Possessing Your Promised Land

**2––IT’S YOUR TURN (Land)**

May 8, 2022

**2 Kings 2:8–14 (NKJV)** Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them **[Elijah and Elisha]** crossed over on dry ground **[to the East/wilderness side of the Jordan river]**. **9** And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, **“Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”** **10** So he said, “You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.” **11** Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. **12** And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. **13** He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. **14** Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over **[the Jordan river]**.

**WHAT IS THE LORD SAYING??? HE’S SAYING, “IT’S YOUR TURN! … IT’S TIME TO CROSS THE RIVER JORDAN AND POSSESS YOUR PROMISED LAND”**

**HE’S TELL YOU THAT YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY… IT BELONGS TO YOU… IT’S YOUR LAND… AND IT’S YOUR TURN**

**Joshua 1:1–9 (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. **6** Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. **8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

**Verse 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.”*

**MOSES IS DEAD = THE PAST IS OVER… GET UP AND DO WHAT I’M TELLING YOU TO DO**

* Now Arise and Go Over This Jordan = It’s time to cross… push passed every obstacle that’s been holding you back
* You and all this people = you’re not going alone… you’re going with others in the Family of God
* To “the Land” that I’m giving YOU – God is giving everyone a piece of His land now.

**Verse 3** *“Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.”*

**EX – “Everyone Builds Solid Lives”**

**EX – God has called us to get into groups… sit at Jesus’ Feet… learn to be Jesus’ Church**

**VERSES 6, 7 & 9**

* **V6** – *Be strong and of good courage*
* **V7** – *Only be strong and very courageous*
* **V9** – *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

**SO WHAT IS YOUR LAND?**

**Ephesians 2:10 (NIV modified)** “We [were] created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

“works” = Gr. *ergon* (er´-gon)

**HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DID GOD PREPARE THOSE WORKS?**

**Hebrews 4:3 (NKJV mod)** “The works **[er´*gon*]** were finished from the foundation of the world.”

**GOD CREATED A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD… THAT’S YOUR LAND!**

**Colossians 4:17 (NKJV mod)** “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

**YOUR LAND IS YOUR CALLING FROM GOD… AND IT INCLUDES MANY BLESSINGS, INCLUDING PROVISION**

**EX** – **Proverbs 24:27 (NKJV)** Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

**Matthew 6:33 (CEV)** But more than anything else, put God’s work first and do what He wants. Then the other things will be yours as well.

**BEING IN CHURCH––AND EVEN IN DISICPLESHIP––IS NOT ENOUGH… YOU MUST DO THE WORKS GOD HAS CREATED FOR YOU… THAT’S YOUR LAND!**

**REMEMBER JUDAS?**

1. **Judas was in the best discipleship program in history… he was mentored by Jesus**
2. **Judas listened to Jesus’ teaching**
3. **Judas watched His miracles**
4. **Judas even healed people in Jesus’ name, and probably cast out demons**
5. **But other things caught his attention… like money… remember John 12:3-6?**

**John 12:3–6 (CEV)** Mary took a very expensive bottle of perfume and poured it on Jesus’ feet. She wiped them with her hair, and the sweet smell of the perfume filled the house. **4** A disciple named Judas Iscariot was there. He was the one who was going to betray Jesus, and he asked, **5** “Why wasn’t this perfume sold for three hundred silver coins and the money given to the poor?” **6** Judas did not really care about the poor. He asked this because he carried the moneybag and sometimes would steal from it.

1. **And the very next chapter said:**

**John 13:2 (GNB mod)** Jesus and his disciples were at [the last] supper. The devil had already put into the heart of Judas… the thought of betraying Jesus.

**THE DEVIL PUTS OTHER PLANS IN OUR HEARTS… YOU BETTER FOCUS ON MONEY… YOU BETTER GET AHEAD**

**BUT WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY???**

**Matthew 6:33 (NKJV mod)** “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

1. **Do you remember what Jesus said when He prayed for His disciples in the upper room the night before He died?**

**John 17:12 (ESV mod)** I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction”

1. **And do you remember what Jesus said about Judas betraying Him?**

**Matthew 26:24 (GW mod)** “How horrible it will be for that person who betrays the Son of Man. It would have been better for that person if he had never been born.”

1. **What was the last point of business that Jesus’ Disciples had to deal with before the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost? It was the replacement of Judas to cover the works that Judas was supposed to do.**

**IN ACTS CHAPTER 1 PETER SAID THIS:**

**In Verse 17 (GNB)** “Judas was a member of our group, for he had been chosen to have a part in our work.”

**He went on to say in Verse 20 (The Living Bible)** King David’s prediction of **[his betrayal of Jesus]** appears in the Book of Psalms, where he says, ‘Let his home become desolate with no one living in it.’ And again, ‘Let his work be given to someone else to do.’

**DO YOU SEE THAT? GOD HAD PREPARED WORKS FOR JUDAS TO DO,**

**BUT HE DIDN’T DO THEM… THE DEVIL PUT OTHER PLANS IN HIS MIND AND HE GOT DISTRACTED**

**SO NOW, SOMEONE FAITHFUL IS GOING TO GET PROMOTED TO BE ONE OF THE 12 APOSTLES OF JESUS**

**MAY YOU NOT LOSE YOUR CALLING… MAY YOU BE ONE THAT GETS PROMOTED**

**Acts 1:24–26 (NLT)** Then they all prayed, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen **25** as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” **26** Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

**IF YOU WON’T GO INTO THE PROMISED LAND AND DO WHAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO, SOMEONE ELSE WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE**

**BUT I DECLARE OVER YOU THAT YOU WILL GO IN… AND YOU WILL DO THE WORKS THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR YOU… AND THAT YOU WILL FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY**

**SO WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US TODAY?**

* “Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving.” (Joshua 1:2)
* **“***Be strong and of good courage… Only be strong and very courageous… Be strong and of good courage.”* (Joshua 1:6, 7 & 9)
* “[You were] created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance.”
* “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.” (Colossians 4:17)
* “Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.” (Proverbs 24:27)
* “But more than anything else, put God’s work first and do what He wants. Then the other things will be yours as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

**AND WHAT SHOULD WE SAY?**

* “Please let a double portion of your Spirit be upon me.”
* Strike the water and say, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?”
* Lord, wherever You lead me I will follow

**NO MATTER WHAT YOUR CAREER IS, YOU MUST FOLLOW JESUS IN YOUR CALLING**

**IT’S TIME TO FOLLOW JESUS AND BE THE CHURCH JESUS WANTS US TO BE**

**LET’S STAND AND PRESENT OURSELVES TO JESUS**

**SONG “JESUS I WILL FOLLOW YOU”**

Jesus I will follow You

Nothing in this world will do

I yield all that I have and am

And trust You Jesus to the end

I am Yours until the end