

## NEW BEGINNING AT GILGAL

**Sunday Morning: April 21, 2002**

**Text: Hebrews 11:30** "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days."

We are continuing our studies in Hebrews chapter 11. We are studying the cloud of witnesses who encourage us to please God by living by faith. Last Sunday we looked at what happened in between Hebrews 11:29 and 30. Reading Hebrews 11:29-30 "By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. 30. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days." we see that there are no recorded acts of faith. They started by faith and something happened in the wilderness and they departed from the faith.

Last Sunday we brought out that our enemies, basically are the world, the flesh, and the Devil. By way of review:

### WORLD, FLESH, DEVIL

**Ephesians 2:2-3** "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in **the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

In times past you walked politically correct. You let the world mold you to conform to its standards. The prince of the power of the air is the Devil or Satan. In verse three we find the lust of the flesh.

Egypt, a type of the world had put the children of Israel in bondage to do it's bidding.

### DEAD TO THE WORLD

**1 Corinthians 10:1-2** "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all **passed through the sea**;

2. And were all **baptized** unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;"

According to Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are **buried** with him **by baptism** into death: . . ." baptism is picture of burying some one who is dead. By passing through the Red Sea, Israel was saying that they had died to the world.

Dying to the world does not mean that you are dead to the power of the flesh. You deal with the flesh through disciplining the appetites of the flesh. Paul disciplined his body with well placed blows to the body. 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27. But I keep under [buffet, wear out] my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

### DEAD TO THE FLESH

**Joshua 4:23** "For the LORD your God **dried up the waters of Jordan from before you**, until ye were passed over, **as the LORD your God did to the Red sea**, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:"

Here we have the nation of Israel being buried in type, having died to the sins of the flesh. The burial at the Jordan River is the same type of burial as the Red Sea. The Red Sea had to do

with the world and the Jordan had to do with the flesh. Until you have victory over the world and the flesh you are not prepared to do battle with Satan and his host. If we are still struggling with the world and the flesh we will be defeated by the Devil.

### **THE OBJECTIVE, THE LAND**

**Joshua 1:2-3** "Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go **over** this **Jordan**, thou, and all this people, unto **the land** which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that **have I given unto you**, as I said unto Moses."

Here the nation of Israel was reminded again what the objective was when they left Egypt. We need to have our objective defined as well. Turning our back on the world and going through the riggers of controlling the desires of the flesh are tough. The real battle begins when we enter into our heavenly warfare. It is the heavenly warfare that needs to be won if we expect to gain our objective, the heavenly inheritance.

Crossing over Jordan is not going to heaven. Heaven is not a place where we will have to do battle with the enemy. The war in Canaan is not a picture of heaven.

### **INHERITANCE**

**Exodus 32:13** "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the **stars of heaven**, and **all this land** that I have spoken of **will I give unto your seed**, and they shall **inherit it for ever**."

What was the purpose of the nation of Israel going into the land flowing with milk and honey. It was to possess their inheritance. The purpose of our spiritual warfare is to possess our heavenly inheritance.

Notice that those who were entering into the land were as the stars of heaven. You find stars in the heavens. This applies when it comes to our spiritual warfare in heavenly places. Israel's inheritance is an earthly inheritance, while our inheritance is an heavenly inheritance.

Israel's battles were tough and so will our battles be tough. If we do not know the purpose and value of our objective we might say the struggle is not worth the trouble and will surrender.

### **SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM**

**Matthew 6:33** "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

As the nation of Israel was given the purpose for entering into the land flowing with milk and honey we have been given the purpose of seeking first the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the kingdom that we may inherit. Matthew 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"

Paul expressed it another way in:

### **PRESS TOWARD THE PRIZE**

**Philippians 3:14** "I press toward the mark for the **prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

The inheritance is a prize to be won by defeating the enemy. Salvation is a gift, it is free because it was paid for by Jesus Christ on the cross. The inheritance is not free. The inheritance is based upon service. Colossians 3:23-24 "And whatsoever ye **do, do** it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24. Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the **reward of the**

**inheritance:** for ye **serve** the Lord Christ."

Keep in mind that if you have received the Lord Jesus as your personal saviour, Satan can not change that. Those who have been saved are for ever in the family of God. What Satan can do is defeat you and cause you to lose your inheritance. Satan wants us to quit.

