

Josh 13-21 live your destiny – live with purpose

Introduction

What kind of thing would you expect God to say to you if He spoke to you directly - words of comfort maybe or encouragement or perhaps condemnation & judgement? [It may be worth discussing this & why we feel the way we do]. Joshua had several words of encouragement from God [eg Josh 1:7-10] but this study starts with God saying to Joshua 'You are very old... [13:1] & there is much left to do. Basically He's saying 'you're past it' Joshua! Yet he has fulfilled his God given destiny.

Read Josh 13:1-7

1. Do you feel you have a destiny given by God? Why? Is it the same or different from mission? If you have one [or both] of these are you able to live it? Explain. [cf. Phil 1:21-22]
2. What is the destiny given to the followers of Jesus & how does it compare with Israel's? See Mt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 1Jhn1:7-8; 3:11 & 23. Check out Gen 12:2-3. How conscious of this destiny & mission are you in your day to day life & the decisions you make [eg the church you attend, where you live etc.]? How far should it? To what extent do you feel personally responsible for seeing the church fulfil its destiny & mission?

Read Josh 14:6-15

3. In contrast to Joshua Caleb at 85 clearly believed he had unfinished business to attend to. What does this tell us about God's call to different individuals? Cp Jhn21:20-23; 1Cor4:1-5.
4. Caleb kept his vision for a particular task over 45 difficult years [v9-10]. How can we retain our vision over a long period? What was it about Caleb & how he related to God that enabled him to do this? How can we best promote these

Info box

In speaking about this passage I said our **mission** we hold in common with the whole Church ['loving God, loving others'] & our **vision** is our particular part in it [eg bringing the good news to Bratton & the area around].

qualities in our own lives?

5. Check ch15-21. How did the Israelites translate their mission into individual vision so they could fulfil their destiny? What does this teach us about how we as a church & as individuals should go about living out our destiny? What vision do we have for our church?
6. Joshua had led Israel to victory over the major military forces of the land [see 11:23] Although the war was won there were many battles ahead if they were to settle the land. Are there any parallels to this in the Christian life [cp Col 2:13-15; Phil 3:12-15]? Why might this be both an encouragement & a challenge?
7. Why is it dangerous to think we have arrived [cf. 1Cor10:12]? What might tempt us to think so [cf. 1Cor8:1; Lk22:24—28; 2Cor12:3-7]? What should we do about such temptations? [cp Phil 2:5-8; James 4:7-10]

Pray for our mission & for individuals to come to know Christ.

Pray that each Christian catches the vision for what God wants them to do.