

I. THE CONTEXT: STANDING AT THE EDGE OF PROMISE (*Deuteronomy 1:8*)

A. Moses at the End of His Life

- Moses called by God, leads Israel out of Egypt, but the people's fear and unbelief cost them 40 years of wandering in the desert.
- Deuteronomy is Moses' final encouragement before he dies on the mountain, having seen but not entered the promised land.
- God's faithfulness is unbroken — He always has someone in the wings.

B. Joshua Is Ready

- Joshua was ready on day one. He and Caleb said, "The land is good — let's go!"
- Outvoted by 10 of 12 spies, Joshua waited. Now his moment has come.

- Application: God's timing doesn't diminish His promise. What He delays, He does not deny.

II. THE PARADOX: GIVEN AND YET TO BE TAKEN (*Deuteronomy 1:8; Exodus 3:7–10*)

A. God's Part — He Has Given

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"Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey...'"

— **Exodus 3:7–8 (ESV)**

- Notice the repeated "I" — God sees, God hears, God knows, God comes down.
- The Promised Land is a land of abundance, settledness, fruit, and worship.
- God's promise is not just geographic — it is personal. He has a "good and spacious land" for every believer.

B. Your Part — You Must Possess It

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*"See, I have set the land before you. **Go in and take possession...**"*

— **Deuteronomy 1:8 (ESV)**

- The Hebrew word for "possess" is yarash — to occupy by driving out the previous tenants and taking their place.
- God gives it; you must take it.
- Application: You are not a passive recipient of God's promises. Faith is active, not spectator sport.

III. THE PROBLEM: WHY WE KEEP MAKING LAPS

A. We Cannot See the Land (*Vision*)

- "The Kingdom of God always begins with see."
- Worship doesn't begin with singing — it begins with seeing.
- Life's failures, wounds, and lies from others can cloud

our spiritual vision.

- Illustration: Like driving without glasses — you can function, but you're missing the detail, the clarity, the fullness of what's right in front of you.

B. We Fear the Enemies in the Land (*John 10:10*)

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"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

— **John 10:10 (ESV)**

- God named the enemies honestly: the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites.
- The enemy's mission is not to annoy you — it is to destroy you.
- But the challenges in the promised land are a gift — they keep us tethered to the Source of Life. Easy seasons make it easy to drift from God; hard seasons drive us to our knees.

C. We Make Alliances Instead of Taking Ground

- It is tempting to compromise with the world rather than fight for the land God has given.
- Application: Don't trade the fight for a false peace. Alliances with darkness always cost more than they deliver.

IV. THE GOSPEL FOUNDATION: GRACE ACTIVATES WORKS (*Ephesians 2:8–10; Philippians 2:9–13*)

A. We Are Not Saved BY Works

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"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

— **Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)**

- Salvation is entirely the work of God — we contribute nothing to our justification.

B. We Are Saved TO Work

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"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

— **Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)**

- Grace is not a reason to be passive — it is fuel for action.
- "You're not saved by works, but you're saved to work."

C. God Empowers the Doing

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"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

— **Philippians 2:12–13 (ESV)**

- God will give you the want to AND the ability to if you ask Him.
- The same God who gives the land walks with you as you take it.

V. THE ENDURANCE MODEL: JOSHUA'S

31 KINGS (*Joshua 12; Joshua 14:11*)

A. Taking the Land Is a Lifetime of Battles — Not Just One

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"I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming."

— **Joshua 14:11 (ESV)** (*Caleb at 85 years old*)

- Joshua defeated 31 kings to possess the promised land (Joshua 12).
- Most believers want to quit after one or two hard battles.
- Caleb at 85 declared he was as strong as the day he entered, because the power of God never runs out.

B. You Don't Fight Alone

- "I will be with you" — the promise that covers every king, every obstacle, every dark night of the soul.
- Application: The challenges ahead of you are not a sign that God has abandoned you. They are the terrain of the promised land.

VI. THE CALL TO ACTION: TAKE BACK YOUR LAND

Serve an Eviction Notice on These Four Things:

1. The Less You Have Learned to Live With

- What desert have you grown comfortable in when God has abundance waiting?

2. The Lie You Have Given a Seat at Your Table

- A lie is only as powerful as the person who repeats it.
- Cancel every word spoken over you that doesn't align with the Word of God.
- "I am a son/daughter of the living God. I was worth Jesus to God."

3. The Family Pattern You Have Capitulated To

- You have a heavenly Father's DNA — a new birth, a new name, a new story.
- You do not have to inherit your family's sin,

dysfunction, or defeat.

4. The Dream or Vision You Have Let Die

- "Who do you want to become?"
- What legacy do you want to leave?

The Invitation:

- Step over your Jordan today.
- Don't just celebrate what God is doing collectively — you move, you step in, you take possession.
- Let today be the day you tell your children: "That was the day I stepped into what God had given me."