

A Dream Realized

“God of the Movement” Series – Part 05

Connect: What is the most daring thing you have ever done? What made it so daring?

Hook:

Pastor Brandon shared this week that God can give us dreams and yet those dreams can be broken by fear, disbelief, and even comfort. There are other times when our dreams seem broken, but in reality, they are simply delayed. As I (Pastor Danny) write this lesson I'm reminded of a dream that I have had for the past few months. I have been and am currently dreaming of a kidney transplant. On March 1, I thought I would wake up with a healthy kidney. Due to some abnormal blood chemistry levels, my dream has been delayed. As I wait for this to be corrected, it's been a difficult time for my family and for me. What do you do when your dreams have been delayed? What happens when they are delayed or unrealized due to the failure of others?

Today, we are going to look at one of the heroes of the Old Testament who had a God-size dream and yet, due to no fault of his own, he had to wait 45 years to see his dream realized. What can we learn from Caleb's example?

Book:

Jos 14:6 A delegation from the tribe of Judah, led by Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite, came to Joshua at Gilgal. Caleb said to Joshua, "Remember what the LORD said to Moses, the man of God, about you and me when we were at Kadesh-barnea.

Jos 14:7 I was forty years old when Moses, the servant of the LORD, sent me from Kadesh-barnea to explore the land of Canaan. I returned and gave an honest report,

Jos 14:8 but my brothers who went with me frightened the people from entering the Promised Land. For my part, I wholeheartedly followed the LORD my God.

Jos 14:9 So that day Moses solemnly promised me, 'The land of Canaan on which you were just walking will be your grant of land and that of your descendants forever, because you wholeheartedly followed the LORD my God.'

Jos 14:10 "Now, as you can see, the LORD has kept me alive and well as He promised for all these forty-five years since Moses made this promise—even while Israel wandered in the wilderness. Today I am eighty-five years old.

Jos 14:11 I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then.

Jos 14:12 So give me the hill country that the LORD promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the LORD is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the LORD said."

Jos 14:13 So Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave Hebron to him as his portion of land.

Jos 14:14 Hebron still belongs to the descendants of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite because he wholeheartedly followed the LORD, the God of Israel.

Jos 14:15 (Previously Hebron had been called Kiriath-arba. It had been named after Arba, a great hero of the descendants of Anak.) And the land had rest from war.

Look:

How did Caleb and Joshua differ from the other spies?

How does a leader's fear keep God's people from doing His will?

What happens when we concentrate on problems? What would happen if we concentrated more on the Word of God rather than the challenges before us?

Why did Caleb not take possession of the promise land when he was a young man? Why did he wait 45 years?

What does it mean to follow the Lord "wholly" or "wholeheartedly"?

How did Caleb demonstrate his faithfulness to God?

Why is Caleb boastful in verse 12? Is this a character flaw or a trait to be emulated?

Why do you think he claimed the hill country of Hebron for his inheritance?

After such a long delay, why would Caleb believe he could take the land from the giants?