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# HOW TO TAKE THE PROMISE LAND

Joshua 1:1-3

## INTRODUCTION:

Our series has brought us from the crucified life of the Passover in Egypt, the spirit-filled life in crossing Jordan, to the testings in the wilderness, and the miracles. And last week, we discussed those that we met in the wilderness. Today we have a very challenging thought. We want to finally make it out of the wilderness. And the time has come for approaching Canaan from the East, the desert is left behind. The great land of Moab - there is a long ridge. There is a drop of about 2600 feet down to the Jordan valley. There it is. Before you lies the promise land.

It stretches out like a green ribbon. Between the ridge and the Mediterranean Sea. The view is breath taking. The land is wealth. Agriculture. And there certainly is no doubt that you have arrived.

We have been talking about the spiritual geography - the spiritual condition, as we have made progress in the light of the things along the way. And the book of Joshua sets forth a clear, beautiful view of the conditions of the children of Israel in Canaan. I think by the text that he presents, you can tell whether or not you have reached your spiritual promise land. The promise land represents the mature, balanced life which enjoys the fullness of God's blessings. You can know how to take the promise land.

God met the needs of the children of Israel, in the wilderness. He provided guidance, food, clothes, some miracles, and God does far more than merely meet their needs. As precious as that is, Canaan is characterized by bounty. Listen to

✓ Deut. 8:7-9, 13 - "For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a land. A land of brooks of water, of fountains, and depths that spring out of valleys and hills. And a land

of wheat and barley and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil trees and honey. A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shall not lack anything in it; a land where thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold multiply, and all that thou hast is multiplied."

God gave them a land of multiplied blessings. To enter the promise land is to enter into the fullness of your earthly spiritual inheritance. And God delivered them from the past, the daily events. And you will have a lasting satisfaction.

In Egypt the spiritual life is a series of defeats. With an occasional victory. In the wilderness, your life is first up for awhile and then it is down. But when you come to the promise land of your life, you have a series of victories that are interrupted only by an occasional defeat. You have constant joy and peace. God will finally put it all together for you.

Now I am not implying today that your life will be void of conflict. Your life is going to be tested even in the promise land. There will be those trying things. If for no other reason or purpose, them that are necessary to keep you humble.  
Deut. 8:2.

More over, the victory you enjoy is surmounting the conflict that you have. You finally learn as Paul said, now thanks be to God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ. 2 Cor. 2:14.

So through the series of self crucifixion, the filling of the spirit, you have now reached a place of constant spiritual living and development. But all of this awaits your arrival in the promise land.

Well, there are probably some stages. The Bible speaks of growing up, to a

state of spiritual maturity. That is what Paul is speaking of when he encourages you to develop into a perfect man. Unto the measure of the statue of the fullness of Christ that we henceforth be no more children but may grow up. Eph. 4:14-15. Now the Greek word translated perfect means perfect in the sense of mature. As Barclay and other people describe it - it is a person who is full grown, in his personal development. That is to mature to manhood or statue.

Now you will never know the fullness of Christ and the joy until you become full grown. Now some never make it. The Bible charges us not to remain as children or as babies. I Cor. 3:1.

But we are to become more and more in every way like Christ. Eph. 4:13.

Now how are you going to know when you arrive in the promise land?

1 - First, take the praise test. When you get into the promise land you are going to enjoy the blessings of God so much that you are simply going to praise God. There are no silent folks in Canaan.

Life there is so good, you have to tell about it.

*No go around saying Amen, hallooing in every breath - Some, not know what Amen means -  
A Prayer - So be it - el agree - ill - fellow preaching - said world is going to hell! - men said AMEN -  
In fact, there is a (common pitfall) in the promise land when people begin to  
He was saying that my prayer that would go to hell -*

praise God in a mechanical way that is meaningless. This does not glorify God. But when you find a reason to praise him constantly out of a heart felt gratification, then you may know that you are in the promise land.

2 - Second, let me caution you - this does not refer to sinless profession. When you come to the promise land, this crisis of experience or sanctification when the old nature has been erased. Joshua and the children of Israel never did succeed in expelling the Jebusites from the promise land. They could not drive them out.

But the Jebusites dwelt with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto their day.

Joshua 15:63.

Neither will your old nature be erased in your life. Even though you are in the promise land, your old nature will try to sometime reassert itself. And to influence you. So you are going to constantly be pruning that. And so you will be urged to have constant watch care. The Jebusites dwelt within your borders - whether you like it or not. And he can be subdued but he cannot be exterminated. In view of that great danger, we have to be careful.

3 Now third, those who have a great deal of faith are going to be able to occupy the promise land. Those that exhibit much faith in God. The key to spiritual maturity and full inheritance is enlargement of your faith. Faith is the condition to the real inheritance.

*all we know ans. to Everything would not need faith*  
*midst of trouble, finally somebody said, "you'll just have to trust the Lord!"*  
*Reply "oh, how it come to that" - Beloved, we should say that first, not last -*

Moses failed to lead his generation into the promise land because of their

unbelief. Now in the last sermon, we looked at seven different characteristics about these people - what they lacked out in the wilderness. Let me re-check some of these places and you can test your own life by these.

