

(Into an Harlots House)

Joshua 1:10 – 2:8

~ Our Spiritual Safari is preparing to cross over the Jordan River at the commandment of God with the children of Israel in this report but, before we do, we're going to send two spies ahead of us to bring a report concerning the best way to enter the land. It seems as if our safari study has been preparing to cross over Jordan for forty years and, obviously, Israel has been in the spying business since before day one as a nation. They are certainly masters at it on the political front today. Sending spies into the land previously was a mistake; because they were trying to determine if they could take the land. This time is not a mistake because they are conducting a mission only to see the best way to physically enter. There is no more if. They are determined to go in now.

The nation Israel was born in the book of Genesis. In Exodus, the nation was chosen; in Numbers, the children of Israel were proven; in Leviticus they were brought nigh to God by the blood - and in Deuteronomy they were instructed on handling the law in love and obedience. In this book of Joshua, there is conflict and conquest for Israel. Joshua lays hold of beautiful, Heavenly spiritual verities that are ours today, too; and this is the Old Testament equivalent of the epistle to the Ephesians. As Christians, making application of this today, we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the Heavens, with patterns and methods of truth being revealed; and we are blessed in our state of being concerning all things found therein.

In verse three, the children of Israel were going to be required to walk up and down and lay hold of whatever region of land they desired to possess. The land was given to Israel as an eternal possession; however, to occupy the land, enjoy it and reap the fruits in it, they would be required to walk up and down upon it. That meant taking it from the enemy. Israel was also to sow and reap from the soil – which they did. More accurately, God did all

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of these things for them. We are to walk worthy of the high calling wherewith we are called, beloved.

If you and I are to possess our spiritual possessions, we will have to walk according to the manner God outlined for us in His Word; walking with lowliness and meekness and longsuffering and endeavoring to keep unity in the Holy Spirit. We all need to recognize that the only fulfilling and meaningful aspect of our lives consist of that which the Holy Spirit does with us and through us. There's really nothing else we do down here in this world that is of any importance. We should be able to make the statement as David did, "... not unto us, oh, Lord, not unto us! But unto Thy Name give glory!" When Christ gets the victory, we receive spiritual possessions; and spiritual blessing can only be realized in our lives when the victory is in Christ. He in us and us in Him. Without Him, we can do nothing.

Paul said, "... not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy did He save us; by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit which God hath shed abundantly upon us through the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior!" Paul also, said, "... by grace are ye saved through faith; and even that is not of ourselves, but it is the gift of God and not of our works lest any man should boast." Some people believe Paul was the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews, where he also said, "... by faith Abraham, when he was called to go out unto a certain place, which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed and went out not knowing wither he went." If Abraham had stayed down in Ur, he could have told everyone there how much he believed and trusted God, but it would have been in vain. God would have found someone else to do the job.

Our words are idle and meaningless until we reveal our faith by our actions as far as this world is concerned. Well, as we know, Abraham obeyed God and moved on out of Ur. That is what it means to trust God, my beloved. We are to cast ourselves upon Him. So, Joshua believes God as God tells him to get moving. Joshua's authority is to be, exclusively, the Word of

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God; as we have already seen. We are to meditate in the Word, and it is not to depart from out of our mouths; but most importantly, we are to DO as it is written. Friends, successfully compiling this formula in our lives only comes from a proper, correct and complete knowledge of the Word of God. For all you Methodists out there – this is the One and Only Method we are ever given in Scripture – I suggest you finally learn it....

I

10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

~ Just as God told Moses, “I will be with you, and I will be thy mouth to teach thee what thou shalt say,” God also tells Joshua to take command. There is no presumption in this; but, rather, confidence and trust in the written Word of God which brings us rest. That’s God’s method - and God has no other method for you to love Him except to hear, trust and obey Him. Jeremiah called upon God in a difficult and dark day; and the Lord spoke to Jeremiah saying, “.... they will fight against thee, but they will not prevail for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee.” The Psalmist said, “.... the Lord is my Helper.” God is our confidence and courage against man; and God has promised Joshua He would never fail him nor forsake Israel. So, with that said, we can be confident there are exceeding great and precious riches available to us today. That’s how we can say, as the writer to the Hebrews said, “.... I may boldly say the Lord is my helper; I will not fear what man can do unto me.” We really, really need this kind of conviction and courage in our lives.

David turned his head and heart away from that which was seen and recognized that which was unseen. David became occupied with the Living and True God. We need to recognize the bond that exists between us and

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the Lord God. We just happen to be wrapped up in this bundle of life with Him. You will not be able to say the Lord is your Helper and Deliverer until that recognition is made. POSSESSION is the great theme of Joshua, it's the keyword and the single most important word of this book. The ownership of the land by the nation Israel was unconditional; but possession of the land by the children of Israel had conditions attached. Some have claimed the keyword here would be "victory" – and everyone loves to banter it around – but that's just not it, friends. God gets the victory – not us. As a result, Israel receives deliverance and obtains possession of the Promised Land. You might need to just write that down to be sure. At least read this paragraph again.

