Possessing Your Promised Land

**5—TAKE ALL THE CITIES**

June 12, 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.

**INTRODUCTION:** Everyone’s Promised Land is bigger than they think it is. There is so much land to possess, and so few people possessing it, there is an abundance for everyone. By land, we’re talking primarily about reaching, discipling, and ministering to people. And not only is there an abundance of people and opportunities, there is an abundance of power, and abundance of authority, and abundance of approval, and an abundance provision. Everything we need to possess our Promised Land—to fulfill our God-given assignments, has already been provided for us. However, along with all of this abundance is an abundance of resistance from Satan. Jesus said, “I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” So Jesus tells us that Satan will try to stop us. And Paul told us that our fight is not with people, but with principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places. So there is definitely spiritual resistance. On the other hand, James 4:7 tells us that if we submit ourselves to God, we can resist the devil and he will flee from us.

So this issue is not whether or not God wants us to possess our Promised Land nor if we have the power and resources to take it, but rather, if we have the will and determination to take it. That something inside that says, “I refuse to let a defeated thief and a liar keep what belongs to me.” If we’ll obey God, He will continue to bless us and reward us for fighting for everything Jesus paid for.

Today God is speaking to us about taking whole cities. How will we do it? By the wisdom of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, it requires spiritual warfare and obedience, but let’s listen to what the Spirit of God is telling us about fulfilling our callings today from Deuteronomy chapters 2 and 3.

**GOD HARDENS ENEMY’S HEARTS**

**Deuteronomy 2:30–31 (ESV)** But Sihon the king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him, for the Lord your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that he might give him into your hand, as he is this day. **31** And the Lord said to me, ‘Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you. Begin to take possession, that you may occupy his land.’

**YOU MUST TAKE ALL THE CITIES**

**Deuteronomy 2:32–34 (ESV)** Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Jahaz. **33** And the Lord our God gave him over to us, and we defeated him and his sons and all his people. **34** And we captured all his cities at that time and devoted to destruction every city, men, women, and children. We left no survivors.

**NO CITY IS TOO STRONG**

**Deuteronomy 2:35–36 (ESV)** Only the livestock we took as spoil for ourselves, with the plunder of the cities that we captured. **36** From Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and from the city that is in the valley, as far as Gilead, there was not a city too high for us. The Lord our God gave all into our hands.

**Verse 36 (GW)** “… no city had walls that could keep us out. The Lord our God gave us all of them.”

**Ecclesiastes 9:14–18 (NLT)** There was a small town with only a few people, and a great king came with his army and besieged it. **15** A poor, wise man knew how to save the town, and so it was rescued. But afterward no one thought to thank him. **16** So even though wisdom is better than strength, those who are wise will be despised if they are poor. What they say will not be appreciated for long. **17** Better to hear the quiet words of a wise person than the shouts of a foolish king. **18** Better to have wisdom than weapons of war, but one sinner can destroy much that is good.

**NEW REGIONS WITH MORE CITIES**

**Deuteronomy 3:3–5 (ESV)** So the Lord our God gave into our hand Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people, and we struck him down until he had no survivor left. **4** And we took all his cities at that time—there was not a city that we did not take from them—sixty cities, the whole region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. **5** All these were cities fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, besides very many unwalled villages.