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“The Spiritual Significance of the Book of Joshua” Part II

I Corinthians 10:1-14

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Important considerations about the way Christians interpret the book of Joshua

■ ***Five particulars cited by F. B. Meyer, which help us trace the analogy between the O. T. events in the Book of Joshua and “Promised land living in the soul” of the N. T. Believer***

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■ ***The First Particular - [actually spelled out in the N. T. book of Hebrews, chapter 4]***

■ ***Promised Land living is God's purpose and His destined goal***

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Particular Number Two:

■ ***Each was impossible by means of the Law.***

■ ***“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give them.”***
Joshua 1:2

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■ ***Just as Moses could not lead the Children of Israel into the promised land, the Law of God could never bring the soul of man into the Promised land of God's “rest.”***

■ ***cf. Romans 7:14-25***

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■ ***We must, therefore, leave the Law, as the guiding principle in our lives[or as an “outward rule of life”], behind us! - Just as Israel left the body of Moses behind when they crossed the Jordan [Deut. 3:23-29 & 34].***

■ ***The Law of Moses must be left behind in this sense, so that the divine Joshua (the Lord Jesus Christ) can lead us into the Promised Land!***

■ ***“The Law was given through Moses; Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”***
- John 1:17

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■ ***“Not by vows, or resolutions, or covenants of consecration signed by***

blood fresh drawn from the veins; not by external rites or by ascetic abstinence from good and healthy things; not by days of fasting and nights of prayer; not even by obedience to the voice of conscience or the inner light - though attention to these is of prime importance

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■ *They all become forms of legalism when practiced with a view of obtaining the full rest and victory of Christian experience. Valuable many of them unquestionably are, when the river is crossed and the land is entered; but they will not of themselves unlock its gates, or roll back its guardian river....*

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■ *... Just as the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are the free gift of God's grace, to be received by faith - ... so the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ is bestowed on those only who, in the absence of all merit and effort, receive it with open and empty hands. We do not work up to our rest day, as the Jews did, but down from it." [cf. Gen. 15:7, 18 & Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 6:23].*

- F.B. Meyer

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■ *"The practice of the spiritual disciplines alone is not the goal!* [The British Reformed Baptist preacher of the 19th century, Charles Spurgeon, said this]:

■ *'I must take care above all that I cultivate communion with Christ, ... [here, Spurgeon is referring to the spiritual disciplines] ... for though that can never be the basis for my peace - mark that - yet it will be the channel of it.'* - Spiritual

Boot Camp

11 ☐ **Particular Number 3**

■ Each was entrusted to a representative:

■ *"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them."* Joshua 1:6

■ *"So Joshua took the entire land, just as the Lord had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions."* Joshua 11:23

12 ☐ **Meyer comments: "How perfectly is this type fulfilled in our blessed Lord! ..."**

■ *"... To him as the trustee and representative of his people has all spiritual blessing been given, and he holds it for us to claim." [Eph. 1:3]*

■ *"... all power is given to him in heaven and on earth, that he might give us authority over all the power of the enemy." [Matt. 28:18]*

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- *“... The Father has given him to have life in himself, that he might give us life more abundantly.” [Jn. 1:4; 10:10]*
- *“... He is full of grace and truth, that out of his fullness we all may receive.” [Jn. 1:16]*
- *“... He received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, that he might pour him forth in Pentecostal fullness.” [Acts 2:32-33]*
- *“... He has received from the Father honor and glory, that we might be with him where he is.” [Jn. 17:24]*

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- *In the fulfillment of this parallel [or “type”], our part is to seek to understand the fullness of our inheritance in Christ; and then to move forward to apprehend it by faith! Our job is to believe, by faith, that the spiritual riches we have been promised by the Father, which are ours in Christ [our representative] are actually ours! We are to begin to live by faith, believing the promises, even though we may not always feel the reality of them!*

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Some examples:

1. The unsaved are *“... without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ” [Eph. 2:12-13].*
 - Before, we were enemies of God [Rom. 8:7]. We were the objects of God’s wrath [Jn. 3:36 & Eph. 2:3]. But, now, in Christ, God has *“... made us accepted in the beloved” [Eph. 1:4-6].*

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2) As one who has been redeemed by the blood of God’s beloved Son, Jesus Christ, you now occupy a position of special privilege and favor before God!

- Romans 5:1-2

■ Deut. 32:10 - *You are “... the apple of his eye”*

■ Isa. 43:4 - *“You are precious and honored in my sight, ... I love you”*

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3) God has promised you His continual presence with you and His watch-care over you:

■ Matt. 28:20 - *“... I am with you always”*

■ Isa. 41:10 - *“Do not be afraid, for I am with you”*

■ Heb. 13:5 - *"I will never leave you or forsake you"*

18 ☐ **4) God's love for you is steadfast and unchangeable:**

▪ Jer. 31:3 - *"I have loved you with an everlasting love"*

■ Isa. 54:10 - *"The mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love will never depart from you."*

■ Rom. 8:38-39 - *"Nothing" - "can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus."*

19 ☐ **The Fourth Particular:**

Each was missed by many

1. Heb. 3:17 - *says of those who stubbornly refused to trust in God's promises, that their "... bodies fell in the desert." [This was an entire generation; everyone who was twenty and over!]*

2. *All of these had a golden opportunity to inhabit the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey, but all died without being able to enter!*

20 ☐ **The Application**

■ *Everywhere, there are those He died for, who have been numbered among His people, who are "... perishing outside the land of blessedness in graves of worldliness, self-indulgence ..."* [Meyer]. *Thus choosing to submit themselves to the lies of the devil and the shallow attractions of this world!*

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■ Heb. 4:11 *"Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience."*

22 ☐ **The Fifth, and Final Particular:**

Each was infested by many adversaries!

■ The seven nations which inhabited the land of Canaan held onto the land with strongholds of chariots of iron, walled cities, and giants.

■ They made alliances with each other and came against the invading armies of Israel with arrogance and pride in their vast battalions.

23 ☐ **The spiritual application of this in the life of the N. T. Christian**

■ *"The 'heavenly places' [Meyer's term for the spiritual Promised Land of rest in the soul] also are not removed from the noise of conflict, or free from the*

presence of the foe. Those who are raised to sit there in Christ have to encounter the spiritual hosts of wickedness, principalities and powers of evil.

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■ **They are conquered foes; but, nevertheless, they are terrible to behold, and certain to overcome - unless we are abiding in our great Joshua, who has already vanquished them, and have taken to ourselves the whole armor of God.**

F. B. Meyer

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The Christian is continually attacked and bombarded by the world, the flesh and the devil!

■ **Eph. 6:16 - The Christian needs to take up “the shield of faith” to “extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”**

■ **I Peter 2:11 - Peter says to Christians:**

“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.”

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■ **II Cor. 10:3-5** Speaks to Christians about **“the weapons of our warfare,” and refers to “strongholds” that need to be torn down and “thoughts” that need to be “taken captive.”**

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The Five Particulars:

■ **1) Promised land living is God’s purpose, His destined goal for the redeemed!**

■ **2) Promised land living cannot be obtained through legalism.**

■ **3) God has ordained that promised land living can only be experienced through a representative.**

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■ **4) There are many who miss God’s rest and die in the wilderness.**

■ **5) Promised land living in this world must be accomplished by defeating enemies.**