

HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF DEUTORONOMY, Week 4**The Goodness of the Land—Its Minerals**

Scripture Reading: Deut. 8:7, 9; 1:30; 3:22; 20:3-4; 32:30; Eph. 6:10-13; Deut. 33:25; Jer. 15:12; 1 Pet. 2:4-5; Dan. 10:6d; Rev. 12:5; 1:15a

Deuteronomy 1:30	Jehovah your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you according to all that He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,
Deuteronomy 3:22	Do not fear them, for it is Jehovah your God who is fighting for you.
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;
Deuteronomy 8:9	A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron , and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
Deuteronomy 8:10	And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.
Deuteronomy 20:3	And he shall say to them, Hear, O Israel! You are drawing near to the battle against your enemies today. Do not let your heart fail; do not be afraid or alarmed or terrified of them.
Deuteronomy 20:4	For it is Jehovah your God who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
Deuteronomy 32:30	How shall one chase a thousand, / And two put ten thousand to flight, / Were it not that their Rock sold them, / And Jehovah delivered them up?
Deuteronomy 33:25	Your doorbolts shall be iron and copper ; / And as your days are, so shall your strength be.
Ephesians 6:10	Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
Ephesians 6:11	Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
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.
Ephesians 6:13	Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
1 Peter 2:4	Coming to Him, a living stone , rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,
1 Peter 2:5	You yourselves also, as living stones , are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
Daniel 10:6d	His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze , and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.
Revelation 1:15a	And His feet were like shining bronze , as having been fired in a furnace; and His voice was like the sound of many waters.
Revelation 12:5	And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod ; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

The Goodness of the Land--Its Minerals

This message, which is a continuation of message 3, is concerning the goodness of the land. Message 3 concerns the foodstuffs grown in the good land for our enjoyment. This message concerns the **minerals** in the land. The good land spoken in Deuteronomy, the land of Canaan, is rich not only in produce, the foodstuffs, but also in minerals. In the experiences of Christ typified by the foodstuff, there is a progression from the wheat to the barley and then to the vines and the fruit trees, typifying the progression in our enjoyment of Christ from the limited Christ, the crucified Christ, to the resurrected Christ who supplies life, expresses the fullness and riches of life, and anoints and fills us with the Spirit. Likewise, the minerals in the good land are not merely additional items of the riches of the land. Rather, we need to see that the significance of the minerals is that they are the **issue of the enjoyment of the many riches of the good land**. There is a wonderful order and progression by the Holy Spirit's arrangement in the presentation of the various riches of the good land in order to show us the direction and the stages in our experience of Christ.

Another category of the riches of the land is the minerals, consisting of the **stones**, the **iron**, the **mountains**, and the **copper**, or **bronze**. We enjoy all the produce—such as the wheat, the barley, and the fruits—for us to be satisfied. However, the riches typified by the minerals are not mainly for our enjoyment and satisfaction but for **meeting God's need**. God brought His people to the good land not only to feed them so that they would be satisfied with the produce of the land **but also so that they would enter into and possess the good land in order to build the temple, have God's expression, and defeat God's enemy there.**

The categories of the riches of the land show us a good order and the process of our experience of Christ. We need to progress from the stage of enjoying Christ only by drinking Him as the refreshing, quenching water to enjoying Him also by feeding on Him and eating Him. Nevertheless, this is not all that we need to know of Christ. **We need to progress further.** As we continue to drink and eat of Christ, some amount of these riches is constituted into us to be milk and honey. However, these experiences are primarily for us—for our enjoyment and satisfaction. **In order to care for God, His kingdom, and His house, we also need to experience of Christ as the minerals—the stones, the iron, the mountains, and the copper, or bronze. God's enemy must be defeated. Therefore, God's people need to be brought into the good land and to possess it in order to build up God's habitation, establish God's kingdom, defeat God's enemy in it.**

(The Ministry of the Word, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 107-108)

Day 1

I. The **stones**, the **iron**, the **mountains**, and the **copper** are for the building and for the battle—Deut. 8:7, 9; Neh. 4:17:

- A. The building and the battle always go together; if we would have the building, **we must be prepared to fight**—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16; 6:10-20.
- B. For the **building** we need the **materials**, and for the **battle** we need the **weapons**; these depend upon the **stones**, the **iron**, the **mountains**, and the **copper**.

