

Message Two
**Inheriting the All-inclusive Christ as the Good Land
 by Taking Heed to His Words of Advice and Warnings
 and by Receiving His Renewed Training
 to Have Our Inner Man Renewed Day by Day**

EM Hymns: 499, 1345

Scripture Reading: Heb. 3:12, 16-19; 4:2, 6; 11:1; 1 Cor. 10:1-14;

Psa. 106:24-25; Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4

- Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.
- Heb 3:16 For who provoked Him when they heard? Indeed was it not all who came out of Egypt by Moses?
- Heb 3:17 And with whom was He displeased for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?
- Heb 3:18 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter into His rest, except to the disobedient?
- Heb 3:19 And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief.
- Heb 4:2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.
- Heb 4:6 Since therefore it remains that some should enter into it and those who formerly had the good news announced to them did not enter because of disobedience,
- Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- 1 Cor 10:1 For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
- 1 Cor 10:2 And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- 1 Cor 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,
- 1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.
- 1 Cor 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for they were strewn along in the wilderness.
- 1 Cor 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples to us, that we should not be ones who lust after evil things, even as they also lusted.
- 1 Cor 10:7 Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."
- 1 Cor 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed fornication, and there fell in one day twenty-three thousand.
- 1 Cor 10:9 Neither let us test Christ, as some of them tested Him and were destroyed by the serpents.
- 1 Cor 10:10 Neither murmur, just as some of them murmured and perished by the destroyer.
- 1 Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, unto whom the ends of the ages have come.
- 1 Cor 10:12 So then let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
- 1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has taken you except that which is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow that you be tempted beyond what you are able, but will, with the temptation, also make the way out, that you may be able to endure it.
- 1 Cor 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.
- Psa 106:24 Then they despised the pleasant land; / They did not believe in His word;
- Psa 106:25 Rather they murmured in their tents; / They did not listen to the voice of Jehovah.
- Deut 8:3 And He humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you the manna, which you had never known nor your fathers had ever known, so that He might make you know that man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah.
- Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

I. The goal of God's calling of the children of Israel was that they would enter into the promised land to enjoy its riches so that they might establish God's kingdom and be God's expression on earth—Exo. 3:8, 14, 17:

- Exo 3:8 And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to

- the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.
- Exo 3:14 And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you
- Exo 3:17 And I say, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.
- A. Although all Israel was redeemed through the passover, delivered out of the Egyptian tyranny, and brought to the mountain of God to receive the revelation of God’s dwelling place, the tabernacle, nearly all fell and died in the wilderness, failing to reach this goal (Heb. 3:7-19) because of their evildoings and unbelief.
- Heb 3:7 Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice,
 Heb 3:8 Do not harden your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of trial in the wilderness,
 Heb 3:9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me and saw My works for forty years.
 Heb 3:10 Therefore I was displeased with this generation, and I said, They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways;
 Heb 3:11 As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest!"
 Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.
 Heb 3:13 But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called "today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin--
 Heb 3:14 For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end--
 Heb 3:15 While it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation."
 Heb 3:16 For who provoked Him when they heard? Indeed was it not all who came out of Egypt by Moses?
 Heb 3:17 And with whom was He displeased for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?
 Heb 3:18 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter into His rest, except to the disobedient?
 Heb 3:19 And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief.
- B. This signifies that although we have been redeemed through Christ, delivered out of Satan’s bondage, and brought into the revelation of God’s economy, we may yet fail to reach the goal of God’s calling, that is, to enter into the possession of our good land, Christ, and enjoy His riches for the kingdom of God that we may be His expression in the present age and participate in the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the kingdom age—Matt. 25:21, 23.
- Matt 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
 Matt 25:23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- C. Only Caleb and Joshua reached the goal and entered into the good land; like Caleb and Joshua, we New Testament believers need to “pursue toward the goal” (the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ) “for the prize” (the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the millennial kingdom)—Num. 14:27-30; Phil. 3:12-14:
- Num 14:27 How long shall I bear with this evil assembly, which murmurs against Me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they are making against Me.
 Num 14:28 Say to them, As I live, declares Jehovah, just as you have spoken in My ears, so will I do to you.
 Num 14:29 Your corpses shall fall in this wilderness, and none of you who were numbered, according to the number you counted from twenty years old and upward, who have murmured against Me,
 Num 14:30 Shall come into the land, in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.
 Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

1. Ten of the twelve men whom Moses sent to spy out the land brought an evil report that caused the children of Israel to murmur and rebel against the word of the Lord, but Caleb and Joshua said to the whole assembly, "Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land [the Anakim], for they are our bread"—Num. 14:9.

