

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

Lesson #19 Gad & Friends: Playing It Safe Ends In Disaster

The Israelites have journeyed to the east side of the Jordan River where God has given them tremendous victories. They are encamped on the east side where Moses gives his final instructions. They are commanded to enter the Promised Land of Canaan, take the land and possess it. However, the tribes of Gad and Reuben have petitioned to remain on the east side due to the fertile land to raise cattle and their families.

Note: During the past 38 years when the Israelites set up camp, these tribes were side by side.

1. These 2 tribes made up the major portion of one of the divisions of the army.

2. There will be many wars coming. Their absence will cripple the Israelite army.

Recall: When the last generation decided they would not enter, God killed the entire generation.

Num. 32:11 Surely none of the men who came out of Egypt, from 20 years old and up, shall see the land which I swore unto Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

Because THEY HAVE NOT WHOLLY FOLLOWED ME.

The people requesting to stay on the east side had witnessed the anger of the LORD and the death of thousands upon thousands because they refused to enter the land.

Response of Moses: Num. 32:6 Moses said to the sons of Gad & Reuben:

Shall Your Brethren Go To War, while you sit here? Why do you DISCOURAGE the hearts of the Israelites from going over into the land which the Lord has given them?

They Modified Their Request & Agreed to Fight

People's Response: Num. 32:16-18 Agreement with Moses, Joshua, Eleazar & leaders

1. We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle and cities for our little ones.

2. But we ourselves will go ready armed before the children of Israel, until we have brought them unto their place:

3. Our little ones shall dwell in the fenced cities because of the inhabitants of the land.

4. We will not return to our houses, until the Israelites have inherited every man his inheritance.

5. On that basis they will be granted their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan.

Then they make an incredible statement:

Num. 32:19 "For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has fallen to us on this eastern side of the Jordan."

In the Hebrew sense, since the perfect tense is used, this denotes an action already completed.

1. It implies arrogance on the part of these tribes.

2. They seem to presume God has put His stamp of approval on this action.

3. It speaks of a disobedient people who do not want to entirely sever themselves from the people of God, but will not obey the complete word of God - border-line Christians.

4. Their fleshly desires have led to breaking the 10th commandment.

Coveting land God never intended for them - all for the love of livestock.

Recall: Coveting, greatly desire something, blinds us and we become easily deceived. Not only did they give up their generous inheritance for some cattle, they also cheated themselves from the promises of God:

Deut. 12:10 "But when you CROSS OVER the Jordan and DWELL in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety..."

5. They are accepting the east side as full payment for what they would have received in the Promised Land. This land will be their "milk and honey."

Moses' Conditional Response: Num. 32:20-23

If you do as you say, going armed before the Lord to war, and every armed man of you Will Pass Over The Jordan BEFORE THE LORD, until He has driven out His enemies from before Him,...

1. Moses corrects them. It is not the people that drive out the enemy; it is God.

2. Humble yourself and cross over Jordan with your brothers; help in their victory.

...and the land is subdued before the Lord: then afterward you shall return and be guiltless [in this matter] before the Lord, and before Israel;

and this land shall be your possession before the Lord. BUT if you will not do so, behold, You Have Sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.

Application: 1. It is a sin to be blessed & know how to handle money if you will not take the time to teach & train someone who is struggling financially.

2. It is a sin to have a strong and healthy marriage, and not be willing to pour your life into a couple who is struggling with their marriage.

3. It is a sin to be living in victory and not take time to minister to those who live in defeat.

Gal 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

4. It is a sin to have: spiritual gifts, talents and abilities: and not serve others.

Num. 32:23 But if ye will not do so [take part in the warfare with your brothers], behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.

Num. 32:27 But thy servants will pass over, every man armed for war, Before The Lord to battle, as my lord says. They now have it in order: Before the LORD to battle

The Call Goes Out: Luke 14:16-20 Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' And they ALL with one consent began to make excuse.

1. I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

2. I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

3. I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

The Call To Abundant Living: Claim Your Inheritance; Humble yourself; yield; be sanctified
Neglect Our Inheritance: Heb. 2:3 *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;*
The Hebrew Christians had made an excellent start in the Lord. Due to suffering persecution, they were losing interest and not pressing forward into the fullness of the inheritance.
Heb. 4:1-2 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the Word Preached Did Not Profit Them,
NOT BEING MIXED WITH FAITH in them that heard it.

The sin of neglect is a prominent spiritual problem that affects Christians. Christ has called us to the intense, consistent, lifelong seeking of His fullness. What is our response?

