

Unfolding Unveiling: Studies of Christ Revealed in the Types of Joshua, David, and Solomon

Part One: The Wilderness

Chapter Two: Deuteronomy – A Season of Saturation

We pick up our study after Israel has wandered in the wilderness for forty years, and the entire generation that came out of Egypt has died off. All of the murmurers, the complainers, and the fearful that brought Israel under judgment are no longer a hindrance to the Lord's plan for Israel. They are now ready for the Lord to bring them into what He desired for them when they first crossed the Red Sea so many years back because their heart condition is such that they are willing to hear and heed the Lord's Word.

This brings us to the book of Deuteronomy, the pre-Land book, which is the instruction manual for how to take the Land. So many times we fail in our attempt to take the Land because we consult the book of Joshua, incorrectly believing that its contents will provide what we need to do so. But the book of Joshua is simply the record of Israel taking the Land. Deuteronomy is the record of their God-ordained feeding time that would give them the map and pattern for how to take the Land. How different the mind of the Lord is from our own, whose natural tendency in all things is haste. When we hear that God desires us to take the Land, instead of sitting at His feet and saturating in His Word, we charge over the hill without any preparation, only to experience a Kadesh-barnea repeat.

It is one thing to view the Land. It is another thing to be prepared to fight through until you possess it. Moses viewed the Land, and died. Israel had seen the Land from Kadesh-barnea but were unable to dispossess the inhabitants. A lot of us peek into the Scriptures and view Christ, but we are not equipped to fight long enough to get ourselves established there; hence the necessity for sitting at the Lord's feet. This time of saturation occurs while we are still in the wilderness. At this time, we are not really abiding in Christ, but we are no longer living by the old fear mentality, so that we are both able and willing to believe that we are going in to take the Land that God has promised us. Now let us remember that in spiritual reality, there is no wilderness; there is only Christ. The wilderness is the journey of the believer who is dominated by the carnal mind. And so even though the Lord has taken us out of Adam and put us into Christ, there is still the need for renewing the mind in our daily experience.

It is not intellectual information about spiritual things that is required, but a spiritual understanding concerning the heart and mind of the Lord of what His plan is: that we see Christ by revelation in such a way that we are able to live in the heavenly places that are in Christ. Israel did not possess the Land before hearing the mind of the Lord concerning the Land and their possessing of it during the time of saturation that is recorded in the book of Deuteronomy.

As it was with the type, so it is with us. In order to abide in Christ, we must be prepared. For us to rush in to try to possess the Land without being prepared by God's Word is out

of order and bound to fail. We must sit quietly at His feet and hear not only His Word, but His heart. Understanding the book of Deuteronomy, then, will ready us for life under Joshua. Deuteronomy is the preparation for taking the Land which all believers must receive before crossing the Jordan.

Two Elements of Preparation

And so the Lord begins to prepare us. Our hearts are turned, and we are ready. John's gospel reiterates that for us to abide in Christ, it is necessary for us to have a relationship with the Word (cf. Jn. 8:37 & 15:7). In order to properly interpret the book of John, we must recognize that the Word in chapter one is the Person being described throughout the rest of the gospel. We tend to leave the thought of the Word becoming flesh somewhere towards the end of chapter one instead of carrying that thought as we read through the entire book. What is more, if we realize that the Word is in the Beginning, which is the bosom of the Father where all was conceived, and if we realize that the Word is always coming from that place, then we begin to see what is happening in the book of John.

There are two elements, then, for us to abide in Christ, and they are seen in how the Son abode in the bosom of the Father while he walked on the earth. The relationship that the Son had with the Father demonstrates how we are supposed to abide in Christ while we walk the earth.

Jesus lived by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of the Lord while He walked the earth. He abode in the bosom of the Father, and by so doing, He lived by the Word of the Father completely. His Father's view was His view, and His Father's heart was His heart. You hear it in passing as He is sharing with others. He said things like, "But I am not alone because the Father is always with me." One of the elements of abiding in Christ is knowing that we are never alone; He is always with us. This is a heart relationship of love moving back and forth between the two. We cannot abide by doctrine alone. We abide because we are in His bosom. We know His heart. We abide by a love relationship, not by an intellectual understanding. When you know His heart, you do not have to have quite as much knowledge in order to abide in Christ.

