

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

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PART 13: VICTORY TO ANARCHY

THE PROMISED LAND

Abraham had arrived in the land of Canaan some 2,030 years after the creation of Adam and Eve. It was a beautiful place with lush forests and grazing land; there was plenty of water from rain and natural springs. Canaan was not heavily populated and Abraham was able to move around with his household consisting of more than a thousand persons and huge flocks of cattle, sheep, horses and camels. God told Abraham long before he had any children that this land had been set apart for his descendants. **Genesis 13:14-18**

Satan heard the conversation the Lord had with Abraham and formulated his own plan to derail God's plan so that the Promised Land would not be the possession of Abraham's seed. The Devil immediately set out to control the people living in Canaan through pagan worship and debauchery. God knew about this and told Abraham that He would give the Amorites four generations of grace before judging them. **Genesis 15:13-16**

It was 546 years from the death of Abraham until the calling of Moses. The children of Israel spent 430 years of that time in Egypt, and when Joshua led the people of Israel into the Promised Land forty years later, the people of Canaan had lived sinfully under grace for some 586 years. **Exodus 12:40-41**

God instructed Moses to exterminate the Canaanites before the children of Israel even entered the Promised Land. To order the destruction of men, women and children seems harsh for a God of love but the sins of the people in Canaan had gotten to the point that there was no redemption for them. Satan tried to disrupt and ruin God's plan for Canaan by working tirelessly for hundreds of years to thoroughly corrupt the Canaanites just as he had done with the people before Noah's flood. **Genesis 6:5-13; Deuteronomy 7:1-5**

ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND

The Promised Land was a beautiful place but it was under the dominion of Satan and a horde of evil spirits. Joshua was told by the Lord that he had to fight and cleanse Canaan by force in order to possess it. **Joshua 1:1-9**

Jesus has redeemed the human race from the curse of sin but it is still necessary for Christians to fight to cleanse the Promised Land. **Galatians 3:13-14**

Our Promised Land today is ruled by Satan and his minions. Just like the people of Israel, we have to fight for it if we want it. **Ephesians 6:10-18**

The Israelites did not understand that when they cleared the land of the pagans, all the evil spirits who had possessed the Canaanites, began to seek new bodies to possess and destroy. **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**



When evil spirits possessed Achan and led him to disobey God by taking the cursed objects, the Lord reacted swiftly and demanded a cleansing from sin. His wife and children had also been spiritually contaminated and they had to die as well in order to cleanse the people from spiritual contamination. **Joshua 7:10-13, 22-26**

SATAN HELD THE PROMISED LAND

Satan is not omnipresent, meaning that he can only be in one place at a time. In order to extend his control over people, the Devil is using devils (evil spirits, demons) to carry out his wishes. In order to control a certain region on earth, evil spirits will entice humans to set up idols, sacrifice and worship them. Evil spirits are behind the idols, and when an idol is worshiped, it gives the demons the legal right to possess the people, but also to spiritually control the land. **1 Corinthians 10:19-22**

The nations living in the land of Canaan were heavily into idol worship, which included human sacrifices to their false gods. Since God had already chosen the land of Canaan to be the homeland of the Israelites and the location where the future Messiah would appear, the Devil had worked for some 586 years to make sure that every human living there was possessed by demons regardless of age and that powerful principalities controlled the land itself. **Daniel 10:11-14, 20-21; Ephesians 6:10-12**

The same holds true for each Christian. While it is true that we have been saved and moved from Kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God, we are still living on the earth with Satan as the god of this world and myriads of fallen angels and evil spirits, constantly contesting the Christian lifestyle. **John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4**

ETHNIC CLEANSING

The Lord told Joshua to exterminate the pagan people in Canaan and Joshua set out to do as God instructed. **Joshua 10:28-43**

Just like God hardened the heart of Pharaoh, so God also hardened the hearts of the kings and the people of Canaan in order to judge and kill them. **Exodus 9:12; Joshua 11:20**

- ❖ God killed everyone except for eight people during Noah's worldwide flood.
- ❖ God annihilated everyone in Sodom and Gomorrah except for Lot and his two daughters.
- ❖ God ordered Joshua to exterminate all the people living in Canaan.

The problem was that the leadership under Joshua did not fully obey what God had decreed. They left pockets of Canaanites throughout the Promised Land and thus Satan had strongholds from which he would later use to pervert the Israelites. **Joshua 13:13; 16:10**

A Christian must root out all sin from his life; there can be no pockets of sin left if there is to be victory. **Hebrews 12:1-2**

THE PASSING OF JOSHUA

Joshua called the leadership of Israel together at the end of his life to exhort them and give a final warning. God did not call for a successor to Joshua as each tribe was to rule itself. God would use judges later on when needed, but there wasn't to be a centralized leadership any longer. God never explained why He allowed this to happen. **Joshua 23:1-16**

The people had to make a choice. **Joshua 24:14-25**

CONTAMINATION

In transitioning to a decentralized leadership, the leaders of each tribe did not understand the need to maintain a strong educational system in order to prepare future generations for obedience to the Word of God. The children of Joshua's generation were able to maintain the knowledge of God, but their children, the third generation, were overpowered by the evil spirits and turned to idolatry. **Judges 2:6-13**

The people of Israel sank into a state of anarchy instead of an orderly lifestyle with God that involved worship and carrying out His will. **Judges 21:24-25**

The modern church is at the same stage Israel was long ago with the time of the judges. There is no strong biblical teaching that unites Christians today. We are fragmented into lots of groups, each with a leader that claims to have truth from God.

Evil spirits possess both Christians and non-Christians alike and fornication, adultery, homosexuality and pornography are rampant in the churches. People are being destroyed for lack of knowledge. **Hosea 4:1-6**

The only solution is turning back to God, repenting and having the demons cast out. **1 John 1:4-10**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?