

Old Landmarks - Proverbs 22:28



"Ask for the old paths, where the good way (road) is, and walk in it, and you shall find rest for your souls."

- Jeremiah 6:16



"And there we saw the giants!"

Numbers 13:32

Entering the Land of Promise - "A good land, flowing with milk and honey" - Exodus 3:8

When the Israelites were ready to enter the Land of Promise, two giants blocked their path.

The first was a giant named Sihon, who "would not allow Israel to pass through his border, but Sihon gathered all his people together and fought against Israel." (Numbers 21:24)

Sihon's name means "Tempestuous." The people he ruled were called "Amorites" which means "publicity."

The lesson is this. The first giant that wants to keep you out of the Kingdom of God is peer pressure. The decision to follow Christ will make some people angry. They will "publicize" slander against you and the land, wanting to shame you into turning back.

The second giant that came out against Israel was called "Og." He was massive. The Bible records that his bed frame was 13.5 ft. long by 6 ft. wide, and was put in a museum even then! (Deuteronomy 3:11)

Og's name means "Round." His people were from Bashan, which stands for "prosperity." This giant is the one that says, "Why enter the land? Life is much more prosperous out here. Everyone lives the way we do. You'll be alone and miserable in the land."

Both giants are the devil's intimidation forces to keep you away from eternal life. One uses anger and shame, the other uses persuasion and lies.

Getting past what others will think of you for following Christ is one of the biggest hurdles you will face before entering "The Land." In fact, you'll never fully enter if you don't slay these two giants from the start.

For example, the Bible records that in spite of Jesus' many miracles, "many of the chief rulers believed on Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the

praise of God." (John 12:42,43). Sadly, these men never entered into the joys of the Kingdom of God.

So how did Israel slay these two giants? "And Israel smote Sihon (and Og) with the edge of the sword." The "sword" is a symbol of the Word of God, and is two-edged.

One edge is razor sharp with the promises and power of God. These promises will give you the courage to withstand intimidation tactics. The other edge glistens with truth. Truth slices through lies and is power.

Inside the land, hundreds of years later, King Solomon declared - "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised: there has not failed one word of all His good promise ..." (1 Kings 8:56).

Don't let the giants of peer pressure keep you out of the land. God's Promised Land is worth the battle and the choices made at the gate, eternal.

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Immanuel's Land - "... the eyes of the LORD your God are always upon it ..." - Deut 11:12

Oh Christ, He is the Fountain,
The deep sweet well of love,
The streams on earth I've tasted,
More deep I'll drink above
There to an ocean fullness,
His mercy does expand,
And glory, glory's dwelling,
In Immanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garments,
But her dear bridegroom's face,
I will not gaze at glory,
But on my King of Grace!
Not at the crowns He's giving,
But on His pierced hands,
The Lamb is all the glory,
Of Immanuel's Land!

Oh, I am my Beloved's,
And my Beloved's mine,
He brings a poor vile sinner
Into His house of wine!

I stand upon His merit,
I know no other stand,
Not even where glory's dwelling,
In Immanuel's Land!

~ Anne Ross Cousins ~
1824-1906

And they shall call His name "Immanuel"
which being interpreted is:
GOD WITH US!

**"For the LORD
your God is
bringing you
into a good
land"**

Deut. 8:7-9

Land of Abundance - "I am come that they might have life more abundantly" - John 10:10

"For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills.

A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey.

A land where you shall eat bread without scarceness, you shall not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you may dig brass. (Deuteronomy 8:7)

spiritual land of nourishment, abundant satisfaction, strength, riches and unlimited resources. The quality of God's invitation to share His land, His Home, His power, His wealth, His life and best of all, His everlasting love, is an invitation too good to of the Kingdom of God. A pass up, so RSVP ASAP!

Crossing Jordan - "By this you shall know that the Living God is among you..." Joshua 3:10

Before Israel could enter the Promised Land, they had to cross the Jordan River. At the river they were told *"sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."* (Joshua 3:5)

the feet of the men carrying the ark touched the water, the waters stopped flowing and two million people passed over to victory on dry ground.

of God without first confessing and forsaking our sins. Only then are we ready for the victories to come.

"Sanctify" means, "to set apart." The command meant to "get right" with God before crossing the Jordan river, to prepare for the miracles to come.

The following day the people watched as the Ark of the Covenant was carried to the shore of Jordan. The moment

1400 years later, a man named John called people to the same Jordan River to "get right" with God before He baptized them. His message was this: *"Repent! For the Kingdom of God at hand."*

The Jordan river has two shores, so does faith. The shore of repentance is preparation for the shore of victory. We cannot enter the Kingdom

The Ark of the Covenant pictured Jesus who entered the waters of death first, to make a way for us to pass over to Victory Land on dry ground. What a wonder! Now, the one who believes in Jesus has *"already passed over from death into life"* (John 5:24), where the Captain of victory awaits!

