

SUBJECT: Taking Back The Promised Land.

READING: Deuteronomy 7:1 - *When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Gergashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;*

Introduction:

The land that God promised the Israelites was possessed by seven nations *greater and mightier than...*; Israel.

Although there is not an immediate connection other than speculation that Ham engaged in homosexual behavior with his father while Noah was apparently passed out. It should be of no surprise that the nations God instructed Israel to destroy were all the descendants of Ham.

God describes those He would drive out before the advancing Israelites; Deu 18:9-12 *When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. (10) There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, (11) Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. (12) For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*

Canaanite worship was socially destructive. Its religious acts were pornographic and sick, seriously damaging to children, creating early impressions of deities with no interest in moral behavior. **It had a low estimate of human life.** It suggested that anything was permissible; promiscuity, murder or anything else, in order to guarantee a good crop at harvest. **It ignored the highest values both in the family and in the wider community of love,**

loyalty, purity, peace and security and encouraged the view that all these things were inferior to material prosperity, physical satisfaction and human pleasure. A society where those things matter most is self-destructive! As I researched this message I asked when did our decline begin? My discovery was interesting but not too surprising.

In an article entitled ***Who's Responsible for America's Moral Decline?*** Susan Stamper Brown writes; *Our moral decline started when Americans began to depend on the Federal Government instead of God! A recent Gallup poll, "Moral Acceptability: Changes Over Time," shows Americans made a startling move to the left over the past 15 years.*

Blaming the church was and is the easy answer, but today, where black and white has faded into varying shades of gray, we are better served going back to where it began because we didn't get where we are today overnight.

America's moral decline began with Presidents Woodrow Wilson and President Franklin D. Roosevelt [FDR] and their arrogant defiance and blatant hostility toward the U.S. Constitution which inspired them to lead an insurrection from the Oval Office, effectively convincing good people that government dependence is a morally acceptable alternative to dependence on God, family, community and self.

To make this work; progressives understood the "God-factor" must be removed so religion loses cultural and social significance.

*In 1947, the Supreme Court, largely packed with FDR appointees, decided the First Amendment instituted a "wall of separation" between church and state in *Everson v. Board of Education*.*

Today, more often than not, Jesus' command for Christians to be "light" in a dark world is translated "let's keep it subdued, so no one needs to squint." In fashion photography, soft light works because it helps to conceal the unvarnished reality.

What have the progressives in America been able accomplish by separating morality and ethics from government and daily life? The answer to this question is illustrated “*In an article entitled 100 Facts About The Moral Collapse Of America That Are Almost Too Crazy To Believe*” the writer says; *The facts and statistics in this article are highly controversial. A lot of people are going to be greatly upset by them. Why? Because they don’t like to be confronted with the truth about America. Most people tend to believe that we can “fix this country” by getting the right politicians into power or by implementing certain economic or social reforms. But the reality of the matter is that our problems go far deeper than that. A moral collapse is eating away at the foundations of our society like cancer. If it continues to go unchecked, it will inevitably destroy America.*

I ask you beloved is there any hope for us? The fear is that we have reached a tipping point of no return! If we have, it is all over but the weeping! But the real answer depends on whether or not there are leaders and everyday people like you and me who are willing to emulate Joshua!

When God was ready for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land He had Moses gather the nation together and ordered that 12 spies one from each tribe be sent to verify what God already knew!

After 40 days their report was given and the land was all that God said it would be. **But as is often the case there were those who even in the face of the evidence they had before them said a single word that can kill any vision given by God; *Nevertheless!* 10 of the 12 spies gave this fearful report:**

Num 13:28-29 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. (29) The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the

mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

As the narrative goes on the fear prevails; Num 14:1-3 **And all** (well not all Joshua and Caleb had no part in this and neither did Moses but all) **the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. (2) And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! (3) And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? The people were not willing to fight for the values God had given them!**

One must remember the words of Jesus when the naysayers come out of hiding; Mat 7:13-14 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, **and few there be that find it.***

Thank God for the few, Num 13:30 records the words that two Godly man spoke out one was Joshua and the other Caleb; *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

God's response keeps them in the wilderness; Num 32:11-13 *Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; **because they have not wholly followed me:** (12) Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: **for they have wholly followed the LORD.** (13) And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, **until all the***

generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.

