

#4 The Goodness of the Land—Its Minerals

(Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy) 2020/3/16-22

Overview: The building and the battle always go together. If we would have the building, we must be prepared to fight. The stones, the iron, the mountains, and the copper are for the building and for the battle (I). The Bible begins with a clay-man, continues with a stone-man, and consummates in a stone-city. This is God's economy. The stones of the good land are iron, iron signifies the authority of Christ. If we are able to exercise Christ's authority in resurrection, we will have safety and security (II). We need to experience Christ as a land from whose mountains we can mine copper. The bronze breastplate of righteousness covers our conscience and guards us from Satan's accusations. This breastplate is Christ as our righteousness. The bronze helmet of salvation for covering our mind is the saving Christ we experience in our daily life (III). We all need to see that in the Lord's recovery today we are on a battlefield. We should be today's Joshua and Caleb, fighting against Satan's aerial forces so that we can gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, setting up and spreading the kingdom of God (IV).

I. The stones, the iron, the mountains, and the copper are for the building and for the battle:

Deut. 8:9 ...a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper. (Mon/Tue) **Neh. 4:17** Those who built the wall and those who carried burdens took the loads with one hand doing the work and with the other holding a weapon.

A. The building and the battle always go together; if we would have the building, we must be prepared to fight.

B. For the building we need the materials, and for the battle we need the weapons; these depend upon the stones, the iron, the mountains, and the copper.

II. We need to experience Christ as a land whose stones are iron:

A. Christ is a stone for God's building; this means that Christ is the material for God's building and that God's building is entirely of Christ: **1.** In the Bible stone is a major item: **a.** God created a man of clay; hence, the first man was a clay-man.

b. In Christ, God Himself came to be a man, and this man was a stone-man. **c.** At the end of the Bible we have a stone-city.

c. The Bible begins with a clay-man, continues with a stone-man, and consummates in a stone-city; this is God's economy.

2. Christ as a stone for God's building is the One in whom we are saved; He is the Stone-Savior—solid, strong, and reliable.

3. Both Christ and His believers are stones for God's building:

a. In Christ and through Christ we are becoming living stones to be built up as a spiritual house. **b.** We are undergoing the process of transformation so that Christ, the living stone, may be constituted into us to make us living stones for God's house. **Rom. 12:2** And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect. **Mon**

B. Iron signifies the authority of Christ: **Matt. 28:18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

1. Spiritual authority is always in resurrection; therefore, in order to have authority we must be in the resurrection life of Christ: **a.** If we walk in the resurrection life of Christ, we will have the right to claim His authority. **b.** When we are stones living in Christ, we automatically share the authority of Christ.

c. The authority of the church is absolutely in resurrection; the authority of the church is where the saints know what it

means to be crucified with Christ and to live in resurrection. **2.** If we are able to exercise the authority of Christ, we will have safety and security. **Deut. 33:25** Your doorbolts shall be iron and copper; And as your days are, so shall your strength be. **Tue**

III. We need to experience Christ as a land from whose mountains we can mine copper:

Ezek. 34:13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the streams and in all the inhabited places of the land.

A. In the Bible mountains signify resurrection and ascension:

1. The mountains in the good land typify the resurrected and ascended Christ. **2.** As the One who has resurrected and ascended on high, Christ is the high mountain. **3.** In the ascended Christ we may engage in spiritual warfare, for in Christ's ascension there are the peaks of reality (Amana), victory (Senir), and the destruction of the enemy (Hermon). **S. S. 4:8** Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; With me from Lebanon come. Look from the top of Amana, For the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lion's dens, From the leopards' mountains. **Wed**