II. We need to experience Christ as a land whose **stones are iron**—Deut. 8:9c; 33:25; 1 Pet. 2:4-5; Jer. 15:12; Psalms 2:9; Rev. 12:5:

- A. **Christ is a stone** for God's building; this means that Christ is the material for God's building and that God's building is entirely of Christ—Acts 4:10-12; 1 Pet. 2:4-5:
 - 1. In the Bible **stone** is a major item—Gen. 28:18; Zech. 3:9; 1 Pet. 2:4-5:
 - a. God created a man of clay; hence, the first man was a **clay-man**—Gen. 2:7.
 - b. In Christ, God Himself **came** to be a man, and this man was a **stone-man**—Acts 4:10-12.
 - c. At the end of the Bible we have a **stone-city**—Rev. 21:10-11, 18a, 19-20.
 - d. The Bible begins with a **clay-man**, continues with a **stone-man**, and consummates in a **stone-city**; this is **God's economy**.
 - 2. **Christ as a stone** for God's building is the One in whom we are saved; He is the **Stone-Savior**—**solid**, **strong**, and **reliable**—Acts 4:10-12.
 - 3. **Both** Christ and His believers are **stones** for God's building—Matt. 21:42; John 1:42; 1 Pet. 2:4-5:
 - a. **In** Christ and **through** Christ we are becoming **living stones** to be built up as a spiritual house—v. 5.
 - b. We are undergoing the process of **transformation** so that Christ, the **living stone**, may be constituted into us to **make us living stones** for God's house—Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18.

Day 2

- B. **Iron** signifies the **authority of Christ**—Psalms 2:9; Rev. 12:5; Matt. 28:18:
 - 1. **Spiritual authority** is **always** in resurrection; therefore, in order to have authority we must be in the resurrection life of Christ—Rom. 6:4-5:
 - a. If we **walk** in the resurrection life of Christ, we will have the **right to claim His authority**—1 Cor. 5:3-5; 1 Tim. 1:20.
 - b. **When we are stones living in Christ**, we **automatically** share the authority of Christ.
 - c. The authority of the church is absolutely in resurrection; the authority of the church is where the saints know what it means to be crucified with Christ and to live in resurrection—Matt. 18:18-20; Gal. 2:20.
 - 2. If we are able to exercise the **authority of Christ**, we will have safety and security—Deut. 33:25.

Day 3

III. We need to experience Christ as a land from whose **mountains we can mine copper**—8:9d; Ezek. 34:13; 37:22; 1 Sam. 17:5-6; Dan. 10:6d; Rev. 1:15a:

- A. In the Bible **mountains** signify **resurrection** and **ascension**—Matt. 28:16:
 - 1. The **mountains** in the good land typify the **resurrected** and **ascended Christ**—Ezek. 34:13; 37:22.
 - 2. As the One who has resurrected and ascended on high, **Christ is the high mountain**—Acts 2:32-33; Eph. 1:19-21; 4:8, 10.
 - 3. In the ascended Christ we may engage in **spiritual warfare**, for in Christ's ascension there are the peaks of **reality** (Amana), **victory** (Senir), and the **destruction of the enemy** (Hermon)—2:6; 6:10-20; S. S. 4:8.

For the Building Our Needing the Materials, and for the Battle Our Needing the Weapons; The Depending upon the Stones, the Iron, the Mountains, and the Copper

For the building we need the materials, the iron, the mountains, and the copper. The building cannot be built with wheat or pieces of bread. We enjoy them—they are good for food—but we cannot build with them. For the building we need **strong materials**. Hymns, #1164 says, "We must dig out his solid Christ." The Christ we experience may be very tasty and sweet, but it is like a noodle, like bread, which cannot stand up. We cannot make a pillar in a building out of bread, flour, or wheat. There is the need of strong stones and iron. We need to pray, "Lord, advance in my experience of You, and bring me from the stage of enjoying only as my water and my bread to also enjoying You as the stones, the iron, the mountain, and the copper." Only when this prayer is answered will we be useful in God's building and ready to fight against the enemy.

