

THE LORD GIVES THE LAND FOR A PURPOSE

9.16.2018

Joshua 13:1 - 22:34

• Dale Ralph Davis: "Jugular vein of this book."

1. THE LORD GAVE ISRAEL THEIR INHERITANCE & REST FROM BATTLE

JOSHUA 21:43-44 43 Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. 44 And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands.

- **This rest is a shadow of the true rest that Jesus purchased on the cross and promises to all whom He saves**—all those who's faith is in Him and obedience is aimed at Him!
- **HEBREWS 4:8-11** 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.
- **CURRENT REST**, rest from our works (good or bad) defining us. *Matthew 11, come to me all who are weary
- **FUTURE REST: Rest from the** 1) Exhaustion of Suffering, 2) Exhaustion of Toilsome Work, 3) Exhaustion of Seemingly Endless Battles Christians face against sin and death (our true enemies), 4) Exhaustion of our Relationships not fulfilling us (we will receive our inheritance, which is Jesus Himself).
- **Rest from Seemingly Endless Battle Christians face against sin and death and for holiness.**
*True Christians long for this; fake ones couldn't care less because they don't actually fight. Christian life. Is. War.
- In **1 Corinthians 9**, the Apostle Paul compares himself with a **SOLDIER**. In **Philippians 2** he says Epaphroditus is his "fellow worker and **FELLOW SOLDIER**." In **Philemon 1**, he calls Archippus "our **FELLOW SOLDIER**." And in **2 Timothy 2**, Paul tells young Timothy, 3 "Share in suffering as a good **SOLDIER** of Christ Jesus. 4 No **SOLDIER** gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the **one who enlisted him**."
- **So, one of Paul's metaphors for Christians is that WE. ARE. SOLDIERS.** And Soldiers fight. But fight against whom? or what? (NOT PEOPLE!)
- In **ROMANS 7**, Paul says sin is "**WAGING WAR**" inside of him as he seeks to obey Jesus. In **2 CORINTHIANS 10**, he says we are "**WAGING WAR**" against evil. In **EPHESIANS 6**, Paul writes, "11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." In **1 TIMOTHY 1**, Paul tell Timothy to 18 "**WAGE THE GOOD WARFARE**, 19 holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith." In **JAMES 4**, the Apostle James writes, "You have quarrels and fights because your passions are at **WAR** within you..." And in **1 PETER 2**, the Apostle Peter warns of the destruction of sin, "Beloved, I urge you...to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which **WAGE WAR AGAINST YOUR SOUL**." And in **ROMANS 8**, Paul proclaims, 13 "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you **PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY**, you will live."
- **When a Soldier disobeys a lawful order in the thick of a battle, people die, families are ruined, cities are sacked, and lives are wasted.** Don't make that error—life and death is at stake.
- **May God use this to STRENGTHEN those of you who are FIGHTING in the thick of the battle and remind you that we can rest NOW and are promised a future rest!** may He **WAKE UP** those of you who are lazily **SLEEPING** in the trenches—you to whom the promise of rest doesn't do anything to your affections because you're laying down and wasting your life, & may He **CONVERT** through faith in Jesus those of you who are enslaved to sin, currently **BELONGING TO THE ENEMY** & not to the **LORD JESUS**.
- 43 Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. 44 And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands.
- **God please comfort us with the words "there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God"**

2. THE LORD FULFILLED EVERY SINGLE PROMISE HE MADE

JOSHUA 21:45 Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

- A few months ago I was talking to a friend of mine about the fact that Jesus always keeps his promises. We were talking about how wonderful it is to know that Jesus has totally good intentions and total ability. **And then he said something that hit me hard:** “You know, when me and my brother and sister were young, for a few years my dad would call a little before Christmas and promise us he’d come see us and bring us presents. But he never showed. And that was hard. Eventually we just stopped believing him. I think he had the intention to come but just couldn’t get free of the stuff that controlled him.”
- **Jesus doesn’t do that**—He is intricately and providentially working His secret will over every square inch of existence so that nothing can stay His hand or thwart His plan!
- **It’s tough though, it requires a bit of faith, because The LORD loves to write checks** that seem impossible to clear. Imagine I write you a check for 4million. What would you think walking to the bank? What about Gates?
- **The book of Joshua show us this: If Jesus writes you a check**—if He makes you a promise—take it to the bank. It will clear. Doesn’t matter the amount. Jesus can and does keep His promises.
- **Yet this cuts both ways**, positively and negatively. Happy promises and terrifying promises.
- **Friend, you must be warned: If you refuse to turn from setting your affections on your sin** and trust in Jesus’ sinless life as the only means by which God would declare you “righteous” in His sight, and trust in Jesus’ cross as the only means by which God will forgive your sin and take it away, and trust in Jesus’ resurrection as confirmation that the gospel is true—if you refuse Jesus and His work to save such a sinner as you...
- **Jesus promises you will stand before Him at the end of history as we know it and give an account for your life.**
- **Jesus, in LUKE 13:1-5** **1** There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2** And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. **4** Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? **5** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”
- “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”” - **David, in Psalm 14:1**
- **To any of us who deny the existence of God or even acknowledge Him yet treat Him as if He’s inconsequential—as if He doesn’t have to be dealt with, He promises** “**18** The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. - **The Apostle Paul in Romans 1:18-20**
- **But if you realize you’re sick with guilt before God and in desperate need of a great Physician**, if you realize you’re a straying sheep that needs to have a Great Shepherd lay down His life to bring you back into the fold, if you realize you need a servant who will suffer in your place for your sins so that you may be spared and blessed, if you realize you’re a beggar that needs the Bread of life to sustain you...And you embrace Jesus and His good news—trust that He says, “My life for yours even to death”—then He promises you:
 - **1. YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN** “In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:6)
 - **2. YOU ARE COUNTED RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD** “And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness” (Romans 4:5)
 - **3. GOD HAS ADOPTED YOU INTO HIS FAMILY** “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are” (1 John 3:1)
 - **4. GOD IS FOR YOU** “If God is for us who can be against us? If He did not spare His own son but gave Him up for us all, how will he not with Him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32)
 - **5. GOD WILL NEVER ABANDON YOU** “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)
 - **6. GOD WILL SUPPLY EVERY SINGLE THING YOU NEED FOR YOUR ETERNAL GOOD** “God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:19)
 - **7. HE WILL BRING YOU TO COMPLETION, PERFECTING YOU** “I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 1:6)
 - **8. HE WILL TURN EVERY TRAGEDY INTO A TRIUMPH, EVENTUALLY** “For those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”
 - **9. HE WILL WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR, ESTABLISH PEACE, & LIVE WITH US ON A RENEWED EARTH** (Rev. 19-21)
- Beloved, not one word of all the good promises that the LORD made to you in Christ Jesus will fail. All will come to pass!