Which side of the river are you on?

Finding The King - "In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" - Col. 2:3

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which when a man has found it, he hides the fact, and for the joy of it goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field." - Matthew 13:44

Long before banks and vaults, people hid their wealth in caves, trees, or in the ground, to escape looters and robbers.

The Bible records the story of a man walking through a field who finds a treasure vastly greater than anything he owns. He hurries to sell off all he has in order to buy the

field. Once the field is his, so too will be the untold wealth in the ground.

This story tells itself and the point of the parable is too big



too miss. All that the world considers wealth is petty cash compared to the eternal riches in Christ.

There are those who have found the secret of Christ's death, who have seen the vein of eternal gold and the mother load yet untouched, who run with joy to sell all that would keep them from possessing eternal life!

You cannot find the Kingdom of God without first finding the King. No wonder we preach *"the unsearchable riches of Christ."* (Eph. 3:8)

Land of Warfare - "We do not war according to the ways of men..." - 2 Cor. 10:3

God brought Israel into the Promised Land but warned them that it was already occupied by *"...nations greater and mightier than you, cities great and fenced up to heaven, a people great and tall ..."*

God was evicting these tenants off His land because of their wickedness. It was Israel's job to drive them out and God promised His power to help them accomplish the task.

The Kingdom of God is a land of spiritual battles. You will need courage, boldness and unshakeable faith in Christ.

You will have to learn how to use your sword (Bible) expertly. You will face all kinds of enemies, some of whom will give you painful scars.

But God has promised that your faith in Him will move

mountains, your prayers will accomplish the supernatural and your work for Him will end in victory, and save lives! This is Kingdom living!

Moreover, God promises His faithful presence to every child of God. *"Fear not, I am with you - I will not fail you nor forsake you - until I have done that which I have spoken to you of."* (Genesis 28:15; Joshua 1:5,6; Hebrews 13:5,6)

What Time Is It? - "Be diligent to make your calling and election sure!" - 2 Peter 1:10

If someone gave you an invitation to a wedding, and then said, *"be diligent to make your invitation and acceptance sure,"* you would understand this to mean, "be sure to make your response to the invitation certain (or secure)."

The old English word for "invitation" was "calling." Confirmation that your re-

sponse was received was called "election." 2 Peter 1:10 encourages people to "make sure" they have *"confirmed their response"* to Christ's invitation to His Kingdom, because the preparations for those choosing citizenship are under way.

"For so an abundant (grand!) entrance shall be supplied for you into the everlasting king-

dom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

In other words, a royal welcome is awaiting those who have firmly responded and who show it by living in allegiance to Christ each day.

It's time to encourage those we love to "make sure!"

"The God of Heaven shall set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed."

~ Daniel 2:44 ~



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Grandma's Pen:

We all want to "love life and see good days" (1 Peter 3:10) ...

King Solomon "hated life" (Eccl. 2:13) even though he was rich and famous. He pursued pleasure, wealth, possessions and success thinking these would bring inner satisfaction and fulfillment. His conclusion? "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!" or, in other words, empty! Living without eternal purpose was meaningless. His priorities were earthly and temporal, not heavenly and eternal.

To "love life and see good days" one must "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteous" (Matt. 6:33). Make Him your priority and experience "life more abundantly!" (John 10:10).

(PS: Please read Ecclesiastes! Solomon's final word: It is impossible to find real meaning to life apart from God, His purposes and values!)

Jesus Said It Best - "For many are called (invited), but few chosen (because they have not answered)."

When people mocked Jesus' invitation to enter the Kingdom of God, He responded with this parable from Matthew 22:1-14:

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain King, which made a marriage for His Son, and sent out his servants to call those that were invited to the wedding – but they would not come.

Again, he sent out other servants, saying, Tell those who were invited, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and fatlings are killed, and all things are now ready. Come to the marriage.

But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

And others took his servants, and treated them with spite, and slew them.

But when the King heard of it, he was enraged: and sent out his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned their cities.

Then He said to his servants, The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

Go therefore into the highways, and as many as you shall find, invite to the marriage.

So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together as many as they could find, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests."

Our invitation to enter the Kingdom of God is better than winning the largest lottery; better than an invitation to meet the Queen; better than all else we might consider our greatest privilege on earth!

RSVP ASAP!

**"Seek ye first
the Kingdom of
God and His
righteousness,
and all these
things shall be
added unto
you."
Matthew 6:33**