

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

## **Part Two: Joshua**

### **Chapter Four: Taking the Land**

Christ revealed as Joshua brings with it several different elements. The predominant aspect of life under Joshua is war. Most people think that seeing the Lord automatically results in a manifestation of peace, but instead, the first thing that happens is an entrance into conflict and fighting. It would be easy for the believer who is newly crossed over the Jordan to think that he is doing something wrong, or that he does not know the Lord after all.

How far this is from the truth! The conflict that is required for possessing the Land is a foreign idea to those who have wandered in the wilderness because all that time the believer has only been familiar with the carnal mindset and has never experienced a true Spiritual walk. And when there is only one mind, there is peace and harmony. On the other hand, when two viewpoints collide, which is what happens when we enter the Land, there will be many conflicts and struggles. That is what the war is. In the Land, it is not that our viewpoint has totally changed and our minds are completely renewed; it is that we now have identified with Christ and are living in Him, which is so different from the old viewpoint that is now conflicting with our new identity. The taking of the Land is wrapped up in this conflict. It is normal to go through a great deal of battling while taking the Land. Conflict is a result of seeing the Lord as Joshua.

We can get confused if we do not understand that this is part of life with Joshua as your leader. The natural mind will think that something isn't right because what we thought was progress feels wrong and unstable, and the going is difficult. It is at this stage that it is so important to continue cleaving to the Word of the Lord by faith, while rejecting the testimony of the remaining strains of the carnal mindset and our undependable emotions, for this is the point at which the fight of faith will be won or lost.

To enter the Land does not mean that we are free of conflict and challenge. It is at this point that the fight truly begins. If we accept life under Joshua for what it is and begin to move with the Lord's mind and take our place in the battle, the amount of difficulties that we do face will be greatly reduced.

## A List of Battles

We will now look at the different battles that are found in Joshua chapters 6-11 and examine what the mind of the Lord is concerning how we are to fight to take the Land. Five different battles/campaigns with decisive victories are recorded, as well as two defeats where Israel failed to take the Land. It is possible to abide in Christ, get some things wrong, and still manifest victory overall.

In chapter six, the first battle – the battle of Jericho – is Israel’s first fight against the inhabitants on this side of the Jordan. They had fought a couple of times on the other side of the Jordan, and they had won. News of their victories over those inhabitants had spread to Jericho. By the time Israel had arrived, the entire walled city was shut up; none went out, none came in. Cities like Jericho were made to withstand the attacks of their enemies, and Israel could not take the city by their own strength. The Lord wrought a miraculous victory. They were able to completely rout the city and overcome their enemies after the walls fell down.

At Ai, we have the incident of Achan’s sin. Joshua thought that since they had done so well at Jericho, they only had to send a relatively small group to take this smaller city, and they lost decisively to the inhabitants. Achan had hidden some of the riches of Jericho in his tent, and God saw that as all of Israel identifying with the natural realm. The one whose affections are set upon things on the earth cannot possess the Spirit realm. That is why Paul said that we are to set our affections on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. We see with the Ai defeat how love for natural things can still creep in, even while taking the Land, and it will guarantee defeat. We cannot take the Land but by maintaining our spiritual position of victory.

The Lord was not finished, though, and we see in chapter eight how Ai was taken the right way. The Lord does not intend for us to lose; He really desires that we take the Land. Read Joshua 8:1. They took the city this time by drawing the inhabitants out of the stronghold with a scout team. Joshua raising his spear was the signal for the rest of Israel to come out of the mountains and destroy the city. Then the scout team turned on their pursuers and destroyed them, too. After Israel broke with the enemy’s wealth, the city was easily taken.

Let this be a lesson to us all. We cannot have our affection set upon two places at once. Affection for earthly things will keep us attached to the earth and rob us of spiritual ascendancy. If it seems as though one particular inhabitant defeats you repeatedly, check with the Lord to see whether your affections need to be redirected. You cannot live in Christ if you do not want to.

