

GODLY GOALS CAN BE DIFFICULT

Joshua 1:1-9

Introduction: Israel had been promised a land flowing with milk and honey and for years they had been anxiously waiting for God to lead them to that long awaited place of promise. Looking back at Israel, the promise from God and finally reaching that place of promise is very much like the account of Christians for they, too, have a promise from God and are on their way to reaching that promised place and what Israel and the Christian encounters along the way is quite similar.

The promised land for Israel was a land of enemies, battles, victories, defeats, but finally a land of rest. The Christian also has such a land and it is called Heaven, the Land of Salvation. The book of Joshua reveals what Israel went through to finally obtain their Godly goal, the promised land.

I. GOD HAD A PLACE HE WAS LEADING HIS PEOPLE TO

1. God promised Moses that He (God) would deliver Israel from the captivity of the Egyptians and bring Israel into a land flowing with milk and honey.
2. Being delivered from Egypt's captivity was the first step in preparation Israel had to make for their enjoyment of the promised land.
3. The Christian has been delivered from the captivity of Satan and is on his/her way to God's promised place also.

II. ISRAEL WAS INCAPABLE OF OBTAINING THE PROMISED LAND BY THEMSELVES

1. All the commandments and laws of God could never get Israel into the promised land even if they were able to keep every one of them.
2. Israel could not get into the land of promise because they were a specially chosen people.
3. A Christian cannot get into Heaven, the land of Salvation by him/herself no matter how good he/she is or from what family he/she comes from.

III. GOD APPOINTED A REPRESENTATIVE OF HIMSELF TO BE WITH ISRAEL

1. First there was Moses, then as Israel was ready to cross over into the promised land, God replaced Moses with Joshua whom Israel was to listen to and obey for he represented God.
2. Everything in the Christian's promised place has been put into the hands of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

IV. ISRAEL COULD HAVE ONLY THAT PORTION WHICH THEY COULD TAKE

1. The entire land of Canaan was the promised land to Israel, but only that upon which they walked, that where they went were they to actually receive, although all the land was available to them.

2. Christians also are limited in possessing God's promised Land of Salvation only by the amount of their faith. So is one's faith, so is one's blessings from God.
3. There was more available to Israel then they ever actually possessed and the same is equally true with Christians. God has far more available then the Christian ever claim or use.

V. ISRAEL COMPROMISED WITH ENEMIES IN THE PROMISED LAND

1. In their obtaining the land of promise, Israel became tired of fighting and allowed some of the original occupants who were their enemies to remain in parts of the promised land from God.
2. Christians, also, could have more from God, but because of compromise with the enemies around and a contentment of what they already have from God, stop resisting and conquering although there is much more that is promised by God that is theirs.
3. God will give His children ONLY what they are willing for Him to give. Israel and the Christian are so much alike. God had so much more for Israel but Israel wasn't willing to keep on doing what it took to have all that God had for them. The same is true for Christians. God has so much more but Christians become satisfied with what they already have and grow contented.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's people have not changed. God has not changed. God has so much more for His Children than they are willing to wait for, work for, ask for, seek. God's Children become content with so much less than what they could have from God.
2. The goals God sets for His Children will always have Him and somebody from Him to help His Children obtain what God so graciously wants to give them.
3. What about you? God has so much more He wants to give you, do you want all God has for you? If so, then keep your eyes on God and do whatever He requires of you and you will not be able to receive all that He will pour down upon you.