

POSSESSING THE LAND

Num 13:25-33, Num 14

- When the 12 spies returned with their scouting report, 10 of them said that although the land was good and the fruit of it was bountiful, the cities were fortified and the inhabitants were giants.
- The people became fearful, cried out and said they wanted to return to Egypt.
- The end result was God heard the peoples' cries and determined that, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, the older generation would not enter the land, rather they'd all perish in the wilderness.

- I believe we are living at a time reminiscent of that which Israel faced when they first approached the promised land.

- There are many bones that lie in the wilderness testifying of those who have come here before us and failed to enter in and possess the land.
- Despite the shortcomings of the past, today is a new day and the abundance of God's grace, wisdom and power awaits us at the threshold of this new beginning.

Deut 8:2 Remember every road that GOD led you on for those forty years in the wilderness, pushing you to your limits, testing you so that he would know what you were made of [to know what was in your [mind and] heart], whether you would keep his commandments or not.

Isa. 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

- In our with the Lord we've no doubt wondered why the Lord has led the way He has.
- The Lord has led us the way He has to humble us, to test [prove] us, to know what is in our hearts. He has led us this way and brought us to this place to confirm our commitment and obedience to His Word, His will and His way.

- To come out of Egypt [Babylon] is the first step of our journey in God, to have Egypt [Babylon] come out of us is the purpose of God's processing and all of that is so that He/we can possess the land.
- Coming together is easy, staying together somewhat more difficult, working together impossible.

Possessed By Possessing

Josh 1:1-3 AFTER THE death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' minister, Moses My servant is dead. So now arise [take his place], go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, the Israelites. Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread, that have I given to you, as I promised Moses.

- Moses delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt.
- Moses was permitted to see the land, but it was a new generation that was to possess the land of inheritance.
- Before we can and will possess the land and exercise dominion in the earth, we must first believe that it has always been God's intention for man to reign and have dominion over all the earth. Then we must be absolutely convinced this is the will of God concerning you/me/us.

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion OVER the fish of the sea, and OVER the fowl of the air, and OVER the cattle, and OVER ALL the earth, and OVER every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

- The repetitious use of the word "over" shows clearly that God made man to be ABOVE [over] and not beneath. Man was created to live above all circumstances, situations, issues, problems...over anything and everything in the earth.

- When Adam disobeyed the mandate of God, he lost his right to reign in the earth. He was therefore driven from the garden where there was an abundance of provision into a wilderness where he would eke out his living by the sweat of his brow. However, Jesus came into the wilderness that man was in, conquered his enemy, bore his sins and thus reaffirmed the right and reestablished the mandate for His people to rule and reign once more!

Deut.15:6 *When the Lord your God blesses you as He promised you, then you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you.*

Psa. 8:4-6 *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and thou hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to HAVE DOMINION over the works of thy hands; thou hast put ALL THINGS under his feet.*

Prov. 8:15 *By Me kings REIGN, and princes decree justice. By Me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.*

Prov. 12:24 *The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor.*

2 Tim. 2:12 *If we suffer, we shall also REIGN with Him.*

Rom. 5:17 *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall REIGN IN LIFE by one, Jesus Christ.*

Rev 5:9-10 *And [now] they sing a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the scroll and to break the seals that are on it, for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your blood You purchased men unto God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And You have made them a kingdom (royal race) and priests to our God, and they shall reign [as kings] over the earth!*

- The word "reign" is the Greek word "basileuo" which means: to be king, to exercise kingly power.
- It is important for us to understand that through His death Jesus purchased us and made us KINGS and priests unto our God to REIGN ON THE EARTH!

- If this is true and it is, then why do we not see man ruling? Why is there so much lack, poverty sickness and disease, so many problems and so much turmoil firstly within God's people and the nations and the world?

• I believe it is because ignorance has robbed God's people from understanding that it is their God given right to rule and because of that passivity has set in making it easier and more attractive to switch [worldliness] than to *fight the good fight of faith, 1 Tim 6:12.*

- We must not be ignorant nor passive regarding our mandate and right to rule. We must exercise our responsibility to hear and obey God's Word, submit to His will and walk in His ways.

