

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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THE CHRISTIAN'S PROMISED LAND

STUDY GUIDE



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SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:8

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Deuteronomy 27:2-3

And it shall be on the day when ye shall pass over Jordan unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, that thou shalt set thee up great stones, and plaister them with plaister: and thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law, when thou art passed over, that thou mayest go in unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, a land that floweth with milk and honey; as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee.

Joshua 23:1-15

And it came to pass a long time after that the Lord had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old and stricken in age. And Joshua called for all Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old and stricken in age: and ye have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the Lord your God is He that hath fought for you. Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even unto the great sea westward. And the Lord your God, He shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the Lord your God hath promised unto you. Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left; that ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them: but cleave unto the Lord your God, as ye have done unto this day. For the Lord hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but as for you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day. One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the Lord your God, He it is that fighteth for you, as He hath promised you. Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God. Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto

them, and they to you: know for a certainty that the Lord your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you.

Galatians 3:13-14, & 29

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles, through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith...And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

THEME

Possession of the Old Testament "Promised Land" did not come without opposition and hard work. We, too, must be diligent and overcome the opposition as we possess our "Promised Land." Many people are waiting to die in order to enjoy the promises of God, but God has provided great and precious promises for us to enjoy in this life. As born-again believers we need to know the promises provided in our covenant so that we may possess and enjoy the Christian's "Promised Land."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The Christian's "Promised Land" includes more than dying and going to heaven.
- B. There is a "Promised Land" for the Christian in this life; it is the promises of God's Word.
- C. The children of Israel are an excellent example from which to study and learn as we consider possessing the Christian's "Promised Land."
 1. The children of Israel were delivered from Egypt.
 2. From Egypt the Israelites journeyed to Canaan, where the "Promised Land" was located.
 3. The reaction of the Israelites to the "Promised Land" is very instructive. (Numbers 13)
 - a. The Israelites recognized the land as an excellent land. (Numbers 13:27)

- b. The Israelites were not willing to believe God to the point of entering into the “Promised Land.”
 - c. The nation of Israel felt that the fight to inherit their possession was not worth the effort.
 - d. Very few people who left Egypt entered Canaan.
- D. When a new generation came forth, Israel still had to cross the Jordan River before they could enter the “Promised Land.”
 - E. When the children of Israel entered the “Promised Land,” they immediately had to go up against the fortified city of Jericho.
 - F. The Israelites saw much conflict in the “Promised Land,” but God was always faithful.
 - G. Not only were there mountains and fortified cities in the “Promised Land,” but there were also giants. (Numbers 13:33; Joshua 14:12)

II. EGYPT IS SYMBOLIC OF SIN (Exodus 12:40-41)

- A. Before one can inherit the “Promised Land,” he must first come out of sin; consequently, he must be born again.
 - 1. We must forget the past, look to the future, and press toward the mark. (Philippians 3:13-14)
 - 2. We must separate ourselves from the world and give ourselves to God. (II Timothy 2:21; James 4:4; II Corinthians 6:14-18; I John 2:15-17)
- B. Not everyone who left Egypt entered Canaan. (Joshua 5:6)
 - 1. A person who is born again does not automatically enter the “Promised Land.”
 - 2. Unbelief will keep us from entering the “Promised Land.” (Deuteronomy 1:26)
 - 3. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

III. FROM EGYPT TO CANAAN IS A JOURNEY

- A. From sin to salvation is the beginning, not the end.
- B. The Israelites were not translated from Egypt to Canaan; they were given instructions that would lead them there.
- C. The obstacles between Egypt and Canaan must be overcome.
 - 1. The Red Sea is an experience we all must face.
 - a. This is the time we must decide which direction we will take; we must choose to go forward or to return to the land from whence we came.
 - b. Following the leadership of God requires commitment and new identity. (I Corinthians 10:1-2)
 - 2. The nation of Israel faced many obstacles between Egypt and Canaan; these obstacles are recorded for our benefit.
- D. The journey to the “Promised Land” requires self-discipline. We must be disciplined in speech, lifestyle, and attitude.
 - 1. Murmuring and complaining led to Israel’s downfall.
 - 2. God’s Word is the key to living a disciplined life. (Psalm 119:11)
 - a. If we do not have the Word hidden in our hearts, we will succumb to Satan’s attack.
 - b. We overcome temptation by the Word of God, using Jesus as our example (“It is written...”).
 - 3. Proverbs 6:2 illustrates an important principle concerning our conversation; therefore, we must be careful regarding what we say or we may find ourselves ensnared by our words.
 - 4. A wise man will listen more than he talks. (Proverbs 10:19)
 - a. Someone who talks all the time is going to sin with his mouth.
 - b. We must diligently guard our mouths.