In Joshua chapter nine we have the situation with the Gibeonites, who were inhabitants pretending to be travelers from a distant country. They disguised themselves in order to deceive Israel as to their geographical origins with the intent of tricking them into making peace. Israel was taken in because they did not ask counsel of the Lord. They went by their circumstances, they saw the moldy bread and the ragged clothes, and assumed that

the Gibeonites were telling the truth. They made a covenant with these inhabitants to which they were bound for the rest of their history.

This was their second defeat and another valuable lesson for us. To take the Land, we must rely solely upon the Word of the Lord. Sizing up a situation by use of the senses will always result in faulty judgment. Either we will think an enemy too strong for us and fail to dispossess him, or we will think something is friendly when it is really an inhabitant.

In chapter 10, the Gibeonites' neighbors grew upset at this and made an alliance together to fight Israel. We no longer have one little city at a time fighting Israel; now we have whole alliances coming out to battle. The inhabitants are stirred up. No longer are they hiding inside their walled cities. In this account we have five kings coming out to battle together.

God was more effectual in battle against these kings than Israel was, which is as it should be. Verses 15-28 tell of the five kings who had escaped the battle alive and were hiding in a cave. Joshua kept them captive there until the battle was over, at which time he returned and ordered all of the Israelites put their feet on the necks of these kings and then hung them on a tree. Joshua had Israel put their feet on the necks of those kings before they were hung to show that the Lord's people had to identify in the victory, a picture of our identification in the Cross of Christ that has put away that which is old and past. Israel's law says that he who is hung on a tree is cursed (cf. Deut. 21:23), and by hanging these kings, Joshua was showing the curse of the Lord on the heads of these kingdoms.

In verses 29-43, we have the record of Joshua's southern campaign through the Land, where city after city fell before the armies of Israel. Throughout this chapter, the writer emphasizes how it was the Lord who fought for Israel, and that is why their victory in the Land was so consistent.

The final campaign is recorded in chapter 11, this time against the northern portion of the Land. It is a similar situation to that in chapter 10. The kings were afraid, and so they allied themselves together to fight Israel. In verse 10, Hazor, the head city of all these kingdoms, was completely destroyed by fire.

The book implies that other battles took place, but these are the only ones that were recorded for our benefit. Joshua 11:18 says, "And Joshua made war a long time with those kings." There was battle after battle with some of these kings before they were completely disinherited.

### **What is the War?**

There are many types of battles that the believer will fight during his walk, but the conflict which engages him at the crossing of the Jordan is specific to this time in his spiritual development. The crossing of the Jordan was Israel's passage in their comprehension from living in the natural realm to abiding in the spiritual realm, the

Jordan, of course, representing their entering into Him Who is revealed by the unveiling of the Cross. Conflict arose against Israel as they obeyed the Lord by possessing the Land.

The Jordan represents Israel's identification in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Any fight that is fought in the Land will be a dispute over this very thing. Anything that resists Israel living in the Land is resisting that identification. It is the struggle between the old way of living and the new.

Israel fighting the inhabitants is not a representation of resisting your personal finances, or your car that keeps breaking down, or your boss at work. It is not even a fight against sins or the devil. "We do not war after the flesh," (II Cor. 10:3). This fight, as all battles that the believer will face, is a fight of faith. It is a fight to believe what the Word of God reveals to us concerning our death and resurrection with Christ. It is a battle against the hold that the old creation has had in our understanding heretofore. As we take the Land step by step (cf. Deut. 11:24, Josh. 1:3), as the eyes of our understanding are enlightened, we become more deeply identified in that into which we entered at the crossing of the Jordan.

What we are fighting, then, is the old viewpoint, what the carnal mind says is true – not just the knowledge, but its way of interpreting that knowledge. Forty years before, ten spies saw the land and were offended, and two spies said it was a good land, but they all saw the same land! The renewing of the mind is not just the acquiring of fresh knowledge but the difference in interpreting that knowledge, which will be either in light of the natural viewpoint, or by God's mind. The old way, the wilderness way, interprets by a natural viewpoint, one which gives birth to an existence that is independent from God, where we do not find our beginning in Christ. It is a viewpoint which is rendered useless by the Cross, and a viewpoint which will attempt to regain dominion as we enter the heavenly places in Christ and learn to abide there. The fight for taking the Land is the rejection of the old viewpoint that kept us in the wilderness and the embracing of our identification in Christ completely as our sole way of interpreting our reality.

