

Life-Study of Numbers Summaries - Messages 32—53

Fighting

In order for the children of Israel to enter into the good land, they had to pass through the territory controlled by the kings who were guarding the land of Canaan for Satan. **Whether or not we can enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive land depends on whether or not we defeat the enemies typified by the Canaanites.** This indicates that the church as a whole, including all the members, should engage in the spiritual warfare. We need to fight against the evil spirits, defeat them, and take over their territory by exercising our God-given authority. **We must utterly destroy the evil spirits, not giving room for them.**

After the defeat of the three kings by the children of Israel, Satan changed his strategy in fighting against Israel by taking the way of religion. Balak used Moab and Midian to induce Balaam to curse Israel. Balaam instead prophesied in parables. His parables revealed that **the children of Israel are a separate, perfect, and beautiful.** His parable also reveals **that Christ, the One with power and authority, is Israel's greatest blessing.** **This is a picture of the church and its members in the eyes of God today.** However, in our nature, we are still those who are fallen and sinful; this is revealed through the children of Israel's fall into fornication and idolatry.

Renumbering

Because of the fall into fornication and idolatry, God's judgment came in through a plague. Immediately after the purification by the plague, the renumbering came in. This renumbering implies some amount of reformation and replacement. The renumbering was for the inheriting of the land with the fighting and the distribution of the land as its goal.

Overcoming the Midianites and Inheriting the Good Land

The Midianites signify the filthiness of the lust of the flesh, which is related to Satan and the world. Moses' strategy against the Midianites required that the children of Israel be in one accord with no dissenting opinions. **We need to be in one accord for the Lord's move today.** In order to be in one accord for the Lord's move, we should not express our opinion but come back to the Word. After defeating the Midianites, both the captives and the spoil had to be purged and purified. This shows us that everything related to God must be clean, having been purged, purified, or washed.

After driving out the devilish inhabitants of the land of Canaan, the children of Israel were to destroy all the idols and high places; only then would they be qualified to take possession of the land and enjoy it. The principle is the same with our enjoyment of Christ today. **We must cooperate with God's ordination to drive out everything in us which is other than God and Christ.** We must destroy any idols that may be in us and not leave any ground within us for the worship of idols.

Cities of Refuge

In the Old Testament age, the refuge cities were places in which to hide and wait for the death of the high priest. **Those who enter into Christ today may do so with the assurance that He has already died and that their sins have already been forgiven.** Christ died for us even before we were born. Now we simply need to apply what He has done for us, saying "O Lord Jesus, I love You. You died for me before I was born. Hallelujah, my sins have been forgiven, and I have been released!"

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