

#5 : The Formation of a Corporate Joshua to Possess the Good Land by Defeating the Satanic Forces

(The Spiritual Warfare Of The Church As The New Man)

- I. **The good land, the land of Canaan, is a type of the all-inclusive Christ, the Christ who is all and in all and who is everything to us: Deut. 8:10** And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.
- A) Only the land of Canaan is a full type, the complete and ultimate type, of Christ; the type of the good land shows that Christ is the all-inclusive One.
- B) In Colossians Paul employs the concept of the all-inclusive land, speaking of “the allotted portion of the saints”: **Col. 1:12** Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light; ① This portion is the all-inclusive Christ for our enjoyment. ② The Greek word rendered “portion” can also be rendered “lot,” referring to an allotment of the inheritance, as mentioned in Joshua 14:1. ③ The land of Canaan was everything to the children of Israel, and Christ, the reality of the type of the good land, is everything to us.]
- II. **If we would possess the good land for the fulfillment of God’s purpose, we must engage in warfare to defeat the satanic forces:**
- A) Satan, the enemy of God, has been doing his utmost to hinder the people of God from enjoying Christ as the all-inclusive One; he will do whatever he can to keep us from enjoying Christ as the good land: ① To this day, evil forces are veiling the all-inclusiveness of Christ from God’s people. **2 Cor. 4:3** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled in those who are perishing, **4** In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them. ② There is an exceedingly real spiritual warfare in which we must engage; we must fight the battle to gain the all-inclusive Christ for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ.]
- B) Christ is our good land, and God wants us to gain Christ, but there is a layer of devilish, demonic forces between us and the good land; if we would take possession of the good land for our enjoyment, we must defeat these satanic forces. **Eph. 6:11** Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, **12** For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- C) We need to be today’s Joshua and Caleb, fighting against and defeating the satanic forces so that we can gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, for the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose.
- III. **Without the book of Joshua we cannot fully understand the spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10-20:**
- A) Israel’s fighting against the inhabitants of the land portrays the invisible spiritual warfare that is taking place behind the visible scene on earth.
- B) That there is a spiritual warfare in the invisible scene behind the visible scene means that in addition to war on the earth, there is a war between God and Satan in the air.
- C) Ephesians 2 indicates that in the heavenlies there are different layers: ① Christ is in the highest layer, the third heaven, to be our everything as our good land. ② There is a lower layer of the heavenlies—the air, where Satan as the ruler of the authority of the air is frustrating the people on earth from contacting God and receiving Christ; this is typified by the Canaanites, who were frustrating Israel from entering into the good land.
- D) If we would take possession of Christ for our enjoyment, we must fight against and defeat the satanic forces in order to gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ.]
- IV. **In order to possess the good land and defeat the satanic forces, we need to be formed into a corporate Joshua: Josh. 1:3** Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given to you, as I promised Moses. **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.
- A) As the good land, Christ is ready to be taken and possessed by His believers; however, there is the need for those who are ready to take Him : ① Joshua 1:3 indicates that although God had given Israel the good land, Israel still needed to take the land. ② They needed to cooperate with God by rising up to fulfill God’s commission to possess the land]
- B) Joshua led the children of Israel to enter the promised land and to take it, possess it, and enjoy it: ① 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—vv. 16-18. **Josua 1:16** And they answered Joshua, saying, All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. **17** As in all things we listened to Moses, so we will listen to you. Only may Jehovah your God be with you, as He was with Moses. ② 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. ③ To gain the all-inclusive Christ, we need to be a corporate Joshua, fighting the battle, taking the land, and enjoying Christ as our inheritance.
- C) After being formed, constituted, disciplined, trained, and qualified, God’s people had come to the plains of Moab, where they were waiting to enter into the good land, to take it, and to possess it—Num. 36:13: **Num. 36:13** These are the commandments and the ordinances which Jehovah commanded through Moses to the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.]
- ① The formation of the children of Israel into an army to fight for God typifies the New Testament believers’ being built up into the organic Body of Christ to fight for the carrying out of His economy—Eph. 4:16; 6:12. ② God’s army, a corporate Joshua, was prepared and ready to take the good land under the blessing of God in His Divine Trinity and also under the blessing of Moses, the man of God. **Num. 6:27** So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.
- V. **“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” (Life-study of Joshua, p. 61).**]

Experience ①: Without fighting spiritual warfare to gain Christ, you cannot have a life with joy and satisfaction

Without the book of Joshua we cannot fully understand the spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6. There is spiritual warfare in the invisible scene behind the visible scene. This means that in addition to war on the earth, there is a war between God and Satan in the air. The heavenlies are full of Satan's forces. Christ is our good land, and God wants us to gain Christ, but there is a layer of devilish, demonic forces between us and the good land. If we would take possession of the good land for our enjoyment, we have to defeat these satanic forces. ...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. (The good land shows us God Himself is our portion. We all need to fight the spiritual warfare to gain the blessed portion, the good land, the God Himself.)

