



## Session 8 - Crossing the Jordan & Canaan

### CANAAN IS NOT HEAVEN

1. If Canaan is heaven than we have roughly 2 million people (20yrs and up) who don't make it into heaven. 2 million people who've trusted in Him for their salvation including Moses.

**John 5:24 (NASB)** 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

**John 10:27-29 (NASB)** 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

2. We see in scripture where God encourages the Children of Israel to go in and spy out the land. There isn't anywhere in scripture where man is encouraged to go into heaven and come back and talk about his experience.

Paul actually tells us it's not permitted.

**II Corinthians 12:3-4 (NASB)** 3 And I know how such a man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows--4 was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

3. We know that the Spirit Filled life produces fruit, notice again what it is that the spies brought back with them.

**Numbers 13:27 (NASB)** 27 Thus they told him, and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

**What is Canaan again?** Represents a crossing over place in our lives. It represents a place in our lives where God's work on us in a previous stage (wilderness) has brought us to a place **where our trust in Him has arrived at a place where we "cross over"** and understand and accept that our walk with Him **will not deepen without trusting Him.** While we will continue to battle with our sin nature and our desire to do things on our own, the crossing over into the Abundant Spirit Filled Life happens only once.

Let's look in scripture of when this group went through the Jordan river into Canaan.

**Joshua 3:3,6,8,10-13,15-17 (NASB)** 3 and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it...6 And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people...8 "You shall, moreover, command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'"...10 Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite. 11 "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan. 12 "Now then, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe. 13 "It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap."...15 and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), 16 the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho. 17 And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

**3 and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it..."**

*As the host descended from the higher ground towards the level of the river, to the right and to the left of them stretched the waters: but every eye was fixed on the ark, not on the broad waters running athwart its path. We look at Christ whom the ark figures, not on death, difficulties, or impossibilities.*

*-The Way into Canaan. Stem Publishing*

**Hebrews 12:2 (NASB)** 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Items in the Ark:

- 10 Commandments
- Manna
- Aaron's rod that budded

**Ten Commandments or the Law** - Important to note that the Law "perfected" in Christ was going through. The Law was not carried by the people, Christ carried the Law over. Why? Because it was always going to be our trust in Jesus' work in the Law that not only Justifies us but also sanctifies us.

**Galatians 3:2-3,27-29 (NLT)** 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort...27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

**Manna** - Something incredible happened for this group after they arrived in Canaan:

**Joshua 5:12 (NASB)** 12 The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.

### **JESUS IS THE MANNA**

**John 6:49-51 (NASB)** 49 "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

### **JESUS IS THE WORD**

**John 1:1-2,14 (NASB)** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God...14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## **IN THESE LAST TIMES HE SPEAKS TO US THROUGH JESUS.**

**Hebrews 1:2 (NASB)** 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

### **MANNA IS THE WORD**

**Hebrews 5:12-14 (NASB)** 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

### **MANNA IS BREAD, BREAD IS REPRESENTATIVE OF FELLOWSHIP IN SCRIPTURE (breaking bread)**

They no longer ate manna! Why?! Because they had moved to a place of maturity to where they could now move from spiritual milk to solid food. The first generation of Israelites wanted to be able to eat something beyond manna. In other words they felt they were ready for meat. God knew they weren't ready but he relented and let them try to eat meat.

**Numbers 11:18-20 (NASB)** 18 "Say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, "Oh that someone would give us meat to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat and you shall eat. 19 'You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, 20 but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you; because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"'

**It is Jesus who is gives us spiritual life through salvation. But as we move into a deeper relationship with Him we move past just the salvation understanding of Him (bread) and into a fuller more meaningful understanding of Him which is sanctification (fruit).**

Notice Joshua 5:12 again:

**Joshua 5:12 (NASB)** 12 The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.

As believers we are to move into a deeper and deeper walk with Him. Daily we are to do this, allowing Him to capture more and more of my heart each day. This done over time and as He matures us.

It is not done overnight as the children of Israel pushed for and found they couldn't handle it.

**10 Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite.**

Here is a very important principle for us to understand about the Abundant, Spirit Filled Life (Abiding).

It will not be without it's battles.

As matter of fact a good portion of the time that the Children of Israel were in Canaan they were fighting against another people group. Also interesting enough they didn't always win.

When they lost they always lost because of the same reason **They failed to trust in Him.**

**Joshua 6:2,17-19 (NASB)** 2 The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors...17 "The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the LORD; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. 18 "But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, so that you do not covet them and take some of the things under the ban, and make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it. 19 "But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD."

**Deuteronomy 8:7 (NASB)** 7 "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills..."

Notice scripture says that there will be valleys in Canaan. There is no WILDERNESS in Canaan.

**Valleys** - Valleys can have several different meanings in scripture (Fertility, Battles, Judgement, Unfaithfulness, Beauty etc).