### **FOCUS ON HIS FAITHFULNESS**

**Joshua 1:5-9** ". . . as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: **I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**

Joshua was to be assured of God's faithfulness. Joshua knew the faithfulness of God to Moses and God was giving Joshua assurance that He would be faithful to him. God was faithful to Moses and he is part of the cloud of witnesses, so we can know and believe that God will be faithful to us. Just as Joshua needed that assurance we need that assurance as well. God will not fail nor forsake us when the battle is bleak.

### **BE STRONG**

6. **Be strong** and of a **good courage:** for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

This verse encourages Joshua to be strong and of good courage. We know that we have been encouraged to be strong in His grace in 2 Timothy 2:1 "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." The Lord is going to divide the spoil of battle with the strong in Isaiah 53:12 "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; . ." We need to be men, mature as in 1 Corinthians 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

To be strong is to be confident as well. We need to be confident as in Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

We are also to be of good courage. We will miss the mark from time to time, but we should convince ourselves that we will make it. If we will wait on the Lord our hearts will be strengthened. Psalms 27:14 "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

### **BE COURAGEOUS AND OBEDIENT**

7. Only **be thou strong** and **very courageous**, that thou mayest **observe to do** according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: **turn not from it** to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

It is interesting that the Lord repeats the exhortation to be strong and courageous. Why does he say this again? I believe it is because we forget so easy to do the right thing. God does not want us to forget to be very courageous to the point of being very bold.

Being strong and very courageous will allow us to be obedient. We need to observe the Word of God but we are to obey the Word of God. Our tendency is to turn from it. If we turn from obeying God's commandments we will not gain our inheritance. The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5 and we are warned that if we disobey the moral law given to Moses we will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:21 "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

### **THE WORD**

8. **This book** of the law shall **not depart out of thy mouth;** but thou shalt meditate therein

day and night, that thou mayest **observe to do** according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

It is being able to quote the Word of God that will allow the Word to be on our lips. We could carry the Bible around and accomplish the same thing to a point, but if we have hidden the Word in our heart we will be able to meditate on it day and night when we cannot open thy book. Having the Word memorized allows the Holy Spirit to easily bring things to mind as needed so that we do not turn to the right or to the left.

If we observe to do according to the Word then we will prosper in our way and have success. This is not a promise to prosperity. This is a promise to be victorious over our enemies.

### **DON'T BE AFRAID**

9. **Have not I commanded thee? Be strong** and of a **good courage**; be not afraid, neither be thou **dismayed** [frighten, terrified]: for the LORD thy **God is with thee** whithersoever thou goest."

We are reminded again and again to be strong and courageous. This verse reminds Joshua that to be strong and courageous is a commandment. He adds the commandment not to be frightened, He will be with him as well as with us whithersoever we may go.

Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." If we are dismayed or afraid we will be in bondage unable to gain our inheritance.

God has promised to be with us. Hebrews 13:5 ". . . he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

### **KNOW THE ENEMY**

**Joshua 2:1** "And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to **spy** secretly, saying, Go **view the land**, even **Jericho**. . . ."

Two things that we need to know. First, does the land flow with milk and honey? Secondly, check out the enemy, Jericho. Remember, the enemy is real, he is strong, he is fortified, and set on defeating you.

### **BRETHREN, BE STRONG**

**Ephesians 6:10-13** "Finally, my **brethren**, be **strong** in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

To be strong in the Lord. To be strong in the Lord, we must be actively using the ministry of our high priest Christ Jesus. To be strong in the Lord requires us to be faithful in believing as shown in Ephesians 1:19-21 "And what is the **exceeding greatness** of his **power to us-ward** who **believe** [present active], according to the working of his mighty power, 20. Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21. Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:"

### **PUT ON THE ARMOR**

11. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We need to protect ourselves with whole armor of God. The Devil would knock us down, but we need to stand. When you are down you could be out. That is the reason why it is so important to have those who are standing around you to help you up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two are better

than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." We need encouragement from each other.

Notice it is the whole armor. Do not leave anything out. If your feet are not shod with the preparation you will find yourself in the grass spurs or thorns of distractions in your feet. If you leave out the breast plate of faith and love, the Devil can plainly see that you are not fully protected and will seek to fatally wound you so that you will perish. Those who perish will not have a life of honor and glory in the coming kingdom.

### **THE ENEMY**

12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

We need to be reminded that our enemies do not have flesh and blood. Our enemies are those who have the flesh of angels that fell when Satan fell. Our warfare is in the heavenlies. We often think that our enemy is the flesh and blood around us. Satan and his host can use flesh and blood around us to defeat us, but we need to keep in mind our enemy is Satan and his hosts.

