

# Joshua 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

## Analysis

---

Divine promise recalled: 'And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.' Moses's oath guaranteed Caleb's inheritance—specifically the land he'd personally scouted (Hebron area). The phrase 'whereon thy feet have trodden' uses symbolic language of possession—walking the land signified claiming it. The promise extends to perpetuity ('thy children's for ever'), creating lasting legacy for faithfulness. The rationale: 'thou hast wholly followed the LORD' (male acharei YHWH, מָלֵא אַחֲרַי יְהוָה, —fully followed after the LORD). This phrase appears multiple times regarding Caleb (Numbers 14:24, 32:11-12; Deuteronomy 1:36; Joshua 14:8-9, 14), emphasizing complete, undivided loyalty. Half-hearted service doesn't merit kingdom inheritance; wholehearted devotion does. Caleb models the 'good and faithful servant' (Matthew 25:21) who receives reward.

## Historical Context

---

The specific territory Caleb scouted included Hebron (verse 13), ancient city associated with Abraham (Genesis 13:18, 23:2). Hebron's significance made it valuable inheritance—historically important, strategically located in Judah's highlands, and home to Anakim giants that terrified the ten spies but didn't

intimidate Caleb. Moses's oath, sworn in God's name, was legally and religiously binding. Ancient Near Eastern culture took oaths with utmost seriousness—violating them brought divine curse. The promise's fulfillment forty-five years later demonstrates covenant faithfulness spanning generations. Caleb's descendants indeed possessed Hebron (15:13-14; Judges 1:20). The city later became one of Judah's principal cities and briefly served as David's capital (2 Samuel 2:1-4, 5:5). The promise's fulfillment across generations teaches that faithful service creates legacy—your obedience blesses not just you but your children and children's children. Conversely, unfaithfulness curses descendants.

## Related Passages

---

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. What does 'wholly following the LORD' look like practically in your life and generation?
2. How does your faithfulness (or unfaithfulness) create legacy blessing (or cursing) for your descendants?
3. What territory (ministry, calling, opportunity) has God shown you that requires faithful claiming across time?

3