

Message Four

**Experiencing Christ as the Angel of Jehovah  
Bringing Us into Himself as the Good Land  
and  
Being Partners of Christ, Like Joshua and Caleb,  
Fighting in Faith to Possess the Land of Canaan**

Scripture Reading: Exo. 23:20-23; Num. 13: 30; 14:7-9; Josh. 14:6-15

**I. Christ is the Angel of Jehovah, bringing us into Himself as the good land—Exo. 23:20-23:**

- A. The title *the Angel of Jehovah* in Exodus 3:2 refers mainly to Christ, the Son of God, as the One sent by God (cf. John 8:42) to save His people from their situation of suffering (cf. Judg. 6:12-22; 13:3-22).
- B. According to Exodus 3:2 and 6, the Angel of Jehovah, the sent One, was Jehovah Himself, the sending One (cf. Zech. 2:6-11), and Jehovah is the Triune God (Exo. 3:6, 15).
- C. “The Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them”—Exo. 14:19:
  1. The Angel of God in Exodus 14:19 is the Angel of Jehovah who called Moses; the Angel of Jehovah is Christ as God’s sent One—3:2, 4.
  2. The fact that God’s sent One went before the camp of Israel indicates that Christ was the One who was leading the people.
  3. When the Angel of God moved, the pillar moved also, showing that the Angel and the pillar were one; Christ and the leading Spirit cannot be separated—John 14:17-20; 16:13; 2 Cor. 3:17; Rev. 5:6.
- D. “I am now sending an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared”—Exo. 23:20, cf. vv. 21-33:
  1. The Angel of Jehovah typifies Christ as the One sent by God to keep His people in the way and to bring them into the good land, and the good land typifies Christ in His all-inclusiveness as the allotted portion of God’s people—Deut. 8:7; Col. 1:12.
  2. Christ as the sent One brings God’s people into Himself as the good land; the goal in God’s purpose is to bring His people into the full enjoyment of Christ as the all-inclusive land.
  3. Regarding the Angel of Jehovah, Exodus 23:21 says, “My name is in Him”; the name of Jehovah is identical to His person, indicating that the Angel of Jehovah is Jehovah Himself.
  4. Christ, the sent One of God, speaks for God within us; if we would take possession of Him, we must learn to obey His voice; that the Angel’s voice was Jehovah’s speaking proves strongly that the Angel and Jehovah are one—vv. 21-22.
  5. The blessings in Exodus 23:25-26 signify spiritually that God will give us bread (the Word—Matt. 4:4) to nourish us and water (the Spirit—John 7:37-39) to satisfy us and will cause us to grow in the divine life to maturity,

to full age (Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28), in order to gain the all-inclusive Christ as our possession for our enjoyment (Phil. 3:8).

## **II. Like Joshua and Caleb, we need to be partners of Christ, fighting in faith to possess the land of Canaan—Num. 13:30; 14:7-9:**

- A. Joshua and Caleb took the word of God as their faith—13:30; 14:7-9:
  - 1. Joshua and Caleb believed in the word of God, obeyed the Lord, and pressed toward the goal.
  - 2. God alone is the source of faith; if we would have faith, we must learn to care for God's interests and not for our benefit.
  - 3. The example of Joshua and Caleb in the Bible shows us what it is to believe—13:30; 14:7-9:
    - a. Joshua and Caleb were not the ones who overcame in Numbers 13 and 14; it was the One in whom they trusted.
    - b. God did everything; they simply enjoyed what God did—v. 8.
  - 4. We should follow the example of Joshua and Caleb; they had hearts full of faith—13:30.
- B. We need to be today's Calebs, partners of Christ, who is the real Joshua—14:24; Josh. 14:6-14; Heb. 2:10; 3:14:
  - 1. Christ, the Captain of salvation, is the real Joshua, leading us to take possession of the land, and we, today's Calebs, are His partners, fighting with Him against the enemies and sharing with Him in taking and possessing the land—2:10; 3:14:
    - a. Christ has been anointed by God to carry out God's commission, and we as His partners share with Him in carrying out God's commission.
    - b. Hebrews 3:7-14 deals with entering the good land; the type of this entering the good land was the entering of the land under the leadership of Joshua (Josh. 1:1-6), and Caleb was his partner in possessing the good land (Num. 32:12; Josh. 14:6-8).
    - c. Today Christ is the real Joshua, and we are His Calebs, His partners—Heb. 2:10; 3:14.
    - d. As Christ's partners, we are working together with Him and cooperating with Him to fulfill God's desire to have a corporate expression of Himself.
  - 2. Caleb had a different spirit and fully followed the Lord by a different spirit, which was different from all the other spirits—Num. 14:24.
  - 3. We must be resolute and determined in our will to stand with the Lord, just as Caleb fully followed God—vv. 6-9, 24; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:14:
    - a. Caleb fully followed the Lord because he knew that God wanted the children of Israel to enter into the good land—Num. 14:24; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:8.
    - b. Since God wanted them to enter the good land, He would fight for them and accomplish everything for them—Num. 14:7-8.
    - c. Caleb knew that God would fight on their behalf and destroy the enemies.

4. Joshua and Caleb did not fear the Nephilim or the inhabitants of the land of Canaan but said, “They are our bread”—v. 9:
  - a. Caleb believed that the Nephilim (Anakim) would be defeated and become their bread because he knew that God had promised to bring them into the land—13:30, 33.
  - b. Caleb’s experience demonstrates that the more Nephilim we eat, the stronger we will become; he was full of vitality at eighty-five because by assimilating so many Anakim over the years, he had developed a constitution that showed no trace of age—Josh. 14:10-14.
  - c. Our battle with the enemy will be a defeat to him, but it will be bread for us; the defeated enemy is the most tasteful bread—Num. 14:9.
  - d. The enemy will be our food, and swallowing him will be our satisfaction.