So the first element is having a heart relationship with Him so that you know His heart towards you, and that He has made the relationship so that He can never leave you or forsake you. This gives you a boldness to enter in. You are not afraid of failing because you know that He is both for you and with you. It is not that you behave this way so that you can be bold; it is that you become so caught up in this relationship that you naturally speak and act freely.

The second element is that we must make room in our hearts for His Word. Jesus explains it so well in John 8:30-55, where He contrasts the difference between having place for the Word, having no place for the Word, and the consequences of each. This is the Word Himself speaking to the Pharisees and the disciples. Because it is the Word that is speaking, it is the revealing of the Father's mind and heart.

Verse 37 says, “Ye seek to kill me because my Word hath no place in you.” Let there be a place in your heart for the Word, not just a place in your mind. Let the Word get into your heart where you receive it as part of you. Do not settle for only opening the Scriptures; open your heart to the Word Himself. How do you do that? It is like asking Jesus into your heart, only this time it is not for salvation, but for revelation. Like everything else with the Lord, we must receive the Word by faith. You ask Him to come in, and He comes in.

The only difference between asking Jesus in at salvation and receiving His Word is that this time the Word is already in us. We are not asking the Word to come in as if He were not there; we are giving Christ who is already in us His rightful place.

It is at the Deuteronomy stage in the wilderness that we begin to realize these things. We begin to realize the necessity for a heart relationship with the Lord, so that we know Him and His heart, and when we begin to receive His Word, it becomes both personal and preeminent. His Word begins to take place in you to the degree that it begins to transform you. That is how you enter in.

God’s Mind and Heart in Deuteronomy

Let us go through the book of Deuteronomy and see the mind of the Lord there, and as we do, listen to His heart; He is not just saying words. Israel has finally come through the wilderness, they have seen what is in their hearts, and they have realized that their true home is not the wilderness but the Land, and they have finally turned their ear.

If we know that the Lord loves us, then we can take the Land. We trust those who love us, and the trust that is necessary to abide in Christ and take the Land is developed in this new love relationship with the Lord. That is what takes the fear away, so that the mindset that kept the Israelites wrongly wondering all the time whether the Lord loved them or was against them was no longer a factor. In the face of the fierce inhabitants of the Land, their relationship and faith would remain solid. At this point it is imperative that we know that the Lord is for us, or the skilled warriors that we must face in the Land might convince us that He is out to kill us. The heat of battle is not the time to be worried about that. You have to know God is with you, and that He is going to fight the battle a fierce enemy is threatening your very life.

The kind of relationship needed to take the Land is developed is right here, in a time of saturation, where you are hearing His heart.

Here is the Lord’s mind toward us. This kind of knowing is indispensable to taking the Land:

1:21 – Fear not, neither be discouraged.

1:29 – Dread not, neither be afraid of [the inhabitants]. This is God’s mind to us: Do not be fearful or discouraged. Do not dread living in the Spirit-realm. It is true that making the change from natural to spiritual is a challenging time, but God must not be too worried about it if He is telling us not to be afraid!

1:30 – The Lord will fight for you.

3:22 – Ye shall not fear them; the Lord will fight for you. It is the Lord who fights the inhabitants of the Land. All we have to do is remain in His victory in the Spirit-realm, and He will take care of renewing the mind in the natural realm.

4:20 – A people of inheritance – We are God’s people of inheritance! All we have to do is receive! To inherit simply means to be a recipient of someone else’s belongings.

4:38 – The nations we are to drive out are greater and mightier than we. They are too great for us to fight. We cannot drive them out by ourselves. He must do it for us.

5:1-33 – Keep the commandments, and you will remain in the Land.

7:1 – The same as 4:38. These nations are greater and mightier than we. If we are to stay in the Land, we must keep His commandments.