2. The word of God is our bread (Matt. 4:4), doing God's will is our food (John 4:34), and our bread is also the Anakim (Num. 14:9), who represent the seemingly insurmountable obstacles and impossible situations in our pursuit of Christ for the building up of the church.

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.

Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.

3. Every difficulty and temptation Satan puts in our way is food for us; this is a God-appointed means of spiritual progress (1 Tim. 4:15-16); if we are relying on the Lord for victory and allow His overcoming life to be manifested in us, we will find fresh nourishment and increased vitality (Josh. 14:11-15).

1 Tim 4:15 Practice these things; be in them, that your progress may be manifest to all.

1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things; for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Josh 14:11 Today I am still as strong as I was on the day Moses sent me out; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for battle and for going out and coming in.

Josh 14:12 Now therefore give me this hill country, of which Jehovah spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that the Anakim were there with great fortified cities. It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I will dispossess them, as Jehovah said.

Josh 14:13 So Joshua blessed him; and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

Josh 14:14 Therefore Hebron has become the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day because he fully followed Jehovah the God of Israel.

Josh 14:15 And the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba. (This Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.

4. In order to have God's keeping power, we must exercise our spirit of faith and keep our heart turned to the Lord to believe wholeheartedly in His promises (2 Cor. 4:13; 3:16; 1:20), to believe that He is with His people, and to believe that they are well able to overcome (Josh. 14:12-15; Num. 13:30); we must commit our souls as a deposit to God, the faithful Creator (1 Pet. 4:19), hand ourselves over to Him, and commit to Him the keeping of our life (2 Tim. 1:12).

2 Cor 4:13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

2 Cor 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Cor 1:20 For as many promises of God as there are, in Him is the Yes; therefore also through Him is the Amen to God, for glory through us to God.

Josh 14:12 Now therefore give me this hill country, of which Jehovah spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that the Anakim were there with great fortified cities. It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I will dispossess them, as Jehovah said.

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- Josh 14:14 Therefore Hebron has become the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day because he fully followed Jehovah the God of Israel.
- Josh 14:15 And the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba. (This Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.
- Num 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.
- 1 Pet 4:19 So then let those also who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls in well-doing to a faithful Creator.
- 2 Tim 1:12 For which cause also I suffer these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard my deposit unto that day.
5. If we trust in His promises and commit ourselves utterly to Him, we will be kept from this day to the day of His return; He is able to guard us from stumbling and to set us before His glory without blemish in exultation—Jude 24.
- Jude 24 But to Him who is able to guard you from stumbling and to set you before His glory without blemish in exultation,
6. If we are going to fully possess Christ as the good land, we must beware of having an evil heart of unbelief; not to believe in the Lord is to rebel against Him—Deut. 1:25-26, 28, 35-39; 9:23; Heb. 3:12, 16-19; 4:2, 6; 11:1; cf. 2 Cor. 4:13; Gal. 3:2, 5; Rom. 10:17; Acts 6:5a; Num. 13:25-33; 14:4-10; 32:11-12; Josh. 14:6-12; 1 Cor. 10:1-13.
- Deut 1:25 And in their hands they took some of the fruit of the land, and they brought it down to us. And they brought word back to us and said, It is a good land which Jehovah our God is giving us.
- Deut 1:26 Yet you would not go up. Rather you rebelled against the word of Jehovah your God;
- Deut 1:28 Where shall we go up? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are big and fortified up to heaven; and furthermore we have seen the children of the Anakim there.
- Deut 1:35 Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall by any means see the good land which I have sworn to give to your fathers,
- Deut 1:36 Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it. And to him I will give the land on which he has trodden, and to his children, because he has fully followed Jehovah.
- Deut 1:37 With me also Jehovah was angry on your account, saying, You also shall not enter there;
- Deut 1:38 Joshua the son of Nun, who attends to you, he shall enter there. Strengthen him, for it is he who will cause Israel to inherit it.
- Deut 1:39 Moreover your little ones, who you said would be prey, and your children, who this day do not know good and evil, they shall enter there. And to them I will give it, and they will possess it.
- Deut 9:23 And when Jehovah sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, Go up and possess the land which I have given you, you rebelled at the word of Jehovah your God and did not believe Him and did not listen to His voice.
- Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.
- Heb 3:16 For who provoked Him when they heard? Indeed was it not all who came out of Egypt by Moses?
- Heb 3:17 And with whom was He displeased for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?
- Heb 3:18 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter into His rest, except to the disobedient?
- Heb 3:19 And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief.
- Heb 4:2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.
- Heb 4:6 Since therefore it remains that some should enter into it and those who formerly had the good news announced to them did not enter because of disobedience,

