

## Deuteronomy 7 - Thursday, June 16th, 2011

(1) "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, (2) and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

- There's a couple things I want to point out in these first two verses, the first of which is that it's "when" and not "if" God brings them into the land.
- The reason it's important to take note of this is that while they will enter into the Promised-Land, the Israelites are still not in the Promised-Land.
- This would require faith on their part, in that the Promised-Land was that which they hoped for, and the evidence of that which was yet unseen.

- So too do we walk by faith into the promises of God, in that it's the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)
- Here's what I'm thinking; God does His part, the promise, but we must do our part, by faith, by virtue of how faith is the catalyst for the promise.
- In other words, we can never hope to step into the promises of God if we're unwilling to step out by faith in God, that He will be true to His Word.

- The second thing I want to point out dovetails with the first. Notice it's "when" the Lord delivers those mightier than they are into their hands.
- Again, God will do His part, but they have to do their part, this time it's as it relates to following through by faith, as well as stepping out in faith.
- While one is in concert with the other, it may not lead to the other. Just because we start out by faith, doesn't mean we'll finish well in the faith.

Acts 20:24 NKJV But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

- Woven into the fabric of this verse, we have the secret to how Paul was able to "finish the race." It's found in counting his life as being worthless.
- This is why nothing could move Paul and why he finished well. He had already counted the cost, and knew it would cost him his life in this world.
- He had done the math, which solved the problem of self, and in so doing, picked up his cross, and died to himself, so he could follow the Lord.

Luke 9:23-24 NIV Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (24) For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

Luke 14:28-30 NKJV For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it— (29) lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, (30) saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

(3) Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. (4) For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. (5) But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

- In these three verses, we have the reason that God, in verse two, tells the Israelites to show no mercy to the nations He will conquer for them.
- Here's why; if they don't mercilessly destroy the enemy's the enemy's will mercilessly destroy them, and turn them away from following the Lord.
- Perhaps the lesson here becomes quite clear; if I don't mercilessly destroy the deeds of the flesh, then the flesh will mercilessly destroy me.

Romans 8:13 NKJV For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- Sadly, we have an example of this in King Saul, who actually started well, however, because he refused to obey God, he would not finish well.

1 Samuel 15:2-3 NKJV Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek *for* what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. (3) Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "

1 Samuel 15:9 NKJV But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all *that was* good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

- Saul's unwillingness to mercilessly and utterly destroy all the Amalekites, would lead to the Amalekites mercilessly and utterly destroying Saul.

2 Samuel 1:1-15 NIV After the death of Saul, David returned from defeating the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days. (2) On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and with dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor.

(3) "Where have you come from?" David asked him. He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp." (4) "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me." He said, "The men fled from the battle. Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead." (5) Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" (6) "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," the young man said, "and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and riders almost upon him. (7) When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, 'What can I do?' (8) "He asked me, 'Who are you?' "An Amalekite," I answered. (9) "Then he said to me, 'Stand over me and kill me! I am in the throes of death, but I'm still alive.' (10) "So I stood over him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord." (11) Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. (12) They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. (13) David said to the young man who brought him the report, "Where are you from?" "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite," he answered. (14) David asked him, "Why were you not afraid to lift your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" (15) Then David called one of his men and said, "Go, strike him down!" So he struck him down, and he died.

- Had Saul been willing to mercilessly and utterly destroy all the Amalekites, then the Amalekites wouldn't have mercilessly tried to destroy David.

1 Samuel 30:1 NKJV Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire,

- Had Saul been willing to mercilessly and utterly destroy the Amalekites, the Amalekites wouldn't have mercilessly tried to destroy all the Jews.

Esther 9:24-25 NKJV because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that *is*, the lot), to consume them and destroy them; (25) but when *Esther* came before the king, he commanded by letter that this wicked plot which *Haman* had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

- Now, I'm going to take it a step further by fast forwarding to the present day, and the attempt to mercilessly and utterly destroy all of the Jews.  
- I would suggest that had Saul been willing to destroy all the Amalekites, they wouldn't be amongst those trying to destroy the Jews in our day.  
- Here's how I get there; Amalek was a descendant of Esau, and from whom we have the modern day Arabs made up of primarily Edomites.

Genesis 36:10-12 NIV These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz, the son of Esau's wife Adah, and Reuel, the son of Esau's wife Basemath. (11) The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam and Kenaz. (12) Esau's son Eliphaz also had a concubine named Timna, who bore him Amalek. These were grandsons of Esau's wife Adah.

- Lest we think God is without just cause in commanding the Israelites to destroy the Amalekites, there's something we need to know about them.  
- God gave land to Esau's descendants and told the Israelites not to attack them, yet the Amalekites ultimately attacked the Israelites anyway.

Deuteronomy 2:4 NKJV And command the people, saying, "You *are about to* pass through the territory of your brethren, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. Therefore watch yourselves carefully. (5) Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you *any* of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau *as* a possession.

Deuteronomy 25:17-19 NIV (17) Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. (18) When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and cut off all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God. (19) When the LORD your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

- By the way, let me go on record and say; this is why the so called "Palestinians" of today refuse to be associated with the descendants of Esau.  
- Were they to do this, then they would have their Palestine, because that land was given to Esau and the Promised-Land was given to Jacob.  
- Furthermore, this is evidence that they don't want land, or even a Palestinian state, they want Israel's Promised-Land and no Israeli state.