

Message Five

Engaging in Spiritual Warfare to Defeat and Destroy All That Is Signified by the Pagan Tribes in the Land of Canaan

Scripture Reading: Exo. 23:27-30; Num. 13:33; 21:1-3; 32:31; 33:50-53; Deut. 7:1-2

I. As today's Calebs fighting for God's interest, it is crucial for us to see a vision of the all-inclusive Christ typified by the good land and to conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—Deut. 8:7-10; Eph. 1:10; Rom. 16:20:

- A. The good land, the land of Canaan, is a type of the all-inclusive Christ, the Christ who is all and in all and who is everything to us—Deut. 8:7-10.
- B. In order to possess the good land, we need to engage in spiritual warfare to conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—Eph. 1:10; 6:10-12; Rom. 16:20:
 - 1. The history of the universe is a history of God's economy and Satan's chaos—Gen. 1:1-2, 26; Rev. 20:10—21:4:
 - a. Satan is the source of chaos, and God Himself is the divine economy.
 - b. Both in the Bible and in our experience, the satanic chaos always goes along with the divine economy—2 Cor. 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:4.
 - 2. Instead of delivering us from chaos, God wants us to be one with Him to conquer the destructive satanic chaos and to carry out the constructive divine economy—Eph. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - 3. As we are suffering the chaos, we need to stand for and live out the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:4, 18; 2 Tim. 4:7.
 - 4. The overcomers conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:3-4, 19-20; 4:1-2; Titus 3:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8:
 - a. The overcomers suffer the chaos, but instead of being disappointed or discouraged, they are strengthened and enabled to stand for and live out the divine economy according to the truth—Eph. 3:16; 6:10-12.
 - b. We conquer the chaos by the processed and consummated Triune God as the all-sufficient grace—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Tim. 4:22.

II. The various pagan tribes that occupied the land of Canaan signify the different aspects of our natural life—Exo .23:7-30:

- A. The gods (idols) of the pagan tribes (Exo. 23:24) with the demons behind them (cf. 1 Cor. 10:20), represent spiritual forces of evil (Eph. 6:12).
- B. Behind our natural life are the forces of evil (cf. Matt. 16:23, note 1), who utilize, manipulate, and direct the aspects of our natural life to frustrate us from taking possession of the all-inclusive Christ and enjoying His riches.
- C. The pagan tribes in the land were the source of Israel's sin against God:
 - 1. This indicates that our natural life is the source of our sins.
 - 2. In the sight of God, those who live according to the natural life are sinning continually, whether they do good or evil.

- D. Because the natural life frustrates us from possessing Christ and enjoying Him, we must hate it (Luke 14:26) and, as we grow in Christ, be willing to drive it out.
- E. God will not cut off our natural life, signified by the pagan tribes, all at once, because this would leave us inwardly vacant and in danger of being taken over by demons, signified by the animals of the field—Exo. 23:29; cf. Matt. 12:43-45:
 - 1. God cuts off our natural life gradually, little by little, according to the degree of our growth in the divine life—Exo. 23:30.
 - 2. The more Christ increases in us, the more He will replace our natural life.
- F. God promised to drive out the pagan tribes (vv. 29-30), but God's people had to cooperate with Him by taking the initiative in destroying them—vv. 31-33; cf. Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5; Phil. 2:12-13).
- G. The more Christ increases in us, the more we will be able to cooperate with God in driving out the natural life.

III. Because the Nephilim, a mixture of fallen angels and fallen man, dwelt in the land of Canaan, God commanded the children of Israel to take over this land and to destroy every living being there so that the human race could be cleared up—Num. 13:33:

- A. According to the divine thought, the nations in the land of Canaan had to be exterminated because they were devilish and mingled with demons—Deut. 7:2.
- B. The Canaanites signify human beings who have joined themselves to the evil spirits, to the satanic power of darkness in the air—Num. 14:45.

IV. The Canaanites typify the fallen angels, the rebellious angels who follow Satan, who have become the powers, rulers, and authorities in Satan's kingdom—13:33; 21:1-3; 32:21; 33:50-53; Deut. 7:1-2; Rev. 12:4, 7; cf. Dan. 10:13, 20:

- A. In the typology of the Old Testament, Canaan has two aspects:
 - 1. On the positive side Canaan, a land of riches (Deut. 8:7-10), typifies the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches (Eph. 3:8).
 - 2. On the negative side, it signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan.
- B. As the ruler of this world (John 12:31) and as the ruler of the authority of the air (Eph. 2:2), Satan has his authority (Acts 26:18) and his angels (Matt. 25:41), who are his subordinates as principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world (Eph. 6:12); hence, he has his kingdom (Matt. 12:26), the authority of darkness (Col. 1:13).
- C. The fighting of the children of Israel against the Canaanites that they might possess and enjoy the good land typifies the spiritual warfare of the church as a whole, including all the members, against "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies" (Eph. 6:12) that the saints may enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive land.
- D. The church must be such a corporate warrior, fighting against Satan's aerial forces so that God's people may gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, establishing and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth—vv. 10-20.