

# Finishing Well

Lesson #21

Time To Clean House: Giant #1

June 9, 2021

Does Canaan, the Promised Land = Heaven? NO! Enemies; Bloodshed; Wars; Conquering Canaan = Our Spiritual Promised Land; Enter God's Rest; Abundant Life

When God commanded Joshua and Israel to claim their Promised Land, the Canaanites weren't about to simply surrender and leave. Israel had to forcefully depose the Canaanites.

Gen. 15:13-14, 16 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is not theirs*, and will serve them, and they will afflict them 400 years. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. But in the 4<sup>th</sup> generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." [The return of Israel to the promised land from Egypt would correspond with the "completion" of the iniquity of the Amorites.]

The wickedness of the Amorites increased from generation to generation.

Can you imagine the presence and power of Satan imbedded and contagiously spreading through the doorway nations of Canaan? Can you imagine darkness so expansive through a culture that the people who carry God's plan of redemption were at risk of being overwhelmed and destroyed? These Canaanite nations were offering up their live babies as burnt offerings to the demonic false gods they worshipped. After 400 years, the evil was complete; the dominance of darkness deep-rooted, wide-spread, and in control. God's judgment was also full and complete. God gave the Canaanites 400 years to repent as Israel was held bondage in Egypt and then an extra forty years to repent when Israel wandered through the wilderness.

The Canaanites had ample opportunity to recognize that Israel was God's chosen people, but they ignored what they knew to be true. They heard how Egypt had withered under God's terrifying acts of judgment. They knew the drama of how the Red Sea opened and made a highway for Israel's exodus. They had personally watched the heavenly cloud shepherd Israel through the desert. The Canaanites saw the miracles and knew Israel was coming for their land, but they ignored it and remained stubborn.

How do we know that they knew all that God had done for the Israelites?

Joshua 2:9-11 "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. <sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. <sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

Point To Ponder: God's provision for the Israelites terrified the enemy!

Rahab told the 2 spies: We are afraid because of you; faint-hearted; hearts are melted; courage is vanished; emotionally & mentally defeated.

Question: When did God give Jericho into Israel's hand? Red Sea & Drowning Of Egyptian Army

Consider: 1. Israel REFUSED to believe God's promise.

By heeding the negative report from the spies, their heart melted.

2. The enemy [inhabitants] were looking at Israel's God and "shaking in their sandals."

3. The Israelites who had seen God's mighty works over and over were terrorized into unbelief.

God rose up in defense of His plan to redeem mankind, and to rid the earth of Satan's effort to prevent it. He took His land, which He created, back. He gave it to His redemptive people.

➤ But Israel would have to co-labor with Him.

➤ By faith, they would have to fight for it, inch by bloody inch.

Joshua 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. [tread = darak = do warfare] [only claimed 10%]

When you are born again, the battle has just begun. You have not come to the finish line— you have only come to the starting block. You have entered upon the land in which you will have to fight, wrestle, weep and pray. You have entered spiritual warfare.

He that has redeemed you will not fail you nor forsake you. However, you have a part to play.

Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Joshua 3:10 And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites.

These 7 enemies must be conquered before the children of Israel could take possession of the land God had promised. One might conclude that the children of Israel would just step across the Jordan and "poof" new land, new life, enemies gone with no participation on their part.

Their battle was against 7 demon possessed nations that had to be conquered, "little by little".

Deut. 7:1-2 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: [Israel was to be a counter cultural force.]

God's Instructions to Conquer Canaan [Abundant Life - Spiritual Promised Land- God's Rest]  
Numbers 33:51-53, 55 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan, <sup>52</sup> then you shall drive out ALL the inhabitants of the land [our soul- mind, will, emotions] from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; <sup>53</sup> you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and  dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess. (Promise)  
But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. [Consequences of Disobedience & Unbelief]

Deuteronomy 7:17-24 shows us how God helps us conquer our sins.