Heb. 6:1 Let Us Go On To Maturity! Seek Him; renew our mind; yield to the Holy Spirit for sanctification; use our gifts to build and edify the body; NO EXCUSES
Either we love Him above all or else we love our "cattle." Where is our heart?

Incomplete Obedience: [Meet Amalek: type of the flesh or natural man]

I Sam. 15:3 Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'

I Sam. 15:8-9 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul And The People Spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but everything that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

Result Of Incomplete Obedience Of Saul

1. Failure to utterly destroy the Amalekites: They eventually brought about his own destruction.

II Sam. 1- A young man reported to David that Saul had fallen upon his spear with the intent of committing suicide, but he lay there bleeding to death. Saul begged him to kill him so that he would not fall into the hands of his enemies. The young man complied with the request.

II Sam. 1:8-10 He said unto me, Who art thou? I answered him, I am an Amalekite. He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me. So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.

Note: Haman, in Esther, created a tremendous problem for the Jews and almost succeeded in destroying them. Haman was a direct descendent of the Agag, whom Saul had failed to slay.

Question: Why does God demand utter destruction?

The Treachery Of Amalek Against Israel: When the Israelites left Egypt under Moses about 40 years earlier, they were Attacked Almost Immediately from the rear by the Amalekites.

Ex. 17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it that the people may drink.

Exodus 17:8a THEN came Amalek

1. There was NO mention of Amalek while Israel was in Egypt in bondage.
2. Amalek was warlike and cruel; did not fear God; personified evil; abused the helpless
3. Amalek's Goal: Prevent Israel from making progress
4. Scripture says: Amalek was like a swarm of locusts; like a leech eager for blood; like a robber Amalek waylaid Israel and hurried over hundreds of miles to intercept Israel's march.

Exodus 17:8-9 THEN came Amalek and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

1. As soon as the people drank from the living waters that came from the rock [type of Jesus], the Amalekites came, attacked and fought God's people.
2. A.B. Simpson: Amalek, a Type Of The Flesh, was descended from Esau = carnal nature.
3. Amalek represents the HINDRANCE to their walk with God through the wilderness.
4. This is the 1st battle Israel is CALLED TO FIGHT IN.
 - a. Previously: The Egyptians were behind them, the Red Sea was before them, and the mountains on either side. Stand Still and See The Salvation Of The Lord. [Ex. 14:13]
 - b. NOW = Choose some men, go and fight the Amalekites.

Consider: Is this true in my Christian life?

- a. The work of salvation [justification] is a FREE gift provided by God through Jesus Christ.
- b. Now = Internal battle going on that began the moment I received the living waters of the Holy Spirit at justification. Sanctification is a process that involves a battle.

Note: Many settle for a peaceful co-existence with the flesh.

Don't turn from your straight and narrow path to compromise with the flesh because the way is too hard or you think the cost is too great.

Truth: The Word of God emphasizes it is an absolute necessity to have victory over the Amalekites [your flesh] or destruction will follow.

Key Point #1 The Israelites had no trouble with Amalek until after they were delivered from Egypt and had drunk of the rock. (I Cor. 10:4).

Point #2 Believers have no trouble with our flesh until AFTER justification and we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Point #3 Before justification, we are obedient to our flesh and not really aware of the rulership of our flesh. Things ran smoothly - not really any struggle.

Point #4 At the moment of justification, the Holy Spirit took up residence within me. The old occupant from the day of my physical birth did not like it. The conflict began.

Point #5 The flesh must be dealt with. The only time the remembrance of Amalek was to be put out from under heaven was when all was well and settled at the end of their journey.

Multitudes of believers are living a life of constant defeat because they have not realized who Amalek is and what God says about him in the Word. How Do I Have Victory?

Exodus 17:10-11 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Key Point #1 - No ordinary fight! Not won through great skill or forces.

Key Point #2 - Although Joshua and his men had to fight, the outcome didn't rest on their strength or weakness.

Key Point #3 - Victory = Moses lifting his hands = act of prayer and surrender

Exodus 17:12-13 But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited [overcame] Amalek [flesh; sinful nature] and his people with the edge of the sword.

Deut. 25:17-19 Remember what Amalek did to you by the way, when you were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou was faint and weary; and HE FEARED NOT GOD. Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, In The Land which the LORD thy God Giveth Thee For An Inheritance To Possess It, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; Thou Shalt Not Forget It.

Two Great Promises Concerning Amalek!

Exodus 17:14-16 The LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD Will Have War with Amalek from generation to generation.

Promise #1 God will completely blot out the memory of Amalek [type of flesh] from under heaven; A coming day when the sinful nature will be no more. We will be free of the flesh when
1. The Jesus comes and we change this vile body for a glorious body like His. [Phil. 3:21] OR
2. When we die and this corruption puts on incorruption. [I Cor. 10:54]

No more selfishness, sinfulness, no more Amalek! All traces of Amalek blotted out!

