

POSSESSING THE LAND

“¹⁸Therefore you shall lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul. You shall bind them for a sign on your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹You shall teach them your children, talking of them, when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. ²⁰You shall write them on the door posts of your house, and on your gates; ²¹that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers to give them, as the days of the heavens above the earth. ²²For if you shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love Yahweh your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cling to him; ²³ then will Yahweh drive out all these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourselves. ²⁴Every place whereon the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness, and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even to the western sea shall be your border. ²⁵No man will be able to stand before you. Yahweh your God will lay the fear of you and the dread of you on all the land that you tread on, as he has spoken to you.” (Deut. 11:18-25, WEB)

Now let's take an even more practical look on a corporate level of actually possessing the land of this entire earth for the gospel. Consider the charge above given in Deuteronomy 11 to the people of Israel. The emphasis is on getting the Word of God into their hearts and mouths. It is as if God is telling them if they will put His promises into their hearts and mouths they will be able to possess the land He is bringing them into. And, I like the promise in verse 24, “Every place whereon the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from

the wilderness, and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even to the western sea shall be your border.” They are charged to go forth with God's Word in their mouths and hearts possessing the land as they walk on it. There is action involved, not the mere mental assent to the facts of faith.

“¹Now after the death of Moses the servant of Yahweh, Yahweh spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, ²“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go across this Jordan, you, and all these people, to the land which I am giving to them, even to the children of Israel. ³I have given you every place that the sole of your foot will tread on, as I told Moses.” (Josh. 1:1-3, WEB)

It is interesting that after the death of Moses God simply uses the same idea when officially commissioning Joshua to go possess the promised land. It is as if He is saying, “Because I commissioned you and the people through my prophet Moses to possess the land, My Word is still going forth to enable you to do it.” I love it that He uses the same words, “I have given you every place that the sole of your foot will tread on, as I told Moses.” (vs. 3, see also Hebrews 13:5-6) It is as if He is saying, “This Word has gone out of My mouth and will not return to Me void, therefore, go and do what it says expecting the same results as I have earlier promised.” “Go possess the land!”

THE EARLY CHURCH UNDERSTOOD THIS

“¹Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yahweh, and against his Anointed, saying, ³“Let's break their bonds apart, and cast their cords from us.” ⁴He who sits in the heavens will laugh. The Lord will have them in derision. ⁵Then he will speak to

them in his anger, and terrify them in his wrath: ⁶“Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion.” ⁷I will tell of the decree. Yahweh said to me, “You are my son. Today I have become your father. ⁸Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession.” (Psalm 2:1-8, WEB)

The believers of New Testament times certainly understood this aspect of faith. Notice how the early church applied the previous promises of God to their present struggle in Acts, chapter four. They took an Old Testament promise and applied it to New Testament times.

“²³Being let go, they came to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, “O Lord, you are God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; ²⁵ who by the mouth of your servant, David, said, ‘Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? ²⁶The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.’ ²⁷“For truly, in this city against your holy servant, Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸to do whatever your hand and your council foreordained to happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰while you stretch out your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of your holy Servant Jesus.” ³¹When they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were gathered together. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:23-31, WEB)

The same principle we have presented throughout this teaching

and earlier ones is applied here in Acts, chapter four, by the early Christian leaders. The believers had a situation before them. They met the challenge by bringing to everyone’s attention God’s earlier promise given in the second Psalm and corporately applying it to their present situation. They believed God had foreordained this to happen and therefore boldly proclaimed the promise. God confirmed His pleasure with their method of applying His Word to their present situation in this way by responding with a physical manifestation (shaking the place) and filling them afresh with His Spirit.

Notice their procedure. They took an earlier promise of God (properly interpreted and applied) and put it into their mouths and claimed it as their own. They put God in remembrance of His promise. Certainly, it was important to use one that fit the situation. Hence, we must acknowledge here the importance of knowing the Scripture well enough to handle the Word of God appropriately. They did just randomly pull a verse out of the air. They found and applied a solid Biblical promise. They trusted in the providence of God and acted on His Word.

Notice also their request. It was, “Lord, because You said, “ask of Me and I will give you the nations,” therefore, we may pray, “Lord, look at their threatening behavior and give us the power to do the thing that will bring us the victory we need in this situation.” “Give us boldness to speak Your Word.”