If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?'— <sup>18</sup> you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: <sup>19</sup> the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

<sup>20</sup> Moreover the LORD your God will send the \*hornet among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed. <sup>21</sup> You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD your God, the great and awesome God, is among you. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, <sup>23</sup> But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed. <sup>24</sup> And He will deliver their kings into your hand, and you will destroy their name from under heaven; no one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.

\* God says He will remove those enemies that "hide themselves from you."

These pockets of resistance that remained in the Promised Land after the major wars had been fought were hidden and entrenched, and extremely difficult to deal with and remove.

God's Solution: Send in His special storm troopers, the hornets. When God sends the hornets after "our enemies in our nature," He is sending the hornets after us personally!

There are pockets of resistance in our old nature to the control and dominion of the Holy Spirit. Some are hidden from our eyes; secret faults; hidden enemies.

Blessed is the man or woman who learns to change when God speaks. If we still haven't changed, He will send in the hornets. Some hornets God sends change our behavior immediately. Some reveal to us character flaws that may have been hidden from our eyes. Hornets are symbolic stinging rebukes, painful consequences, trouble and difficulty, financial reverses; in short things that are painful and get your full and immediate attention. God "sticks our nose in messes" we make, we feel the consequences, we are embarrassed by public disclosure, or all of a sudden our "sleeping," conscience is awakened and greatly troubled by our actions, taking away our sleep or sense of peace until the situation is remedied by repentance and change. Once you have been stung by a hornet, it is something you will go to great lengths to avoid happening again.

Hornets are not your enemy. Sin is your enemy. Be thankful for "God's hornets."

Spurgeon: "Every sin has to be slaughtered. Not a single sin is to be tolerated.

Off with their head! Drive the sword into their hearts! They are all to die.

Not one of them may be spared.

The whole race is to be exterminated and so buried that not a bone of them can be found."

The meanings of the nations' names lend to some interesting insights that are reflective of some of our spiritual enemies. These nations are symbolic of the flesh, world and satanic principles that stand against us and confront us as we enter and take possession of our "spiritual promised land" and the abundant life God intended us to have.

- Obstacles in us that prevent us from being overcomers and victors in Christ.
- Empowered by our sin, our rebellion and our unbelief

Jeff Syverson: Some see the Promised Land. Others see only the giants.

Some see the possibilities. Others see only the obstacles.

Some enter into the promise. Others refuse the good things that could be theirs and wander aimlessly in doubt - missing out on the good gifts that were intended for them.

II Corinthians 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. Let us examine how they operate and function in us so we will not be ignorant of the enemy's devices. Know Our Enemy!

- I. Canaanite Spirit: A "giant" who seeks to ensnare man and keep him from receiving his true inheritance. [Abundant Life; Joint-Heir] He comes to rob, steal and kill.

Descriptive Words: Humiliation, Shame, Embarrassment; Merchant; Trafficker  
Influence of the world upon the Christian faith; Carnal; Materialistic

Harpers Bible Dictionary: 'The Canaanites enjoyed a reputation as traders.'

- They lived within the land & remained there as long as the trading and profit were good!
- The spirit of greed and lust for material goods, encouraging man to love mammon.
- Mammon was a Canaanite god of prosperity and wealth.

Who was Canaan? Origin of the Canaanite Spirit

Gen. 9:22-27 Canaan, a descendent of Noah, was the 4<sup>th</sup> son of Ham. A curse was imposed by Noah on Canaan, because of the actions of Ham who looked on his father's nakedness and told his brothers. Records reveal the religion of the Canaanites was pantheistic [many gods].

- Baal, Dagon, El and Astarte were the best known. Over 30 gods were identified.

These false gods were made in the image of man, exhibiting all the human passions and frailties. Therefore, they posed no threat to the moral and social conditions of the day. Everything was allowed in business, as long as the business was done and everyone prospered. The end justified the means. These heathen people had descended into a revolting depth of immorality, gross iniquity, and idolatry that could no longer be tolerated and needed to be destroyed.