### **REMEMBER, THE ARMOR**

13. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

This verse reminds us lest we forget, it is the whole armor we need and not just a piece here and there. Taking the whole armor of God is mentioned twice for emphasis.

### **HE HAS DEVICES**

- 2 Corinthians 2:11** "Lest Satan should get an **advantage** of us: for **we are not ignorant** of his **devices**."

The only way that we can spy out the enemy is through the Word of God. The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible and he has been observing the Devil from day one when he was created then fell. He has observed Satan in action over the millenniums. We learn of Satan's device through the study of the scriptures.

### **BEGUILER, CORRUPTER**

- 2 Corinthians 11:3** "But I fear, lest **by any means**, as the serpent **beguiled** Eve through his **subtlety**, so your minds should be **corrupted** from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Where is Satan going to work? He is going to work on our thought life. We know that Satan also works in the physical realm as well. Job suffered grievously because of loss of family, income as well as his health. You can see how Satan can even use friends, even your wife to cause you to become discouraged.

The place where Satan has done the most damage is corrupting the Word of God.

### **INHERITANCE GUARANTEED???**

- John 3:14-16** "And **as Moses** lifted up the **serpent** in the **wilderness**, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish (die), but have eternal life (inherit the land). 16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth** [present active participle] in him should not **perish** (not go to hell), but have **everlasting** life (heaven)."

Satan has taken passages from the Word of God and changed them to the point that what they really mean will not be believed.

What has Satan caused the world to believe about this verse? Salvation, Salvation, Salvation. Satan wants the church to believe is that everlasting life is heaven and to perish is to spend eternity in hell. Satan wants you to believe that if you are saved you will have it all and that there is no warfare. He does not really want you to see that the word believeth is a present active participle which implies faithfulness on the part of those in the family of God.

This passage in John 3:14-16 is dealing with saved Jews who were on their way to the land flowing with milk and honey. They were dissatisfied with the manna that God was providing them and began to murmur. Because they murmured against God, God sent poisonous serpents among them and when they were struck by these serpents these saved Jews perished in the wilderness. To perish meant that they would not enter into the land flowing with milk and honey. They perished just like Aaron, Miriam, and Moses perished. All those 20 and older were denied entrance into the land flowing with milk and honey which was to be their inheritance, because they could not gain the victory over the lusts of the flesh. Satan wants us to believe that we are guaranteed an inheritance and that we do not have to be faithful to get it.

As I said the word *believeth* is in the present tense which implies faithfulness on the part of those who are in the family. This word *believeth* is not the same tense that Paul used in Acts 16:31 when he told the jailor to believe one time to be saved.

Another area that Satan has caused confusion is associating the kingdom of God with getting saved. Those in the family can not see that there is a difference between seeing the kingdom of God and entering into the kingdom of God.

Satan will use tradition to deceive and beguile us. It is so important to study the Word of God to see if what is being taught is the truth, not just believe what everyone else believes unless it proves to be the truth.

### **MINISTERS OF DOUBT**

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15** "And no marvel; for **Satan** himself is **transformed** into an **angel of light**. 15. Therefore it is no great thing if his **ministers** also be **transformed** as the **ministers** of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

Satan has ministers who look like ministers of righteousness that are in place to deceive those who will let them. The elect will not be deceived but there are many in the family that are deceived. We must not forget that Satan is a master deceiver.

When Satan lulls us into a comfort zone, we relax. We do not focus on the inheritance and what it takes to enter into our inheritance. Satan will convince us that there is no warfare to fight to gain our inheritance. Satan tells us what he told Eve. God will not deny us any good thing. Genesis 3:4-5 "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Adam and Eve were bit by the serpent and lost the land flowing with milk and honey.

### **WEAPONS, KNOWLEDGE AND OBEDIENCE**

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5** "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5. Casting down **imagination**s, and every **high thing** that exalteth itself against the **knowledge of God**, and bringing into captivity every thought to the **obedience** of Christ;"

What are the strong holds of Satan? Our imaginations and so called important things that exalt themselves above the knowledge of God. When Satan told Eve that she would not die, he was saying that God did not really mean that. He convinced Eve that God was holding out on her.

Satan wants us to believe that God would not put one of His children into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth because God is too good.

