

**HWMR: LABORING ON THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST TYPIFIED BY THE GOOD LAND
FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, FOR THE REALITY AND
THE MANIFESTATION OF THE KINGDOM, AND FOR THE BRIDE TO MAKE HERSELF READY
FOR THE LORD'S COMING (Week 1)**

Scripture Reading: Josh. 1:2-6, 13; Eph. 2:2; 6:12; Col. 1:12-13

Fighting for the Good Land

Joshua 1:2	Moses My servant is dead; now then arise, and cross over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, to the children of Israel.
Joshua 1:3	Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given to you, as I promised Moses.
Joshua 1:4	From the wilderness and this Lebanon even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.
Joshua 1:5	No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you nor forsake you.
Joshua 1:6	Be strong and take courage, for you will cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give to them.
Ephesians 2:2	In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
Ephesians 6:12	For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
Colossians 1:12	Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
Colossians 1:13	Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Day 1

- Ephesians 2:2* - In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
- Ephesians 6:12* - For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

I. If we read the Scriptures carefully, we will see that there is a **battle for the good land—Josh. 1:2-6, 13:**

- A. Satan, the enemy of God, is doing his utmost to **keep** the people of God from taking possession of and enjoying Christ as the good land—Eph. 2:2; 6:12.
- B. All the battles in the Old Testament were concerned with the good land— Josh. 1:2-6; 5:11—6:27.

Day 2

- Deuteronomy 8:7* - For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
- Colossians 1:12* - Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

II. In order to understand the significance of the Israelites entering Canaan and the warfare in Canaan, we need to know that Canaan has a **twofold significance in typology—Col. 1:12; Eph. 1:3; 2:2; 6:12:**

A. On the **positive side**, Canaan, a land of riches, typifies the all-inclusive **Christ with His unsearchable riches**—Deut. 8:7-10; Col. 1:12; Eph. 3:8:

1. The good land is the **ultimate type of Christ** found in the Scriptures—Deut. 8:7.
2. The good land, the land of Canaan, is a type of the Christ who **is all and in all** and who is **everything** to us—Eph. 3:8.
3. In the Bible the land is a figure, a **symbol, of Christ**—Gen. 1:9; 2 Pet. 3:5:
 - a. The land that came out of the death waters on the third day in Genesis 1:9-10 and 13 is a type of the **resurrected Christ** who came out of death on the third day.
 - b. God's intention revealed in the Scriptures is that **Christ should be our land**—Deut. 8:7-10.

Satan, the enemy of God, has been doing his utmost **continually to frustrate** the people of God from enjoying the good land. He will do whatever he can to **spoil** the enjoyment of Christ as the land. Not long after God created the heavens and the earth, with the intention of giving the earth to mankind as an enjoyment, Satan did something to frustrate Him. Because of Satan's rebellion, God had to judge the universe, and due to that judgment the earth was buried beneath the waters of the deep. After a period of time, God came in to work and to **recover** the land from the waters of the deep. Upon this recovered land, an abundance of life came into being, and there came forth a life with the image of God, a life committed with the authority of God. However, not long afterward the enemy of God came in again to **deceive** man and to put God in a position where judgment upon the earth was again imperative. At the time of Noah, the recovered earth was once more put under the waters of the deep. Speaking according to the type, man was separated from the enjoyment of Christ as signified by the land. But through the **redemption** of the ark, Noah and his family obtained the right to possess the land and enjoy all its riches. The flood separated the people from the earth, but the ark brought Noah and his family back to the enjoyment of the earth. Once again man took possession of the land and enjoyed its riches. (Life-Study of Colossians, chapter 20)

Day 3

Acts 26:18 - *To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.*

2 Corinthians 4:4 - *In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.*

B. On the **negative side**, Canaan signifies the **aerial part**, the **heavenly part**, of the dark kingdom of Satan, the **heavenlies that are full of Satan's forces**—Eph. 2:2; 6:12:

1. Satan has his authority and his angels, who are his subordinates as the principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world; hence, he has his kingdom, the authority of darkness—Acts 26:18; Matt. 12:26; 25:41; Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:13.
2. To this day, **evil forces are veiling** the all-inclusiveness of Christ from God's people—2:8, 18; 2 Cor. 4:4.
3. The book of Ephesians indicates that in the heavenlies there are **different layers**—1:3; 2:2; 6:12:
 - a. **Christ** is in the **highest layer**, the third heaven, to be our everything as our good land—Deut. 8:7-10.

