



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXIII August 13, 2017 No. 30

Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to consider some behind the scenes facts regarding the division of the land of Canaan that we are studying in the book of Joshua. In Chapter 13 some interesting

information is revealed--there was still much land to conquer but God instructed Joshua to be sure to divide up the land (God is faithful--they will have the land). Joshua was instructed to divide up the unconquered land between the nine tribes and the western half of Manasseh's portion as well.

After reading of the division of the land east of the Jordan, chapter 14 sets out to provide details regarding the division of the land of Canaan (west of the Jordan). Let me provide some information that is not always thought of regarding this process but that you might find helpful. First, the text reveals that Eleazar (high priest) along with Joshua and the heads of the fathers of the tribe of Israel came together for the allotment of the land. We are reminded that the sons of Joseph became two tribes--Manasseh and Ephraim (compare Gen. 48:5 and Gen. 35:22--because of Reuben's incest with Bilhah Joseph was awarded the double portion which usually went to the first born son).

We also read some information important regarding Caleb. He had years earlier been allotted land because he followed YHWH completely. This took place as YHWH was speaking to Moses about Joshua and Caleb (who at the time was 40 yrs. old) while they were at Kadesh-Barnea. Information is provided that Caleb was a Kenizite (therefore a descendant of Edom but we also know that his family was assimilated into the tribe of Judah) and his father Jephunneh, married a daughter of Hur from the clan of Chelubai (1 Chron. 2:9, 18-19). We also learn from 14:10, where 45 years is mentioned, that Caleb's reminder of his claim to the land based on YHWH's promise took place about 7 years into Joshua's military campaigns (12 spies returned in the autumn of the second year after the exodus (Num. 13:25) and 38 yrs. have past until the Israelites reached the Jordan (Num. 20:1).

jfb

7 Beatitudes in Revelation

The Beatitudes are not limited to those found when Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount. Both the Old Testament as well as the New Testament have beatitudes scattered upon their pages.

In the book of Revelation we find seven beatitudes. Seven is one of a number of highly symbolic numbers found in the book of Revelation. Many feel that seven signifies completeness. At any rate I mentioned I would list the passages in Revelation where the seven beatitudes are found that you might examine them further (also note that while we are in search of a new associate, we will use this space that normally contains the associate's writings to highlight something from our 8-week study of the book of Revelation).

Below are the seven passages in Revelation that contain beatitudes:

Revelation 1:3

Revelation 14:13

Revelation 16:15

Revelation 19:9

Revelation 20:6

Revelation 22:7

Revelation 22:14

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — *Despised and Rejected*
*Isaiah 53:1-3***

**P.M. — *The Bible*
*2 Timothy 3:17-17***

Life Decisions

The story is told of the vagrant who knocked at the farmer's door and politely inquired about employment as a handyman. The farmer cautiously put the man to work on a trial basis to measure his skill. His first task was to split logs for firewood, which the stranger finished in record time. The next task was to plow the fields, which was done in just a few hours. The farmer was pleasantly astonished; it seemed he had stumbled on a modern-day Hercules. The third task was less laborious. Taking the hired man to the barn, the farmer pointed to a large pile of potatoes and instructed him to sort them into two piles: those that were of prime quality were to be put in one receptacle and those of inferior grade in another. The farmer was curious when his super hero-working laborer failed to report in as rapidly as he had with the other tasks. After several hours the farmer went to the barn to investigate. No perceptible change was evident in the pile of potatoes. One receptacle contained three potatoes and the other had only two. "What's wrong?" demanded the farmer. "Why are you moving so slowly?" A look of defeat was written on the hired man's face as he threw up his hands and replied, "It's the decisions in life that are difficult.

How true it is—sometimes decisions paralyze us! If we are told exactly what to do and how to do it, as long as we are not lazy, we seem to have no problem accomplishing the task. But let us have to make the decision on what is to be done and when and we stop in our tracks.

Many systems have been invented to try to get people mobilized into action. I used to carry a Franklin planner. When I used this planner as it was intended I would rank my priorities or task lists and mark them off as each one was completed. I've known others who simply propose that we waste too much time thinking about what we have to do. As this life coach states, we need to just do it! When we don't feel like doing something, do it anyway! In other words, get into action.

I guess there are countless other strategies that I could consider regarding how to avoid being paralyzed when we have decisions to make. But one thought comes to mind that ought to help us with realizing that we can have a proper approach to life decisions. Oh, I guess it may not necessarily address how to avoid being paralyzed—there are other biblical passages that might help with such an idea ("whatever your hands find to do...do it with all your might unto the Lord" or Proverbs which instructs us to "consider the ant"). No I guess what I want to suggest at the end of this article is more having to do with having confidence that what we plan to accomplish is right; when we know it is right, then perhaps then greater motivation will be provided to accomplish those tasks and not be paralyzed by fear.

So here is a piece of advice. It does not really come from me but more so from Scripture. When we are faced with life decisions if we will look to God's instruction for His creation, we will know we are doing what is right—we are proceeding in a way that is pleasing to God. That confidence just may then allow us to avoid the paralyzing fear that many face each day. Just a thought...you think about it too!

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*