Seeing Beyond The Scenes/Seens

Josh 1:1-3 *AFTER THE death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' minister, Moses My servant is dead. So now arise [take his place], go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, the Israelites. Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread, that have I given to you, as I promised Moses.*

Matt 6:9-10 *Therefore pray in this way: Our Father, who is in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth [natural realm] as it is in Heaven [spiritual realm].*

Rom 4:17 *As it is written, I have made you the father of many nations. [He was appointed our father] in the sight of God in Whom he believed, Who gives life to the dead and speaks of the nonexistent things [in the earth] that [He has foretold and promised] as if they [already] existed [in the heavenlies].*

2 Cor 4:18 *Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting.*

Eph 1:18 *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

- Joshua had to understand and embrace the land of promise in the Spirit before he could conquer it in the natural.
- The will of God is already being done in heaven. We must ascend and embrace the reality of God's promises in the Spirit realm before they will be manifested in our earth and the earth.
- The issue wasn't whether or not the land belonged to Joshua, rather did Joshua see, with the eyes of his understanding, the reality of the land belonging to him,.
- We must refuse to believe our eyes and the illusions of the world. We must learn to live above SEE level so that the eyes of our understanding will know the hope of his calling and the reality of the kingdom in invisible form [heavenlies] is manifested in the visible realm earth. This is why *the just shall live by faith and not by sight* **Hab 2:4**.
- If faith does not become our sight we will believe and be deceived by the way things appear in the natural, visible realm.
- If we believe the Word of the Lord we will go forth conquering and to conquer, overlooking and overcoming the obstacles that stand before us.

The Word Of The King/s

Ecc 8:4 *For the word of a king is authority and power, and who can say to him, What are you doing?*

Psa 119:89 *Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven [stands firm as the heavens].*

Matt 8:22-27 *But Jesus said to him, Follow Me, and leave the dead [in sin] to bury their own dead.*

And after He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly, behold, there arose a violent storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered up by the waves; but He was sleeping. And they went and awakened Him, saying, Lord, rescue and preserve us! We are perishing!

And He said to them, Why are you timid and afraid, O you of little faith? Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great and wonderful calm (a perfect peaceableness).

And the men were stunned with bewildered wonder and marveled, saying, What kind of Man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!

- The disciples followed Jesus into a boat and set out to sea. A storm came up and the boat was on the verge of sinking. The disciples were afraid for their lives but what about Jesus? Jesus was sleeping. Jesus [the PRESENCE of the king] was in the boat but it was still sinking.
- It wasn't until the disciples woke Jesus up and He spoke to [rebuked] the winds and waves that the storm calmed and the boat stopped sinking.
- Its possible to have the Lord's presence and still be sinking.
- It's not the PRESENCE of the king that rules, but it's His WORD that rules. Where THE WORD of a king is, there is power. God's rule & authority in the kingdom is expressed through words.
- If we are to reign in life, we learn to walk and talk as kings. We must take the "King's Word" and first apply it to every facet of our lives, and by so doing the Word will become flesh [incarnated] in us and we'll become and speak the "King's Word".

Psa 115:16 *The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth has He given to the children of men.*

- The heavens belong to the Lord and because God's Word is settled there God rules the heavens.
- The earth has been given to the children of men and we must settle His Word in the earth.

Deut 6:10-12 *And when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you, with great and goodly cities which you did not build, And houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and cisterns hewn out which you did not hew, and vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and when you eat and are full, Then beware lest you forget the Lord, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

- We are not waiting for God to give us the land. Quite the contrary! God is waiting for a people who will go in and take possession of what He's already given them, what is already theirs.
- The wilderness was/is a fight for survival and although the land is given to us we must fight to possess it.
- To possess the land we must overcome all the obstacles that stand in the way and prevent us from entering and possessing the land.

The Law Of The Land & Land of The Law

Josh 1 7-8 *Only you be strong and very courageous, that you may do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.*

Ezek 36:26-28 *A new heart will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall heed My ordinances and do them. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you shall be My people, and I will be your God.*

Matt 5:17 *Do not think that I have come to do away with [destroy, put an end to, set aside, annul, demolish] or undo the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to do away with or undo but to complete and fulfill them.*

- Joshua was not to forsake what was delivered through Moses, rather he was to build upon it.
- Joshua's mindset was vital in his possessing the land and our mindset will be the determining factor as to whether or not we possess the land as well.
- Christ came to fulfill [complete, incarnate, manifest] the law and being that we're in Christ and Christ is in us, it follows that the law should also be fulfilled in and through us. The degree that we fail to do so is the degree that we remain lawless and to that degree we will not possess the land [disciple nations and the world].