The sophisticated crudities of the Canaanite culture and the emergent Israel, with its unique vision of a holy God, simply could not co-exist.

God knew that, if they did not wipe them out, the false gods of the Canaanites would be a snare to the Israelites and lead them to worship these false gods. So it proved to be.

We are admonished to keep our focus on seeking treasures of eternal value. [Matt. 6:33]

Satan, in his effort to rob, steal and kill, always offers us an appealing counterfeit.

- Pursue earthly treasure and goods. Lust for material gain and worshipping the created thing rather than the Creator has always been one of man's main motivators.

This evil spirit with its subtle and cunning devices scores countless victories in our lives.

### Biblical Examples: Reveal Characteristics of the Canaanite Spirit & Demonstrate It at Work

God's Warning: Consequences of Unbelief and Disobedience

Numbers 33:55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.

- The Canaanite spirit is the driving force behind all pride and self-esteem.
- This is the beginning of most of the back-sliding in most Christians.

1. Jesus addresses this: Mark 4:7,14, 18-19 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. The sower sows the Word. <sup>18</sup>These are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful.  
Warning: Be aware of the power of this giant in its ability to destroy the Word of God in the hearts receiving His Word. This giant promises great fulfillment and happiness but usually the end is chaos, destruction, and despair.

2. The Canaanite spirit promotes a lack of contentment and prompts an insult to God.

This giant caused the destruction of many Israelites by causing them to lust and complain.

Exodus 16:2-9 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And the children of Israel said to them,

"Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full!

For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Wait! What about the slavery and the whip? They only recalled the food and how good they had it in Egypt. They expressed their discontent with God's plan and their circumstances.

- This attitude showed their lack of faith and confidence in the LORD.

God sent leanness into their soul. They begin to crave other things as their source of happiness which led to an erroneous belief that the things they craved would satisfy, bring joy, security and satisfaction. [Other passages: Numbers 11:1-6, 8, 31-33; Ps. 78:17-22; 25-42 Ps. 106:6-15]

- Became rebellious, stiff-necked, hard-hearted

Warning: Discontentment erodes your abundant life.

Solution: Phil. 4:11b for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

3. The Canaanite spirit likes to strike when you lag behind and are weak. [Ex. 17:8-9]

Deut. 25:17-19 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; <sup>18</sup> How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast 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. [Kill The Flesh]

4. Seduces your selfish desires Gen. 13:1-18

Gen. 13:10a-12b And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, even as the garden of the LORD, ...pitched his tent toward Sodom.

- Chose to live next to Sodom > burning with covetousness or fettered by covetousness
- Seduced by the selfish desire for material gain and prosperity
- He placed himself and his family in danger. In the end, he lost everything.

The Canaanite spirit is adept in slaying young Christians by showing them the lack of things and money in the natural realm they do not own or possess.

The Heavenly treasures have no comparison in this realm until people are grounded in the Word and can delay receiving their treasures until the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Tozer: If God takes away from us the old, wrinkled, beat-up dollar bill we clutch so desperately, it is only because He wants to exchange it for the whole federal mint, the entire treasury!

He is saying, "I have in store for you all the resources of heaven. Help yourself!"

Heb. 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

5. The Canaanite spirit deals with money and how it can BETRAY you.

A. I Timothy 6:9-10 <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

B. Joshua 7:18-21;25 Story of Achan

Joshua 7:20-21 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

<sup>21</sup> When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

C. II Kings 5:20-27 Gehazi's covetousness; took money from a Canaanite healed of leprosy

- Greed > Lying > Traitor = The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

6. The Canaanite spirit will cause MANY to be destroyed in these last days.

Many will seek what the world offers and thus will be carried away with it to destruction.

Richard Wurmbbrand - "He who masters his passions is a king even while in chains.

He who is ruled by his passions is a slave even while sitting on a throne."

7. This spirit is king over the prosperity message.

Many are deceived thinking that God wants them to be rich and healthy.

Many who proclaim this false teaching are motivated by money and gain for themselves.

