

# I'M CAMPING TOWARD CANAAN'S HAPPY LAND

Num.33:41-49

## INTRODUCTION: READ TEXT.

- A. THE PROMISED LAND! Just across Jordan it lay! It was indeed a land that flowed with milk and honey.
1. It was land of rest in which many good things had been pledged to them, and those Hebrew children entered it with much joy and anticipation, AND WITH A PROMISE TO BE THE PEOPLE OF GOD! Psa.105:43-45- "And He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with a joyful shout. 44) He gave them also the lands of the nations, That they might take possession of the fruit of the peoples' labor, 45) SO THAT THEY MIGHT KEEP HIS STATUTES AND OBSERVE HIS LAWS, Praise the LORD!"
  2. God made a covenant with them TO BE THEIR GOD! But that covenant with God was BI-LATERAL! He expected some things from THEM, too! Deut.6:10-12- "Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you great and splendid cities which you did not build, 11) and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, 12) THEN WATCH YOURSELF, THAT YOU DO NOT FORGET THE LORD WHO BROUGHT YOU FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT, OUT OF THE HOUSE OF SLAVERY."
- B. The promised land of the Old Testament was a figure of the true "LAND OF REST."
1. The Lord tells us that it remains a rest to the people of God today. Heb.4:9- "There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God."
  2. In this lesson we want to examine the promised land of the Old and New Testaments that we might learn to fully appreciate that which God had ready for THEM, as well as what WE can anticipate that He has in store for US!

## I. THE PROMISED LAND OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

- A. God's people of old were a long time in receiving their promised land.
1. The land promise was first made to Abraham. Gen.12:1-3, 7- "Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2) And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3) And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." 7) The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him."
    - a) Abraham did not receive the promised land throughout his lifetime! Acts 7:4-5- "Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, God had him move to this country in which you are now living. 5) "But He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that HE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM."
    - b) All his life Abraham was only a sojourner in that land, but he still remained faithful to God. Heb.11:8-10- "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9) By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."
  2. The promise was renewed in Isaac. Gen.26:3-5
  3. And then it was again renewed in Jacob. Gen.28:13-15

- B. But the years passed so rapidly, and **even at the close of the life of Jacob** their descendants still **had not inherited the land.**
1. Then, due to the great famine in the time of Joseph, those Hebrews had to go to Egypt for food.
  2. Just before Joseph died, he uttered by faith that God would visit them, and that they were to carry up his bones into the land that God promised. **Gen.50:24-26; Heb.11:22-** *"By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones."*
- C. Then, a Pharaoh reigned over Egypt who didn't recall Joseph, and the Hebrews were made slaves.
1. They served under a cruel bondage for many years. Then came the mighty figure, Moses.
    - a) At the age of forty Moses was impetuous and arrogantly ready to deliver his people!
    - b) At the age of eighty, though, **he was more seasoned and humbled**, and God appeared to him at the burning bush and said that the time has come for the deliverance of His people **Ex.3:7-8-** *"The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. 8) "So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite."*
  2. **Now Moses was reluctant!** God convinced him and used him to work great wonders in Egypt and magnified Jehovah's name greatly over all the gods of the Egyptians.
  3. After the death of all the firstborn in Egypt, the Egyptians were more than willing to let the people go. If you recall, all of these things had been revealed to Abraham when he was living. **Gen.15:13-16-** *"God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14) "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15) "As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. 16) "Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."*
  4. God led the Hebrew children from Egypt to Mount Sinai where He gave them the law.
    - a) Much of this first Covenant **was symbolic** of a spiritual covenant that was to follow.
    - b) Its tabernacle and sacrifices prefigured the good things of the New Covenant. **Heb.9:11-12; 10:1-** *"But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12) and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 10:1) "For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near."*
- D. After leaving Mount Sinai, they came to the Southern end of Canaan and Moses sent twelve men to spy out the promised land.
1. All things were now ready for them to go in and inherit the land, but ten of the spies framed an evil report which discouraged the people and brought on a rebellion. **Num.13:30-14:3-** *"Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it." 31) But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." 32) So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. 33) "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and*