Seeing The Ark

Josh 3:2-3 *After three days the officers went through the camp, Commanding the people: When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being borne by the Levitical priests, set out from where you are and follow it.*

- The ark represents the presence of God.
- Until this time the ark was in the tabernacle veiled from the view of the people and only seen by the high priest once a year.
- What was secret and hid was now revealed for all Israel to see.

Jn 1:18; 14:9-10 *No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has*

made Him known]..... Jesus replied, *Have I been with all of you for so long a time, and do you not recognize and know Me yet, Philip? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say then, Show us the Father?*

Eph 4:15 *Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).*

Heb 6:19-20 *[Now] we have this [hope] as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whoever steps out upon it--a hope] that reaches farther and enters into [the very certainty of the Presence] within the veil, Where Jesus has entered in for us [in advance], a Forerunner having become a High Priest forever after the order (with the rank) of Melchizedek.*

- To see Jesus was/is to see the Holy of Holies thrown wide open.
- Christ is our ark, He is our Head and He is our mind. We are to grow up in every way and **all** things into the Head. We will not go from this place until we grow from this place.

Seeing The Ark Results in Being The Ark

2 Thess 1:10 *When He comes to be glorified in His saints [on that day He will be made more glorious in His consecrated people], and [He will] be marveled at and admired [in His glory reflected] in all who have believed [who have adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Him], because our witnessing among you was confidently accepted and believed [and confirmed in your lives].*

Rev 1:1 *[THIS IS] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries].*

- Revelation comes from the word “apokalupto” which means take the cover off, disclose, appear, come, reveal, manifest.
- The revelation of Jesus Christ is simply God removing the cover from the person/s of His Son/s.
- God wants to be seen in and through His people and is transforming a people into His likeness and image. It is these people who are taking that which is invisible and making it visible so that the inhabitants of the earth might clearly see the glory of God.

Get A Move On

- The purpose for the priests bearing the ark was so that Israel would move from where they were and follow it. The camp is not going anywhere until priests are seen bearing the ark.
- If we are going to inherit and inhabit the land we have move from where we are and follow the Lord.
- Anytime someone advances in the kingdom it is not for that individual alone.
- Priests who bear the ark and go before the people simply are preparing the Way for others to follow.

Circumvention And Circumcision

Josh 3:15-16 *And when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were in the brink of the water--for the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest-- Then the waters which came down from above stood and rose up in a heap far off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt [Dead] Sea, were wholly cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho.*

- Notice that it is the time of harvest, fruit bearing.
- It is the presence of the Ark that causes the water to back up, all the way to Adam.

- The Jordan represents death to self, it is an obstacle that must be crossed and conquered [overcome] if we are to inherit the land.

Rev 16:12 *Then the sixth [angel] emptied his bowl on the mighty river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to make ready a road for [the coming of] the kings of the east (from the rising sun).*

- The first time the Euphrates river is mentioned was in **Gen 2:14** as was one of the four rivers that flowed out of Eden to water the garden. The rivers depicted the flowing of God's blessing throughout the earth.
- As the Euphrates river flowed through the scriptural account of history it became associated with Babylon [confusion].
- The east speaks of the dawning of a new day. Here is a picture of a new day people [kings] in whom all confusion has dried up [disappeared] and they are coming forth in kingdom authority and power.

Josh 5:1-12 *The Amorite kings west of the Jordan River and the Canaanite kings along the Mediterranean Sea lost their courage and their will to fight, when they heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan River to let Israel go across.*

- Rahab had told the spies that everyone in Jericho was terrified of Israel.
- When the Amorite and Canaanite kings heard that Israel crossed the Jordan they lost their courage and will to fight.
- Israel must have been ready to battle knowing God was with them and they were facing a deflated foe.

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, Make knives of flint and circumcise the [new generation of] Israelites as before.

So Joshua made knives of flint and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.

And this is the reason Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they came out of Egypt. Though all the people who came out were circumcised, yet all the people who were born in the wilderness on the way after Israel came out of Egypt had not been circumcised. For the Israelites walked forty years in the wilderness till all who were men of war who came out of Egypt perished, because they did not hearken to the voice of the Lord; to them the Lord swore that He would not let them see the land which the Lord swore to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. So it was their uncircumcised children whom He raised up in their stead whom Joshua circumcised, because the rite had not been performed on the way.

When they finished circumcising all the males of the nation, they remained in their places in the camp till they were healed.

