

JOSHUA No.7 ...POSSESS THE LAND

A. What is your Land?

Joshua 1:3 Get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them. Vs.4 your territory will extend...**vs.11** you will take possession. Your land could be the ministry/job that God has given you to do. It's a place full of excitement and new challenges, lots of giants but much blessing.

The land is the place of promise for you, a place of potential, perhaps unrealised, yet possible!

Your land is a place of adventure, of vision, of desire, of dreaming....if only!!!!

There is more that God has for all of us if we could/would dare to step out of the boat and walk.

Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the place of your tent..... **1 Chr.4:9** Jabez = pain Oh! that you would bless me... and God granted his request....**Acts 6:5** Stephen(6:8) & Philip(8:6) ...deacons with enlarged ministries!

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Note that all of Psalm 37 talks about the Land.

.cf. Tony Campolo in 'Carpe Diem' p.99.

"...In this day and at this time we, too, are called upon to act. We, too, are called to live out dreams and to follow visions. Like those saints of old, we are required to make some leaps of faith, to daringly step out and attempt the great, and sometimes seemingly terrible, things we believe God has called us to do. We cannot wait for certainty and the assurance that everything will work out like we would like it to. We must take risks if we are to live out our dreams. We must be ready to bet our lives on visions. And even if we appear to others to be like Don Quixote, we must dream the impossible dream. One thing is certain: If we fail to live out our dreams and visions, we perish! (Proverbs 29:18)."

B. How long will you wait?

before you begin to take possession of the land.

DELAY....sometimes we wait

too long.. We need to be decisive.

➤ cf. Caleb **14:6-14 & 15:14**

➤ cf. Manasseh & Ephraim **17:14ff.** They didn't do it **Jdgs.1:27**

vs.3 How long will you wait ? Perhaps the job seemed too large, long, difficult or disagreeable.

2 Cor.6:2 Now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.

This is the day the Lord has made.



C. Survey the land & Write a description of it.

ie. examine it, go out and walk through it & study it.

➤ cf. Thessalonians **1 Thess.2:13**

➤ cf. Bereans **Acts 17:11**

Examine your calling and test it. write it all down.



D. Bring it back to the Lord.

and you will receive the land. Caleb did that, brought it all back to Joshua and reminded him of the words of Moses.

E. The Effects of living in the Land...

(1) People will get saved

Joshua 2...Rahab and her family are saved... they have heard about God's deliverance! Joshua sent spies into the land. We can't do that but can get some marvellous insights. Remember, for a long time the Israelites believed that the enemy was terrifying.

Vs.8 The enemy was afraid of the people of God - at least of those who would dare to possess the land!

Vs.10 The enemy had heard of all the miracles that God had done.

Vs.11 The enemy's courage failed.

Rahab was saved almost indirectly, ie. it wasn't the main aim; possessing the land was; yet in possessing the land people were won.

(2) You will experience the God of Miracles

Joshua 3:15 As soon as their feet touched the water's edge, the water stopped flowing. God moved as their faith was put into action. Then they had to erect a memorial 4:5 & 4:20-24, as an everlasting memory to the God of miracles.

.vs.23. The Lord did to the Jordan what He had done to the Red Sea.

ALL KNEW about the Red Sea - **history** - but *by possessing the land, the miraculous God of history was revealed as the God of the **present!***

Remember! ...for a miracle to happen, you must first have an impossible situation!

(3) You'll experience the Awe of God

Joshua 5:13-15. Joshua comes face to face with an angel.

By possessing the land, they are moving more & more in a spiritual realm and so are open more to visitations from the Lord. God reveals his Holiness to Joshua in verse 15. Joshua learns a lesson - it doesn't matter whose side God is on, rather whose side you're on!

(4) You'll experience victory over the enemy

Joshua 6 Note that Jericho is tightly shut! -no-one went in or out.

(Jn.10:9) God will give the instructions - all you must do is obey.

cf. 1 Chronicles 20:15-17God will fight for you.

(5) You will experience Temptation

Joshua 7 Achan's Sin. 6:18 strict instructions not to touch devoted things.- but Achan did! You'll experience temptation in the land, perhaps all the more!

In the land that God has given you, tremendous prosperity, and with that comes temptation, and many fall into it. God promised Joshua prosperity (1:8) and success. BUT a warning in Dt.8:1-14;

cf. Paul in Philippians 4:11-13 ... content in every situation.

We will all be tempted 1 Cor. 10:11-13; Jesus was tempted Heb.2:18 & Heb.4:14-16;

ACHAN did sin & brought destruction to Israel (6:18).

7:26 the sin was stamped out and Achan was removed from the land.

(6) You will experience challenge & renewal

Joshua 8:30ff. new challenges and commitments.

(7) You will effect others by your Faith

Joshua 11:23 Joshua gave the land to others as an inheritance. He passed it on.

cf. Stephen Acts 6:5 a deacon; Acts 6:8 full of the Holy Spirit and did great wonders and signs among the people; vs.15 the face of an angel; Acts 7:55 saw Heaven opened; Acts 8:1 Saul was there giving approval to his death.

Acts 22:20 Later on Paul relates how this experience had a lasting effect on him.



