

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Two : Possessing the Land of Canaan by Defeating the Satanic Forces

I. Overview:

The book of Joshua is a book with profound types; the intrinsic significance of it is the taking of the land. In order to understand the significance of the Israelites entering Canaan and the warfare in Canaan, we need to know that Canaan has a twofold significance in typology. On the positive side, Canaan, a land of riches, typifies the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches; on the negative side, Canaan signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan, the heavenlies that are full of Satan's forces. Without the book of Joshua we cannot fully understand the spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10-20. If we would possess the good land, we must engage in spiritual warfare. If we would take possession of Christ for our enjoyment, we must be a corporate warrior, fighting against and defeating the satanic forces. In order to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to see the vision that unveils Christ as the Captain of Jehovah's army. Therefore, like warfare in Jericho, God's people did not need to do anything to destroy it, rather needed to believe and trust in God, listening to the instruction to exalt Christ by bearing the Ark. A unique principle is that spiritual victory does not depend on warfare, but depends on praise.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the promised land in the book of Joshua related to Christ.

The first of the types in the book of Joshua related to Christ is Israel's promised land. This typifies the believers' practical experience of the riches of the blessings in Christ as revealed in the book of Ephesians. Israel's entering into the good land typifies the believers' experience of taking over the heavenlies, where Satan and his power of darkness are. This is all related to possessing the good land.

B. Explain the relationship between the Joshua and Ephesians, Hebrews.

Canaan is a type of our heavenly position. It is the equivalent of the heavenlies spoken of in Ephesians. From another way, Joshua must be read not only with Ephesians but with Hebrews as well. The entrance into Canaan in the book of Joshua typifies two things; spiritual warfare in Ephesians and rest in Hebrews. The rest here clearly refers to the kingdom.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that the good land is a type of the all-inclusive Christ.

The good land, the land of Canaan, is a type of the all-inclusive Christ, the Christ who is all and in all and who is everything to us. The passover, the manna, the tabernacle with its furniture, and all the offerings are types depicting various aspects of Christ. However, no type other than the good land shows that Christ is the all-inclusive One.

B. Expound that in the Bible the land is a figure, a symbol, of Christ.

In the Bible the land is a figure, a symbol, of Christ. The land that came out of the death water on the third day is a type of the resurrected Christ who came out of death on the third day. Many different kinds of life, including vegetable, animal, and human life, then came out of the land. This signifies that Christ is the source of all kinds of life. Christ as the good land is depicted by the land of Canaan.

Day 3 —

A. Compare Chapter 1 of Joshua and chapter 1 of Ephesians.

Joshua 1 shows us that everything being ready, we have to go on with God as one to take the land of Canaan, which typifies the rich, all-inclusive Christ. According to Ephesians 1, we have been chosen by God to partake of His holy nature and predestinated by God to become His sons. As we take Christ and enjoy Him as our inheritance, we become God's inheritance. In addition, we have the sealing and the pledging of the Spirit.

B. Explain what relationship between Ephesians 2 and Joshua 2.

Ephesians 2 indicates that a lower layer of the heavenlies as the air, where Satan as the ruler of the authority of the air is frustrating the people on earth from contacting God and from receiving Christ. Ephesians 2 also tells us that we were once dead persons, but then God made us, the chosen Rahabs, the enjoyers of Christ.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the two aspects of the land of Canaan.

On the one hand, Canaan is a land of riches, as revealed in Deuteronomy 8. On the other hand, Canaan was a land full of evil persons and enemies, all of whom were to be eradicated by the children of Israel. This feature, or aspect, of Canaan signifies the most evil part of Satan's dark kingdom. Whether or not we can enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive land depends on whether or not we defeat the enemies typified by the Canaanites.

B. Expound in Daniel 10:4-9 regarding the spiritual struggle behind everything.

The evil prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood the sent angelic messenger for twenty-one days. Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help the sent angelic messenger, and the sent messenger remained there with the kings of Persia. This means that while Daniel was praying for all those days, a spiritual struggle was taking place in the air between two spirits, one belonging to Satan and the other belonging to God.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the words in Joshua 5:13-15.

This vision in Joshua 5:13-15 was an unveiling to Joshua of Christ as the Captain of Jehovah's army. Whereas Joshua was the visible captain of Jehovah's army, Christ was the invisible Captain. Christ was such a captain to fight against the seven tribes of Canaan for Israel. Because of this, Joshua needed to stand on the position of sanctification all the time.

B. How could Joshua receive this vision?

The Lord Christ as the Prince, the glorious Captain, of Jehovah's army will take the lead in the army, will go before us, and will fight the battle for us. We need such a vision. How could Joshua receive this vision? It was simply because he was exceedingly burdened for the battle before him. Then he went to the Lord in prayer and received such a vision.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what the vital factors in Israel's victory over Jericho are.

The victory over Jericho in Israel's first battle after crossing the Jordan was won not by Israel's fighting but by their blowing of the trumpets and shouting, by their testifying and proclaiming of God with His Ark, through their faith in God's word of instruction. These were the vital factors that enabled them to win the victory.

B. Expound the meaning of their going with rams' horns.

We go to a battle with rams' horns. Rams' horns are a symbol of fighting a warfare with peaceful weapons. They cannot kill; they are utterly peaceful. But they are weapons for battle. They are trumpets to be blown, declaring and proclaiming the gospel of peace. This is the weapon we must use to fight the spiritual warfare. We fight by proclaiming Christ.

III. Conclusion:

From the title of the message, we can see that if we would possess the good land, we must engage in spiritual warfare. Without warfare, we cannot take the possession of the good land. This turns over our natural concept of a good land full of all kinds of riches, described in the Bible as a land flowing with milk and honey. But we cannot ignore that the land was occupied by the Canaanites, and what they did was to frustrate God's people from enjoying the produce of the land. In the New Testament book of Ephesians is depicting two aspects of the good land of Canaan; on one aspect we can see what unsearchable riches of Christ in Ephesians 3 : 8 are, and at the same time, Ephesians 2: 2 the rulers of the authority of the air will wrestle against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies (6:12). In order to have spiritual warfare to defeat the enemy, we need to see the factors that overcome the city of Jericho, Just trust in God, exalt Christ, obey the Captain, proclaim God and Christ and learn to overcome Satan through praises.