Interestingly, after they enter the land, the manna ceased, and they had to depend on the old corn for sustenance. So, in between the time that the manna ceased, and the time in which they captured the old corn, they lived off the land, so to speak. Well, while they are "living on the land" God tells them to prepare food for three days. We know that could not have been manna because manna only lasted one day. They had to gather it every single morning. In Ephesians we are told to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Most people seem to mistakenly believe that the filling of the Spirit is a one-time thing; but I believe it is like filling your car up with gas. It runs low and we refill it. There are many today who think a single experience they had fifteen years ago is all they need in their life. I say, don't be deceived; if you're going to live for God, then you'll require a daily filling of the Holy Spirit. In fact, you may need several different fillings throughout any particular day; depending on how close you are to Him. Most of you eat physical food three times a day but you only eat spiritual food once a week – if that. It never hurts to wake up and have a midnight spiritual snack – although it can be very fattening to your soul. We need to be constantly looking to God and resting in Him – always....

12 And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying,

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13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

~ Remember, these three tribes in verse twelve had previously gone to Moses and requested land on the east side of the Jordan River. As a result, they didn't cross over. What they did was ask for land on the wrong side of the Jordan; and they took possession on the wrong side of Jordan. As far as the Biblical record is concerned, they were out of the will of God from that day forward. So many believers are just like that today, too. When we finally get to the crossing of the Jordan River with Joshua, we're going to see an outstanding spiritual truth. Crossing is not representative of our crossing over from life into death and Heaven – that's just not the application. Most of our present-day songs that speak of the Jordan River are utterly ridiculous. In many places, it's just a muddy little stream. Some people say they want to be baptized there – but I'll pass on that – for sure. That may seem irreverent, but there's nothing attractive to me about that river.

The crossing of the Jordan River speaks spiritually of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; and, specifically, of us entering His death and resurrection with Him. Likewise, you and I possess our spiritual possessions through His death, burial and resurrection. If ye then be risen with Christ then seek those things which are above, where Christ is, at the right hand of God the Father, said Paul to the Colossians. It's all about Him, friends. Christ is what the believer is to put first. Well, these two and a half tribes didn't cross over; and there are many Christians that have NO IDEA they have been buried with Christ and resurrected with Him. They refuse to yield and recognize Him - and then they wonder why their Christian lives are failures. Well, it's not a mystery – God is telling you right now what's wrong with YOU!

Putting on the whole armor of God means laying hold of Christ Jesus and His work of redemption for us. You won't win any fights any other way,

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either. That is the message in Ephesians. In the Book of Judges, we'll see how these tribes made a big mistake staying on the wrong side of the River Jordan. We also know what happened when the Lord Jesus crosses the Sea of Galilee and arrives in the country of the Gadarenes – and finds the man living amongst the tombs – where we discover Gad had gone wholesale into the pig business. We have a lot of Christians today who are in the wholesale pig business instead of entering into the redemptive rest Christ has provided for us through His death, burial and resurrection. All of that is wrapped up in the uber spiritual book of Joshua....

14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;

15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

16 And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.

17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

18 Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

II

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1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country.

3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were:

5 And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

6 But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

7 And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

8 And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;

~ So, meet Rahab the prostitute. In the epistle to the Hebrews, she is listed amongst the "heroes of faith." In chapter eleven, we read, "... by faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not when she received the spies in faith." Personally, I don't call the eleventh chapter of Hebrews the "heroes of faith" – because the emphasis gets placed on man and humanity when we call it that. The proper emphasis is on faith alone; and this is what faith did throughout the ages and throughout the myriad

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circumstances in the lives of men and women, seeing we are compassed about with so great a company of witnesses, this is also what faith can do for us.

If God would save Rahab from Jericho, then God would have saved ANY person in the city if they had only turned to him. Most citizens of Jericho were much worse off than the town harlot, that's for sure. God saved Rahab by faith, as we know; and Rahab just happens to be in the genealogy of Christ. The New Testament opens with that genealogy; and Rahab isn't even five verses down. That makes her very prominent in Scripture. Interestingly, in faith she told the king a monster lie, too. She jeopardized her life with a cover up for the enemy. You might want to turn that over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with. Rahab didn't have to do this; and she was certainly conducting a business where anything goes, you know. Any and all conduct was acceptable to her and those around her. Well, there's a very good reason Rahab lied; and we're going to consider her reason completely in our next report ~

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