Possessing Your Promised Land

**6—FIGHT THE “ITES”**

June 19, 2022

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO DEUTERONOMY 8.**

**Deuteronomy 8:1 (NKJV)** “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may **live** and **multiply**, and **go in** and **possess** the land of **which the Lord swore** to your fathers.

**Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)** And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

**INTRODUCTION**

Every believer on earth has a call of God on their life, and no one can fulfill it without a fight. And it’s not an easy fight either. Jesus showed us that we have to give everything we’ve got. That’s what He did. His fight included fighting the devil, enduring attacks from the religious elite, the myriad of opinions of society, the dullness of the disciples’ hearts, and His own flesh that was tempted to not fight for the salvation of others, but to rather look out for #1. Thankfully, He understood that if He didn’t fight to fulfill His calling, the entire world would be lost for eternity—including us—and He literally fought to the death.

And now it’s our turn. Jesus has called every one of us to fight for the salvation of people around us. If you listen to others, you’ll think the goal of life is to accumulate a big nest egg, retire comfortably, put yourself in a position to survive shortages while others suffer, or just to eat right and exercise so you can live a long life.

So let me ask, what if your plan works, then what? Once you’ve lived your perfect life and die, what will you explain to everyone in heaven? To the apostle Paul who was repeatedly tortured for taking the gospel to city after city before being martyred? To Peter and Andrew who were reportedly crucified? Or to Barnabas who was stoned to death? Or to John’s brother James whom Herod killed with a sword in Acts 12? Or to Jesus’ oldest brother James, the leader of the church in Jerusalem, whom the scribes and Pharisees threw off the high temple wall down into the Kidron Valley? Or to another one of Jesus’ disciples, Simon the Zealot, who after preaching the gospel in Egypt went north to Persia where he was sawn in half. Or to John who was thrown into a caldron of boiling oil for preaching the gospel. And let’s not even talk about what you would explain to Jesus after all He sacrificed.

If you’re like me, this conversation invokes a paradigm shift. And let me assure you, it’s a needed shift in all of us. There are precious people dying without salvation every day, and this is why God continues to call us to possess our Promised Land… all of it. The “land” that God is after are the people for whom Jesus died. If we don’t fight for them, who will?

Our God—your God—has called each of us to possess a territory… to fulfill a calling… to reach certain people with the love of Jesus. It’s gonna take a fight… but you’ll realize for all eternity, they were worth fighting for.

**THE LAND GOD IS AFTER ARE THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM JESUS DIED. IF WE DON’T FIGHT FOR THEM, WHO WILL?**

**GOD HAS CALLED EACH OF US TO POSSESS A TERRITORY OF PEOPLE**

**Numbers 33:53–56 (NKJV)** you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess. **54** And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone’s inheritance shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers. **55** But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. **56** Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.’ ”

**THOUGH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CONQUERED THE LAND, SOME OF THE TRIBES AND PEOPLE DID NOT POSSESS ALL THE LAND THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO**

**Joshua 13:13 (NKJV)** Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

**Joshua 16:10 (NKJV)** And they did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day and have become forced laborers.

**Judges 1:21 (NKJV)** But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

**ONE OF THE “ITES” THAT ARE HARD TO DRIVE OUT IS THE “ROUTINE-ITES.” WE’VE GOT A ROUTINE THAT’S COMFORTABLE TO US… ONE THAT WE’RE USED TO, BUT GOD IS CALLING US TO PRESS FORWARD TO REACH PEOPLE… AND RIGHT NOW, TO GATHER IN GROUPS AROUND GOD’S WORD AND TO PRAY TOGETHER.**

**OTHER “ITES” THAT SOME PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO DRIVE OUT ARE THE “RELAX-ITES.” THIS IS SOMETIMES DUE TO GENUINE TIREDNESS FROM WORKING HARD ON IMPORTANT THINGS, OR IT COULD SIMPLY BE THAT YOUR FLESH ENJOYS RELAXING AND YOU FEEL ENTITLED TO IT. BUT GOD IS CALLING US IN THIS HOUR TO PRESS FORWARD SO WE CAN REACH PEOPLE… AND SPECIFICALLY HE’S CALLING FOR US TO GATHER IN GROUPS AROUND THESE LESSONS AND TO PRAY TOGETHER.**

**OTHER “ITES” THAT SOME PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO DRIVE OUT ARE THE “ENTERTAINMENT-ITES.” SOME “ENTERTAINMENT-ITES” ARE DOING DAMAGE TO OUR OWN SOULS AND THOSE OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS, BUT SOME ARE NOT DOING DAMAGE, THEY’RE JUST IN THE WAY OF US POSSESSING ALL THE LAND GOD IS GIVING US SO THEY NEED TO GO. WE MUST DRIVE THEM OUT. THAT MAY INCLUDE SCREEN TIME, SUCH AS TV SHOWS, MOVIES, SOCIAL MEDIA, INTERNET SURFING, NEWS SHOWS OR READING NEWS. IT COULD ALSO BE BOOKS THAT WE LIKE TO READ, OR GOING OUT TO PLACES OR ANOTHER TYPE OF ENTERTAINMENT. BUT GOD IS CALLING US AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME TO PRESS FORWARD WITH HIS PLAN SO THAT WE CAN REACH PEOPLE… AND SPECIFICALLY HE’S CALLING FOR US TO GATHER IN GROUPS AROUND THESE LESSONS AND TO PRAY TOGETHER.**