- so we were in their sight." 14:1) "Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 2) All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! 3) "Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"*
- a) All this made God very angry, and He swore in His wrath that all those "grumblers" above twenty years old, would not enter in the promised land.
  - b) Their children would be the ones to enter in. **Num.14:28-31-** *"Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; 29) your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, **who have grumbled against Me.** 30) 'Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. 31) 'Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey--I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected."*
2. Their reaction has been called "grasshopper philosophy" due to some things they had forgotten:
    - a) God never breaks his promise, but always fulfills His pledges to His people!
    - b) The power was not in themselves, but in the God who led them!
    - c) They were a part of God's plan – **THEY SHOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED SUCCESS!**
    - d) God punished for lack of faith those evil men, and they died of the plague before the Lord.
  3. And because of the **lack of faith** and **rebellion** on the part of the people, the Hebrews were turned back and made to wander in the wilderness for forty years.
- E. After the deaths of all that generation, from twenty years old upward, and after the death of Moses, it was time for them to go in and receive the land.
1. Joshua, their new Commander, was commissioned and encouraged to go in and take the land. **Josh.1:2, 6-** *"Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.. 6) "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them."*
  2. The conquest was simple, but effective.
    - a) They drove through at the center and took Jericho, Ai and other cities.
    - b) They then went Southward and conquered the people there, and broke down their idols.
    - c) In the North, five kings formed an alliance to defeat Joshua, but Joshua came upon them in surprise attack and destroyed them, by the power of God!
  3. Thus, they conquered and annihilated most of the peoples of the land.
    - a) God wanted those peoples destroyed because of their extreme wickedness. **Lev.18:24-25;-** *"Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled. 25) 'For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants."* **Deut.9:4-** *"Do not say in your heart when the LORD your God has driven them out before you, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,' but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is dispossessing them before you."*
      - b) Only Rahab and the Gibeonites were wise enough to turn to God. **Josh.2:9; 9:24**
- F. God fulfilled every good thing that he said he would do to their fathers. **Josh.21:43-45**
1. The people served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua. **Judg.2:6-7**
  2. Thus, that's a brief account of the Bible story of the promised land for those O.T. patriarchs. They inherited it and built a new society, which was the best that men had up that time.

## II. THE PROMISED LAND OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. There is a land of rest promised to us. **Heb.4:7-11**- *"He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."* 8) For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. 9) So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10) For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. 11) Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience."
1. Our promised land is beautifully described in **Rev.22:1-5**- *"Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2) in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3) There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; 4) they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 5) And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever."*
  2. Described by many figures, it is a place built and prepared by the living God. **Heb.11:10; 2 Cor.5:1; Jno.14:2**
  3. It is a place of peace and happiness.
- B. As were the Patriarchs, we also are sojourners here on earth. **Heb.11:13-16; 1 Pet.2:11**
1. This world is not our home; we are just passing through.
  2. Everything here is brief and temporary fleeting and transitory, but our *"inner man is being renewed day by day!"*
  3. Many live as though this world will always be their home. It cannot be. **Heb.9:27**
  4. Many because of their wickedness and rejection of God, have nothing more than the things of this life.
  5. However, we have a promised land ahead of us.
- C. Some conquering must be done before we can inherit our promised land.
1. The conquest of the land was necessary.
  2. We must conquer Satan in our lives. **Eph.6:12, 16**- *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 16) in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."*
    - a) We must put down all those base impulses characterized by the wicked people of the land that were conquered.
    - b) The false gods of lust, greed, irreverence and wickedness, ALL must be destroyed.
    - c) We must live godly lives in all holiness and purity in our sojourn here. **1 Pet.1:13-17**
  3. Also, there is a world to be conquered with the gospel.
    - a) We do it with our spiritual weapons. **2 Cor.10:3-4**- *"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses."* [Like **Eph.6:17**- *"& take the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God."*]
    - b) This may seem like an impossible task for us, but beware of the "grasshopper philosophy."
    - c) Through much diligence and patience we can convert many to Christ;
- D. We have the same danger of failing to enter in as they did. **Heb.3:16-19; 4:11**- *"Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience."*

1. Their failures serve as examples to admonish us. **1 Cor.10:11**- *"Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."*
2. Let us not make the same mistakes as they did and fail to enter in.
- E. We need to be courageous as was Joshua and his soldiers. **Deut.31:7-8**
  1. We need to be alert, stand firm in the faith, and be strong, that we might have the endurance to enter in. **1 Cor.16:13.**
  2. We should fear no adversary because there is none that can defeat us. **Phil.1:28**- *"in no way alarmed by your opponents--which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God."* **Prov.28:1**- *"The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion."*
- F. By overcoming the base impulses, by conquering the world with the gospel, and by being courageous in all the trials and difficulties of life, *that promised land looms as our inheritance, **BECAUSE WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD!***

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Their promised land was a literal land, rich and fertile, and in many cases already built and planted.
- B. Our promised land is a spiritual home with eternal bliss and great joy awaiting us!
  1. It is a paradise of glory, built by the living God.
  2. It is that dwelling place on high where we will live with God forever.
- C. Are you camping toward that happy land? Are you walking in that way that leads to the promised land?
- D. If you are not a Christian, why not become one?
  1. An Israelite was born into God's family by physical birth. Christians are born into God's family by a new and living way: **IT IS A SPIRITUAL BIRTH.**
  2. We must be born of water and of the spirit. **Jno.3:5**
    - a) To be born of water means to be baptized. You must be buried in water and come forth to walk in a new life. **Rom.6:3-4**
    - b) To be born of the Spirit means to be born in keeping with the teachings of the Spirit. **1 Cor.12:13; 1 Pet.1:23; Jas.1:18**- *"In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures."*
  3. Won't you be born into God's family and begin that walk, the destination of which is that land God has promised to those who are His FAITHFUL?
    - a) If you have strayed away, won't you return to the pathway that leads to that heavenly Canaan?
    - b) The invitation is the LORD'S! If we accept it – we accept HIM! But if we REJECT it – we are rejecting HIM!