I John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Promise # 2 Until that day... THE LORD will be at war with Amalek from generation to generation. Victory over the flesh, by the power of the flesh, is an absolute contradiction and impossibility! While we fight in this battle, victory is God given. Keep your eyes on Him. THE LORD is at war with Amalek.

By faith, I am celebrating victory in advance! With my God, Victory is Certain!!!!

Consequences To Not Crossing The Jordan:

Due to Their Horrible Presumption & Arrogance, they would not believe that Canaan was the absolute best place to dwell simply because God said it was.

1. They were separated by the Jordan River from Jerusalem, Zion, the Tabernacle of the Congregation, the Altar of Burnt Offering, the priesthood, the Ark of the Covenant, and from the manifestation of the Glory of God Himself.
2. The wives and children they left behind were deprived of the privilege of witnessing divine miracles - the parting of the Jordan River, the destruction of the walls of Jericho, and the many battles fought and won.
3. In later years, due to their great distance from the temple, these tribes fell into paganism and the worship of idols.
4. After falling away from God: II Kings 15:29 they were eventually taken away captive by the Assyrians, years before the other tribes were attacked.
5. What role did the 2 ½ tribes play in the subsequent history of Israel?
There are no mighty deeds, no mighty warriors or prophets from these tribes.
They simply fade out of the record and became a non-factor in the destiny of Israel.

WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY?

1. In Egypt, still in slavery to sin, and need to be born again?
2. In the wilderness, redeemed, but not growing?

Is the Holy Spirit dealing with fleshly habits that keep you wandering in the wilderness?

Remember: The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years due to their own unbelief and rebellion. They did not enter into their inheritance of rest because of their disobedience.

3. In Canaan, excited, growing, having the joy of the Lord? A giant conqueror? Yes, you struggle with enemies, with the flesh, but you are in the Word, surrendered and being transformed.

4. An "EASTSIDER" living on the dead side of Jordan? You are saved, but in the world, living for the flesh. Occasionally you eat some of the milk and honey from the Lord.

'East-siders' settle for less than God's best. They may have marched the football all the way down the field, but they allow the devil's goal line stand to keep them out. With the Promised Land in sight, they give up and are shut down, just inches away from victory!

It's easy for Christians to get into a 'comfort zone', and never reach the 'end zone.'

They're better off than they were in Egypt or the wilderness, and that's good enough for them.

"I may not be on fire for God but I'm not exactly living in sin, either!"

God's best is just a step away, but they don't take that step, and cross the Jordan River.

Satan is having a heyday stealing my inheritance.

"I want the devil to know I was here and breathe a sigh of relief when I leave."

When I stand before the Lord, I want to hear "Well done."

When I choose to live on the fringes of the will of God, I become a non-factor in His Kingdom.

What did the Amalekite [type of my flesh] tell David regarding the death of Saul?

Hold On Or Let Go

by Laura Perry

*The sun is rising now, peeking above the hill,
Speckles of light now dancing at the water's edge.
Behind me spreads a land of plenty I've always known,
But God has given us the promised land he did'st pledge.*

*It tickles the innermost of my imagination:
The curiosity of that place draws me near,
Yet our scouts have returned with gruesome tales.
A land of giants that doth melt our hearts in fear.*

*The gentle breezy wind whistles behind my ears,
The blades of grass whipping toward the shore.
It seems everywhere I look God is nudging me on,
But death or slavery is surely the life I'm headed for.*

*In the land we now abide there is safety,
The pasture is lush and fertile for our cattle.
I'm holding firm to what I know I have,
Lest I should face a fiersome battle.*

*I know what God has revealed about this place:
Canaan, flowing with milk and honey, He said.
I long to go where God has called me,
But I can't bereave myself of this peaceful life I've led.*

*I dip just a toe in the rippling river's edge:
The icy water stings the nerves in haste.
I withdraw my foot, plant it firmly on the bank,
For if I perish, my inheritance shall waste.*

*Then I recall the stories of those before me:
How God delivered His people out of bondage.
He drove the sea aside in His mighty power,
And in the wake as He released it, the enemy's carnage.*

*So with one last deep breath I let go of what's behind me,
And wade into the rushing river deep.
I flounder for a moment, my feet unsteady;
As fear grips my soul, I welcome eternal sleep.*

*Then from the other shore the angel of the Lord calls out!
Though I can't see Him clearly, He's holding out His hand.
I reach forth to grasp it, and he reaches out to me.
He clasps my hand and leads me safely into the Promised Land.*