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 Cor 4:13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

Gal 3:2 This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

Gal 3:5 He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

Rom 10:17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Acts 6:5a And the word pleased all the multitude; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, ...

Num 13:25 And they returned from spying out the land at the end of forty days.

Num 13:26 And they proceeded to come to Moses and to Aaron and to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, to the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to the whole assembly, and showed them the fruit of the land.

Num 13:27 And they told him and said, We came to the land into which you sent us; and it indeed flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

Num 13:28 However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and we also saw the descendants of Anak there.

Num 13:29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negev, and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites dwell in the hill country, and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the Jordan.

Num 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

Num 13:31 But the men who went up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.

Num 13:32 And they brought to the children of Israel an evil report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great size.

Num 13:33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.

Num 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us appoint a captain, and let us return to Egypt.

Num 14:5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the whole congregation of the assembly of the children of Israel.

Num 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who spied out the land, tore their clothes.

Num 14:7 And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.

Num 14:8 If Jehovah is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey.

Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.

Num 14:10 But the whole assembly said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of Jehovah appeared in the Tent of Meeting to all the children of Israel.

Num 32:11 Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, because they have not fully followed Me;

Num 32:12 Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, because they have fully followed Jehovah.

Josh 14:6 Then the children of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal; and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, You know the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God concerning me and concerning you in Kadesh-barnea.

Josh 14:7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me out from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I returned such a word to him as was genuinely upon my heart.

Josh 14:8 However my brothers who went up with me made the people's heart melt, but I fully followed Jehovah my God.

Josh 14:9 And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, for you have fully followed Jehovah my God.

Josh 14:10 And now, look, Jehovah has kept me alive, as He said, for these forty-five years, since the time Jehovah spoke this word to Moses while Israel walked through the wilderness. And now, look, today I am eighty-five years old.

Josh 14:11 Today I am still as strong as I was on the day Moses sent me out; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for battle and for going out and coming in.

Josh 14:12 Now therefore give me this hill country, of which Jehovah spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that the Anakim were there with great fortified cities. It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I will dispossess them, as Jehovah said.

1 Cor 10:1 For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

1 Cor 10:2 And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1 Cor 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,

1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

1 Cor 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for they were strewn along in the wilderness.

1 Cor 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples to us, that we should not be ones who lust after evil things, even as they also lusted.

1 Cor 10:7 Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."

1 Cor 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed fornication, and there fell in one day twenty-three thousand.

1 Cor 10:9 Neither let us test Christ, as some of them tested Him and were destroyed by the serpents.

1 Cor 10:10 Neither murmur, just as some of them murmured and perished by the destroyer.

1 Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, unto whom the ends of the ages have come.

1 Cor 10:12 So then let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has taken you except that which is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow that you be tempted beyond what you are able, but will, with the temptation, also make the way out, that you may be able to endure it.

7. If we are going to fully possess Christ as the good land, we must beware of murmurings (discontented and secret mutterings, grumblings, and complaining); murmuring is an indistinct, whispered complaining in low tones, discontentedly and with a gloomy resentment—v. 10; Psa. 106:24-25; Phil. 2:14.

1 Cor 10:10 Neither murmur, just as some of them murmured and perished by the destroyer.

Psa 106:24 Then they despised the pleasant land; / They did not believe in His word;

Psa 106:25 Rather they murmured in their tents; / They did not listen to the voice of Jehovah.