Taking the Land is not the ceasing of bad works and the performing of good works. This is not an introspective issue. The inhabitants are that which resist our apprehending by faith. The disinheriting of inhabitants is never to be equated with the ceasing of bad works, though it will happen. Our fight is to lay hold of the spiritual reality as it is in Christ Jesus. It is the fight that occurs during the transition from living in the natural realm to living in the heavenlies. After the believer is established in the Land, there will be other battles, but this war will have been won and brought to an end.

### **Who Are the Inhabitants of the Land?**

Both the Egyptians and the Canaanites were descendants of Ham (cf. Gen. 10:6). It is interesting to note that Israel as a nation was taken out of Egypt, but they still had to do battle with the same bloodline when they entered the Land. This is no coincidence. God took Israel out of Egypt. Now the brethren of Egypt must be taken out of the Land. That

which kept Israel in bondage in Egypt is of the same quality as that which we must dispossess in the Land. We have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of His dear Son (cf. Col. 1:13), but there are elements of the old kingdom still governing our thinking, viewpoints, and motives that are only wiped out as Christ is revealed and we fight to live in that which is ours.

Numbers 13:29 gives us the geographical locations of the Canaanites. Some groups lived in the mountains, others in the Negev, or southern portion, still others in the valley of Jordan or on the plain by the sea. The inhabitants dwell in every part of the Land: in the valleys (death), in the mountains (resurrection), in the arid desert and the fertile plains. The inhabitants must be driven out of every part of the Land because they live in every part of the Land. The Land is ours, and every place where you put your foot, you will possess it. But conversely, we must put our foot everywhere because they live everywhere. This does not happen overnight. We must fight for every plot of ground that we desire to possess.

The Land, however, had been inhabited for centuries, and the occupants did not want to be uprooted or destroyed by their new adversaries. But that this very thing was necessary is evident in the Scriptures (cf. Gen. 15:16, Lev. 18:25). The inhabitants were so opposed to the Lord and His ways that they were useless to His purposes and therefore forfeited their right to existence. The Israelites' blessing, therefore, was the inhabitants' curse.

How evident it is that this is for us a picture of the Cross! Paul says in II Corinthians 2:14-16 that we are those who make the knowledge of God manifest in the earth. To unbelievers, that manifestation spells death, and to believers, life. The Cross, whose type is the crossing of the Jordan, is the sign of life to all those who are identified in Christ, as we see in type by the nation of Israel, but a sign of imminent destruction to all who are separate from God, typified by the inhabitants of the Land.

The entire way of life for the Canaanite was natural and fleshly, controlled completely by the senses and the flesh. They had to be utterly destroyed because they provided no opening for the Lord to be there among them. Their everyday manner of life left no chance for the Lord to reach out to them or through them. God is Spirit and can only be known and related to by the Spirit. The work of the Cross that delivered us out of Egypt and placed us in the Land is a finished work, and it included the cutting off of all of the enemies of God. The complete work of the Cross is worked out in us as we identify in Christ, therefore taking His enemies as our own, and begin to do battle with them based on that work.

What are some of the qualities of the inhabitants? First and foremost, they are holdovers from the old creation which passed away at the Cross, as we can see by their relationship to the Egyptians. As such, the inhabitants represent that which resists the embracing of – and the entering into – Him who is revealed. Of course, there are no inhabitants in Christ, but there can be things in us which are resistant to us living in Christ. An inhabitant, then, is that which is of the old, still trying to hang on and keep us from settling in the new.

Because they are of the natural realm, they are idol worshippers. To worship an idol, according to Isaiah, is to bow down to the works of one's own hands (cf. Isa. 2:8). So to worship idols is in a sense to worship oneself and one's own abilities, to worship the gods of our own conceiving and choosing, an outright denial of the completed work of the Cross. An idol is a door in the natural realm that is open to demonic influence. It is something of ourselves – the works of our hands – that makes a demon feel welcome.