7:7-8 – The Lord loves those with whom He has a covenant. We must know that He loves us! We must know that this love motivated Him to determine to bring us into the Land. This is essential to possessing the Land. Jesus lived this way. To make the heavenlies your home, you must “dwell in the bosom” (heart) of the Father (see Jn. 1:18). Jesus knew that He was never alone, that the Father was with Him. That is because He lived in the Spirit-realm in the heart of the Father. He was where the Father was. The Father was where He was. When we know the heart of God, we will possess the Land.

7:17 – The nations are stronger than I; how can I dispossess? It is easy for fear and unbelief to crop up. God has a solution to this problem:

7:18 – “Remember.” Remember the Lord. Remember what the Lord did for you, and how he set you free. Remember His Word, His mind, His heart. This is what will keep your faith up.

7:20 – The Lord sends the hornet to expose hidden enemies. Our unseen problems and lack are in the hands of the Lord.

Not only is He providing for us; we are seeing the care that is motivating the provision. He cares enough to plan ahead because He knows what is going to happen to us.

7:21 – Do not be frightened; the Lord is among you!

7:22 – The Lord puts all of the nations out.

7:23 – The Lord delivers them into our hand, and we destroy them. The nations are greater, but God does all the work!

He tells us not to be afraid, but if we are overwhelmed, we are to remember what God did to Pharaoh. The Israel of God is to reckon on the finished work in light of the present unresolved controversy in the Land. Pharaoh sank in the sea; therefore they no longer needed to fear the inhabitants. The thinking is not that since God did the one miracle then, He can now do this miracle now. That is a natural viewpoint and cannot be depended upon to assist those who desire to take the Land. Rather, He is saying that what would be right in front of the Israelites as they took the Land had been defeated when Pharaoh sank in the sea. The victory was Pharaoh sinking in the sea. Living in the Land says, “I remember that I was completely delivered when Pharaoh sank when I went through the Red Sea. Because I was completely delivered, the enemies who are resisting me are already defeated.” Remember the finished work of the Cross when you begin to manifest victory. Remember where the victory was.

It is so important to remember. What happens when we are motivated by fear? We forget everything we know and everything for which we have trained. Fear is natural, and it rises up in the heat of the battle. It is not that we are supposed to never be afraid; it is that we are not supposed to be ruled by fear. The Lord is saying that when we grow afraid, we are to remember. In Deuteronomy, He is preparing us; He is warning us ahead of time. We learn to remember. We learn to actively call to mind the reality of God when natural testimony seems more real at the moment. And not just remembering His Word, but the heart and mind that He showed us, His love, and that perfect love casts out fear right in the heat of the battle. What do we remember? He took us out of Adam. He put us in Christ. We are seated. The victory is already won. All you need to do is remember, and that lifts you up into that realm of faith of abiding with the Lord. How good of Him to prepare us in this way before the day of battle!

8:3 – In the wilderness, we learn to live by the Word of the Lord.

8:5 – God treats us as sons. We are One with the Son.

8:7, 10 – It is a good Land. What a contrary view of the Land from that of the wilderness mentality!

8:9 – There is no scarceness IN it. How important it is for us to know this. Wilderness wanderers have the mentality that God must supply our every demand in the natural. But God has a Spiritual, eternal Land, invisible to the natural eye, that is the good Land. It is this Land that has no scarceness in it. Here we live by the Word of the Lord.

The Role of Understanding

9:1-6 – This Day. In this day we cross the Jordan. In this day we possess nations that are greater and mightier than ourselves. In this day the Lord goes before us and destroys the enemies.

We are to understand this day. Understand that the Lord does the fighting. And understand the reason why this is so: (1) because of the wickedness of the inhabitants, and (2) in order to perform His Word to Abraham. Understand that we do not possess the Land because of our own righteousness, because we are stiff-necked and do not deserve such a good Land.

These are the only things we are to understand! God commands us to understand nothing else in the entire book. We do not have to know a lot of spiritual information in order to take the Land. Seeing the Lord in many other ways will come with time. We only need to take the Lord at His Word. He will break the understanding to us at the proper time.

A common mistake that is made by many believers at this point is to think that we have to be able to intellectually grasp what the Lord is speaking to us during this saturation time as a prerequisite to entering the Land. This is a lie from the enemy. You do not have to understand everything yet; all that is required of us at this time is to know the Lord's heart and intentions. We do not enter the Land by understanding but by faith. Hebrews 11:3 says, "Through faith we understand..." , not that through understanding we have

faith. Faith comes first, and God clarifies later. Deuteronomy is a time for trusting Him. If He says you are IN, then you are IN.

The source of this problem is the fleshly mind, which does not care for the discomfort of not knowing exactly what is going to happen. We think that intellectual knowledge will prepare us for what lies ahead, but in reality, requiring such knowledge only strengthens the bonds from which the Cross has freed us. In this new Land, it does not matter if we feel ill-equipped to abide in the Land and to fight the inhabitants. The carnal mind does not receive the things of God, so it is useless try to put them in there. When we receive the reality, it will change the carnal mind. We receive it into our hearts by faith, and then the understanding comes as the mind is renewed.

It is as Joshua leads us in possessing that we begin to understand. We do not understand at the crossing of the Jordan. The Ark had to go so far in front because Israel had never been that way before. We do not cross Jordan based on our understanding; we cross based on our faith. The purpose of the book of Joshua is to bring about understanding.

What liberty there is in realizing that we do not have to do the right things to enter in! Simply knowing the Lord's heart and receiving His Word draws us right up into Christ and motivates us to relate to Him as our Source. When we take His Word to heart, His Word will take us right into the Land. This is what happens when we have this preparation time.

Remember!

7:18 – Do not be afraid, but remember the Lord's ways.

8:2-4 – Remember that the Lord taught you to eat His Word only.

8:11 – Remember to keep His commandments.

8:18 – Remember that you are dependent upon the Lord. The Lord does not need to constantly teach us new things all the time. We need to remember all that He has taught us already. Taking the Land requires us to constantly be meditating on these things.

10:12 – We are to love the Lord. He loves us, we love Him. This is part of the abiding relationship. Jesus remained in this relationship with His Father during His life on earth.

10:15 – He loves us because we are the seed of Him with Whom God is in covenant. The Father is in covenant with His Son. We draw our relationship with God from identifying in the Son.

10:16 – Circumcision is death to the natural and life to the spiritual. It happens in our comprehension when we cross the Jordan.

11:10-12 – In Egypt, they had to work to bring forth provisions. They had to irrigate their own crops. But the Land that God wanted them to come to is the Land of death and resurrection (hills and valleys), and is watered by waters from heaven. Instead of us having to care for this Land, God cares for it. In the natural, we must take care of

ourselves, or our needs will not get met. But in the Land, God cares for it so that we will have all that we need there.

11:18 – Lay up my words in your heart (6:6, too!). These words are to go with us and be in us while we take the Land. It is the only way it will happen.

11:22 – Love the Lord. It is a relationship we are in, not a doctrine.

11:23 – The Lord drives out the inhabitants; we are at rest!

11:23 – They are greater and mightier than we.

There has to be a firm basis of knowing how to receive His love and being very secure in His love, or you cannot take the Land. Taking the Land can be frightening to our emotions. In the wilderness, these fears dominate us, and when we start taking the Land, it does not follow that these fears disappear. We still feel things, but we push through them because Word of the Lord makes us secure in His love, and His love casts out the fear. If we do not realize His love for us, then we will think that we are required to take the Land by ourselves, and we will panic. But knowing His love keeps us in that dependent relationship with Him that is found only in Christ. We realize that we are welcome to be with Him, He wants us with Him, He wants us face to face at all times with Him, and He is not considering our failures on the earth.

We do not have to hide from God when we fail as if our stand before God in Christ is based on shortcomings in our behavior. We have to understand that flow of His love toward us at all times, and how it washes us, or we cannot take the Land. Our lack and failure do not constitute obstruction between us and Him.

Before Him, our value is not based on our righteous works. The thought that we have to do everything right in order to successfully take the Land is based on fear that paralyzes so that we cannot move out in faith. A love relationship frees us to realize that our worth comes at the Cross, from being raised up in Christ. Your worth is that the joy of God's heart is His Son, and you are right there in Him.