

- 1 **Studies in Joshua**
“Possessing Our Possessions”
 Study #1
“The Spiritual Significance of the Book of Joshua”
 Hebrews 4:1-11
- 2 **The Book of Joshua Must Be Interpreted on Two Different Levels:**
 - 1) The Old testament Book of Joshua is the story of God’s fulfillment of His promise to Abraham (i.e. to give his descendants what we know as ‘the Promised Land’). It is the story of the extermination of the Canaanites under the military exploits of Joshua [Moses’ successor], and it is the story of the partition and settlement of that land by the Israelites.
- 3
 - 2) On a deeper, spiritual level, the book of Joshua reveals wonderful parallels between the events of this book and the experience of the church and the individual Christian today.
- 4
 - **F. B. Meyer says: “... parallels so minute and precise ... establish with added force our faith in the Bible as one book, the product of one mind, which ‘at sundry times and in diverse manners was spoken to men.’”**
- 5 **The liberal interpretation of the O. T. and the Book of Joshua:**
 - Fundamental to the liberal approach is the assumption that the Old Testament books were written long after the events they describe. According to most liberal scholars, the Pentateuch had not even been written at the time of the conquest of the land of Canaan.
- 6
 - **At the heart of the liberal interpretation is what is called the JEPD theory.**
 - *J* stands for the “Jehovah source,” the oldest portions of the law, which use the the name Jehovah for God.
 - *E* stands for the “Elohim source,” because this source used the name Elohim for God.
 - *P* stands for the priestly documents

- *D* stands for what is called the Deuteronomic school

7 ☐

- **“The best way to vindicate the Bible is to preach it. Each book contains within itself, sometimes in hidden form, the autograph of the Holy Spirit. Every page has the watermark of heaven. And a patient consideration of the contents of Scripture, as of the book before us [Joshua], will leave a stronger impression of God’s authority and authorship than any number of external evidences.” - F.B. Meyer**

8 ☐

- **“It is impossible to suppose that so much space should have been given to the record of these details unless there had been some deep and holy purpose - similar to that which has given such minute directions for the Levitical sacrifices, each of which contained some deep spiritual truth required for the growth of holy souls throughout the ages. Of the Book of Joshua, as of the Pascal Lamb and the passage of the Red Sea, it may be said, ‘All these things happened unto them by way of example’ (I Cor. 10:11).”** F. B. Meyer

9 ☐

An important key to a right understanding and interpretation of Joshua:

- **Canaan is not a picture of future rest with God in heaven, but a vivid picture the inward “promised land living” into which the believer can enter here and now! - [cf. Hebrews 4:3 & 11]**

10 ☐

Think of the spiritual implications for Christians today if we understand Canaan in this way in the book of Joshua:

- 1) our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has already entered into His rest and has received the ideal land of Canaan in heaven, as the representative of His people here in earth! [And He allots this inward rest to each of them as they believe and trust in Him!]

11 ☐

- 2) We are called and summoned to give diligence to enter into that land! [Heb, 4:11 - cf. Jer 17:5-8]
- 3) We are called from living in the wilderness into promised land living; an inward life of satisfaction, contentment, rest, spiritual riches, and victory [Heb. 4:11].

12 ☐

- 4) This is because God has redeemed us! We have been delivered out of the bondage of sin in Egypt and We have passed through the Red Sea.
- 5) In order to convince us of our need of that rest God has provided, we have been permitted to hunger and thirst in the wilderness of the desert waste, in “parched places.”
- 6) And it is the possession of that ‘rest’ alone that will convince the world that Jesus Christ is God and will draw them to Him!

13 ☐

“The Book of Joshua is to the Old Testament what the book of Ephesians is to the New.”

F. B. Meyer

- 1) Ephesians is “in deep spiritual accord” with the book of Joshua in the O. T.
- “The characteristic phrase occurring in Ephesians is ‘the heaventies’ (1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12). This does not stand for heaven but for that spiritual experience of oneness with the risen Savior in His resurrection and exaltation ... [i.e. “abiding in Him”!!!].

14 ☐

Five particulars which will help us trace the analogy between the “heavenly places” and the land of Canaan in the Book of Joshua:

- **First Particular: Each was the destined goal to which God’s purpose led His people.**

15 ☐

- **Exodus 2:23-25 & 3:7-12 - From the very beginning, when God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, God made it clear to Moses that His great plan to redeem Israel out of the Egyptian bondage under Pharaoh had a specific goal -**

16 ☐

- **2:23 & 25 & 3:7 & 9 - God was sensitive to the “groaning” of the Israelites and He heard them as they cried out to Him under the evil oppression of their burden of slavery to the Egyptians [cf. also Psa. 18:6 & 16-17].**
- **2:24- God “remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.”**

17 ☐

- **3:8 - The Goal!!! - “So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and**

honey - the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebuzites.

- 18 ☐ **“Their emancipation from slavery to Pharaoh was only preparatory to their settlement in the Land of Promise.”**
- **The plagues God sent upon the Egyptians;**
 - **The death of the first born, the blood on the door posts and the Passover;**

- 19 ☐
- **The extraordinary, miraculous passing through the Red Sea on dry land, and the destruction of the forces of Egypt;**
 - ***All of these divine acts of redemption would have been in vain if they had not been consummated in the settlement of Israel in the Promised Land of Canaan!***
 - **And, the divine promise to Abraham would not have been fulfilled! - Gen. 13:14-15**

- 20 ☐ **Now, look beyond these types and shadows to the spiritual application of them in your own life as a Christian!**
- **God’s act of redeeming our souls is only preparatory!**
 - **The GOAL of our redemption is for our soul to dwell continually in His presence; to “abide in Him”; to experience the blessing of deliverance out of the wilderness of our souls and to experience the richness of promised land living.**

- 21 ☐
- **“Let me solemnly ask, have you realized those conditions, and entered on those privileges? Are you still in the wilderness, or have you entered the land of promise? Do you occupy cities you have never built; eat of vineyards and olive-yards you never planted; drink of cisterns filled from the everlasting hills which you have never hewed; and inhabited houses full of all good things which you never stored? Do you dwell in a land of corn and wine, while the heavens drop dew? Do you as the beloved of the Lord, dwell between his shoulders? Do you tread down your enemies beneath the shoes of iron or brass? ...**

- 22 ☐
- **... Do you make your dwelling place in the eternal God, while underneath are the**

everlasting arms? Test yourself by the promises made to Israel, which are types and shadows of eternal realities; and if they do not foreshadow facts in your spiritual experience, understand that you frustrate the purpose of God in your redemption. Leave those things which are behind to reach forth to the goodly land beyond the Jordan, taking hold of that for which you were taken hold of by Christ Jesus.”

F.B. Meyer