**(2 Chronicles 7) Joshua 1**

YOUR PROMISED LAND

**5––HONOR THE OWNER**

**Joshua 1:1–5 (NKJV)** After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying: **2** “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. **3** Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. **5** No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

**Joshua 1:3-4** Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be **your territory**.

**THERE HAS BEEN MUCH DEBATE THROUGHOUT HISTORY ABOUT WHO THE PROMISED LAND BELONGS TO, BUT THE BIBLE IS EXTREMELY CLEAR WHO OWNS IT, AND IT MAY NOT BE WHO YOU THINK…**

**Leviticus 25:23 (NKJV)** ‘The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.

**THIS SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE BECAUSE PSALM 24:1 SAYS…**

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.” **(NLT)**

**AND BECAUSE THE PROMISED LAND BELONGS TO GOD, HE HAD THE RIGHT TO GIVE IT TO WHOEVER HE WANTED … AND HE GAVE IT TO THE DESCENDENTS OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB**

**Deuteronomy 1:8 (NKJV)** See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.’

**SO GOD IS THE OWNER, BUT HE GAVE THE LAND TO THE DESCENDENTS OF ABRAHAM FOR AN EVERLASTING POSSESSION**

**Genesis 17:8 (NKJV)** Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

**SO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE LAND AS AN EVERLASTING POSSESSION, BUT GOD IS STILL THE OWNER**

**EX – Telling a son or daughter, that’s “your room”… it is, but it still belongs to the owner of the house**

**EX – I remember living in an apartment and them giving me a remote to open the gate … if someone asked me, “Is that your remote?” I’d say, “Yes,” but when I moved out I had to give it back … though it was given to me to keep in my possession, I wasn’t really the “owner.”**

**AND GOD KNOWS HE’S STILL THE OWNER… LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAID TO SOLOMON AND ISRAEL IN 2 CHRONICLES 7…**

“But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, **20** then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. **21** “And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land and this house?’ **22** Then they will answer, ‘Because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.’ ” 2 Chronicles 7:19–22 (NKJV)

**WE ALSO SEE THIS AFTER ISRAEL CROSSED THE JORDAN AND CAME TO JERICHO … JOSHUA SAID TO THEM IN JOSHUA 6:17-20**

**Joshua 6:17–20 (GW)** The city has been claimed by the Lord. Everything in it belongs to the Lord. Only the prostitute Rahab and all who are in the house with her will live because she hid the messengers we sent. **18** But stay away from what has been claimed by the Lord for destruction, or you, too, will be destroyed by the Lord. If you take anything that is claimed by the Lord, you will bring destruction and disaster on the camp of Israel. **19** All the silver and gold and everything made of bronze and iron are holy and belong to the Lord. They must go into the Lord’s treasury.” **20** So the troops shouted very loudly when they heard the blast of the rams’ horns, and the wall collapsed. The troops charged straight ahead and captured the city.

**THE PLAN WAS THAT THEY WOULD HONOR GOD WITH THIS FIRST CITY, AND GIVE HIM ALL THE PLUNDER … AND THEN, ALL THE PLUNDER FROM THE REMAINING CITIES THEY WOULD GET TO KEEP FOR THEMSELVES … THIS IS THE PRINCIPLE OF THE “FIRST”… IT’S THE TITHE TO THE LORD.**

**Matthew 6:33 (ESV)** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

**AND EVERYTHING SEEMED TO GO AS PLANNED WITH ISRAEL UNTIL THEY STARTED THEIR NEXT BATTLE … A SMALL ONE … AGAINST AI … AND THEY LOST**

**Joshua 7:5–11 (ESV)** and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water. **6** Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. **7** And Joshua said, “Alas, O Lord God, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! **8** O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! **9** For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?” **10** The Lord said to Joshua, “Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? **11** Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings.

**THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT GOD WAS SAYING IN MALACHI … LET’S BACK UP TWO VERSES…**

**Malachi 3:8–10 (NKJV)** “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

**SO YES, OUR PROMISED LAND IS OURS … BUT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER WHERE IT CAME FROM … AND WHO THE OWNER IS … AND WE MUST HONOR HIM AS THE OWNER … AND THEN, NOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO STOP YOU**

**AFTER THEY DEALT WITH THE SIN OF ACHAN, GOD HELPED THEM TO WIN EVERY BATTLE**

**IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO HONOR THE LORD**

**EX – Tithing $17,300+ on the townhouse sale… and we’ll tithe on sale of our house too**

**EX – I was talking to someone in our church the other day who is in escrow… and he is so excited about giving God the tithe when escrow closes**

**LET ME CLOSE WITH THIS … DOES GOD REALLY CARE ABOUT WEALTH???**

**WHAT’S REALLY GOD’S PROMISED LAND???**

**… THE PEOPLE**

**2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)** The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

**I WANT TO INVITE YOU TO ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN BBST**