They knew if they could just boldly speak the Word of God and cling to the promise which God had already made in Psalm 2 they would see the miracles they needed to possess the land they were called to possess in their time. They knew the promise of Psalm 2 still

had the power to be effective in their time also.

A MANDATE FOR OUR TIME

“¹⁶But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had sent them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they bowed down to him, but some doubted. ¹⁸Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” (Matthew 28:16-20, WEB)

This is the mandate for us to take our world for Jesus Christ. We must not sit by in America as liberalism and humanism take control of our land. We must not fall for a false conservatism that doesn't really care about the gospel. We must rise up as God's people, commissioned by Jesus and walking in His authority, and take possession of our land (Heb. 2:8-9). This is our mandate. Let us possess the land!

This is our mandate. We can take the words of Jesus and say, “Because He has said, “Go and make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching, and I will be with you,” therefore, we may boldly say, “I can go into any place on this earth by the authority of Christ and His Word and make disciples by baptizing and teaching and I know Jesus is with me always (Heb. 13:5-6).” Brothers and sisters, we can possess the land. It is our inheritance because it is Jesus' inheritance and He has commissioned us to go take it for Him. Let us go and possess the land!

I believe we can claim this promise given through Moses to the people of Israel and later to Joshua, “**Every place whereon the sole of your foot treads shall be yours.**” (Deut. 11:24a, WEB) Jesus has already paid the price as a man to redeem the entire world. It has been given legally to Him by His Father. It is His promised land. The entire earth is His. He has commissioned and empowered us to go take control of it with the gospel for Him (Acts 1:8).

GREATER THAN JOSHUA

Joshua, as the captain of the people of Israel, was promised a piece of land for the people of God to possess. It required faith to enter into it. The Word of promise was powerful for them. It brought them great victory when they believed it. But, they never entered into the fullness of what God really had for them because of their unbelief.

Jesus is the Greek name (New Testament language) for *Joshua* (Old Testament Hebrew language). In Hebrew, *Joshua* means, “savior, deliverer, liberator, etc.” This is exactly the meaning of *Jesus* in the Greek language. This is why He was so named. **“She shall give birth to a son. You shall call his name Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins.”** (Matthew 1:21). He is the liberator, deliverer, Savior, etc., of the new covenant people of God (Heb. 4:1-11).

Joshua was commissioned to lead the old covenant people into the promised land. Jesus leads the new covenant people into a “land of promises.” However, part of this “land of promises” is actually possessing the literal lands of this earth. I don't necessarily mean Christians controlling all of the real estate per se. However, that is part of it at some levels and is given for some believers to be stewards

of. What I am talking about primarily is for new covenant believers to possess the inheritance of Jesus by going into ALL of the world with the gospel and doing it with the same tenacity of the promise given to the old covenant people, **“Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours”** (Deut. 11:24a, NKJV). We do not have to settle for the unbelievers of the world having control of everything including government, media, education, etc. We have the mandate of Christ to rise up and possess the land. We must love, preach, teach, proclaim, declare, decree, pray, baptize, and anything else that is required to possess the land. I say especially to my American brothers and sisters, “Rise up, and let’s get moving across this land as never before!”

BASIC PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

One practical application is prayer-walking. We should be walking everywhere and claiming every place on which we walk for the Kingdom of God. I want to challenge you as a Bible-believing Christian to walk and pray, and declare, and proclaim, and decree, and dare to believe that we are commissioned by Jesus to possess the land during our time. When you go into a restaurant, declare that God has given this earth and the nations of it to His Son and we have come to possess it as His regents. When you go into the courthouse, claim the land and area and systems and governments for the kingdom of God. When you go into the hospital, declare that the kingdom of God has come into that place. When you go into an educational facility, cast down the lies of liberalism and humanism and declare the truth of God in that place. Declare what He has already said and begin to expect it to see it come to pass in our time too. Let us go into every area of this world and proclaim that the

kingdom is here and Christ reigns now as king of kings and Lord of lords. The promise is bigger than just some real estate in the Middle East. The “land” is the entire earth. It is Christ’s and we are His. Let us possess the land in our time! Amen.