

Life-Study of Numbers Summaries - Messages 32—36

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 of Arad, of the Amorites, and of Bashan who were guarding the land of Canaan for Satan. In typology, **Canaan signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan**. Canaan does not signify heaven in a positive sense; on the contrary, Canaan typifies the main part, the leading part, the aerial part, of Satan's kingdom, with its authorities and rulers.

If we study the typology carefully, we will see that Canaan has **two features**. On the one hand, **Canaan is a land of riches**. On the other hand, **Canaan was a land full of evil persons and enemies**, all of whom were to be eradicated by the children of Israel. This indicates that **the church as a whole, including all the members, should engage in the spiritual warfare**.

The king of Arad fighting against Israel and taking some of them captive portrays an aspect of the history of the church. We need to fight against the evil spirits, defeat them, and take over their territory. We need to exercise our Christ-given authority over the aerial powers. Sihon is a type of the evil spirits. Verses 24—32 indicates that **after we engage in spiritual warfare against the evil spirits, part of the territory of Satan in the air becomes ours**. The children of Israel also defeated Og, the king of Bashan. Today we must fight against the evil spirits and defeat them so that we may gain more territory for God's kingdom.

The Harassment by Balak and Balaam

In Numbers 22 the enemy changed not only his way of fighting but also his mode of fighting. In Numbers 22 Balak, the king of Moab induced Balaam to curse Israel for them. Balaam said that he would speak to God and see what God would say. But even though Balaam knew Balak's evil intention was to damage God's people, Balaam nevertheless told the messengers that he would ask God whether he should go with them or not. Eventually, God allowed Balaam to go, only doing what God says.

Because Balaam went, God's anger burned against him. The Lord Himself dealt with this greedy prophet. The record concerning Balaam teaches us that **we should not seek the Lord's will as long as we have the desire to do certain things**. If we have a particular desire, yet still want to seek God's will, the result may be self-deception. We need to learn to seek the Lord's will without having any other desire.

Balaam's Prophesying in Parables

Balaam's **first parable** indicates that the worship in which Balak was involved was a mixture. The first parable about the children of Israel's dwelling alone and not reckoning themselves among the nations indicates that **they were a holy, sanctified people, a people set apart from the nations**. It was a blessing upon the children of Israel as a separate people, a particular and special class of people who dwell alone and who are not reckoned among the nations. The **second parable** shows us that **in God's redemption and in Christ we have no defects**. Since He has put us into Christ, when He looks at us, He sees us in Christ. The **third parable** reveals that **Israel is beautiful**. In the sight of God, Israel is holy, sinless, and beautiful. Finally, the **fourth parable** reveals Christ as the Star and Scepter. **He will be the almighty One with all-inclusive power and authority and His enemies will be destroyed**.

Israel's Fall into Fornication and Idolatry

Where there is fornication, there is idolatry. Under the influence of Balaam, Balak induced Israel to fall into fornication and idolatry. Because of this, the anger of Jehovah burned against Israel and all those who had yoked themselves to Baal of Peor were slain and twenty-four thousand people were killed by a plague.

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