Phil 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and reasonings

II. If we are going to fully possess Christ as the good land, the apostle Paul says that we must “flee from idolatry” (1 Cor. 10:14), referring to the children of Israel’s idolatry in worshipping the golden calf (Exo. 32:1-6):

Exo 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered against Aaron and said to him, Come, make a god for us who will go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.

- Exo 32:2 And Aaron said to them, Tear off the gold rings, which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.
- Exo 32:3 And all the people tore off the golden rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.
- Exo 32:4 And he took the gold from their hand and fashioned it with an engraving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!
- Exo 32:5 And when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; then Aaron made a proclamation and said, Tomorrow shall be a feast to Jehovah.
- Exo 32:6 And they rose up early on the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.
- A. The golden calf was a made-by-God's-redeemed-people idol; to stand up to play is to indulge in revelry (or boisterous merrymaking); an idol in our heart is anything within us that we love more than the Lord and that replaces the Lord in our life (Ezek. 14:3); as genuine children of the genuine God, we need to be on the alert to guard ourselves from idols (1 John 5:21), from all the substitutes and replacements of Christ in our life.
- Ezek 14:3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I be inquired of at all by them?
- 1 John 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.
- B. We must be warned by the principle of the golden-calf idol, an idol made by God's redeemed people to make them an idolatrous camp; idolatry involves five principles—1 Cor. 10:5-7:
- 1 Cor 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for they were strewn along in the wilderness.
- 1 Cor 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples to us, that we should not be ones who lust after evil things, even as they also lusted.
- 1 Cor 10:7 Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."
1. Self-beautification leads to idolatry (Exo. 32:1-4; 33:5-6; Gen. 35:1-4); God is our beauty, and He is beautifying the church as the house of His beauty so that He may be beautified (Isa. 60:7, 19, 21; Eph. 5:26-27); in the expression of our self there is division, but in the corporate expression of God, the divine glory, there is oneness (John 17:22-24); our work is our living to glorify, to express, God on earth (v. 4; 1 Cor. 10:31; Isa. 43:7), and in our speaking we should not seek our own glory by preaching ourselves, but we should preach Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as slaves to serve the believers (John 7:17; 2 Cor. 4:5).
- Exo 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered against Aaron and said to him, Come, make a god for us who will go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.
- Exo 32:2 And Aaron said to them, Tear off the gold rings, which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.
- Exo 32:3 And all the people tore off the golden rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.
- Exo 32:4 And he took the gold from their hand and fashioned it with an engraving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!
- Exo 33:5 Now Jehovah had said to Moses, Say to the children of Israel, You are a stiff-necked people; if I were to go up in your midst for one moment, I would consume you. Now therefore put off your ornaments from you, and I will decide what to do to you.
- Exo 33:6 Thus the children of Israel were stripped of their ornaments from Mount Horeb onward.
- Gen 35:1 And God said to Jacob, Rise up, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.

Gen 35:2 Then Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your garments.

Gen 35:3 And let us rise up and go up to Bethel, that I may make an altar there to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.

Gen 35:4 So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hand and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak that was near Shechem.

Isa 60:7 All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered together to you; / The rams of Nebaioth will minister to you; / They will go up acceptably upon My altar, / And I will beautify the house of My beauty.

Isa 60:19 You will no longer have the sun for your light by day, / Nor for brightness will the moon give you light; / But Jehovah will be an eternal light to you, / And your God your beauty.

Isa 60:21 Then all your people will be righteous; / They will possess the land forever, / The branch of My planting, / The work of My hands, / That I may be beautified.

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;

John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth, finishing the work which You have given Me to do.

1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Isa 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, / Whom I have created, formed, and even made for My glory.

John 7:17 If anyone resolves to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

2 Cor 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

2. Idolatry is Satan's usurping of what God has given us in order to make it a waste; it is our abusing what God has given us and not using God's gifts, both material and spiritual, for God's purpose; the gold given to the children of Israel by God through the Egyptians before their exodus from Egypt was to be used for the building of the tabernacle; however, before the gold could be used for God's purpose, it was usurped by Satan and used by God's people to make an idol—Exo. 11:2-3; 12:35-36; 25:2-8; 35:4-9.