We need to *bring every thought into the obedience of Christ* and the only way that we can do that is to obtain the knowledge of God through His Word.

### NEW BEGINNING

**Joshua 4:19** "And the people came up out of Jordan on the **tenth day** of the **first month**, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho."

Notice that this was the tenth day of the first month. As in Egypt this was the day that they were to select a lamb for the passover memorial feast. As in Egypt this month was the beginning of months for them, a new beginning. They were to have died, in type, to the lusts of the flesh and buried in the Jordan River. In Egypt they celebrated the passover first and then were baptized in the Red Sea. Here they were baptized in the Jordan River then celebrated the passover.

### AS IN EGYPT

**Joshua 5:10** "And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and **kept the passover** on the **fourteenth day of the month** at even in the plains of Jericho.

This is the first time that the children of Israel celebrated the passover since they left Egypt. The passover and the feast of unleavened bread were celebrated together. The feast of unleavened bread was a feast to emphasize the removal of sin from their lives.

What was emphasized in the passover? The applying of the blood and the eating of the Lamb along with the bitter herbs. During the wilderness wandering they were not applying the blood once a year to be delivered from the bondage of the sins of the flesh.

Here we have the nation of Israel applying the blood which will be needed if they expect to defeat the enemy. Hebrews 9:22 ". . .without shedding of blood is no remission." The word *remission* can be translated *liberty* or *deliverance*. Soldiers that are prisoners of war are not actively engaging the enemy in battle. The blood of Christ allows us to escape the bondage of our enemies and effectively wage war with them again.

### CHANGE IN DIET

**Joshua 5:12** "And the **manna ceased** on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but **they did eat of the fruit of the land** of Canaan that year."

Notice here in verse 12 that there was a change in diet. Manna is a picture or type of the milk of the Word. To fight the enemy we must have strong meat. If we start feeding on *fruit of the land* which is in type the blessings of our inheritance, it will help us to be strong and determined to win.

### MILK TO MEAT

**Hebrews 5:13-14** "For every one that useth **milk** is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14. But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised **to discern both good and evil.**"

During the time of our warfare in the land of the enemy, decisions are going to have to be made. We will either make good ones or poor ones. If you are still feeding on the milk of the word you will not have what it takes to discern between good and evil.

We have a vivid illustration of this in the incident of Akin. Akin did not make a good decision when it came to taking things that belonged to God. The lust of the flesh got to Akin and he thought to himself that the silver and gold would come in handy later on when the war was over.

I guess he thought if I had that much money I would need to look the part, so having some new clothes would be nice.

### HEAVENLY CALLING

**Hebrews 3:1** "Wherefore, holy **brethren**, partakers of the **heavenly calling**, consider the Apostle and **High Priest** of our profession [confession], **Christ Jesus**;"

This verse is addressing holy brethren that have taken the step of faith to enter into the land flowing with milk and honey. These holy brethren were confessors of the hope of their inheritance. Holy brethren are to associate the heavenly calling with the heavenly high priest, Christ Jesus. Without Him we will not become partakers of the heavenly calling. Christ Jesus, our high priest, is the one who keeps our hope alive.

### HEAVENLY INHERITANCE

**1 Peter 1:3-5** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten** us **again** unto a lively **hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4. To an **inheritance incorruptible**, and **undefiled**, and that **fadeth not** away, **reserved** in heaven for you, 5. **Who are kept** by the power of God through **faith** . . ."

It is through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead that we received a heavenly calling for an heavenly inheritance. We sit together in the heavenlies according to Ephesians 2:6 "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" Our blessings are also heavenly according to Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" We have already read that our calling is a heavenly calling. That is the reason that our warfare is a heavenly warfare.

When the nation of Israel passed through the Red Sea this was a new beginning for them. When Israel passed through the Jordan River this was another new beginning for them. Aaron had been stripped of his garments. They were placed upon Eleazar, his son. It was under Eleazar that the land would be divided for an inheritance to the tribes of Israel. This is a picture of the change of the priesthood from the order of Aaron to the order of Melchisedec. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is what makes faith operative. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead makes the hope a living hope. It is the power of God through faith that will ensure that we will enter into the heavenly inheritance. If we depart from the faith the hope will fade and our heavenly inheritance will fade as well.

May the Lord help us to see the value of applying these verses in our daily lives. Having a living hope will encourage us to be faithful in pleasing God by faith and to live.