(The Ministry of the Word, Vol. 24, No. 1, p. 110)

Day 4

- B. Bronze and copper are words used interchangeably for the same materials in the Old Testament.
- C. **Copper** (bronze) signifies the **judgment of Christ**—Deut. 8:9d; Dan. 10:6d; Rev. 1:15a:
1. Christ's gleam in His work and move is signified by His arms and His feet being like the **gleam of polished bronze**—Dan. 10:6d:
 - a. **Bronze** signifies God's **judgment**, which makes people **bright**.
 - b. Christ was **judged and tried** by God, and God's trial and judgment made Christ **bright like polished bronze**.
 2. The feet of Christ are like **shining bronze**, signifying that His perfect and bright walk qualifies Him to exercise divine judgment—Rev. 1:15a.
 3. To apply Christ as the copper (bronze) is to realize that He is the **perfect One**, the **shining One**, the One who has been **tested and proved**—Eph. 6:11:
 - a. Christ, the tested and proved One, the perfect, bright, and shining One, is our **covering**; the enemy can do nothing with Him—John 14:30.
 - b. We need to apply Christ as our **covering**—Eph. 6:13; cf. 1 Sam. 17:5-6:
 - (1) The **breastplate of righteousness** covers our **conscience and guards** us from Satan's accusations; this **breastplate is Christ as our righteousness**—Eph. 6:14b; 1 Cor. 1:30.
 - (2) The **helmet of salvation** for covering our **mind** is the saving **Christ we experience in our daily life**—Eph. 6:17a; 1 Thes. 5:8; John 16:33.

Day 5

- IV. If we would experience Christ as **stone, iron, and copper**, we must have some degree of **spiritual maturity**; wherever there is a matured life in Christians, the building of God's house will **take place**, and the battles of spiritual warfare will be **fought**—Heb. 5:14; 6:1; 1 Cor. 14:20; Eph. 4:13:
- A. Joshua 1:3 indicates that although God had given Israel the good land, Israel still needed to take the land; they needed to **cooperate** with God by rising up to fulfill God's commission to possess the land.
 - B. If we would possess Christ as the good land, we still need to **fight** the spiritual warfare by faith in the Lord and in the principle of the Body; we also need to realize that we are not the ones fighting, for **God goes with us and fights for us**—Deut. 1:30; 3:22; 20:3-4; 32:30; Eph. 6:10-13.
 - C. Joshua led the children of Israel to enter the promised land and to take it, possess it, and enjoy it—Josh. 1:6:
 1. Joshua was to be occupied with **God's word** and let the word **occupy** him—v. 8.
 2. The response of Israel to Joshua implied their **willingness**, their **readiness**, and their being in **one accord** not only with Joshua but also with Jehovah their God, as expressed by their blessing Joshua in the name of their God—vv. 16-18.
 3. Israel had become a **corporate** Joshua, **chosen, called, redeemed, saved, trained, prepared**, and **qualified** by God, ready to go on with God as one to take the land of Canaan.
 4. To gain the all-inclusive Christ, we need to be today's Joshua, **fighting** the battle, **taking** the land, and **enjoying** Christ as our inheritance.
 - D. The children of Israel were buried in the death of Christ, and then they were resurrected in the resurrection of Christ—4:1-11; Rom. 6:3-6:
 1. In their **old man** they could not gain the victory; their old man had to be **buried** so that they could become a **new man**—Josh. 4:9.
 2. We need to realize that our old man, our natural man, is **not qualified** to fight the spiritual warfare for gaining the all-inclusive Christ—Rom. 6:6.

