

Week 6

Experience the Promised Land of Abundance in Christ

The Story of the children of Israel coming out of Egypt into the promised land is a type and shadow of God's children coming out from under the law and entering into a place of rest in Christ. They were living in lack and God promised to bring them into a place of abundance.

Egypt: the land of not enough: lack mentality: "I don't have enough." It represents living under the heavy burden of the law. God's people were in slavery to the Egyptians and God sent Moses to tell them the Good News of God's promise to deliver them out of bondage and bring them into a land of Abundance- a land flowing with milk and honey.

Wilderness: the land of just enough: Just enough mentality: "I have just what I need." Every morning God gave them just what they needed for their daily needs. Even though God provided their basic needs, the Israelites still lived in fear that they would not have enough so they hoarded their manna (**wilderness mentality is having a back up plan just in case God doesn't come through for you**). This way of thinking kept them in the wilderness. But God had more for them. He wanted them to live in a land of more than enough- a land flowing with milk and honey.

The Promised Land: the land of abundance: Abundance mentality: "I AM abundantly blessed in Jesus!" It represents the New Covenant in Jesus. Jesus is our promised Land. We are an heir of God Himself. We qualify for all His treasures because of Jesus. Experiencing the promised land is all that He is and all that He has manifested in our lives- peace, joy, goodness, love, faith, generosity, provision, guidance, wisdom.

God's plan has always been to bless and prosper His people

Exodus 3:7-8 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites. KJV

Definitions: milk and honey 1. Comfort; luxury; plenty.

What does Milk and Honey mean? These terms mean God's provision, resources and love providing His bounty and the fertility of the lands to those of faith Ex. 3:1-10.

<http://www.gospel.com/bookmarks/Milk-Honey-Bible-Christian-perspective/12263>

Numbers 14:1,2: 1 The LORD now said to Moses, ² "Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes." ³ So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness of Paran. NLT

There were two different responses to God's promise

Numbers 14:25-28,30-33: ²⁵And they returned from scouting out the land after forty days. ²⁶They came to Moses and Aaron and to all the Israelite congregation in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh, and brought them word, and showed them the land's fruit. ²⁷They told Moses, We came to

the land to which you sent us; surely it flows with milk and honey. This is its fruit. ²⁸**But** the people who dwell there are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover, there we saw the sons of Anak [of great stature and courage].

³⁰Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; we are well able to conquer it. ³¹But his fellow scouts said, We are not able to go up against the people [of Canaan], for they are stronger than we are. ³²So they brought the Israelites an evil report of the land which they had scouted out, saying, The land through which we went to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature. ³³There we saw the Nephilim [or giants], the sons of Anak, who come from the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

- God said look at the land that I have promised you. See what you have inherited as my people.
- They looked at what God had promised them, and acknowledged that it was very good, but they refused to believe what God had said about them because of the giants in the land. They came back with an evil report. An evil report is any opinion that is opposite of your Father's opinion of you in Christ.
- Giants are anything that you see that causes your heart to doubt that you will ever experience the abundance that God has promised you in Jesus: Bad economy, limited education or skills, your present job or circumstances, natural heritage, your spouse, bad news, etc.
- Caleb only said what He heard His Father say: We are more than conquerors! He encouraged the people to take on God's opinion and trust in what He said about them.
- They did not see themselves the way God saw them. Their opinion was that they were grasshoppers. God's opinion was that they were more than conquerors- heirs of the promised land. They saw themselves through their own eyes instead of God's. Trusted in their own ability instead of His and therefore- they became disappointed, discouraged, angry and fearful!

Numbers 14:1-9: ¹AND ALL the congregation cried out with a loud voice, and [they] wept that night. ²All the Israelites grumbled and deplored their situation, accusing Moses and Aaron, to whom the whole congregation said, Would that we had died in Egypt! Or that we had died in this wilderness! ³Why does the Lord bring us to this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and little ones will be a prey. Is it not better for us to return to Egypt? ⁴And they said one to another, Let us choose a captain and return to Egypt. ⁵Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of Israelites. ⁶And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among the scouts who had searched the land, rent their clothes, ⁷And they said to all the company of Israelites, The land through which we passed as scouts is an exceedingly good land. ⁸If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁹Only do not rebel against the Lord, neither fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their defense and the shadow [of protection] is removed from over them, but the Lord is with us. Fear them not.

- Discouragement and disappointment is felt in the hearts of God's people when they see the promise of God, but they can't see how they will ever experience it. Grumbling and complaining about your situation is the result of trusting in yourself instead of placing your hope in Jesus
- When we refuse to believe the Good News that Jesus is our Provision, we revert back to the law-dependent on what we can do to provide for ourselves.