- God had one other preparation planned before they could march on Jericho.
- God instructed Joshua to circumcise all the males [the army] in view of Jericho.
- This command doesn't make sense to the natural [carnal] mind because obeying it would leave the whole camp vulnerable to attack because the men would be in a weakened state and in no condition to defend themselves or fight.

Mind Over Matter

Col 2:8-11 *See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah). For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead--Father, Son and Holy*

Spirit--and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power]. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts).

- Circumcision is the removal of the flesh [carnal].
- We can no longer put any confidence in ourselves, our flesh. We must be circumcised and the old man cut off! The old man has come to an end.
- God's Word, God's will and God's ways may not make sense to the carnal mind and that is why we need to be circumcised.
- When our revelation supersedes our calculations, is when the natural will give way to the supernatural.

Rom 8:6-7 *Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever]. [That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot.*

Jas 1:7-8 *For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord, [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].*

- The carnal mind cannot submit to the law of God and to the degree our thinking is carnal to that degree we are of two minds.
- God hates duality because duality is mixture.
- As long as there is duality/mixture we will be *unstable, unreliable* and *uncertain* concerning the things that pertain to the kingdom of God. As long as we are double minded we will inevitably come under the influence of our circumstances and situations. That is why a double minded man cannot receive from the Lord.

Rom 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].*

Rev 14:9-10 *Then another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a mighty voice, Whoever pays homage to the beast and his statue and permits the [beast's] stamp (mark, inscription) to be put on his forehead or on his hand, He too shall [have to] drink of the wine of God's indignation and wrath, poured undiluted into the cup of His anger; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.*

- Whatever is impressed into one's forehead [mind] will ultimately be expressed and released through their hand [actions].
- We will never be completely free from the old man and bound to the new man and neither will we possess the land of our inheritance until we repent of a worldly mindset and are transformed by the complete renewal of our minds.

Rev 20:4 *I saw thrones. Those put in charge of judgment sat on the thrones. I also saw the souls of those beheaded because of their witness to Jesus and the Word of God, who refused to worship either the Beast or his image, refused to take his mark on forehead or hand--they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years!*

- To repent of a worldly mindset and be transformed by the renewal of our minds is to lose our minds or be beheaded.

- This beheading is not a literal severing of one's head, rather it is a depiction of a people who have been detached from the mind of the Adamic man.
- God is preparing a people who have lost their own mind and are *growing up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)* **Eph 4:15**.
- Christ is the Head and we are His Body. It is important to remember that the brain, vision, ears, mouth, etc are located in the Head [Christ] and manifested in and through the Body.

And the Lord said to Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach [shame, disgrace] of Egypt from you. So the name of the place is called Gilgal [rolling] to this day.

- After been freed from slavery in Egypt, Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years. During that time they were looked down upon, ridiculed, mocked, scorned, laughed and scoffed at, etc. by the nations around them.
- Because of Joshua's obedience to this difficult command God supernaturally removed the reproach from the entire nation and they who were looked upon as fools were now looked on with fear.
- It was not the victory of Jericho that caused the reproach to be rolled away; it was the circumcision before Jericho. The circumcision before Jericho was the prerequisite to victory at Jericho.
- Our trust must be in God, not in ourselves. When we have no confidence in the flesh [ourselves] is when we're ready to accept and confess that the battle is the Lord's.

And the Israelites encamped in Gilgal; and they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at evening in the plains of Jericho. And on that same day they ate the produce of the land: unleavened cakes and parched grain.

And the manna ceased on the day after they ate of the produce of the land; and the Israelites had manna no more, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

- It is significant that only after all the males of the camp were circumcised that the manna ceased. Until that time they were dependent on God for "handouts" but now they were mature enough to eat the fruit of the land and take dominion over it.
- As we cross our Jordan [cross/die to self] we enter the promised [Christ] and as we circumcise the flesh [repent and are transformed] we partake of the fruit of the land [fruit of Spirit] and our land is possessed.
- God's plan is to first possess our land [us] and then as He works in and through us extend His rule over the land [nations (*ethnos*) **Matt28:18-20**, - families, neighbourhoods, city, region, country,] and the systems they are comprised of [world (*kosmos*) **Mark 16:15** – political, economics, justice, education, science & technology, communications & media, arts & entertainment].
- Am I, are you/we possessed and do we envision ourselves as possessors?