If we would experience Christ as stone, iron, and copper, we must have some degree of **spiritual maturity**; wherever there is a matured life in Christians, the building of God's house will take place, and the battles of spiritual warfare will be fought (Heb. 5:14; 6:1; 1 Cor. 14:20; Eph. 4:13). In this final major section of the message, we will touch three matters: the **mature life in Christians**, the **building of God's house**, and the **engagement in spiritual warfare**.

The Lord's present recovery has been among us since Brother Watchman Nee began to minister in the 1920s--a span of nearly one hundred years. Today, in the present stage of the Lord's recovery, we have come to these three crucial points: maturity, building, and warfare. Through His ministry, the Lord has already brought us through many stages. We have enjoyed much ministry, much revelation, and much growth in life. However, **we must go further**. Just as the children of Israel had come to the border of the good land and were poised to enter and possess it, in the same way, **we stand at the threshold of advancing into new experiences of Christ**. We need to advance in our experience of Him, experiencing Him not only for our enjoyment and satisfaction. **We can now experience Christ also as the reality of all the minerals of the good land**. It is only in this way that we can become mature. We need to pray, "Lord, grow in us and bring us on to maturity." Little children are not qualified to fight to enter the good land, much less to fight to possess it. There must be the maturity of life. there must also be the building work, and along with the building work, there will be the spiritual warfare as well.

(Ministry of the Word, Vol. 24, No. 1, p. 123)

Day 6

- E. In order to **possess the good land**, we need to **deal** with the flesh, **enjoy** the Lord's table, **enjoy** the all-inclusive Christ as the produce of the good land, and **see** a vision of Christ as our Captain— Josh. 5:2-15:
1. The circumcision at Gilgal signifies the application of the Lord's death to our flesh—vv. 2-9; Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24.
 2. Israel's keeping the Passover typifies the believers' keeping of the Lord's table to remember the Lord as their Redeemer and Savior— Josh. 5:10; Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 5:7.
 3. The produce of the good land typifies Christ as the consummated God-given food to the believers, **requiring their labor on Him**— Josh. 5:11-12.
- F. The victory of Israel over Jericho was won not by their fighting but by their blowing the trumpets and exalting Christ by bearing the Ark, through their **faith in God's word of instruction**— 6:1-27:
1. In the spiritual warfare the first thing we should do is **exalt Christ**.
 2. The silence of the people signifies being **one with the Lord** to carry out the matter in the Lord's way **without the expression of any thought, opinion, or feeling**—v. 10.
 3. God did the fighting, and Israel simply **shouted, proclaimed, and testified**.
 4. Israel marched around the city with the Ark, a type of Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, on the shoulders of the priests; the spiritual significance of this scene is that it is a picture of the **corporate God-man**—God and man, man and God, walking together as one person.
- G. The children of Israel were defeated at Ai because they were not one with God but **cared only for themselves**; the account of their defeat should teach us **to be one with God in whatever we do**— 7:1-5.
- H. The children of Israel were deceived by the Gibeonites because they were like a wife who forgot her husband; what they did in Joshua 9 was exactly the same as what Eve did in Genesis 3.
- I. The record in Joshua 22:10-34 about the building of another altar shows us that we must **avoid division** and that to experience and enjoy the all-inclusive Christ we must be **one people, one Body, one universal church**—1 Cor. 12:12-13.
- J. We cannot enjoy **Christ as the good land** without the Body; **we must be one with the Body to fight for the land, to possess the land, and to share our portion of the land**—Num. 32:1-32; Josh. 22:1-9.
- K. "We all need to know **what** the recovery is, **where** the recovery is, and **what kind** of persons can take the recovery on. We all need to see that in the Lord's recovery today we are on a battlefield. We should be today's Joshua and Caleb, fighting against Satan's aerial 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. It is not adequate for us simply to be spiritual and holy. **We need to learn of Joshua and Caleb to represent God's interest in this age to fight down the enemies that Christ can be gained by people and that Christ can be increased by His pursuers**" (Life-study of Joshua, p. 61).