

Program: SS Panel 2025 4 Q

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John Dinzey.2025.Q4.L09. The Challenge of the Land

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Question:

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NIL: Not in Lesson

Lesson 9

*November 22–28

Heirs of Promises, Prisoners of Hope

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: Gen. 3:17–24; Deut. 6:3; Josh. 13:1–7; Heb. 12:28;
Lev. 25:1–5, 8–13; Ezek. 37:14, 25.

Memory Text: “Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double” (Zechariah 9:12, ESV).

TUESDAY

November 25

The Challenge of the Land

Read Joshua 13:1–7. Even though the land of Canaan was a gift from God, what were some of the challenges that came with possessing it?

Joshua 13:1–7 1 Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. **And the Lord said to him: “You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.**

2 This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the **Philistines** and all *that* of the Geshurites,

3 from Sihor, which *is* east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (*which* is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines—the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites;

4 from the south, **all the land of the Canaanites**, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, to the border of the Amorites;

5 the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath;

6 all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon as far as the Brook Misrephoth, *and* all the Sidonians—**them I will drive out from before the children of Israel**; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you.

7 Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh.”

some of the challenges that came with possessing the land

- > The philistines were mercenaries
- > The people of Israel were shepherds
- > The land & cities the people of Israel were supposed to possess were fortified

*???use???*****

Genesis 47:1-3 Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, “My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they *are* in the land of Goshen.”

2 And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.

3 Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What *is* your occupation?”

And they said to Pharaoh, “**Your servants *are* shepherds, both we *and* also our fathers.**”

>>> But, the people of Israel had to learn that the battles is the LORD's

> From the beginning of the time the LORD led them out of Egypt He tried to teach that lesson.

Exodus 14:13-14 13 And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

14 The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

Five of you shall chase a hundred

Leviticus 26:6 6 I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make *you* afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

7 You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.

8 Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

9 ‘For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you.

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Given the fact that **for centuries the Israelites had been living as slaves, their military skills were inadequate to conquer the land.** Not even their slave masters, the Egyptians, with their skilled and well-equipped armies, were able to

occupy it permanently. **The Egyptians never conquered Canaan completely because of the impregnability of the walled cities.** Now a nation of former slaves is told to conquer a land that their former masters were unable to subdue. **If they are to ever possess the land, it will be through God's grace alone, not through their own effort.**

Joshua 13 through 21 deals with the division of the land to the various tribes of Israel. This allotment tells Israel not only what has been apportioned to them but also what still must be occupied within that territory. The Israelites can securely live in the land that God has given to them as an inheritance. They are the rightful and legitimate tenants of the land under God's ownership. **Yet God's initiative must be matched by human response.** The first half of the book shows how God gave the land by dispossessing the Canaanites; the second half reports on how Israel took the land by settling it.

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This complexity of the conquest illustrates the dynamics of our salvation. Similar to Israel, **we cannot do anything to earn our salvation** (Eph. 2:8, 9). It is a gift, just as the land was God's gift to Israel based on their covenantal relationship with Him. It certainly wasn't based on their merits (see Deut. 9:5).

It is not because of your righteousness

Deuteronomy 9:5-6 ***5 It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you,*** and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

6 Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you *are* a stiff-necked people.

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However, for the Israelites to enjoy God's gift, they had to assume all the responsibilities that came with living in the land, just as we have to go through

the process of our sanctification in loving obedience to the requirements of being citizens of God's kingdom. Though not the same thing, the parallel between their being given the land by grace and our being given salvation by grace are close enough. We have been given a wonderful gift, but it is something that we can forfeit if we are not careful.

How do Christians today encounter similar challenges to those related to occupying the Promised Land? See *Phil. 2:12, Heb. 12:28*.

Philippians 2:12 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

- > *self*
- > *surroundings*
- > *unbelief*
- > *devil roaring lion*

Hebrews 12: 28 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Hebrews 12:1-2 1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.

25 And everyone who competes *for the prize* [i]s temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1Co 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

1Co 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

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Additional Notes