- Joshua is a type and shadow of Jesus. His name actually means Savior. He invites the people to trust God's provision for them so they can enter into the life of abundance- and exceeding good land- that He has already provided-but the choice is theirs

Numbers 14:10-11:¹⁰**But all the congregation said to stone [Joshua and Caleb] with stones. But the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tent of Meeting before all the Israelites. ¹¹And the Lord said to Moses, How long will this people provoke (spurn, despise) Me? And how long will it be before they believe Me [trusting in, relying on, clinging to Me], for all the signs which I have performed among them?**

- People who cannot see in the natural how they could ever truly live in a place of supernatural abundance, pick up their stones (the law) and begin persecuting those who simply receive God's superabundant provision of grace through Jesus. They go back to living by the sweat of their brow- by their own ability and good works. And that's what they experience in this life what their natural ability can get them.

Receive the Good News of God's superabundant provision through Jesus and enter into a place of rest and experience the glory of God in your life

Hebrews 3:14-15 & 19: ¹⁴**For we have become fellow heirs with Christ (the Messiah) and share in all He has for us, if only we hold our first newborn confidence and original assured expectation [in virtue of which we are believers] firm and unshaken to the end. ¹⁵Then while it is [still] called Today, if you would hear His voice and when you hear it, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. ¹⁹So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest], because of their unwillingness to adhere to and trust in and rely on God [unbelief had shut them out]. AMPC**

- We are joint heirs with Jesus! We qualify for all His treasures! We are heirs of God Himself- all that He is and all that He has! We have been given His life- abundant life! All the promises of God are Yes and Amen in Christ! In order to experience it, all we do is believe and receive what He has spoken over us in Christ!
- Don't harden your heart like the children of Israel did. They were unable to experience the abundance that God had promised them because they allowed the giants to cause them to doubt what God said.

Hebrews 4:1-3: ¹**THEREFORE, WHILE the promise of entering His rest still holds and is offered [today], let us be afraid to distrust it], lest any of you should think he has come too late and has come short of [reaching] it. ²For indeed we have had the glad tidings [Gospel of God] proclaimed to us just as truly as they [the Israelites of old did when the good news of deliverance from bondage came to them]; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith (with the leaning of the entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) by those who heard it; neither were they united in faith with the ones [Joshua and Caleb] who heard and did believe. ³For we who have believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on God) do enter that rest. AMPC**

Rest: Freedom from anything that tires, troubles or disturbs you; to be free from fear, worry, care, and anxiety; to have perfect peace in Christ.

- The Good News of God's superabundant provision has been shared with us just like it was to the Israelites, but it did not benefit them because they refused to trust what God said about them and instead took on their own opinion of themselves. They were not united in faith with Joshua and Caleb who did believe.

Hebrews 4:6-10 ⁶Seeing then that the promise remains over [from past times] for some to enter that rest, and that those who formerly were given the good news about it and the opportunity, failed to appropriate it and did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷Again He sets a definite day, [a new] Today, [and gives another opportunity of securing that rest] saying through David after so long a time in the words already quoted, Today, if you would hear His voice and when you hear it, do not harden your hearts. ⁸[This mention of a rest was not a reference to their entering into Canaan.] For if Joshua had given them rest, He [God] would not speak afterward about another day. ⁹So then, there is still awaiting a full and complete Sabbath-rest reserved for the [true] people of God; ¹⁰For he who has once entered [God's] rest also has ceased from [the weariness and pain] of human labors, just as God rested from those labors peculiarly His own.

- When you hear the Good News of what God says about you in Jesus, don't harden your heart and refuse to accept it, say Yes! to Jesus, and rest in the Father's Yes!
- When you enter into God's rest, you cease from trusting in your human labors- your limited resources and ability and you rest in Jesus and His finished work.

Hebrews 4:11: Let us therefore be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves], that no one may fall or perish by the same kind of unbelief and disobedience [into which those in the wilderness fell]. AMPC

Hebrews 4:14-16: ¹⁴Inasmuch then as we have a great High Priest Who has [already] ascended and passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith in Him]. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning. ¹⁶Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]. AMPC

How do we strive diligently to enter the rest that is found in our new identity in Jesus?

- Holdfast to your confession of faith in Jesus: I am abundantly blessed, highly favored, deeply loved, successful, wise, approved, His grace abounds toward me because of Jesus! This is my new identity in Jesus no matter what I see.
- In our weakness, God's grace makes us strong! If we are tempted to see ourselves differently than God, or trust in our own limited resources and ability instead of His. His grace is available to strengthen us. Continue to **come to the throne of grace**, when you are faced with discouraging circumstances or you are struggling with a lack mentality, look to Jesus and receive His superabundant provision of grace & He will strengthen you and bring forth His life in you!

Romans 5:17: For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! NIV