In the past several decades we have had those who are trying to destroy the influence of the Godly so they can continue to practice the lifestyles of **the Hittites, and the Gergashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites!**

As the story continues an entire generation dies in the wilderness with the exception of two! Joshua and Caleb! **The taking of back the promised land begins with Joshua a model of;**

I. Godly Leadership; Jos 1:2-8

- a. *By way of application we are not to restrict these qualities only to leaders of nations, **but these qualities are important for leaders in business, in government at every level, in our homes, and in our churches.***
- b. Moses too dies in the wilderness and the Lord turns to Joshua to lead the nation into the promised land and gives him these promises and instructions;

Jos 1:2-8 *Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. (3) Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. (4) From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. (5) There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (6) Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.*

(7) Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. (8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:

c. The Promise of victory is revealed in these instructions;

i. God reaffirms His promise of a great land which He called ***a land that floweth with milk and honey*** 12 times beginning with this promise in Lev 20:24 ***But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people.***

ii. God promises them an assured victory; (5a) *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life:*

iii. God also promised Joshua His support; (5b) *as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

iv. **Keep this in your mind;** God promised a bountiful land; and assured victory; and His support for those who followed Him. If we will lead God's promises and power will be with US!

d. God requires strength and courage from His leaders;

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. (7) Only be thou strong and very courageous,

- i. Twice in verses 6 and 7 He tells that leaders need to exercise **personal strength and courage!**

- 1. *Be strong;*

- a. The quality of being physically strong is not in view here; physical strength is not a requirement for effective leaders;
- b. Rather this strength is the quality that allows someone to deal with problems in a determined and effective way!

- 2. *Be of a good courage:* the mental and/or **moral strength** to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, and difficulty.

- a. **The opponents to God's way like those Joshua would face were; *seven nations greater and mightier than thou;***

[Deu 7:1](#)

- b. But they are not mightier than God!

1Co 1:22-26 *For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: (23) But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; (24) But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. (25) Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (26) For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

- ii. God's leaders need to "...*strong and very courageous*, in their personal commitment to the spiritual instructions from God's word;

"that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. (8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

1. God's leaders must be committed to every truth God has revealed!
Observe to do according to all the law
 - a. As leaders and as Godly men and women we do not get to choose which truths we believe or apply!
 - b. Be they World leaders or just the head of a home God holds them accountable *to all the law*.

2. God's leaders must search out how God's word touches and guides his or her entire life! **Godliness is a life style not an add-on!** *But thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:*

- a. Yes, it is true that the bible is the basis of our faith!
- b. But it is also the source of guidance concerning leadership and integrity in every area of life.
 - i. Personally with the myriad of decisions we must make daily.
 - ii. Family wise concerning setting a good example and instructing every member concerning right and wrong.
 - iii. Ministry wise as to what God has equipped to do on behalf of His kingdom; and
 - iv. Professionally, no Godly professional can conduct himself

properly in the work
place without God's
leadership and
direction!

- e. It is clear from the last phrase of Verse 8 that prosperity and success are things that God will provide for those who adopt the qualities of this Godly leader! *for THEN thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*
 - i. Verse 9 makes it clear that these qualities are not just good ideas or helpful suggestions!

Jos 1:9 *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

- ii. When we are willing to stand for the truth and walk with faith before God there will be opposition; there will be times when we think things have not worked out the way we thought they should!
- iii. In those times we must be strong and courageous to fight through the fear and resist discouragement!
- iv. This we can do because *for the LORD thy God was with Joshua and He will be with us when we fight to take back our promised land!*

Conclusion;

Our country is in a mess! Our lives may not be what we want them to be! Our church is being hit hard in the physical realm!

Yet there is great hope for everyone in this room if we will realize that the promises God made to Joshua as he faced a great battle to “Take Back The Promised Land” from those who put their trust in their governments instead of God and sought satisfaction from possessions and pleasure instead of the highest values both in the family and in the wider community of love, loyalty, purity, peace and security from God!

Those values that made America great can make her great again;
Trust in God, obedience to His word, and personal responsibility will still; *make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Invitation:

It begins with you and me beloved exercising our faith in God. We cannot sit back hoping others will step up! We must all do our part in our homes, in our church, and in even in the voting booth! **We are few but we are mighty with God!**

For those here who have yet to receive Christ, your path to becoming a Godly leader in every are of life goes through the cross.

- Choose today to receive Christ through repentance and faith!
- God has given you the faith you need to confess your sin and trust Christ who died that you might live!