

"When the Lord your God shall bring you into the land..." (Deuteronomy 7:1-2, 6, 9; Psalm 139:5; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Hebrews 11:32-40)



What Land is God bringing you into today? This past week our family embarked into new territory, foreboding territory, a land that none of us ever care to travel through. Thankfully, the landscape today is looking a little better, but there still seems to be some woods to traverse ahead.

Regardless of the land that we find ourselves landing in, as I read this old book of Deuteronomy, we find encouraging information, and while the words there are directed at a nation called Israel, we can find correlation and principles that apply to us today.

Promises are sweet. There are some within the pages of the Bible that I absolutely could not do life without, they are my lifeline to sanity, they are tender reminders that God's peace is available, always. His joy can be my joy. His strength comes in my weakness. And, the best part is, His promises are always kept!

The Jewish people were promised a land. A land flowing with milk and honey. But in reading Deuteronomy 7 it becomes evident that THEIR promised land was already occupied by an enemy. The promised territory came with its own set of problems. It was going to require a lot of faith to claim the promise because there was to be a battle ahead. There were, also, rules of engagement with that promise, and living up to those would prove to be a warning to all of us, as well.

Here are some of the things I love about this text in Deuteronomy 7 -

"When the LORD your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, and when the LORD your God delivers you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them." (verses 1-2)

I love that the Lord their God is going to be the One to bring them in. Recently I was reminded of the wonderful verses in Psalm 139, specifically 139:5, "You have enclosed me behind and before, and have laid Your hand upon me." Whatever our territory looks like, it's important to remember that He is leading the way. He has gone before you, and has His hand upon you. He is not sending you into the territory of enemies without Him going in first. And, because He goes before us, we CAN have victory.

We find in verse 1 that God "will clear away many nations before you...nations that are greater and stronger than you." Some "enemies" to our peace and tranquility can seem daunting, impossible, they can seem like they just might win out, whether it's fear, or doubt, or anger, or lack of forgiveness, whatever the "enemy" is to a right relationship with God, we can know that He has made a way to be victorious in it. He will clear those enemies away as we trust Him. He not only goes before us, but he's surrounding us, behind and laying His hand upon us. Don't forget, His strength succeeds in our weakness.

Look at Hebrews 11:32-40. What an amazing set of verses. It's a list of those, who by faith, conquered, and "from weakness were made strong" (v. 34). Faith can do extraordinary things. Faith sees God at work and marvels! Through their faith they were able to see God provide "something better". Oh, that we would be faithful to trust His faithfulness!

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Deuteronomy 7:2 talks about the fact that He will deliver them, they will defeat the enemies in the land. Verse 6 says, "for you are a holy people to the LORD your God, a people for His own possession."

If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are, also, chosen to be His holy people, a royal priesthood, to the world today. Titus 2:14 and 1 Peter 2:5 & 9 make that clear. And the sweet promise to you is that because you are His, He will lead you into the land to conquer what may look bigger and stronger, but will fall in the face of God. The obstacles in our lives are no match for Almighty God. Our Jehovah-Jireh who provides for all our needs.

Verse 9 says, "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments." Do you love Him, girlfriend? Do you believe His word?

I don't know what your "land" looks like today - perhaps the land is flat, straight and you can see for miles, all you have to do is put one foot in front of the other and go as fast, or slow, as your heart desires. It's smooth ground, and you have plenty of time to look around and enjoy the view because there are no obstacles in your way. There's no fear of getting tripped up. A blessed road ahead.

Or, you might find yourself with a few hills stretched out before you. Not large ones, just enough to gently roll over as you roll along. You can still see the general direction of the road stretched out before you, but it might require a little impetus to get up and over the hill. This territory is a cruise of small ups and downs that sometimes takes your breath away in this joyful journey, but stretches your faith muscles just a little.

There are those heading into a different territory, however, and it may be filled with treacherous mountains to climb. These mountains are so tall that you can't see what's on the other side, and frankly, you're not sure you have the stamina or strength to make it to the top. It looms like a threat to any ounce of peace and rest you desire. Can I encourage you to hold fast? Hold fast to the One who can carry you over and give you a view at the top that you'd never have imagined. He is faithful to His promises, dear one.

"When the LORD your God shall bring you into the land..." You're entering into a land and you need to know God is faithful! For the Jews, their land looked foreboding. To some it looked impossible. But God went before them. He cleared away the enemies, but you'll notice, they still had to do the work of ridding the land of them. God won't do the work of faith for us, He leaves that to our free will choice. He was faithful to deliver the enemy to them. Just as He reveals to us where we are fearful, where we are unforgiving, where we are lacking faith, where we are disobedient. It is up to us to believe. It is up to us to do the work to rid all enemies in our trust and faith in God. He is faithful in the land!

Whatever your territory looks like - You, have faith