The unique blessing in the whole universe is God Himself. Anything besides God is vanity. The entire universe was created by God, yet without God, apart from God, even the universe created by God is vanity. The existence of the universe is a great miracle, but without God the miraculous existence of the universe is vanity. Apart from God, everything is "vanity of vanities" (Eccl. 1:2). Only God Himself is real. Only He is the blessing to us. If we gained the entire universe yet missed God, we would be the most pitiful persons. History is filled with cases of people who gained many riches and many material things but who eventually realized that, without God, it was all vanity. God Himself is our blessing, and this blessing comes to us through the dispensing of the divine Being into us in His Divine Trinity—in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

For Junior/Senior High School Students

Solomon in all his glory said in Ecclesiastes 1:2, "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity." Then Solomon who also is the writer of Song of Songs, emphasized that Christ is the song of songs, satisfaction of satisfactions in our life. Moreover, many examples in history tell us that without Christ, all is vanity. In recent, Kate Spade, the world-famous designer of bags for ladies, committed suicide. She was a designer and also has been successful as a company owner, but she sold her company to other to raise her children. She was very successful, and, in the end, she did not stick to her position as a company manager but preferred to choose raising her children. At first glance, her life has been wonderful, but within her, there was not satisfaction but full of anxieties.

Junior and senior high school students, without Christ, all is vanity of vanities. During your study for college entrance exams, and among the various activities in your school life, you should experience Christ. As time advances, you will know that even if things seem going right, without experiencing Christ, that period of time has been vanity of vanities. A person who experiences Christ is also a person who is mature as a person with full of satisfaction and joy. A junior/senior high school student who experiences Christ can become a superior college student. Everything in your human life is for you to experience Christ, to grow up in Christ, and to become a person useful to carry out God's economy. A Christian is a person who keeps growing up in the Lord until he dies. A life to gain Christ is a life with full of satisfaction.

Experience ②: Those who take the good land have the need to sacrifice and deny themselves, give up their interests and preferences of all things, care not of the dangers of their lives, and carry through the eternal economy of God

In order for God to regain the earth from the usurping hand of the enemy, we need to be in full cooperation and coordination with Him in the principle of incarnation. We need to be one with God in His heart's desire and in His move on earth. Today God wants to save people, but in order to do this, He needs us to be one with Him according to the principle of incarnation. God's charge (Joshua 1:1-4) was that Joshua should enter into God's promised land. His charge to the land-takers was based upon His ordination, initiation, and choosing. The land-takers needed to sacrifice themselves, deny themselves, give up their own interest and preference in all things, and run the risk of their lives for the carrying out of God's eternal economy.

To take the good land, they had to enter into a full coordination with God in His move. If the children of Israel had looked at themselves, they would have said that there was no possibility. But their possibility was the unique God, who needed His elect people to cooperate with Him in His move to carry out His economy, in His desire to move in His economy as the great wheel. Here God seemed to be saying, "Israel, My elect, you must know that there is no need for you to do anything. Simply cooperate with Me. I am motivating the wheel to run. You need to be one with Me. Go in to possess the land, and I will slaughter the idol worshippers through you. Without you I cannot do anything."

For Working Young Saints

God ordered Moses, twelve men were sent, and they were to explore the good land of Canaan. They came back and reported to Moses and the whole congregation. The ten reported in their unbelief, but the reports of Joshua and Caleb were full of faith and were in line with God's economy.

Report with unbelief by 10 men: Num. 13:31 But the men who went up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. 32 And they brought to the children of Israel an evil report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great size. 33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.

Faithful report by Joshua and Caleb: Num. 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 If Jehovah is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey. (Josh. 11:23 So Joshua took the whole land according to all that Jehovah had spoken to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land had rest from war.)

The reports of unbelieving ones were based on the certain facts. There were Nephilim, the giants. For the unbelieving ones, if the people of Israel go against them, the people of Israel would be devoured. But for Joshua and Caleb with faith, whatever the Nephilim might be, they only saw them as predatory for the people of Israel. This case shows that if you act just based on the outward facts, you will definitely be a loser, those who believe in the Word of God can be strengthened and be blessed according to the Word.

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. 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.