5. We must constantly be aware of our conversation. (Proverbs 13:2-3)
 - a. A person who can guard his mouth can save his life.
 - b. A person who does not guard his mouth will speak contrary to the Word and thereby destroy himself.
6. The tongue affects both the inward and outward man. (James 3:6; Proverbs 15:4)
 - a. The body can be destroyed by a broken spirit, which comes as a result of a perverse tongue.
 - b. The spirit, not the tongue, should rule the body.
 - c. The tongue cannot be tamed by man, but it can be tamed by God.
7. A wise man will teach his mouth to say what God's Word says. (Proverbs 16:23)
8. A fool speaks what comes to his mind.
 - a. A foolish man is destroyed by his mouth. (Proverbs 18:7)
 - b. A fool speaks from the abundance of his heart, but his heart is full of foolishness.
9. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. (Proverbs 18:21)
10. We can keep our soul from trouble by guarding our mouth. (Proverbs 21:23)
11. Right words are powerful. (Job 6:24-25)
 - a. We must learn to speak in line with the Word of God if we intend to live in the "Promised Land."
 - b. We enjoy the promises when we believe and confess what God says about us.

12. We must keep our conversation in line with the promise. When our conversation is opposed to the promise, we are headed away from the “Promised Land” into the wilderness.
13. Do not murmur and complain! (Philippians 4:4; I Thessalonians 5:18)
 - a. The children of Israel constantly murmured and complained; consequently, they failed to enter the “Promised Land.”
 - b. Our words will work for or against us.
14. We must not speak contrary to the promises of God.
 - a. We must talk health and healing, not sickness and disease.
 - b. We must talk prosperity, not lack.
 - c. We must talk victory, not defeat.
 - d. We are to talk righteousness, not sin.

IV. THE RED SEA CAN MEAN SALVATION OR DESTRUCTION

- A. Faith in God brings salvation.
 1. Moses made a bold confession while standing before the Red Sea. (Exodus 14:13-14)
 2. God’s instruction was to go forward rather than turn back. (Exodus 14:15-16)
 3. We must confess in faith and act upon God’s instruction. (It appears that Moses’ confession preceded God’s instruction.)
 - a. God sent Moses to Egypt to lead Israel out of Egypt and into the “Promised Land;” therefore, Moses had a basis for his faith.
 - b. Do not forget the things God has told you in the past; you will find them very helpful in the future.
- B. Faith in the carnal man leads to destruction.

1. Pharaoh trusted in his army; his army was destroyed.
 2. Pharaoh underestimated God's power.
 3. Do not lean to your own understanding, neither trust in the flesh. Never underestimate the power of God. Rely upon God rather than men.
- C. When there seems to be no way out, we must decide whether to stand with the Word of God or the circumstances.
1. Stand still and see God's salvation; then act upon it.
 2. Looking at the circumstances will cause panic and bring defeat; looking to God brings victory.
- D. When everything is going your way, you must still look to God, not man.
1. Pharaoh looked at the situation and decided he could do what the Israelites did.
 2. Everything seemed favorable for Pharaoh to overcome and defeat the Israelites.
 3. The circumstances deceived Pharaoh.
- E. The Red Sea was salvation and victory for the Israelites but destruction and defeat for the Egyptians.

V. SPY OUT THE LAND (Numbers 13:17-20)

- A. We should take a good look at the promises of God.
- B. We should also look at the obstacles.
- C. We must then evaluate and decide whether or not the promises are worth the fight.
- D. Many Christians have spied out the "Promised Land," but the obstacles have seemed too great to overcome; therefore, they wander in the wilderness all their lives and die missing God's best.