**OTHER “ITES” THAT SOME PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO DRIVE OUT ARE THE “COMFORT-ITES.” THE “COMFORT-ITES” KEEP US FROM DOING THINGS WE’RE NOT COMFORTABLE DOING. MAYBE GATHERING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS AND DISCUSSING SPIRITUAL THINGS. MAYBE TAKING THAT TIME OUT OF YOUR WEEKLY SCHEDULE. THE PROBLEM IS, THE “COMFORT-ITES“ ARE BLOCKING SOME OF US FROM POSSESSING LAND GOD WANTS US TO POSSESS. SO WE MUST DRIVE THEM OUT RIGHT AWAY AND DO WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO DO.… AND SPECIFICALLY GOD IS CALLING ALL OF US TO GATHER IN GROUPS AROUND THESE LESSONS AND TO PRAY TOGETHER.**

**TESTIMONY VIDEO**

**PHOTO

OTHER “ITES” THAT MANY PEOPLE COWER TO ARE THE “INSECURITY-ITES.” THE “INSECURITY-ITES” KEEP US AWAY FROM HAVING CONVERSATIONS WE SHOULD HAVE. WE KNOW GOD IS CALLING US TO START OR ATTEND A GROUP—OR EVEN A HOUSE CHURCH—BUT INSECURITY KEEPS YOU FROM DOING IT. THEY NEED TO BE FOUGHT AND DEFEATED SO WE CAN DO WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO DO.**

**OTHER “ITES” THAT SOME PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO DRIVE OUT ARE THE “PRIDE-ITES.” THE “PRIDE-ITES” KEEP US FROM DOING ANYTHING THAT COULD MAKE US LOOK BAD. ALLOWING PEOPLE TO SEE THAT OUR HOME IS NOT UPDATED OR BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED LIKE SOME PEOPLE’S HOMES, OR THAT WE CAN’T SPEAK OR READ AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER PEOPLE. SO OUR PRIDE BLOCKS US FROM OBEYING GOD BECAUSE THAT WOULD EXPOSE US TO POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT. THE PROBLEM IS, THE “PRIDE-ITES“ ARE BLOCKING SOME OF US FROM POSSESSING LAND GOD WANTS US TO POSSESS. SO WE MUST DRIVE THEM OUT RIGHT AWAY AND DO WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO DO.… AND SPECIFICALLY GATHERING IN GROUPS TO STUDY THESE LESSONS AND TO PRAY TOGETHER.**

**OTHER “ITES” THAT SOME PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO DRIVE OUT ARE THE “DISOBEDIENCE-ITES.” THE “DISOBEDIENCE-ITES” TELL US THAT EVEN THOUGH WE’VE MADE JESUS OUR LORD, WE STILL GET TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS. WE CAN CHOOSE WHEN WE OBEY AND WHEN WE DISOBEY HIM. SO IF THERE IS ANY “ITE” WE DON’T WANT TO DRIVE OUT, WE SIMPLY DON’T FIGHT THEM. THE PROBLEM IS, THE “DISOBEDIENCE-ITES“ ARE BLOCKING SOME OF US FROM OBEYING JESUS. SO WE MUST DRIVE THEM OUT RIGHT AWAY AND DO WHATEVER JESUS IS CALLING US TO DO.… INCLUDING GATHERING IN GROUPS TO STUDY THESE LESSONS AND TO PRAY TOGETHER.**

**Joshua 17:14–18 (NKJV)** Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, “Why have you given us only one lot and one share to inherit, since we are a great people, inasmuch as the Lord has blessed us until now?” **15** So Joshua answered them, “If you are a great people, then go up to the forest country and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you.” **16** But the children of Joseph said, “The mountain country is not enough for us; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both those who are of Beth Shean and its towns and those who are of the Valley of Jezreel.” **17** And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—saying, “You are a great people and have great power; you shall not have only one lot, **18** but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots and are strong.”

**Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)** And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

**THE APOSTLES—AND MANY OTHERS THROUGHOUT HISTORY—HAVE HAD TO DEFEAT THEIR OWN “ITES,” AND NOW IT’S OUR TURN.**

**WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU? WHAT IS YOUR TERRITORY RIGHT NOW? YOUR WORKPLACE? YOUR SCHOOL? YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? YOUR GYM?**

**THIS IS OUR TIME… IT MAY NOT FEEL LIKE THE PERFECT TIME OR IT MAY SEEM LIKE THE WORST TIME… BUT THE REALITY IS, THIS IS THE TIME THE LORD IS CALLING US TO CROSS OVER THIS JORDAN AND BEGIN EXECUTING HIS PLAN. AND WHAT JESUS IS CALLING US TO DO IS OUR TOP PRIORITY. AND HE PROMISED US IF WE WOULD SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, ALL THE OTHER THINGS WE NEED WOULD BE ADDED TO US.**