B. Bronze and copper are words used interchangeably for the same materials in the Old Testament.

C. Copper (bronze) signifies the judgment of Christ: **1.** Christ's gleam in His work and move is signified by His arms and His feet being like the gleam of polished bronze: **Dan. 10:5-6** I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz. His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of multitude. **2.** Bronze signifies God's judgment, which makes people bright. **3.** Christ was judged and tried by God, and God's trial and judgment made Christ bright like polished bronze. **4.** The feet of Christ are like shining bronze, signifying that His perfect and bright walk qualifies Him to exercise divine judgment. **Rev. 1:15** And His feet were like shining bronze, as having been fired in a furnace... **5.** To apply Christ as the copper (bronze) is to realize that He is the perfect One, the shining One, the One who has been tested and proved: **a.** Christ, the tested and proved One, the perfect, bright, and shining One, is our covering; the enemy can do nothing with Him. **b.** We need to apply Christ as our covering: **1.** The breastplate of righteousness covers our conscience and guards us from Satan's accusations; this breastplate is Christ as our righteousness. **2.** The helmet of salvation for covering our mind is the saving Christ we experience in our daily life. **Thu**

IV. If we would experience Christ as stone, iron, and copper, we must have some degree of spiritual maturity; wherever there is a matured life in Christians, the building of God's house will take place, and the battle of spiritual warfare will be fought:

A. Joshua 1:3 indicates that although God had given Israel the good land, Israel still needed to take the land; they needed to cooperate with God by rising up to fulfill God's commission to possess the land. **Josh. 1:3** Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given to you, as I promised Moses.

B. If we would possess Christ as the good land, we still need to fight the spiritual warfare by faith in the Lord and in the principle of the Body; we also need to realize that we are not the ones fighting, for God goes with us and fight for us.

C. Joshua led the children of Israel to enter the promised land and to take it, possess it, and enjoy it: **Josh. 1:6** Be strong and

take courage, for you will cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give to them. **1.** Joshua was to be occupied with God's word and let the word occupy him. **Josh. 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall muse upon it day and night so that you may be certain to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have success. **2.** The response of Israel to Joshua implied their willingness, their readiness, and their being in one accord not only with Joshua but also with Jehovah their God, as expressed by their blessing Joshua in the name of their God. **3.** Israel had become a corporate Joshua, chosen, called, redeemed, saved, trained, prepared, and qualified by God, ready to go on with God as one to take the land of Canaan. **4.** To gain the all-inclusive Christ, we need to be today's Joshua, fighting the battle, taking the land, and enjoying Christ as our inheritance.

D. The children of Israel were buried in the death of Christ, and then they were resurrected in the resurrection of Christ.

1. In their old man they could not gain the victory; their old man had to be buried so that they could become a new man.

2. We need to realize that our old man, our natural man, is not qualified to fight the spiritual warfare for gaining the all-inclusive Christ. **Fr**

E. In order to possess the good land, we need to deal with the flesh, enjoy the Lord's table, enjoy the all-inclusive Christ as the produce of the good land, and see a vision of Christ as our Captain. **1.** The circumcision at Gilgal signifies the application of the Lord's death to our flesh. **2.** Israel's keeping the Passover typifies the believers' keeping if the Lord's table to remember the Lord as their Redeemer and Savior. **3.** The produce of the good land typifies Christ as the consummated God-given food to the believers, requiring their labor on Him. **4.** Joshua saw a vision in which Christ was unveiled as the Captain of Jehovah's army; whereas Joshua was the visible captain, Christ was the invisible Captain of God's army. **Josh. 5:13-14** Now once, when Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked; and behold, there was a man standing opposite him, and His sword was drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, Are You for us or for our adversaries? And He said, Neither, but as the Captain of Jehovah's army have I now come. Then Joshua fell to the ground upon his face and worshipped. And he said to Him, What does my Lord speak to His servant?

F. The victory of Israel over Jericho was won not by their fighting but by their blowing the trumpets and exalting Christ by bearing the Ark, through their faith in God's word of instruction: **1.** In the spiritual warfare the first thing we should do is exalt Christ. **2.** The silence of the people signifies being one with the Lord to carry out the matter in the Lord's way without the expression of any thought, opinion, or feeling. **3.** God did the fighting, and Israel shouted, proclaimed, and testified. **4.** Israel marched around the city with the Ark, a type of Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, on the shoulders of the priests; the spiritual significance of this scene is that it is a picture of the corporate God-man—God and man, man and God, walking together as one person.