VI. THE CHRISTIAN'S PROMISED LAND

- A. The “Promised Land” is a life of blessing. (Deuteronomy 28:1-4)
 - 1. Blessing is the opposite of curse.
 - 2. Through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the curse of the law has been removed. (Deuteronomy 28:15-68; Galatians 3:13)
 - a. Satan still uses adverse circumstances in an attempt to persuade believers not to believe the blessings of God.
 - b. If we succumb to Satan and doubt our beliefs, we become doubters, not believers.
 - c. Jesus Christ has redeemed us; therefore, we are redeemed!
- B. The “Promised Land” is a life in right standing with God. (II Corinthians 5:21)
- C. The “Promised Land” is a life of health and prosperity. (III John:2)
- D. The “Promised Land” is a life of fellowship and communion with God.
- E. The “Promised Land” is a life of enjoying God’s life and nature.
- F. The “Promised Land” is also a life of obstacles—giants, mountains, and fortified cities.
 - 1. Our adversary, the devil, opposes our inheritance.
 - 2. We also experience persecution from the religious world when we are bold enough to claim our inheritance.
 - 3. We have the promise that we are more than conquerors; therefore, we should act at once and possess the land.
- G. The Christian’s “Promised Land” and the life of faith are inseparable. (Hebrews 6:11-12)

- H. The “Promised Land” is an inheritance from God; therefore, we must constantly be more mindful of the Giver than the gift.

VII. ACCESS TO THE PROMISED LAND (II PETER 1:2-10)

- A. To enter the “Promised Land,” we must first cross over Jordan. (Joshua 3)
 - 1. Many Christians can be compared to the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe Manasseh. (Numbers 32:5)
 - a. These tribes were content to settle this side of the “Promised Land.”
 - b. Too often, born-again believers settle for less than their inheritance.
 - c. We should not put off until the “hereafter” what we can be enjoying today. Why settle for less than God’s best?
 - 2. The crossing of Jordan was not done in the same manner as the crossing of the Red Sea. We must be led by the Spirit!
 - 3. The “Promised Land” contains more than salvation; it is a land flowing with milk and honey, which is a mark of abundance!
 - 4. Complacent or lethargic people do not enter the “Promised Land.”
- B. Our access into the “Promised Land” is through faith and patience. (Hebrews 6:12; Hebrews 10:35-36)
 - 1. Our faith must be in God’s Word.
 - 2. We must be patient until the manifestation comes.
 - a. Waiting may not be pleasant, but it is certainly necessary.
 - b. Be not weary in well doing, for in due season you will reap if you do not faint. (Galatians 6:9)
 - c. We must exercise patience if we expect to receive the promises of God.

- d. We are to endure silently, which means that we are to wait without complaining.
- C. The Christian's "Promised Land" is the promises of God found in the Word of God. (II Peter 1:2-10)
1. Without knowledge of God's Word, we cannot obtain these promises.
 2. God's divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, but these things must be appropriated by faith. (II Peter 1:3)
 3. All things that pertain to life and godliness are available to us through the knowledge of Him Who called us.
 4. God has called us to glory and virtue.
 - a. A call to glory means that God has called us to praise, to worship, to dignity, and to renown.
 - b. A call to virtue means God has called us to manliness, or strength, or force.
 - c. We are called to be morally excellent and spiritually powerful.
 5. The promises of God give us access to the divine nature of God.
 6. What is the divine nature of God?
 - a. It is a nature without sickness, poverty, or sin, and it is immortal.
 - b. When we share in that divine nature, we live above the lusts of the world.
 - c. If we are diligent in our relationship with the Lord, we will develop the nature of God within us, which will keep us from falling.
 7. We are called to enjoy the "Promised Land," not to endure it.