II Cor. 2:17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

II Tim. 3:12 that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

Telling sinners that God's purpose is to give mankind happiness, health and wealth and allow them to get the best out of life is a perversion of the true Gospel message. That message cannot be found in Scripture, yet it is the essence of the modern proclamation.

This false message leaves the sinner ignorant of the fact that he is a sinner and that God is his Judge. You have proclaimed a recipe for a false convert.

8. When you [preacher, teacher, worker, etc.] allow this spirit to cause you to compromise the Word of God for money (prestige, position, popularity), that person who has caused you to compromise, will then control you. When you are controlled by a spirit such as that, you will begin to preach (teach, proclaim) a watered-down Gospel which will cause God to judge you along with the one you have chosen to be one spirit with. This will cause those that hear you to also be destroyed and thus God will judge you for allowing others to live according to a watered-down message. BEWARE OF THIS DEMON. IT WILL COME TO TEST YOU.

Defenses Against the Canaanite Spirit: Live in Contentment

Genesis 12:1-6... God gave Abraham a revelation of the land of Canaan. When Abraham arrived to look the land over, the Canaanite was in the land. Abraham built an altar, teaching us:

1. "Prayer" is our first line of defense against the Canaanite spirit. "The Path to Holiness."

Consistent confession and cleansing are the primary ways we maintain a Spirit-filled life, grow and become conformed to the image of Christ. God will "correct" and "adjust" my life.

Ps. 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The LORD will not hear.

- The depth and power of my prayer life will never be greater than the depth of my daily confession and cleansing.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal sin in me in the following 2 areas of my life.

[1] Sins of Thoughts & Attitudes: Where sin begins

In II Cor. 10:5, we are commanded to "take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

Questions to ponder: Are there unclean or lustful thoughts, thoughts that are consumed with earthly pursuits, thoughts of anger and bitterness; unloving thoughts; thoughts of fear & doubt; attitudes of pride & prejudice; attitudes of lukewarmness toward God.

- Immediately confess and forsake these sins of the heart.

[2] Sins of Speech

Matt. 12:36 But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

- Ex: profane words, gossip, slander, unkind or unloving words to or about others, speech that is overly critical, words that are exaggerations or untruths

2. 2<sup>nd</sup> line of defense against the Canaanite spirit: Seek God always when you have sinned. Genesis 38:2 After Judah sold Joseph, he took a Canaanite woman to be his wife. Instead of running to God for repentance and forgiveness, he ran to a Canaanite (flesh). Joined his spirit to the flesh! His marriage was one of shame and trouble. Two of his sons were so wicked that God himself slew them. Joining your spirit to a wrong thing will hurt you.

### 3. Recognize the NAME of the LORD GOD

Exodus 3:8, 13-17 "I am that I am"... meaning... "I am one who is existing always in the present and what I am I will always be, life to my people and wrath to my enemies."

Proverbs 18:10 "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe."

Ps. 61:3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

Jesus has gone before us and defeated our foes...

Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Galatians 5:24 Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Major Ian Thomas: "The flesh will threaten, shout, strut, domineer, sulk, plot, creep, beg, plead or sob - whatever the situation may demand in the interests of its own survival... The flesh hates to be exposed for what it is and will fight desperately to avoid that awful moment of truth - that moment when the Holy Spirit rips the mask from its sickly face!"

Many will say, "Well, that's just me. I can't help it. That's who I am."

II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Truth: As I yield to the Holy Spirit, He will give me victory over this evil spirit.

He will impart the victorious life of Jesus Christ in me.

Gal. 5:16 Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

- Promise > Reckon > Yield > Thank

D.L. Moody - "You know when a man is going up in a balloon, he takes in sand as a ballast, and when he wants to mount a little higher, he throws out a little of the ballast, and then he will mount a little higher. He throws out a little more ballast, and he mounts still higher. The higher he gets the more he throws out. The nearer we get to God the more we have to throw out the things of this world. Let go of them; do not let us first set our hearts and affections on them, but do what the Master tells us - lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven."