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Life In The Promise Land
Deut. 9:1-6

Some of the old hymns present the promise land as a place of no conflict or problems but the bible sheds much light on this mistaken notion.

Moses is calling Israel to hear the words of his mouth carefully for they would soon cross over the Jordan into the promise land.

Therefore Moses declares to them five aspects about life in the promise land. Deut. 9:1-6

- I. A life of faith. vs. 1a-b
- II. A life of trials and testings. vs. 1c-2
- III. A life of following God. vs. 3a
- IV. A life of co-participation. vs. 3b-d
- V. A life of potential danger. vs. 4-6

I. A life of faith.

* "Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today". vs. 1a-b

- A. The people had been delivered from Egypt.
 - 1. Egypt is a type of the world, that which stands against all that is for God.
 - 2. Egypt is the place of bondage and slavery to a life of sin.
 - 3. Egypt is the place from where God delivers every person who is born again by trusting in the blood of Christ for their deliverance.

B. The people had walked through the Red Sea.

- 1. The Red Sea is a type of baptism.
- 2. The identity of a new life.
- 3. The symbolism is death to the old life.
- 4. The public witness is personal death to the old life of sin.

- C. The people had been wondering in the wilderness for forty years.
 - 1. The wilderness is a type of carnal life.
 - 2. The wilderness journey has a legitimate time, an eleven day journey.
 - 3. The wilderness represents a life of unbelief, complaining, murmuring, provoking and testing God.
 - 4. The wilderness is a place of no progress, you go nowhere spiritually.
 - 5. The wilderness is a place of death, in the spiritual sense, in that one does not enjoy or live in the abundance of the life available to him or her.

D. The people are now going to cross the Jordan.

- 1. Jordan is a type of reckoning the old man to be dead and living in the new man by faith.
- 2. Jordan is the boundary between the wilderness and the promise land, the life of sight versus the life of faith.
- 3. Jordan does not represent heaven, for there will be not walled cities nor giants in heaven.
- 4. Jordan would be crossed in faith when the feet of the priest touched the water in flood season while the Red Sea was crossed by sight after it was parted.

Life in the promise land is a life of faith!

II. A life of trials and testings.

* " And dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities greater and fortified up to heaven, a people greater and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, 'who can stand before the descendants of Anak?' vs. 1c-2

A. The first category of trial and testings will deal with circumstances.

1. The life of faith encounters greater and mightier circumstances than himself, represented by the nations and cities that are greater and mightier than their selves. 1Pet. 1:6-7
 - a. The person can not of their own ability handle the circumstances or situations.
 - b. The person is made aware of their dependency on God for the circumstance or situation.
2. The life of faith to cross Jordan is the standard for life in the promise land.
 - a. Faith is not mind over matter.
 - b. Faith is not positive thinking.
 - c. Faith is not produced by motivational speaker.
 - d. Faith is believing, trusting and committing oneself to an absolute dependency on what God has promise He will do.
 - e. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Rom. 10:17
3. The life of faith applies the promises of life in their context.
 - a. There are promises that are absolutely going to be fulfilled regardless of anything or anyone.
 - 1) The birth of Christ.
 - 2) The return of Christ.

3) The judgment of believers and unbelievers.

b. There are promises that were given to individual in the past and God may speak to my heart and apply it personally to my own circumstance.

1) Gideon was told not to fear the Medianites despite their numbers. Judges 7

2) Habakkuk was told to trust God regardless of what he saw in the present. Hab. 3

c. There are promises that are given to every believer in order to live the life of faith.

1) To believe that all their sins are forgiven and removed forever. Ps. 103:12

2) To believe the promise of a new nature to overcome sin nature. 2Pet. 1:2-4

3) To have access to all the wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ Jesus. Col. 2:3

B. The second category of trials and testings will deal with People.

1. The life of faith encounters difficult and problem people represented by the Anakims, a great and tall people. 1Pet. 4:12-13
 - a. People who we live in close contact with, be it in family or marriage.
 - 1) Our husband or wife could be antagonistic to our faith in Christ or just carnal and compromising.
 - 2) Our children may push us to the edge as we attempt to guide and proclaim to them the boundaries and consequences in a disobedient life style.

- 3) Our immediate family or in-laws may be a source of agitation by false accusations etc.
- b. People who we work with or for in our jobs.
 - 1) They may mock us for our faith in Christ.
 - 2) They may dislike us for our commitment to Christianity.
 - 3) They may oppose our being promoted in the work force.
 - 4) They may willfully be obscene and profane just to provoke us.
- 2. The life of faith is challenged by intimidation of certain people, "Who is able to stand before the Anakims?"
 - a. The problem of difficult people is no problem to God, God removed Korah and his friends.
 - b. The problem of power is controlled by God, Jesus told Pilate that he had no power except it were given to him.
 - c. The problem of authority is clearly delineated, we are to obey God rather than man when man's commands contradict or oppose God.
 - d. The Lord at times allows the believer to suffer and in fact lose his life at the hands of people, like Jeremiah who was believed to have been cut in two, Stephen by stoning and James was killed with the sword.

Life in the promise land is a life of trials and testings!