G. The children of Israel were defeated at Ai because they were not one with God but cared only for themselves; the account of their defeat should teach us to be one with God in whatever we do. **H.** The children of Israel were deceived by the Gibeonites because they were like a wife who forgot her husband; that they did in Joshua 9 was exactly the same as what Eve did in Genesis 3. **I.** The record in Joshua 22:10-34 about the building of another altar shows us that we must

avoid division and that to experience and enjoy the all-inclusive Christ we must be one people, one people, one Body, one universal church. **J.** We cannot enjoy Christ as the good land without the Body; we must be one with the Body to fight for the land, to possess the land, and to share our portion of the land. **K.** "We all need to know what the recovery is, where the recovery is, and what kind of persons can take the recovery on. We all need to see that in the Lord's recovery today we are on a battlefield. We should be today's Joshua and Caleb, fighting against Satan's aerial forces so that we can gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, setting up and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth. It is not adequate for us simply to be spiritual and holy. We need to learn of Joshua and Caleb to represent God's interest in this age to fight down the enemies that Christ can be gained by people and that Christ can be increased by His pursuers". **Sat**

Crucial Point(1): Realize Christ's authority and submit to it and exercise deputy authority

OL1: The Bible begins with a clay-man, continues with a stone-man, and consummates in a stone-city; this is God's economy.

OL2: Christ as a stone for God's building is the One in whom we are saved; He is the Stone-Savior—solid, strong, and reliable.

OL3: Both Christ and His believers are stones for God's building. **OL4:** We need to experience Christ as a land from whose mountains we can mine copper. Iron signifies the authority of Christ.

OL5: If we walk in the resurrection life of Christ, we will have the right to claim His authority. When we are stones living in Christ, we automatically share the authority of Christ.

The Lord's building is built with stones, but we are made of clay. How could we as a piece of clay be material for the Lord's building? It is impossible. We must be transformed from clay to stone.

In Deuteronomy 33:25 we are told that the doorbolts of the gates are made of iron and copper. These gates are for our protection, our defense, our safeguard. If we are able to exercise the Lord's authority and the Lord's judgment, we will have the safety and security. Our doors will be bolted with the authority and judgment of the Lord. The most safe and the most secure are those believers who know something regarding the exercise of Christ's authority. They have strength because they have authority, so they have safety and security and therefore rest.

The building of God is always with this kind of Christians. They are not only the material for the building, not only the stones for the house, but also the house built together. With this kind of believers is the authority of God, the divine government.

When traffic approaches the policeman, does he need to call the mayor and ask that he do something to stop it? This is ridiculous. The policeman is authorized to do this. In exactly the same manner, there is no need for us to call to God for help. We may and we must simply take our ground and exercise our authority.... But...we cannot do this without some degree of spiritual maturity.

Application to young working saints/graduate students

Businessperson needs to understand the matter of

authority. For example, the present leader of nation of Japan is Prime minister Abe and he has authority as the leader of the nation. In the Bible, we are admonished to pray for the leaders of the nations. [1 Tim. 2:1](#) I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men; [2](#) On behalf of kings and all who are in high position, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and gravity.

You need to pray for the leader of the nation and respect and support his decision. Since all the deputy authorities are from God. In the same way, you need to submit to your boss. Those who criticizes Prime minister Abe are those who criticizes boss at their work. Only when you submit to the authority can you have a tranquil life to live Christ.

The authority to decide the direction of the project you are involved is with your boss. You can explain your idea but the decision is made by the person with authority. If you do not understand the matter of authority, you will be caught up in the meaningless fight and struggle and waste your time and energy. By your leaning to submit to the authority, your business life would be blessed. [Col. 3:22](#) Slaves, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing the Lord. [23](#) Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men, [24](#) Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as recompense. You serve the Lord Christ. [25](#) For he who does unrighteously will receive what he unrighteously did, and there is no respect of persons.

