Possessing Your Promised Land

**7—DANGERS IN THE PROMISED LAND**

June 26, 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**

What if I told you that the Promised Land God was leading you and your family to was full of dangers. Your first thought may be, “Well, let’s not go.” But as we’ve discussed in much detail in previous weeks, that’s not an option because that would be disobeying God and allowing a lot of people for whom Christ died to unnecessarily be lost for eternity. And not only that, but there are dangers right here in the wilderness too, and not trusting and obeying God is the greatest danger of all.

So what are the dangers in the Promised Land. The greatest dangers are what the beliefs of the people. Because they have refused to listen to God’s explanation of things in His Word—the Bible—their minds have become very clouded when it comes to reality. They have opened their minds to what the Bible calls foolishness… beliefs that are not real, lies, things that don’t make sense, and worst of all, things that God strictly warns against and forbids. You remember God telling us over two years ago from Isaiah 60:2:

“Darkness shall cover the earth and deep darkness the people.”

He told us that this darkness of people’s thinking was about to dramatically increase, which as you know, it has. Our nation—even the unbelievers—used to be among the wisest in the world because of the light and insight that came from God through His Word. And it bolstered us to become the most prosperous and influential of all nations. However, that prosperity has given place to pride, and slowly but surely society has continued to reject the idea that God’s Word is the truth and that we should trust it… that we should trust God. It’s not that our society had no knowledge of God, as Romans 1:21-22 says:

**Romans 1:21–22 (NCV)** They knew God, but they did not give glory to God or thank him. Their thinking became useless. Their foolish minds were filled with darkness. **22** They said they were wise, but they became fools.

The many beliefs of our society that clearly say, “I don’t believe in God’s point of view… we have our own way of thinking, and it’s better. We reject what God’s Word says about sexuality, gender, the life of the unborn, and what’s acceptable and not acceptable.” are the greatest dangers in the Promised Land.

**ALL IDOLATRY MUST BE DESTROYED**

**Deuteronomy 7:1–15 (NKJV)** “When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, **2** and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. **3** Nor shall you make marriages with them. **You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. 4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against YOU** and destroy you suddenly. **5** But thus you shall deal with them: **you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.** **6** “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. **7** The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; **8** but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **9** “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; **10** and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. **11** Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them. **12** “Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. **13** And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. **14** You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. **15** And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.

As I read Deuteronomy 7, I felt strongly that we need to address a deadly temptation that disciple-makers and church leaders will have. In an effort to make new believers and new disciples comfortable, they’ll be tempted to welcome some of their unscriptural—and even demonic—spiritual practices. God’s warning here is very strong. All idolatry and spirituality that is not taught or affirmed in God’s Word must be eliminated. And the devil is sneaky… he is a thief so he enters subtlety. But God says all such practices must be destroyed or our sons and daughters will be led astray by them.

LANDMINES IN THE PROMISED LAND

MANY IDOLS ARE LANDMINES

Isaiah 60:2 darkness

Bowing to the narratives of gender, sexuality, acceptable language, acceptable behavior, acceptable entertainment, twisted view of right and wrong, relativism, humanism, secularism, wokeness, pride,

Replacing popular narratives for God’s Word

Replacing the renewing of the mind with the Word of God for psychology

Replacing healing physical healing with medication

Replacing emotional healing with therapy

SOME WHO WERE AMONG US HAVE ALREADY STEPPED ON A LANDMINE AND HAVE SPIRITUALLY BLOWN UP… THEY DON’T REALIZE THAT THEY ARE ALREADY DEAD.
Matthew 7:21-22

ACHAN GOT BLOWN UP IN JERICHO…

**30 MODERN-DAY IDOLS**

1. **Money**
2. **401k**
3. **Possessions**
4. **Identity**
5. **Career Success**
6. **Influence**
7. **Esteem or Approval from People**
8. **Your Image or Physical Appearance**
9. **Health**
10. **Intelligence**
11. **Education**
12. **Partying or Entertainment**
13. **Your Wardrobe**
14. **A Relationship or Romance**
15. **Sex**
16. **Comfort**
17. **Phones or Technology**
18. **Family or Children**
19. **Safety & Security**
20. **Television**
21. **Social Media**
22. **Drugs or Alcohol**
23. **Food**
24. **Astrology**
25. **Horoscopes**
26. **Ouija Boards**
27. **Tarot Cards**
28. **Palm Reading**
29. **Psychics**
30. **Pornography**
31. **Ministry**

Verse 11 says “I should have added verse 11 where God basically says, “You must stick with what I said in the Word.”

Verses 12-15, God promises blessings if they obeyed this “no compromise” commandment.