III. A life of following God.

* "Therefore understand today that the Lord your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire".
vs. 3a

- A. The believer is to understand that God has gone before him or her.
 - 1. Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are yet without sin that He might be a faithful High Priest. Heb. 4:14-16
 - 2. Jesus knows all that will ever happen, He knows the end from the beginning.
 - 3. Jesus knows loneliness as all deserted Him in His hour of need.
 - 4. Jesus knows poverty for his mother offered the offering of poverty at His dedication, two turtle doves.
 - 5. Jesus knows the pain of rejection as He wept over Jerusalem.
 - 6. Jesus knows the heartache of unbelief and death as He wept due to Mary's words, "If You had been here my brother would not have died."
- B. The believer is to understand that God has gone over before him as a consuming fire.
 - 1. The fire represents His protection against the enemy in the land and so with us. Rom. 12:19
 - a. He would deliver all of them to Israel.
 - b. He would put dread in their hearts.
 - c. He would utterly destroy them.
 - 2. The fire represents His light to instruct them and so with us. Jn. 1:4-5
 - a. They had His word to live a life pleasing to God.
 - b. They had His word to warn them.
 - c. They had His word to approach Him.
 - 3. The fire represents chastening for those who disobeyed so with us. Heb. 12:5-6, 29, Prov. 3:11-12

- a. Nadab and Abihu were consumed with fire from the alter for offering strange fire. Lev. 10
- b. Mariam was struck with leprosy for speaking against Moses. Num. 12
- c. Moses was not allowed to enter in to the promise land because he misrepresented God before the people. Num.

Life in the promise land is a life of following God!

IV. A life of co-partnership.

* " He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the Lord has said to you". vs. 3b-d

A. The promise of victory is sourced in God.

- 1. God would destroy and bring down their enemies just as He will destroy and bring down our life of sin.
- 2. The Incarnation was God's way of redeeming humanity from Adam's fall. Rom. 5:12
- 3. The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness by Satan was defeated by the weapons of God, the Holy Spirit, Prayer and the word. Math. 4
- 4. The death of Jesus on the cross was a substitute for the entire world. Jn. 3:16
- 5. The resurrection of Jesus was the evidence of God receiving the payment for the sins of the world. 1Jn. 2:2
- 6. The exaltation of Jesus is evident by His position on the right hand of the Father. Acts 2:33

B. The possession of victory is through faith and obedience.

- 1. My sin nature is opposed to the Spirit of God in me, so I have to walk in the Spirit in order that I don't fulfill the lust of the flesh.
 - a. They are contrary to one another. Gal. 5:16-17
 - b. There must be all diligence to add to my faith virtue, to virtule knowledge, to knowledge self control, to self control perseverance etc. 2Pet. 1:5-11
- 2. My sin nature desires to rule my life, therefore I must present my body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Him which is my reasonable service, to prove what is the good and perfect will of God. Rom. 12:1-2
 - a. Not being conformed to the worlds system.
 - b. But by being transformed by the renewing of my mind.
- 3. My sinful thoughts have to be brought into captivity into the obedience of God. 2Cor. 10:4-6
 - a. Knowint that I am able to stand against the strategies of Satan as I am filled with the power of God's might and put on the whole armor of God. Eph. 6:10-11
 - b. Knowing the that I am born into spiriual warefare. Eph. 6:12
 - c. Knowing that Satan goes around as a roaring lion, trying to devour whom he will. 1Pet. 5:8
- 4. My sinful nature wants to excuse me or justify my failure but God tells me I am equipped for all that will come into my life.
 - a. The way of escape is promised. 1Cor. 10:13,
 - b. The divine nature is given. 2Pet. 1:2-4

- c. The practice of making provisions for the flesh to fulfill the lust is exposed. Rom. 13:14

Life in the promise land is a life of co-partnership!

V. A life of potential danger.

* " Do not think in your heart....that the Lord is driving them out before you therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people. vs.4- 6

- A. To be deceived by my heart which is deceitful and desperately wicked. vs. 4a, Jer. 17:6
1. The heart as we have discussed before is the very core of man, what he is, how he thinks.
 2. The heart is known only by God. Jer. 17:9
 3. The heart is the source of man's defilement. Math. 15:19
 4. The heart has been man's problem from the beginning of the fall. Gen. 6:5
- B. To think that God has cast out others and brought me into my spiritual possession because of my righteousness that I have done. vs. 4b-c, 5a
1. My righteousness is as filthy rags. Is. 64:6
 2. There is none righteous, no, not one. Rom. 3:11
 3. The righteousness that is brought forth in my life is due to the work of God in me. Rom. 6:15-19
- C. To fail to understand that it is not for the righteousness that I have done nor the uprightness of my heart but because of the people's personal evil. vs. 4d, 5b

1. Every person must give an account to God of himself.
2. Every person must chose between God's standard of perfection or the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
3. Every person will decide where they spend eternity, it will be by choice not by chance.

D. To fail to understand that we are stubborn and rebellious. vs. 6

1. The reference to stiff-necked is to one who is resistant and reluctant to obey.
2. The reference is to our sin nature and what we are apart from God.
3. The reference is to give us true perspective.

Life in the promise land is a life of potential danger!

Conclusion

Moses has given to us five aspects about life in the promise land which are an exact parallel to the Christian life.

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- II.** A life of trials and testings. vs. 1c-2
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- V.** A life of potential danger. vs. 4-5