- b. There is a **lower layer** of the heavenlies—the air, where **Satan** as the ruler of the authority of the air is frustrating the people on earth from contacting God and receiving Christ; this is typified by the Canaanites, who were frustrating Israel from entering into the good land—Eph. 2:2.
- 4. The **Canaanites typify the fallen angels**, the rebellious angels who follow Satan, who have become the powers, rulers, and authorities in Satan's kingdom, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies—Rev. 12:4, 7; Eph. 6:12.

Day 4

Exodus 23:30 - Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have become fruitful and inherit the land.

Colossians 3:5 - Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greediness, which is idolatry;

III. The various pagan tribes that occupied the land signify the **different aspects of our natural life**:

- A. The **gods (idols)** of the pagan tribes (Exo. 23:24), with the demons behind them (cf. 1 Cor. 10:20), represent the **spiritual forces of evil** (Eph. 6:12).
- B. Behind our natural life are the **forces of evil** (cf. Matt. 16:23, footnote 1), who utilize, manipulate, and direct the aspects of our natural life to **frustrate** us from taking possession of the all-inclusive Christ and enjoying His riches.
- C. Because the natural life **frustrates** us from possessing Christ and enjoying Him, we must **hate** it (Luke 14:26) and, as we grow in Christ, be **willing to drive it out**.
- D. God will not cut off our natural life, signified by the pagan tribes, all at once, because this would leave us inwardly **vacant and in danger of being taken over** by demons, signified by the animals of the field—Exo. 23:29; cf. Matt. 12:43-45:
 - 1. God cuts off our natural life **gradually, little by little**, according to the degree of our growth in the divine life—Exo. 23:30.
 - 2. The more Christ **increases** in us, the more He will **replace** our natural life.
- E. God promised to drive out the pagan tribes (vv. 29-30), but God's people had to **cooperate** with Him by taking the initiative in destroying them—vv. 31-33; cf. Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5; Phil. 2:12-13.
- F. The more Christ **increases** in us, the more we will be able to **cooperate** with God in driving out the natural life.

After the children of Israel entered into the good land, they had to defeat the Canaanites, the enemies that were occupying the land. These enemies typify the principalities and powers in the air that seek to keep us from enjoying the all-inclusive Christ. Within us we are troubled by the **self and the flesh**, and above us, in the air, there are the **evil powers of darkness**. When we bury the self and circumcise the flesh, the powers of darkness in the air will be exposed. The **self and the flesh help the evil powers**. Actually, if we are still in the self and in the flesh, the principalities and powers need not do anything to hinder us, for we are already frustrated by the self and the flesh. However, as soon as we deal with the self and the flesh, the powers of darkness will come forth to war against us. Then we must learn how to fight the spiritual warfare. The spiritual warfare is fought in the good land with the **support of the rich produce of Christ**. (*Life-Study of Exodus, chapter 12*)

Do not think that the land of Canaan is far away and that you must wander for years before you can enter into it. On the contrary, the **good land is within us**, for it is the processed God who is the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit indwelling our spirit. Like Caleb in Numbers 13:30, we must believe and declare that through the church life with Christ we are well able to possess this good land.

Let us forget religion, philosophy, ethics, and even spiritual seeking, and let us care for Christ and for having direct contact with Him in our spirit. **We must learn to not do anything or say anything apart from Christ**. In John 15:4 the Lord said, “Abide in Me and I in you.” In the next verse He said, “Apart from Me you can do nothing.” We need to have our living and our being in Christ as the good land. He is both the center and the circumference, both the centrality and the universality. As the good land, He is everything to us. Our final goal must be to **pass through the wilderness and the mountain into the good land**. Let us enter into this land to possess the all-inclusive Christ and to enjoy His unsearchable riches that God’s kingdom may be established and that the temple may be built. (*Life-Study of Exodus, chapter 12*)

Day 5

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Colossians 1:13 - Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Day 6

Ephesians 6:10-11 - Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

IV. If we would **possess** the good land for the fulfillment of God’s purpose, we must **engage in spiritual warfare to defeat the satanic forces**—Josh. 6:21:

