



March 19, 2023

FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

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This week's reading is filled with stories that help us understand God and the relationship he has with his people. When we consider how this part of scripture helps us anticipate Jesus, there are several parallels. One is how the Passover seems to mark the upcoming fulfillment of God's promises (before the liberation from Egypt, before conquering the promise land, and before Christ the perfect sacrifice). Another is the appearance of the "Captain of the Lord of Host" who appears to Joshua as he begins to establish the Holy Nation. This is similar to how the Holy Spirit descends on the Apostles as they begin to establish the Holy Nation. But when I was thinking about what to write about, I kept going back to Caleb and what he asked for.

First, Caleb was 40 when he spied out the land. He told Joshua that 45 years had passed, and he still has the same strength he did at 40! Did Caleb not age those 45 years? That is something I never realized. And then if you continue to read, you will notice he asked for a specific place as an inheritance and blessing for his faith, Hebron. Why was that significant? Hebron was where Abraham settled in the promised land. It was where he and Sarah were buried. It was therefore the most significant site for his nation of descendants. Fast-forward, and scripture says that God sent David to Hebron when Saul was pursuing him. David even reigned from there the first seven years he was King. We know he moved the capital to Jerusalem once he took care of the unfinished business mentioned in this week's reading. (David drove the Jebusites out of Jerusalem.)

But David's life is a future read for this year. So when we get there, pay attention to Hebron. You will find that some thought that occupying a special place like Hebron was more important than having God on their side. I think in the New Testament we might even see a few individuals that believed a physical location was more important than doing God's will. At least we are wise enough not to make that mistake today.

Tyler Thompson

2502 FLORENCE BOULEVARD

www.florenceblvd.org

PHONE (256) 766-3617

email: office@florenceblvd.org

FAX (256) 766-3546

Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am; Wednesday: 6:30 pm