Exo 11:2 Speak now in the hearing of the people that each man is to ask of his neighbor and each woman of her neighbor for articles of silver and articles of gold.

Exo 11:3 And Jehovah gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

Exo 12:35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses, and they asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing.

Exo 12:36 And Jehovah gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Exo 25:2 Tell the children of Israel to take for Me a heave offering. From every man whose heart makes him willing you shall take My heave offering.

Exo 25:3 And this is the heave offering which you shall take from them: gold and silver and bronze,

- Exo 25:4 And blue and purple and scarlet strands, and fine linen, and goats' hair,
 Exo 25:5 And rams' skins dyed red, and porpoise skins, and acacia wood,
 Exo 25:6 Oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,
 Exo 25:7 Onyx stones and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate.
 Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
 Exo 35:4 And Moses spoke to all the assembly of the children of Israel, saying, This is what Jehovah has commanded, saying,
 Exo 35:5 Take from among yourselves a heave offering to Jehovah; whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, the heave offering of Jehovah: gold and silver and bronze,
 Exo 35:6 And blue and purple and scarlet strands, and fine linen, and goats' hair,
 Exo 35:7 And rams' skins dyed red, and porpoise skins, and acacia wood,
 Exo 35:8 And oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,
 Exo 35:9 And onyx stones and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate.
3. Idolatry is the worship of the things we enjoy, the worship of amusement and entertainment; yes, we have the enjoyment of the Lord, but this is not a form of worldly amusement and entertainment—32:6, 18-19; cf. Psa. 36:8-9:
 Exo 32:6 And they rose up early on the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.
 Exo 32:18 But Moses said, It is not the sound of the cry of triumph, / Neither is it the sound of the cry of defeat; / But it is the sound of singing that I hear.
 Exo 32:19 And as soon as he drew near to the camp, he saw the calf and the dancing; and Moses' anger burned, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain.
 Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
 Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.
- a. Paul warns the Corinthians in this way: “Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play’” (1 Cor. 10:7; Exo. 32:6); C. A. Coates says that they sported; on the weekends many people care only for eating, drinking, and sporting.
 Exo 32:6 And they rose up early on the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.
- b. *To play* is to frolic, to joke, and to act, perform, or speak with little seriousness; *to play* is to behave playfully and uninhibitedly; it is to engage in hilarity, that is, high-spirited fun.
4. With idolatry there is the pretense of worshipping the true God—vv. 4-6; 1 Kings 12:26-30; cf. Matt. 4:8-11; John 4:23-24.
 Exo 32:4 And he took the gold from their hand and fashioned it with an engraving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!
 Exo 32:5 And when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; then Aaron made a proclamation and said, Tomorrow shall be a feast to Jehovah.
 Exo 32:6 And they rose up early on the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.
 1 Kings 12:26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now the kingdom will return to the house of David.
 1 Kings 12:27 If this people go up to make sacrifices in the house of Jehovah at Jerusalem, the heart of this people will return to their lord, to Rehoboam the king of Judah; and they will slay me and return to Rehoboam the king of Judah.
 1 Kings 12:28 And the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!
 1 Kings 12:29 And he set one in Bethel, and he put the other one in Dan.
 1 Kings 12:30 And this thing became a sin; and the people went to worship the one as far as Dan.

Matt 4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Matt 4:9 And he said to Him, All these will I give You if You will fall down and worship me.

Matt 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."

Matt 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

5. With idolatry there is mixture in worship—Exo. 32:4-6, 21-24; cf. 1 Cor. 3:12.

Exo 32:4 And he took the gold from their hand and fashioned it with an engraving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!

Exo 32:5 And when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; then Aaron made a proclamation and said, Tomorrow shall be a feast to Jehovah.

Exo 32:6 And they rose up early on the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

Exo 32:21 And Moses said to Aaron, What did this people do to you that you brought so great a sin upon them?

Exo 32:22 And Aaron said, Do not let the anger of my lord burn. You know the people, that they are set on evil;

Exo 32:23 For they said to me, Make a god for us who will go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.

Exo 32:24 So I said to them, Whoever has any gold, let them tear it off; so they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and this calf came out.

1 Cor 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

C. After the children of Israel worshipped the golden calf, Moses realized that the Lord's presence would no longer be in the midst of the people, so he removed his tent and pitched it some distance from the camp; his tent then became the tent of God, for both the Lord's presence and speaking were there—Exo. 33:7-11.

