

WHAT IS IT WORTH?

Joshua 1:10-11; 2:11-24

Introduction: There is so much parallelism in the Old Testament events and God's Church today. As God brought Israel out of slavery in Egypt to bring them into a land of promise, so He has brought us believers out of sin into His place of blessing.

Israel had to wait for several days before actually being allowed to cross into the promised land which was in clear sight. We, also have to wait on the Lord. So many of us miss out on God's best for we grow tired of waiting and we move on.

Why did God make Israel wait?

I. THERE WAS SOMEONE TO BE SPARED/SAVED IN JERICHO

1. Of all the citizens of Jericho, ONLY ONE had any kind of faith in the God of Israel.
2. Often God has delayed His judgment because of a SINGLE believer. God is concerned about even ONE person who believes.
3. Jericho was under God's judgment, so our world is also and as God delayed His judgment then for a SINGLE person, so also God withholds His judgment today until every soul is saved that will believe.
4. So, where did Rahab get her faith?
5. What does the world see and hear about us that would give evidence of this same God?

II. THERE WAS A SEPARATION THAT HAD TO TAKE PLACE

1. Three tribes (Rueben, GAd, Manasseh) wanted to stay on the wilderness side of the river and not enter into the promised land with the rest of the tribes.
2. The agreement was that they would help the other tribes gain the promised land, even leading the armies. When the land was conquered, then they would return to the other side of the river, back on the wilderness side to the land of their choice.
3. Every believer, whether weak or strong has been palced into a new, promised land of blessing. Through Jesus, God has done all the fighting and conquering and winning for the believer.
4. Think, where are YOU spending your Christian life? In the land of blessing or in the land of wilderness (the world)? God has allowed us to choose as He did the three tribes of Israel.
 - "God has His best things for the few who dare to stand the test;
God has His second best fo rthose who will not take His best.
It is not always open ill that risks the promised rest;
The better often is the foe that keeps us from the best."

5. Those same three tribes who led the armies of Israel into the promised land and then returned to the other side of the river were the first to be captured by Assyria and never returned to their land again.
6. It is not how we begin our Christian life, but how we end it that counts.

III. SANCTIFICATION HAD TO BE COMPLETED

1. The wonder-working power of God always depends on the sanctification of His people.
2. Christians long to see God work wonders and have prayed for their own selves, families, churches, etc., but have prayed and waited in vain it seemed. Why?
3. God's people must be clean and humble.
4. Look at yourself! Are you clean enough for God to give answered prayers to? Can God trust you with a blessing or will you take the glory and honor for it? Who will get the honor?

CONCLUSION:

1. Believers must learn to WAIT upon the Lord as Israel had to learn to wait.
2. As Israel, we must choose which land we are going to live our Christian lives in.
3. To have God's blessings and answered prayers, we must clean ourselves up and submit to God's ways.
4. So, which do YOU really want? God's BEST or God's better?