Closely related to idolatry were the high places, which were those locations where the inhabitants worshipped their idols. Israel was forbidden to participate in any such worship, no matter what (or Who) the object of their worship was. High places represent human religion, man's ideas about how God ought to be worshipped. But God never accepts our approach to Him except it be by the way He provided in His Son.

The inhabitants built walled cities, or strongholds, to protect their government and way of life, which were against God's government and ways. These fortresses are too strong to be conquered by natural ability, but we cannot allow them to stay, for they will continue to protect the inhabitants as long as they do. Paul defines strongholds as reasonings and high things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God (cf. II Cor. 10:3-5). Walled cities are reasonings that protect the old creation viewpoint that continues to resist the knowledge of the Lord as it is revealed to us. They are the inhabitants' defense against Christ revealed. This defense usually consists of elaborate systems of self-justification and self-deception, which keep us from walking in the spiritual reality that is ours in Christ. A person who has seen the Lord in the Word but is unable to maintain a victorious lifestyle against the natural realm and its thought patterns may have strongholds which continue to give God's enemies place inside of himself.

The inhabitants of the Land offer a way of life that is at the same time both seductive to the flesh and contrary to the Lord's way of living in the Land as set forth in the Law of Moses. All of these must be dispossessed, and it is against them that we wrestle. All of these things are enemies of God, which is why God warned His people so sternly against intermarriage with the inhabitants and the embracing of their customs. For Israel to identify on any level with the inhabitants of the Land was to identify with that which was in total opposition to the Lord and His way. And if Israel were to do that, God would have to destroy them along with the inhabitants, for all of God's enemies are condemned to death by crucifixion. Everyone died at the Cross, but only He who is of God is raised up.

As we begin to see, even though the Cross was a once for all act, its effects and the ever unfolding unveiling of all that it has accomplished continue on in the life of the believer. As we continue to realize all from which the Cross has separated us by its work of death, we will vanquish that inhabitant, that idol, that walled city, which heretofore has stood stable and secure.

The inhabitants of the Land are God's enemies and therefore ours as well. Warring in the Land is the apprehending and living in the Spiritual reality of Christ, and completely destroying anything of the old creation that would like to stay on in the new reality of

Christ revealed. As we possess more and more of that which God has given us in Christ, we will meet with that which will resist our possessing the Land, especially in that tricky time of translation from the natural to the spiritual. These enemies will always be stronger than we are, and it will always take God's strength to fight them. The inhabitants are not of God. They do not find their origin in Him as we do, and they will forever resist and be against all that God is and does.

### **Three Main Elements Common to All Battles under Joshua**

Each victorious battle had in common with the others three main elements that were pertinent to those victories. These elements have been separated below that we might begin to comprehend their relevance for spiritual Israel, but they remain dependent upon one another. Those who desire to possess and be established in Christ, our Land, will find these elements common in their walk, as well.

#### **1. Daily dependence upon the Lord.**

The mind of the Lord is that the Land belongs to Israel. Yet Joshua inquired of the Lord before every single battle, and every time He would tell Israel that He had given the enemy into their hands. The exceptions were Ai the first time, and when making a treaty with the Gibeonites. Even though in God's view the Land was already Israel's, they needed to stay in touch with the Lord constantly for His mind concerning the conquest of it. Each step of their campaign was directed by the mind of the Lord.

The mind of the Lord is not just that we cross the Jordan, and we see the Lord one time in His death, burial, and resurrection, and then just start taking the Land as we see fit. Even though we are abiding in Christ, we are still to seek guidance every step of the way. We are constantly drawing from His mind. There is a constant hearing from the Lord: "The Land is yours." "I have given them into your hand." He speaks specifically for each battle. When we place our foot somewhere, the Lord says, "I have given this into your hand."

A once-and-for-all acknowledgment that we are in Christ, and then going about our own business will not cause us to take the Land. We cannot separate the spiritual reality from daily living, thinking that because we are in Christ, it does not matter that we do not conform at all to the image of Christ. We do not see such a lazy attitude in Israel under Joshua. Instead, we see a daily dependence. Abiding in Christ is a daily, hourly, sometimes minute-by-minute drawing from Someone other than oneself. It is a constant action. It is a constant relating to the Lord, not keeping our theology straight as we do whatever we want.