VIII. PROMISED LAND HINDRANCES

- A. There are many temptations which must be overcome; otherwise, they will keep one from entering the “Promised Land.” (I Corinthians 10:1-12)
1. Lust will keep one from entering the “Promised Land.”
 - a. Those who love pleasure more than they love God will not enter the “Promised Land.” (II Timothy 3:1-5)
 - b. Selfishness is the root of lust. Love gives; lust takes.
 - c. Satisfying self at the expense of others will keep one from entering the “Promised Land.”
 - (1) The wife must not take advantage of the husband by spending more than he earns.
 - (2) The husband must not take advantage of the wife by abusing his authority as “head” of the home.
 2. Idolatry, which is anything that usurps the place of God in our lives, will keep one from entering the “Promised Land.”
 - a. Money is a form of idolatry.
 - b. Power and prestige are types of idolatry.
 - c. Education often becomes the center of worship for many.
 - d. The family can become a form of idolatry if it is placed before God.
 - e. Religion has become a very popular form of idolatry.
 - f. Popularity can also be a form of idolatry; it places more attention upon the individual than it does upon God.
 - g. Ministry often takes the place of God.
 - h. Pleasure is certainly a form of idolatry.
 - i. Jobs that keep one from God’s house and from doing God’s will can certainly be classified as idols.

- j. Television has become the god of many people.
 - k. Church can also take the place of God.
 - 3. Fornication, which is sexual immorality, will keep one from entering the “Promised Land.”
 - a. Sexual sins place more emphasis on the body than on God.
 - b. Immorality can never satisfy permanently; consequently, it leads to more sin.
 - c. Sexual immorality holds one in bondage to the world.
 - 4. Tempting Christ can certainly keep one from entering the “Promised Land.”
 - a. Talking the “talk,” but not walking the “walk” is disgusting to God.
 - b. Speaking against God or speaking contrary to God’s Word will certainly hinder one from entering into the “Promised Land.”
 - 5. Murmuring and complaining can also keep one from entering into the “Promised Land.” Murmuring and complaining come from the heart; therefore, the individual who murmurs and complains has a spiritual deficiency. (Matthew 12:34)
 - a. The Israelites complained about their food.
 - b. The Israelites criticized their leader.
 - c. The Israelites found fault with God’s method.
 - d. These spiritual problems bring destruction. (Numbers 13; Malachi 3:13-15)
- B. Any form of sin will keep one from the “Promised Land;” therefore, we must recognize sin, renounce it, and remove it from our midst.
 - 1. Homosexuality is a sin; it is not a “problem.” Therefore, we must not tolerate any such actions.

2. Illicit sex is sin, not a problem.
 3. Living together out of wedlock is sin.
 4. Alcoholism is sin, not a problem.
 5. Various other harmful habits are sins, not problems.
 6. It is obvious that those who do these things yield to seducing spirits, spirits that will damn the soul of man. (I Timothy 4:1-3)
 7. All unconfessed sin is unforgiven sin. Unforgiven sin cannot enter the "Promised Land."
 8. He who knows to do good but does not do it is sinning. (James 4:17)
 9. We must not fellowship with sin. (I Corinthians 5:11; II Corinthians 6:14-18)
- C. Our present comfort may be our greatest hindrance to entering and possessing the Christian's "Promised Land."
1. Many resist change because it requires effort and discipline.
 2. Our past programming has caused us to become comfortable in our present setting.
 3. The traditions of our forefathers must not take precedence over God's Word.
 4. We must not be like those Israelites who were always looking back to Egypt; we must look to the future, not the past.
 5. God forbid that we remain comfortable and settle for anything less than the Christian's "Promised Land."

IX. SUMMARY

- A. The Christian's "Promised Land" is here and now.
- B. We enter the "Promised Land" by taking the promises of God's Word, applying them to our lives, and walking in them.

- C. Many people only see and hear the promises; they fail to apply them to their lives.
- D. Concentrating on giants and obstacles causes one to faint and lose heart, thus missing God's promises.
- E. We must not allow anything to keep us from possessing the Christian's "Promised Land."

X. CONCLUSION

- A. The "Promised Land" is before us.
- B. The decision to enter into the "Promised Land" must be made.
- C. The examples given concerning the nation of Israel should influence our decision-making.
- D. Both the blessing and the curse have been set before us; we must make the choice. Let's choose the abundant life!
- E. Now is the time to possess the "Land of Promise."
- F. Do not wander in the wilderness until you die.
- G. There is a "Promised Land" in the hereafter, but thanks be to God for giving us a "Promised Land" to enjoy in this life.
- H. In reality, Jesus is our Promised Land.
- I. All the promises of God are in Jesus. They are yes and amen. (II Corinthians 1:19-20)
- J. The Christian's Promised Land is in a person Who is willing to give us all things that pertain to life and godliness. (II Peter 1:3-4)