

A SIGN OF CONCERN

The glorious conclusion of the whole section:

Joshua 21:43-45 (NKJV) “So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. (44) The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. (45) Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.”

Romans 8.35-39 NKJV “(8.35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

(8.36) As it is written:

*“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

(8.37) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (8.38) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, (8.39) nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

It carries within it the fulfilled condition of obedience. Success is never to be taken for granted; it is always linked to obedience to God’s Word.

Thus, the allotment of the land, besides being the token of God’s faithfulness to Israel (Nehemiah 9:8 (NKJV) “You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, The

Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Gergashites— To give it to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You are righteous.” creates space for an open-ended future development based on Israel’s attitude.

Will Israel be able to secure what has been achieved?

Joshua 23:1-5 (NKJV) “Now it came to pass, a long time after the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua was old, advanced in age. (2) And Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers, and said to them: “I am old, advanced in age. (3) You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you. (4) See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea westward. (5) And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you.”

What are the major focal points of Joshua’s introduction?

Joshua’s speech moves from the old and aged speaker (emphasized twice) to the audience who will have to carry on the mission entrusted to them by God.

He describes how the conquest of the land was possible: the Lord fought for them.

Even though, because of their unfaithfulness and disbelief, the Israelites had to be involved in warfare after the Exodus, **it was not through their military power but through God’s intervention that they managed to possess the land.**

God has given rest to Israel from its enemies, but there are some nations left that still have to be dispossessed.

Victory is not an accomplished, unchangeable reality for Israel but an ever-present possibility by constant reliance in faithfulness on God's available help.

God imbalances the battle field in favor of His children:

Joshua 23:10 (NKJV) "One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you."

Jesus alone, abolished the walls of tradition that separated Jew from Gentile:

Colossians 2:15 (NKJV) "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

We are to cast down arguments that seek to exalt themselves above God:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) "(3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

We are to clothe ourselves in the whole armor of God to equip us from victory:

Ephesians 6:11-18 (NKJV) "(11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (15) and having

shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (18) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—”

The victories of the Israelites could not be attributed to their strength and strategy. Similarly, spiritual victory over sin and temptation have been secured through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but God’s people today must constantly rely on the spiritual supplies provided by the Holy Spirit in order to live a triumphant life.

With so many wonderful promises before us, why do we still find it so easy to sin?