So taking the Land comes not by a one-time seeing of Christ, but by a constant seeing of Him. We see Him many times, in many different ways. Each time the Lord brings us into a new area of reality in Him, we see it again, and we identify in Him each time. We do not realize the importance of this at first, which may be the reason for Israel's two defeats so quickly after Jericho.

It is a constant learning to relate. It is not only knowing that you are in Christ and believing it once; it is constantly believing coupled with a consistent influx of the Spirit explaining Christ to us on a regular basis so that we can continue to take the steps necessary to possess the Land.

## **2. The Lord was the one doing the fighting.**

The guiding reality for Canaan's conquest was that the battle was the Lord's. The Lord fought for Israel, and the Lord delivered their enemies into their hands. We need to have our minds renewed to this reality! We take the Land as the Lord fights our battles! In one instance, more of the enemy was killed by God dropping hailstones on the inhabitants than by the Israelites killing them in battle. In another instance, Israel shouted and the Lord saw to it that the wall of the city fell down flat. So, when we are possessing the Land – Christ – there is no striving on our part because the Lord fights for us!

What a needed lesson for us to learn! It is not that we have all of our Scriptures right and that we have enough willpower to strong-arm the inhabitants. It is that we come into a relationship with the Lord where we know how to let Him fight the battle when the enemy is in our face. We do not fail to seek the counsel of the Lord, nor do we move with haste and try to fight the problem. We let the Lord fight for us. He may manifest in some miraculous way, or He may not. But regardless of how the battle is fought, we are not striving to win it ourselves.

We are responsible to remember what He has shared with us and hold the Word in our hearts, but the power that overcomes the enemy so that we see a manifestation of that heavenly reality in our lives comes from the Lord fighting for us. There must be this rest in faith.

## **3. The Lord's exhortation is to "Fear not,"**

Another instruction/exhortation the Lord gave His people was to not be afraid. From the Lord's point of view, fear is a huge hindrance to taking the Land. We saw how fear drove Israel from the Lord during their time in the wilderness. Adam has been afraid of God since the fall, and fear has remained deeply embedded in the heart of man. When we as the Lord's people do not know Him, we will be offended by and afraid of anything Spiritual, anything that is truly of God because we think that it means loss for us. It is one of the primary things that keeps us from abiding in Christ, and it must be dealt with if we are going to do so.

This command to "fear not" was not intended to motivate Israel by the fear that may have been resident in their hearts (He had to tell Israel to fear not, so they probably were afraid!); it was not a command that they had better follow, "or else". He was not demanding that they somehow deny their fear or ignore it, even if they were scared to death. He was saying that they did not need to be afraid at all because the battle and its outcome were only a result of the fact that the Land was theirs; there was nothing to be afraid of. As long as the Lord gives His Word, as long as He is the One who fights, there is nothing to fear.

The very first thing that Jesus said to His disciples after He ascended and then came back to earth was, "Peace be unto you," (Jn. 20:19-20). The Lord is constantly telling us how the work was finished at the Cross, that His plan was conceived and completed in His heart, that He has brought us into a relationship with Him where there is no condemnation, that He has given us the Land and will fight for us, and that He has delivered us from the fear of death which has kept us in bondage. If we would only have ears to hear! For this is how the Lord relates to us under Joshua. This is how Joshua speaks to those whom he had lead across the Jordan.

Since the Cross, we have no reason to be afraid or hide anymore, but the old way of thinking continues to dominate us at times. Our fears hinder us from abiding in Christ. To take the Land, we must let the Word conquer our fear. Jesus' heart to us is, "Fear not." Fear not. He has overcome the world. "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," (Lk. 12:32). This is His heart, and as we learn His heart, that perfect love casts out fear.