I - First, test your virtue. In the wilderness, Israel's goodness was up and down. When they entered Canaan they had developed virtue. That is, goodness became the natural and consistent expression of their life. "And they answered Joshua saying, all that thou commandest us, we will do. And whether so ever thou sendst us, thou wilt go. Joshua 1:16."

? Here is a question - "Are you doing every single thing that you know you should do as a Christian?" Search your heart about this matter. For a mature Christian has

enough faith to trust God and obey in everything.

That is why Abraham trusted God. And when God told him to leave home - to go away to another land which he promised to give him - Abraham obeyed. Hebrews 11:8.

II Second, test your knowledge. The Israelites tempted God in the wilderness.

Ex. 17:7 - "Is the Lord among us or not?" They were looking for signs. But the next generation had such faith, they not only knew God was with them - they knew God had given them the promise land. Even before they possessed it. Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land. Joshua 2:24.

IV Your question - are you right now believing God for miracles that you know will happen even before they do. Great faith knows God will come through. Mark 11:23-24. Now this is a Hallmark of faith - what is faith. Hebrews 11:1 - It is a confident assurance that something we want is going to happen.

III - Third, test your temptance. A characteristic of Israel in the wilderness was they kept an idol or two. Ex. 32:8. But when they entered the promise land they were tempted. They were willing to set themselves apart from idols. And any thing else in order to be used of God. Joshua said sanctify yourselves for tomorrow - the Lord will do wonders among you. Joshua 3:5.

IV Your question - Is there anything in your unwillingness to give up for your Lord. A real disciple will throw down everything to follow Jesus. Some men drop their nets. Some men left their tax offices. Other men left their agricultural callings. And great faith seeks first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all of these things shall be added unto you. Matt, 6:33.

IV Fourth, test your patience. The children of Israel were always complaining and murmuring in the wilderness. Ex. 15:22. They lived beneath their circumstances - they were discouraged easily. But the generation that took the promise land had faith enough to stay under the load and lift until the victory had been reached. Now that is called patience. <sup>Proved</sup> And patience was the key at Jericho. And the Lord said unto Joshua, see I have given thee, into thine hands Jericho. And ye shall compass the city all ye men of war go around about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days, and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times and the priest shall blow the trumpet. Joshua 6:2-4.

Little did they understand it but they had enough faith to patiently obey. Joshua arose early each day, and led his army around Jericho and back. For six days the same thing, just as God instructed. On the seventh day, he circled the city seven times and they blew the trumpet. The great walls of the city crumbled and fell - the victory was theirs. They joined the ranks of those like Abraham, through faith and patience inherited the promises. Heb. 6:12.

? Your question - Will you refuse to quit and stay under the load, serving God without complaint no matter what?

V Fifth, test your godliness. In the wilderness the children of Israel often fell lusting after things of the world. Numbers 11:4. However, in Canaan they refused to countenance even one man who coveted worldly things. And who took them. The Achan man saw the spoils of 200 shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of 50 shekels. Then I coveted them. I took them. Joshua 7:21.

Get amused at some of these children's books - Explaining their escapades:  
 "Jr. Bit The Meter Man - Kicked The Cook - Is Anti-social Now, according to The Book!  
 v1 SMASHED The Clock & Lamp - HACKED the Tree, Destructive Trends are treated in Chapt's 243.  
 II Threw his Milk At Mom - Screamed for More, Notes on Self Assertativeness Are found in Chapt. 4.

Your question is - do you often covet the things of this world. Be deeply honest. The man who makes the promise land must break every hope the world has upon his life. He will believe there is more to life than material things to be enjoyed. He will have the faith to live for things of eternal value. And he will have the victory that over comes the world. I John 5:4.

Jr. Tossed his Shoes & Socks out into the Rain, Negation That an Norman & Dis regard The Storm.  
 II got in Grand pops Room & Tore up his Fishing Line - That's to gain Attention, see page 849.  
 Bwt Grand pop sees the Shipper & YANKED Jr across his knee, for Grand pop The Title of that Poem is: "ON being behind with one's Reading" HADNT read A Book since 1893

VI Sixth, test your brotherly kindness. In the wilderness the children of Israel

were envious, judgemental. Numbers 12:1. But in the promise land, they had developed brotherly love and kindness, and there was understanding.

Let me give you an example - (Joseph's) children when all the promise land was divided up among the tribes - approached Joshua who parceled out the land. Why have you given us only one portion of land - when the Lord has given us such large populations. Joshua 17:14. Now take note, they didn't complain about what others were getting. When Joshua failed to respond as they had hoped, in the 15th verse, they simply asked - well, the land is not large enough for us. V. 16. They failed to get all that they wanted, but they never did display envy about what others were receiving. Brotherly love prevailed through that.

Your question - Do you love your brother enough not to be envious of him in any way. Now, do not speak too quickly and say it is never so - because you will make yourself a liar. I think one of the greatest tests for brotherly love is to check yourself for envy. Do you ever receive secret satisfaction at another man's misfortune. Do you ever find yourself disliking a person because you have a wrong desire of something towards his. The Israelites envied Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. Psalm 106:16.

But great men of faith have such belief in their own significance before God that they rise above all envy. It is always the Jews which believed not - who are moved with envy. Acts 17:5, against Jesus.

VII In the seventh place, test your love. The children of Israel were afraid to enter the promise land. But the (next generation) seemed to have no problem, at all. Marching in battle after battle without the slightest hesitation, you see - they took seriously the first instruction for taking the land. <sup>11</sup> Hear ye, therefore, oh Israel and observe to do it that it might be well with thee and that you might increase mightily in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart. <sup>12</sup> Deut. 6:3,5. This generation loved God with all their heart and they had perfect love, and that cast out fear.

Have you determined whether you really love God with all of your heart. Do you love God enough to be contented. And are you not truly content, until you can thank God for everything. That you have a quiet disposition in your heart. Do you thank God even for the ebb and the flow of life. Now great faith, loves God that much. It is content. Great faith believes in a personal universe in which God is love.

As I think about Israel's conquest of Canaan - it is absolutely astonishing. The description of Israel as they go into that land - it is divided up. But in all the requirements of the division of the inheritance - the children of Israel were never expressing discontent because they had reached a spiritual maturity. And Peter designates this as a precious quality of faith. He says, like precious faith. 2 Peter 1:1-7. As we have been analyzing how to get in the promise land, and to test our entrance in.

Let us deal with this question, how then will Israel take the land? You just



won't believe the description. You won't believe how they were to take it! Look at it - seven mighty nations occupied the land: The Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and the Jebusites - each one mightier than Israel. Deut. 7:1. They had bows, swords, spheres, chariots of iron. Deut. 1:28.

Now our text is taken from Joshua 1:1-3.

13  
"That Moses my servant is dead, arise, and go over this Jordan - into the land which I do give to the children of Israel. " Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given you. "

They were limited only by the land they covered.

The New Testament speaks of the walk in the spirit. Gal. 5:16 walk in the spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. You are limited only by your walk.

1  
In the wilderness you were characterized by your wanderings. But in the promise land you are walking. You are making progress. And walking is not wandering.

The whole land was given to the children of Israel and they could possess it - every portion of it that they were willing to place the sole of their foot upon it. Wherever they walked it had been given to them.

The enemy infested land - all they had to have was faith to walk through it. Through trouble and though troubled on every side, they were not to turn from the right hand nor to the left. That thou mayst prosper whether soever thou goest.

The spiritual life is a walk of faith. 2 Cor. 5:7. You must simply exercise

faith by placing one foot before the other and continuing to trust God for everything. (You) have all of God, you have faith to appropriate. And the more faith you have, it enlarges, and you simply walk - you take a step. You depend upon him. One step at a time.

This one (gigantic) truth - the Christian life (can be lived). In that one measured sentence, I have stated the most startling discovery of my own salvation. Do I believe it. The Christian life can be lived.

Now this makes the (headline) news today. Ours is an age of spiritual drop outs. The Baptists drop out, the Roman Catholics rust out, the Fundamentalists fall out, the Pentecostals blow out, the youth trip out, our workers wear out, our crusade converts cut out, and our old soldiers of the cross - they just fade away.

Now it is not a matter of re-grouping our forces. The Christian life (cannot be lived by just everybody).

(Nor can just anybody) live the Christian life. But only one great somebody - Jesus Christ, our Lord. That's the secret of a spiritual life. A Christian life can be lived only in Christ.

You must have the right ones living it. The Christian life can be lived exclusive by him. He designed it and he assigned it to you.

(Now) that is why the Christian life is so difficult. People are forever trying to live the Christian life in (their own strength). When they do not put their dependance upon the Lord Jesus. Now this is the sum substance of the spiritual way and the spiritual walk of life. It is an exchange of life - you exchange your

life for Christ's.

Gal. 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ--never the less I live. Yet not I but Christ liveth in me.

That is indwelt and infilled. Your life can pulsate with the living wonder of the son of God. Every demand upon your life is a demand upon the Christ within you. Now I have been preaching the gospel for a number of years now - and I have never found myself adequate for anything. My life is an endless exercise of faith that is appropriated in Christ. That his love, he cares, he understands. And He never runs dry. And the more I am able to appropriate a Christ in my life - the less I live in the flesh. Now this place is the place of emphasis, for your life, that will make it positive rather than negative. Your life will cease to be up and down.

In the autumn time, the leaves begin to fall now, this time of year. The winter winds will begin to blow. There will be some leaves that will hang on - they are dead and ugly. Now there are two ways of getting these leaves off the trees. One way, we can take a stick and beat them off. Now the other way, we can wait until the coming Spring and Summer arrives. And the new life sap comes up into the tree, and the dead leaves fall to the earth.

Now God doesn't take a stick to your life and rush up and knock off all the dead fruit. You lose those little by little. He takes you on through the Springtime experience, when the son of God and his life flows through you and these ugly things drop away - these sinful things. Then you will be in the promise land and you'll be a part of God's finished work. He says, I will not drive them out from before thee in one year. By little and little, I will drive them out from before thee until thou be increased and inherit the land. Ex. 23:29-30.