- A. We need to realize the **necessity of spiritual warfare**—a warfare between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God—Matt. 6:10; 7:21; 12:26, 28; Isa. 14:12-14.
- B. When Israel was ready to take possession of the land of Canaan, the land was filled with **demon-possessed people, idol worshippers**, and **Nephilim**—Num. 13:33.
- C. Because the Nephilim, a mixture of fallen angels and fallen man, dwelt in the land of Canaan, God commanded the children of Israel to **take over** this land and to **destroy** every living being there so that the human race could be cleared up—Deut. 7:1-2:
 - 1. According to the divine thought, the nations in the land of Canaan had to be **exterminated** because they were **devilish** and **mingled with demons**—v. 2; Josh. 11:21-22; 14:6-14.
 - 2. The Canaanites signify not only the **fallen angels** but also **human beings** who have **joined** themselves to the **evil spirits**, to the satanic power of darkness in the air—Num. 14:45.
- D. The kings of Arad (21:1), of the Amorites (v. 21), and of Bashan (v. 33) were the “gate guards” on the east of the Jordan, guarding the land of Canaan, the kingdom of darkness, for Satan:
 - 1. The **kings** defeated by God’s army signify the rulers, the authorities, and the **world-rulers of darkness**, against whom we must struggle—Eph. 6:12.
 - 2. In order for the children of Israel to enter into the good land, they had to pass through the territory controlled by these kings and had to **fight** against them, **destroy** them, and **take over** their territory.

3. To gain the unsearchable riches of Christ, we must **crush the spiritual enemies** signified by the king of Arad, Sihon the king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Bashan—3:8; 6:10-12.
- E. Israel's fighting against the inhabitants of the land portrays the **invisible spiritual warfare** that is taking place behind the visible scene on earth—Dan. 10:10-21; Eph. 6:10-20:
1. It is crucial for us to see that **behind the scene** a spiritual struggle is taking place, a struggle not seen with human eyes.
 2. In addition to the war on earth, there is a **war between God and the satanic forces in the air**—2:2; 6:12.
- F. The fighting of the children of Israel against the Canaanites that they might possess and enjoy the good land typifies the **spiritual warfare of the church** as a whole, **including all the members**, against “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies” (v. 12) that the saints may enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive land.
- G. Christ is our good land, and God wants us to gain Christ, but there is a layer of devilish, demonic forces between us and the good land; if we would take possession of the good land for our enjoyment, **we must defeat these satanic forces**—Col. 1:12-13; 2:15; Eph. 3:18; 6:11-12:
1. There is an exceedingly real spiritual warfare in which we must engage; we must **fight the battle to gain the all-inclusive Christ** for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ, the new man, and the kingdom of God—vv. 10-12; 1 Tim. 6:12a; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; Col. 1:13, 18; 2:19; 3:10-11.
 2. If we would take possession of Christ for our enjoyment, we must be a **corporate warrior**, the church as the Body of Christ, fighting against and defeating the satanic forces so that we can gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, setting up and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth—Eph. 3:8; 4:16; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 11:15.

Many of us were in the region of old religion. Some were in Catholicism and others were in Judaism. When you were in that old region, in your Chaldea, did you have the sensation that you were in the New Jerusalem? Did you have the feeling that you were tasting the New Jerusalem? The **taste** in the New Jerusalem is mainly the **living water and the tree of life**. In the New Jerusalem our taste will mainly be that of the living water for us to drink and that of the tree of life for us to feed upon. What drinking we have enjoyed since coming into the church life! The **water we drink in the church life is much better** than any earthly beverage. No drink on earth can compare with what we are drinking in the church life. Moreover, day by day we are **enjoying the Lord Jesus as our tree of life**. Who can be as pleasant and joyful as we are? We are truly in the foretaste of the New Jerusalem. Did you enjoy this taste when you were in Judaism? Did you have the taste of the New Jerusalem when you were in Catholicism burning candles and making confession to the priests? Did you have it when you were sitting in the pews in the so-called Protestant denominations? Did you have it when you were in the free groups where you found it so easy to be dissenting? Where can you have the taste of the New Jerusalem? **Only in the proper church life**. To us, the church life is the good land. In this good land we have God's dwelling place, rest, expression, authority, kingdom, and dominion. The church life is where we all can **rest**. Day by day I am resting, not working. While I am working, I am enjoying the rest. This is why it is difficult for me to be worn out, to be tired out, because I am resting, not working. Every cell in my body and every drop of my blood is resting. Oh, what an enjoyment this is!

The **church life is our real rest and enjoyment**. We are surely in the good land, in the land flowing with milk and honey. The milk and honey are the produce of two kinds of lives—the animal life and the plant life. This signifies the rich life of Christ. Christ's life is the animal life for redemption and the plant life for regeneration. We are now enjoying the milk and honey life flowing in the good land. (*Life-Study of Hebrews, chapter 17*)