When we do not live by the Cross, our fear hinders us and constricts us from knowing who we are in Christ and what we are able to accomplish through His ability. When we realize that all basis for fear that is such a part of the old nature was done away at the Cross, there will be no stopping us in taking the Land. There will be little to hinder our spiritual progress because the work has already been done. All that is left for us to do is possess it. Knowing His love emboldens us so that we will take the Land. We will no longer be afraid to fight or stand against the inhabitants. We will not even be afraid of our own failures because success and failure do not change the truth of where we live.

### **Inhabitants of the Land – In Fear of Israel**

The wilderness mentality is based on a fear of the Lord, that He is not with us because He is not naturally blessing us in our circumstances all the time. Taking the Land is a completely new experience, and all that it is flies in the face of the old mentality. There is nothing in the history of the believer to which it can be compared; God does not give us a practice run in a simulation-Land. We cannot fake it, we don't do practice runs into the Land and do drills there for an hour or two while still wandering in the wilderness. No, when we enter the Land, it is a completely new environment with a completely new way of doing things, with a whole new set of enemies.

Now, any average Christian who is put into this kind of situation will most likely experience a sense of anxiety, apprehension, and even fear, as we have just studied. We as people normally like to know what is going to happen and how before we agree to commit to such a "high-pressure, high-risk" situation.

When we enter the Land, the Lord exhorts us both in Deuteronomy and Joshua over and over to fear not. And we learn to trust that because we are in Him and He fights for us, that there is no reason for fear. As we have already seen, the Lord exhorts us to "Be... strong and very courageous," (Josh. 1:7), and in reference to the inhabitants of the Land,

the Lord tells His people, “Thou shalt not be afraid of them,” (Deut. 7:18). These commands we do well to obey!

There is something more in the Land that we need to understand. We may have some concern about how to take a Land that we have never lived in before. We may be nervous about facing entire people groups who have made war their national pastime. But there is one more aspect of fear that we need to look at, and that is the fear of the inhabitants towards Israel. At the inception of Israel as a nation, Moses said this in Exodus 15:13-16: “Thou in thy mercy hath led forth the people whom thou hast redeemed; thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation. The people shall hear, and be afraid; sorrow shall take of the inhabitants of Philistia. Then the chiefs of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone...”

We are still in warfare, we are still learning how to fight the enemy and take the Land, but we need to understand that the enemy is afraid. Listen to the heart of the Lord in Deuteronomy 11:25: “There shall no man be able to stand before you; for the Lord your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.” He works fear in the inhabitants toward the Lord’s people who are possessing the Land.

The book of Joshua gives us some insight into what was going on in the inhabitants’ hearts when they heard that Israel had miraculously crossed the Jordan. Joshua 2:9, 11 says,

“...your terror is fallen upon us, and... all the inhabitants of the Land faint because of you... and as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you; for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.”

The inhabitants were afraid of Israel because of the work of the Cross, typified in the Red Sea even before they manifested any victory in the Land. In 2:24, the spies said to Joshua, “Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.” What a difference from the spies at Kadesh-barnea! These spies saw correctly. They did not report back to Joshua about how thick the walls of Jericho were. Nor did they mention the fact that the inhabitants were warriors. The report that these spies brought back to Joshua was that the inhabitants were afraid of Israel. They had a right heart condition, and so they saw as the Lord saw. And because they saw from the Lord’s viewpoint, they understood the inhabitants’ fear of being vanquished.

Joshua 5:1 records that inhabitants’ “heart melted, neither was there spirit in them anymore...” after Israel had crossed over the Jordan, even though they had not yet met in battle. They did not have to see a conflict; they knew that their end came at the Red Sea. When Israel came out of Egypt, the inhabitants knew that their life was over.

Joshua 9:24 records the Gibeonites speaking: "...we were very much afraid of our lives because of you." Finally, Joshua 10:2 says that the king and inhabitants of Jerusalem "feared greatly" when they saw their neighbors fall before Israel.

Israel knew that the inhabitants were defeated already. They knew that the enemies of God were identified with the stones at the bottom of the Jordan. They knew that they could meet any inhabitant on the battlefield and say, "You are buried already!" The basis for fear had been removed. They had switched from a natural way of viewing things into a whole different system of truth that said there was no reason to be afraid. When we see as God sees, we are not bound by fear, even when we meet enemies that are greater and stronger than we.

As long as Israel was wandering in the wilderness, the inhabitants had nothing to be afraid of. But when Israel crossed the Jordan, they knew that what happened at the Red Sea was about to be made manifest.

When the inhabitants recognized that Israel had come to a revelation of Christ, they began to be afraid because they knew their destruction was imminent. Tales of this unique nation whose God had miraculously delivered them from the military might of the Egyptians had already circulated through the Land, along with Israel's decisive victories over the kings of Heshbon and Bashan.

Philippians 1:28 says, "And in nothing terrified by your adversaries, which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God." When we stand fast in our faith that we are in Christ, that the work of the Cross is finished, that our home is the heavenly realms in Christ, then this very confidence in the Lord is clear proof of the inhabitants' manifest destruction. They were destroyed at the Cross, but the working out of that destruction manifests as we lay hold of Christ by faith. That is a clear sign to the inhabitants of their destruction, but to us of our salvation. Our confidence in the gospel, contending for the faith in one mind and one spirit without fear, is a sign to us of our salvation and a sign to the enemies of their destruction.

The same truth is like a two-edged sword: to us it means one thing, and to the inhabitants it means another. In II Corinthians 2:14-16 it says that we are a savor of Christ to all whom we meet. To those who know the Lord, we are a savor of life, but to those who are unbelievers, we are a savor of death. When Israel identified in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, it was the savor of life to them. They were able to take the Land and walk out God's purposes in the earth. But that same savor was death to the inhabitants, and it caused fear in their hearts. The knowledge of the Cross working in us is life to us, and death to the inhabitants because it is a judgment. Our life is a judgment, not only in our minds, but even as we walk daily. It is a judgment on anything that is judged by God. Without using words, we are a judgment in the earth. We are the dividing factor that says the Cross put to death all that was not of God and raised up a New Creation in Christ. Those who are living in the New Creation are a savor of Christ. Those who have been put to death in the old creation see that judgment as a curse, and they hate it. They get agitated, and they will persecute that which is of the new.

This is true inside of us. The Cross causes fleshly viewpoints to get agitated. It causes things in us that are not of God to be stirred up. All of the old ways of thinking are being challenged, and they start to react. They are being told by the Spirit of God in us that their manifest end is near. The internal reactions to the preaching of the Cross, to the daily walking it out, and the fears that come is the natural viewpoint reacting to its imminent destruction.

To live in Christ causes confrontation, which causes both other people and natural things within us to react. The natural viewpoint reacts because it is no longer in charge.

### **Remembering the Fear of the Inhabitants**

The inhabitants knew what happened at the Red Sea, and Israel was able to recognize that the inhabitants knew what was happening and that their time was short. Israel was able to fight successfully on the basis of knowing what was happening inside the inhabitants' hearts.

It is important while taking the Land to remember the fear that comes upon our enemies for two reasons: 1) keeping their fear in mind keeps us confident of our certain victory, and 2) knowing that their fear causes them to act in a way that has a direct bearing on us will keep us from being deceived by their tactics.

The enemy's fear is mentioned in the book of Joshua on at least three occasions. One time, the people hid in their walled city (cf. Josh. 2:9, 6:1). Another time, a nation deceived Israel into making a league with them (cf. Josh. 9:24). Still another time, fear caused several kingdoms to unite and fight (cf. Josh. 10:1-4). The fear of the inhabitants will cause them to hide, deceive, and finally, to fight. If we are aware of the enemy's devices, we will be less likely to be taken in by them.

To remember that the inhabitants are at all times motivated by fear will keep us confident of our victory because they will continue to act as if they have a right to live in the Land until they are utterly destroyed. If we believe their actions over the Word of the Lord, we may become confused and back down. The Lord Himself will see to it that they will be afraid (cf. Deut. 11:25), and He lets us know that it will be so. The battle gets intense at times as we take a stand for the new inroads with in us that the Cross has wrought. It takes an effort to believe the Word of God. But when we know that they know that they will be destroyed, we can be assured that though the battle may get thick and difficult for a little while, it will not last forever, which enables us to keep our "faith energy" up.