In the church life also, without your realizing and submitting to God's authority, you cannot fight against Satan with exercise of deputy authority. Realizing the authority is important in everything.

Prayer: "Oh, Lord Jesus, let me be those who realize and submit to the authority in my business life, church life and family life. Without submitting, I end up living in chaos and rebellion. Lord Jesus, only when I submit to the authority, can I live a tranquil life of living Christ. When I submit to the boss and serve him, actually I am serving the Lord Christ. By submitting to the authority, I can exercise the deputy authority to bind Satan and solve various problems. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord. "

Crucial Point(2): [Take up Christ as the bronze breastplate and the bronze helmet and let them cover your conscience and your mind to fight in the spiritual battle](#)

[1 Sam. 17:5](#) And there was a bronze helmet upon his head; and he was clothed with scaled armor, and the weight of the armor was five thousand bronze shekels.

OL1: Copper (bronze) signifies the judgment of Christ.

OL2: Christ was judged and tried by God, and God's trial and judgment made Christ bright like polished bronze. **OL3:** The feet of Christ are like shining bronze, signifying that His perfect and bright walk qualifies Him to exercise divine judgment.

OL4: The breastplate of righteousness covers our conscience and guards us from Satan's accusations; The helmet of salvation is for covering our mind.

When Christ was here on earth, He passed through

all kinds of tests and suffered every kind of trial. His feet are like burnished bronze, refined in the furnace. What do the feet represent? The feet represent the walk, the life on earth. The walk and life of the Lord on earth have been refined, burnished, tested, and tried by God. They have even been tested by the enemy and by humanity. By all these tests, the Lord's life and walk have been proved and come forth perfect, bright, and shining....He has been qualified to judge others.

How can we apply this? Sometimes... while you are serving the Lord, or perhaps while you are coming to a meeting to minister, a thought of how dirty and sinful you are enters your mind. What do you do at such an instant? Yes, you ask the Lord to cover you with His precious blood and cover your mind with Himself. ...This is the helmet made of bronze. ...Then in faith you exercise your spirit and say to the enemy, "Satan, I am dirty; I am sinful. But praise my Lord, He is the perfect One; He is the One who has been tested and proved, and He is my covering; He is the helmet for my head."

He has the ability, the strength, the qualification, the ground to withstand all attacks. Whenever the enemy meets this perfect One, he flees. Never fight the battle by yourself—this is not your business. The battle is the Lord's.

Application for the new ones & young people & college students
[Eph. 6:14](#) Stand therefore, ...having put on the breastplate of righteousness ...[17](#) And receive the helmet of salvation....

FN "breastplate of righteousness": To put on the breastplate of righteousness is to cover our conscience, signified by the breast. Satan is the one who accuses us. In fighting against him we need a conscience void of offense. ...To be righteous is to be right with both God and man. If we are just a little wrong with either God or man, Satan will accuse us, and there will be holes in our conscience through which all our faith and boldness will leak out. Hence, we need the covering of righteousness to protect us from the enemy's accusation.

FN "helmet of salvation": Receiving the helmet of salvation is for covering our mind, our mentality, against the negative thoughts shot in by the evil one. ...Satan injects threats, worries, anxieties, and other weakening thoughts into our mind.

During the time of Apostle Paul, armors like breastplates and helmets were mostly made of bronze. Bronze signifies the judgment of God and makes man bright. The feet of Christ are like the brightly shining bronze. To apply Christ as bronze is to take up the breastplate of righteousness made of bronze that covers your conscience and the helmet of salvation made of bronze that covers your mind.

In your future, not only becoming an expert in a certain area in your work or school, but please become a manager who can see the overview and use many people properly. Many of Japanese people are too serious, so there are a lot of experts looking at the details in their field, but there are

a little of managers who can see the whole view. While a serious minded Japanese manager is listening to various kinds of opinions from his people, he take seriously about what Satan's telling such as "You should work late until midnight to take care about those opinions from many," or "Before getting the whole picture of your work, you should look into more detail things and think about them much more deeply," and then he will be exhausted. There are a lot of exhausted managers in Japanese companies. You should never react those infusion from Satan and talk with Satan. Because in the spiritual warfare, defense is the most important, in order to become a good manager, it is crucial that your conscience and your mind is protected and you do not have any conversation with Satan. God wishes you manage everything. For your future, please experience Christ as the covering to protect you from Satan's attacks while you are a young student, and learn to manage things and people little by little.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, let me learn to manage people in the Lord from my youth. To get many people together and lead them, I must not have too weak nerves. First looking at the detail with my one eye, I see the overview of the whole things with my both eyes. Then under that overview, I become able to think about the detail properly. To practice this, the defense is crucial. Without defense, I will be accused by Satan. To be guarded from having conversation with Satan, I take the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation made of bronze. Please cover my conscience and my mind, then I can go forward in the Lord! Amen!"

Crucial Point(3): In the spiritual warfare the first thing is exalt Christ. Put your opinion on the cross according to the word, be one with the brothers and sisters as one man against Satan, and advance in God's economy

OL1: In the spiritual warfare the first thing we should do is exalt Christ.

OL2: The silence of the people signifies being one with the Lord to carry out the matter in the Lord's way without the expression of any thought, opinion, or feeling.

OL3: God did the fighting, and Israel simply shouted, proclaimed, and testified. **OL4:** Israel marched around the city with the Ark, a type of Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, on the shoulders of the priests; the spiritual significance of this scene is that it is a picture of the corporate God-man—God and man, man and God, walking together as one person.

God's people did not need to do anything to destroy Jericho. They only needed to believe and trust in God, to listen to the instruction from the Captain of the army of Israel, and to exalt Christ by bearing the Ark. From this we see that in the spiritual warfare the first thing we should do is exalt Christ. The victory over Jericho in Israel's first battle after crossing the Jordan was won not by Israel's fighting but by their blowing of the trumpets and shouting, by their testifying and proclaiming of God with His Ark, through their faith in God's word of instruction. These were the vital factors that enabled them to win the victory.

God can do everything without man, but according to the record of the book of Joshua, He wants man to be one with Him. In keeping with the principle of incarnation, God wants to do everything through man, with man, and even in man. At Jericho Israel marched around the city with the Ark, a type of Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, on the shoulders of the priests. The spiritual significance of this scene is that it is a picture of a corporate God-man, God and man, man and God, walking together as one person. This was the way the children of Israel crossed the river Jordan... [and destroyed] Jericho. God and Israel were fighting together. Actually, however, God did the fighting, and Israel simply shouted, proclaimed, and testified and then occupied the city.

We all are God-men.... [Thus] we must realize that whatever we do, wherever we go, and whatever we are should not be by ourselves. We should not act, behave, or do things by ourselves but with God.

Application for the serving ones

Josh. 1:5 No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you nor forsake you. **6** Be strong and take courage, for you will cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give to them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, being certain to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Do not turn away from it to the right or to the left, that you may have success wherever you go. **8** This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall muse upon it day and night so that you may be certain to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have success. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go.

This is the words spoken just before the Israelites entered the good land under the guidance of Joshua. The key word here is "the Lord is with you." The condition of "the Lord is with you" is to believe in the word, enter, possess and enjoy the good land according to the word.

You must never try to use the Lord for your plans. God is not the one who can be despised. The secret to your life being blessed and successful is that God is with you. This is the most important thing. But whether or not God is with you depends on carrying out God's economy according to His Word. Our god is never a "god of learning", a "god of prosperity of business," a "god of longevity", a "god of domestic security". God cares for all your needs, but God is "the God of God's economy." You will receive mercy, be enlightened, cleansed, strengthened, rise up and fight spiritual battles, be one with the brothers and sisters, exalt Christ, and be the one who builds the church.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I exalt the Lord's name. Trust in the Lord, not in myself. I will carry out God's economy, "Experience Christ and Build the Church." I can't do anything apart from you, but stand up in Christ and carry out God's economy against Satan. I offer you my whole life. May the church advance from victory to victory. Amen!"