Exo 33:7 Now Moses would take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, some distance from the camp; and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought Jehovah went out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.

Exo 33:8 And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up and stand, every man at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses, until he entered the tent.

Exo 33:9 And whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stay at the entrance of the tent, and Jehovah would speak with Moses.

Exo 33:10 When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, every man at the entrance of his tent.

Exo 33:11 And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. And Moses would return to the camp, but his attendant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart out of the tent.

D. After Moses removed his tent and separated it from the idolatrous camp, the Lord spoke to him face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion (vv. 11, 14); God and Moses were companions, associates, partners, involved in the same career and having a common interest in a great enterprise; Moses was intimate with God, and he was a person who knew God's heart, who was according to God's heart, and who could touch God's heart.

Exo 33:11 And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. And Moses would return to the camp, but his attendant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart out of the tent.

Exo 33:14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

III. A renewed training was given by God through Moses to the new generation of

the children of Israel after their long wandering, to prepare them to enter into the good land promised by God and inherit it as their possession; after the first generation, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua, had died out, the second generation was ready to enter into the good land and possess it:

A. The first generation typifies our old man; the second generation typifies our new man—
Deut. 2:14; 8:6-10; Exo. 3:8; Col. 1:12:

Deut 2:14 And the time that we spent in going from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the brook Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, as Jehovah had sworn to them.

Deut 8:6 Therefore keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, walking in His ways and fearing Him.

Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;

Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;

Deut 8:9 A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.

Deut 8:10 And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.

Exo 3:8 And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

1. We need to be those who grow in life into the full possession and enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, God's promised land; transformation is the dying out of the old man and the growing up of the new man; God's economy is to have our old man (the outer man) consumed and our new man (the inner man) renewed day by day—2 Cor. 4:16.

2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

2. By the Lord's mercy and grace, since we have come into the Lord's recovery, we are being renewed for our growth in life and transformation in life to usher us into the enjoyment of Christ as our good land for God's building and kingdom—3:18; Rom. 12:2.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

B. Our transformation in life takes place as we let the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16); Deuteronomy 8:3 says that "man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah"; in Matthew 4:4 *everything* is replaced by *every word*:

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

1. All the words in the Bible are God's breathing, and all refer to Christ, who is the totality of God's Word (John 1:1; Rev. 19:13) to be the life and life supply of God's people; to live by every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God is to live by

Christ, the embodiment of the divine breath (John 6:57, 63; 20:22).

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

2. Because the Scriptures are the breathing out of God, the exhaling of God (2 Tim. 3:16), we should inhale the Scriptures by receiving the word of God by means of all prayer (Eph. 6:17-18); as we are teaching the Bible, we should be exhaling God into people.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

3. In order to fully possess Christ as the good land, we must maintain our freshness and newness with the Lord by receiving His new speaking to us day by day (Lam. 3:22-24; Deut. 34:7; Rom. 7:6; Jer. 15:16); we must beware of languishing in the land (Deut. 4:25); the word *languish* implies “the loss of spiritual freshness, and the blunting of original impressions, produced by force of custom, or long residence in the same spot” (S. R. Driver).

Lam 3:22 It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, / For His compassions do not fail;

Lam 3:23 They are new every morning; / Great is Your faithfulness.

Lam 3:24 Jehovah is my portion, says my soul; / Therefore I hope in Him.

Deut 34:7 And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eye was not dim, nor had his freshness left him.

Rom 7:6 But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.

Jer 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

Deut 4:25 When you have brought forth children and grandchildren and have languished in the land, and you have spoiled yourselves by making an idol, the form of anything, and have done that which is evil in the sight of Jehovah your God so as to anger Him;

4. If we love God, humble ourselves, and come to the Lord as the living word in His written word by pray-reading His Word, He becomes the applied word of the Spirit to us; His instant words are spirit and life to us for our supply and nourishment, we are infused with God's substance through His words, and we become one with God in life and nature but not in the Godhead for His glory, His expression— John 5:39-40; 6:57, 63; Eph. 5:26-27.

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.