The enemy's fear will motivate them to survive our attacks by any means, for the natural viewpoint fights the hardest when its back is against the wall. It is the desperate man that will fight the hardest. If we are aware of this fact, we will be ready for anything. We will not be surprised at the intensity of the battle, and be able to quell our own fears as we continue to follow through and stay our present course, regardless of how we feel.

When we first begin to take the Land, we are not as schooled and trained in war, because we have never gone this way before. We can get confused and disoriented by the intensity of the battle. But if we know that the old seeking-to-save mentality is trying to take its last stand, then we will not back off from the fight. If the enemy can deceive us into thinking that we will have to fight them forever, we be overwhelmed and back down. But if we understand that our confidence in the gospel is proof to the inhabitants of their destruction, then we will stand our ground when our old natural viewpoint is conflicting with the Lord whom we have seen. We do not have to do anything different. We simply have to believe the Word of the Lord and receive His reality. We do not change tactics. We simply want to prevent being swayed from our course by the tactics of the inhabitants.

The morale of the troops plays a very important role in the outcome of any battle. If the troops have been fighting for a long time with no relief, if they have not been doing well on the battlefield, and if there is no end or victory in sight, they will become discouraged and want to surrender to the enemy. But if the troops have a reason to fight, if they know that their victory is secure and that it is only a matter of time until the reality is manifest, then they will fight with confidence. The very same army with the same strength may win or lose depending solely upon the morale of the troops. Anyone can endure intense fighting if they know that there is an end in sight, but almost no one will volunteer for a battle that will never end.

Knowing that the enemy is afraid will help us to stand fast when the enemy's desperate fight does not give the appearance of waning. When a man knows his enemy is afraid, he will push all that much harder to cause the enemy to fall apart. The confident one fights with levelheadedness, and the desperate one with panic.

### **The Battle Is Only for a Time**

Taking the Land is process that can span over a long period of time in the life of any believer or group of believers. Part of the fault lies with the believers, who may be slack in possessing the Land which the Lord has given us (cf. Josh. 18:3). But part of the reason for taking time to possess the Land lies with the Lord and His dealings with His people. He is thorough in all His dealings with us, and will continue to work in us until He has accomplished that which He intends. Possessing the Land is not a one-time revelation or experience; it is what is achieved as we place our foot on that which is ours in Christ as we walk day-by-day.

However, the Lord's intention is not that we fight forever. His intention is that we grow up in Him and become established in Christ (cf. Col. 2:6-7). The Lord wanted Israel to take up residence there, and they fought until they could. This particular war is one of transition, and not a stage at which we remain forever. We fight because we are not yet established; once we are established, we cease to fight (at least, we cease to fight for this specific purpose. As mentioned earlier, there will be other battles!). We do not fight inhabitants for the rest of our Christian days. Once we have taken the Land, we will move on into other ways of knowing the Lord that have been made possible by becoming

established in the Land. There is a progression in knowing the Lord, and Joshua is one of the first ways in which we see Christ. We need to remember to look beyond the present dealing of just taking the Land, because the Lord is going to move beyond it, and we will want to move with Him.

### **Summary**

Just because Israel was in the Land did not mean that they were completely governed by God's reality. They were simply fighting to get established. They were not experts at war. They had not yet kicked out all the inhabitants. As we shall see, there will be instability and battles all the way up until David's kingdom.

Battle and struggle and conflict come with the package. If you want to enter in, gird up the loins of your mind, and do not be surprised at the fiery trial. The conflict strengthens you to be able to abide in the heavenlies, that Christ may dwell in your heart, by faith. The conflict stems from the constant resistance to the truth that comes from both the natural realm from your senses. You choose to not put your hand to the situation, and you choose to listen to the Lord, and let Him guide. This is part of living in the Land, and you do this not once, not twice, but over and over.

We think that entering the Land is the equivalent of having no conflict, like the proof of the victory is the fact that we have no fight. No, when you enter the Land, the fight will come to you!