of the story. Her father had given her a very good south land for their home together, but she needed something more. She didn't just sit at home and wish for what she needed; she got on her donkey and went to find her father. Then she stood and made her request: You have given me a south land. Please give me also springs of water. She knew desert land could not grow much without necessary water.

That was an excellent request. Caleb gladly gave her double what she asked for - he gave her both upper and lower springs. There were no withered seedlings in her garden! She was willing to be a worker and make sure that her land would supply plenty of food for her family. Her husband Othniel was a conqueror, and together they worked willingly.

Are you a willing worker for God? He has not promised beautiful gardens and plenty of money, but He has promised that He "shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). He doesn't promise to supply all your wants but all your needs.

If you have not been cleansed from your sins by the blood of the Lord Jesus, this is your most important need! Here is another of God's unbreakable promises for you: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Think About God's Word!

1. What did Achsah ask her father for?
2. How can you make plants grow in a very dry area? What did Achsah do to make sure her garden would grow well?

Project: Water is very refreshing. What did the Lord Jesus say about water for the soul? Start your search in John 7.

God's Wonderful Stories: Volume 2, Man With the Sword, The (5:13-15)

Battle plans were all made, and Captain Joshua was sure of victory over the city of Jericho. Perhaps you have felt like that too, maybe just before an exam or a contest or a race. Or perhaps you have planned a music program or a large dinner reception and everything is ready. You feel sure that everyone will do their part well, and you are expecting the event to be a great success.

As Joshua was expecting victory, he looked up and saw a man with a sword drawn in his hand! A man usually carries a sword in a sheath at his side, but this man's sword was in his hand, up and ready for action. It took courage to go right up and face the man, but that's what Joshua did.

Are you for us or for our enemies? asked Joshua.

The man gave a strange answer. His answer was, No. That may not seem like an answer to Joshua's question, but if that is God's answer, don't find fault with Him. Just listen.

The man told Joshua, I have come as captain of the army of the Lord.

Now Joshua was already captain of the children of Israel. This may have hurt his pride and self-importance. Perhaps you can understand that too. It is natural for each of us to choose the most important place. But Joshua knew that this man was sent from God Himself and that all honor belongs to God. He also knew that hope of victory in any battle is only in God.

What does my Lord say to His servant? asked Joshua. He was prepared for battle, but he knew that God is in control of everything we do and even our very lives. God had given Joshua the battle plans. Would He change them now? Would He cause the plans to fail and spoil his life?

Perhaps you do not know our God if you think that He likes to spoil things for us. Listen to the order which God gave to Captain Joshua.

Take your shoes off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. And Joshua did exactly as he was told . . . no arguments and no further questions. He obeyed. Will you also believe without arguing that the God who is in control of all things is holy?

The next day the battle plans which God had given were carried out with total success. The only failure was one of Joshua's own men who failed to obey God's command. Joshua needed that lesson of God's total control or perhaps he would have failed too.

Maybe you have made good plans and you're all prepared, but what is all that without power? You plan on going to heaven someday, and God wants you there, but your power to go there must come from God Himself. "The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). You also know that the world crucified God's Son. God's response to this is simply, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Without question or argument, will you now believe on this wonderful Savior whose blood cleanses from all sin? Our God is forever holy, and His holiness can be satisfied in nothing less than His beloved Son who died for sinners. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12).

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