

THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Joshua 1:1-9

Introduction: Most of our impressions of Canaan are probably of a land flowing with milk and honey, God's promise to Israel. Ultimately it was, but Canaan was a place of warfare.

We want to think of the Christian life in the way Israel thought of the land of Canaan. Israel had to conquer enemies in Canaan and the Christian's land of Salvation has enemies also.

I. CANAAN WAS THE GOAL TO WHICH GOD WAS LEADING ISRAEL

1. *Exodus 3:7-8* - God promised to deliver Israel from Egypt, to bring them into the land of milk and honey.
2. Remember the events leading up to the actual deliverance, Moses, the plagues, the deaths. All would have been useless unless there was the land of promise. There had to be a goal.
3. The foundations of our faith which are the virgin birth, the spotless life, the cross, the grave, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All carried out step by step in order that we might be delivered from sin and be brought into a place especially prepared for the believer.
 - As Israel had a wilderness experience, so has the Church age.
 - Like Israel, most Christians want to stay in the wilderness and not enjoy the life in Jesus Christ.
 - Free from battles, failures, a life filled with joy.
 - Consider your own spiritual experience. Would you say you are still in the wilderness where there is constant fear and struggle? Is there constant defeat? Or is your life settled, wars are over, victory has been brought by Jesus Christ?

II. THE LAW COULD NOT LEAD ISRAEL TO CANAAN

1. Nothing was wrong with God's law. The fault was in Israel. They were weak and sinful.
2. Just keeping the laws of God did not work because of the battle between the old sin nature and God's laws.
 - Today, resolutions, consecration, praying, fasting and everything else does not conquer our enemies.
 - There must be a confrontation, face to face with the enemy, and Jesus has done that for the Christian.

III. ENTRANCE TO CANAAN WAS THROUGH JOSHUA

1. God selected Joshua to replace Moses. Everything in Canaan was put into Joshua's hands. He led, he decided, he assigned the land.
2. Entrance into the Christian's land of Canaan is through the Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing for anybody to do except go through Jesus.

IV. EACH TRIBE HAD TO CLAIM ITS OWN LAND

1. All of Canaan was given to Israel, but they could have only what they claimed, as much land as they walked on was theirs.
 - Jesus tells us, "*...we have not because we ask (claim) not...*" We possess only what we claim by faith.
2. A generation died in the wilderness. They did not have the faith to claim the land of Canaan.
 - It is a sad story of Christians today. They are still living in the wilderness because they have failed to claim in faith the things of God.
 - In spite of Calvary, the empty tomb, the risen Lord, Pentecost, most Christians live entangled in the world and sin, "saved as by fire..."

V. CANAAN WAS FILLED WITH ENEMIES

1. Seven (7) nations held the land with strong armies.
2. The Christian's land of Canaan is filled with spiritual enemies.

CONCLUSION:

1. Full blessings to the Christian are given only to the eager, hungry, to those who want to come out of the wilderness into the land of promise.
2. So, where are you today, Christian? Still in the wilderness or in the land of promise?