Certainly in Canaan one of those meanings for the Sons of Israel was  
**Unfaithfulness & Judgement:**

**Joshua 7:2-5 (NASB)** 2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 They returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up; only about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few." 4 So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. 5 The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

Notice where Ai is located:

**Joshua 8:11 (NASB)** 11 Then all the people of war who were with him went up and drew near and arrived in front of the city, and camped on the north side of Ai. Now there was a valley between him and Ai.

The Sons of Israel were still sinful in Canaan, they still leaned on themselves in Canaan and when they did they were defeated. In just their second battle, they lost in Ai, Ai was situated in a Valley. In much the same way, when we sin, when we trust in ourselves and our abilities more than Him we lose.

*Just because we have entered into a place that is abundant spiritually it doesn't mean that we don't sin and lose sight of the reason we were able to cross over the Jordan.*

**Why did they fall?** They didn't fall because they sent the wrong number. They fell because they didn't lean on God for His input they leaned on themselves. **The number of men didn't matter.** God might have wanted them to use more, less or maybe even the exact number of three thousand.

The fact that their heart wasn't where it needed to be means they lost, regardless of what they did externally.

A principle that will always reign supreme in scripture is that when we begin to lean on ourselves and take our eyes off of Him we are always destined to lose the battles...regardless of the spiritual maturity we have arrived at.

**15 and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), 16 the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam...**

Take notice of something here. Both times God had major spiritual milestones in this people's journey they crossed over water.

**Joshua 4:23 (NASB) 23** "For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the LORD your God had done to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed;"

The same way that you and I were delivered from slavery is the same way you and I are sanctified...namely putting your Trust in Him. The more you learn who He is, the more your trust grows and therefore you have more to give Him.

**GOD FOUGHT BEHIND THEM IN THE RED SEA AND PUSHED THEM THROUGH. THEN THE GROUND WAS COMPLETELY DRY BEFORE THEY STEPPED.**

**This time there would be water. Why?**

Because this group's faith had grown, their trust had grown!

**Faith bucket idea...their faith had grown. This time they were following instead of being pushed.**

They trusted that He would be big enough to handle the giants.

**16 the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho.**



**Joshua 24:1,5-7,11,13-15 (NASB)** 1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel and for their heads and their judges and their officers; and they presented themselves before God....5 'Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt by what I did in its midst; and afterward I brought you out. 6 'I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and Egypt pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 'But when they cried out to the LORD, He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them and covered them; and your own eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness for a long time...11 'You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho; and the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Girgashite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. Thus I gave them into your hand...13 'I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.' 14 "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

**Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel...** Joshua has gotten old and is nearing his death, what does he do? He gets all the tribes of Israel together and retells THE STORY. He goes through and reminds them? Why? Because they, much like us have to be reminded over and over and over again that it's Him that did everything, not us. He gets us through our journey on this planet.

This story of this people group is to NEVER BE FORGOTTEN! It never will be, the reason it never will be is because it's SUPERNATURAL. It's SUPERNATURAL because it's the people group and the story that HE CHOSE.

**IT'S THE PEOPLE AND THE STORY THAT HE CHOSE TO LET ALL SEE HOW THE CHRISTIAN LIFE WORKS!!**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-6,11-12 (NASB)** 1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved...11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

**13 'I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'**

**God had prepared everything for them on the other side of the Jordan!! He has done the same for us.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB)** 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

**THEY CROSSED...BY SHOWING US THAT THEY CROSSED HE GAVE US ASSURANCES THAT CROSSING INTO THIS LIFE IS POSSIBLE WITH HIM.**

**He desires our trust.**

He desires our trust so much He was willing to come from glory to die for it, not just so we could see Him one day in heaven but so that we could have intimate fellowship with a Him here.

**Everything in this life is about growing into a deeper walk with him. All of that is through trust. He desires to grow our trust in Him.**

**You might find yourself asking “why?”**

**Matthew 13:44 (NASB)** 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

**This passage of scripture gets misinterpreted sometimes to teach that this is how you and I as believers must approach the Kingdom Of Heaven. The problem with this interpretation of this passage is that at the end of the passage one must deal with the fact that the man in this passage bought the treasure. As we all well know we don't buy our way into the Kingdom of Heaven. What is being said then? The man in the passage is Jesus Christ. Why? Because He is the only one who bought anything as it relates to eternity. He paid for our entry into Heaven. If that is the case then what is the treasure? YOU are the treasure! Jesus bought you and your right to enter into His Kingdom.**

**If you and I mean that much to Him, do you think He wants to simply purchase us and then have us float around in this life and the next one just simply talking about how He purchased us? Absolutely not! Here is what is STUNNING!**

**He didn't purchase us that He can know us more deeply...He already knows us deeply.**

**1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB) For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.**

**He did it so that you and I might know Him more deeply. It's trust in him that causes this life to be more full. It's trust in him that causes us to walk with him in such a way that He is our first love above everything else in our lives.**

**WHY DOES HE WANT US TO WALK IN THAT WAY?**

**BECAUSE IT'S THE BEST THING FOR YOU AND I.**

**The best thing for you and I is to cross that Jordan River in our lives in a way that honors Him. And that we may come to understand this verse:**

**John 10:10 (NASB) "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."**