John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

IV. The renewed training by God was His charge to His people in nine matters:

- A. We must fear the Lord; to fear the Lord is to be in fear of offending Him, of losing His presence, and of not receiving Him as our reward in the next age; we should be in fear of missing the Lord's smile in this age and His reward in the next—Prov. 1:1, 7; Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 5:9-10.
- Prov 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, the king of Israel:
Prov 1:7 The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; / Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.
2 Cor 5:9 Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.
2 Cor 5:10 For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.
- B. We must walk in God's ways; whatever God is, is a way to us; hence, to take what God is as our ways and walk in these ways is to live God, to live Christ; to take Christ as our way is to live Him, and to live Him is to express Him, to magnify Him— John 14:6; Phil. 1:19-21a.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
- C. We must love the Lord Jesus, who is our God (John 20:28); because God loves us and has set His affection on us (Deut. 10:15; Jer. 31:3), we should love Him in return by setting our affection on Him (1 Cor. 2:9).
- John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!
Deut 10:15 But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
Jer 31:3 Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, / Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.
1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
- D. We must love and serve God with all our heart and all our soul; our heart is linked to our spirit, for our conscience, which is a function of our spirit (Rom. 9:1), is also a function of our heart (Heb. 10:22); thus, to love and serve God with all our heart and soul indicates that we love and serve Him also with our spirit (Rom. 1:9), which is a spirit of love (2 Tim. 1:7).
- Rom 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit,
Heb 10:22 Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

- E. We must keep His commandments and statutes for our good; this means that today we need to keep Christ as the reality of God's commandments and the riches of Christ that have been ministered to us so that we may be blessed—Deut. 10:13.
 Deut 10:13 So that you would keep the commandments of Jehovah and His statutes, which I am commanding you today, for your good.
- F. We must circumcise the foreskin of our heart, which means that we crucify the flesh (Gal. 5:24), which is all that we are and have in our natural being, by our living and serving in our regenerated spirit (Rom. 1:9; 2:28-29; 7:6; 8:4, 16); this makes us the true “circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh” (Phil. 3:3).
 Gal 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.
 Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
 Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.
 Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is of the heart, in spirit, not in letter, whose praise is not from men, but from God.
 Rom 7:6 But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.
 Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
 Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- G. We must not be stiff-necked any longer; our stiff neck signifies our stubborn and rebellious will (Deut. 31:27), which must be subdued and resurrected by Christ through Him as the transforming Spirit to become our beauty in our obedience to Him (S. S. 1:10; Phil. 2:13).
 Deut 31:27 For I know your rebelliousness and your stiff neck: See, while I am yet here alive with you today, you have been rebelling against Jehovah; so how much more after my death!
 S. S. 1:10 Your cheeks are lovely with plaits of ornaments, / Your neck with strings of jewels.
 Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- H. We must hold fast to Christ as God's whole commandment; then we will be strengthened and encouraged to go on to possess Christ as our good land (Deut. 11:8, 24); this means that we will gain Christ (Phil. 3:8); furthermore, our days will be extended in Christ (Deut. 11:9, 21), God's eyes will be upon us to care for us and give us the blessing of His presence (v. 12), and we will enjoy the heavenly rain, the watering of the Spirit to reap a harvest of Christ (vv. 14-15).
 Deut 11:8 Therefore you shall keep the whole commandment which I am commanding you today so that you may be strong and that you may go in and possess the land into which you are crossing over to possess,
 Deut 11:24 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads will be yours; from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even to the farthest sea will be your territory.
 Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
 Deut 11:9 And so that you may extend your days upon the ground which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to give to them and to their seed, a land flowing with milk and honey.
 Deut 11:21 That your days may be multiplied, as well as the days of your children, upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the days of heaven are above the earth.
 Deut 11:12 It is a land which Jehovah your God cares for; always the eyes of Jehovah your God are upon it, from the beginning of the year even to the end of the year.
 Deut 11:14 I will give rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the late rain, so that you may gather your grain and your new wine and your fresh oil.

- Deut 11:15 And I will put grass in your field for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.
- I. “By His name shall you swear. He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you, which your eyes have seen” (10:20b-21); in New Testament terms and experience, this means that we call upon the name of the Lord so that we may enjoy His organic salvation and His unsearchable riches (Rom. 10:12-13).
- Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;
- Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."