

LIVING IN THE PROMISED LAND

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“And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, what is this proverb that you people have about the land of Israel, which says, “The days are prolonged and every vision fails?”””

“Tell them therefore, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel.””” But say to them, ‘The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision. For no more shall there be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel, for I am the LORD, I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your

days, O rebellious house; I will say the word and perform it, says the Lord of GOD.”

Ezekiel 12:21-25

About nine years ago the Lord gave me a series of messages that I ministered at a church in Michigan titled, “Living in the Promised Land.” As you know if you’ve followed our ministry, I’ve never preached the same message twice in over 40 years of being a minister for the Lord. And it’s important for you, especially if you’ve not developed *the Eye of the Eagle*, to understand: there’s a great difference between *a* word of the Lord and *the* word of the Lord! And that difference comes about through both the anointing and paying the price for that anointing or that message. Remember, anybody can preach *a* word of the Lord from the Bible but that doesn’t mean it is *the* Word of the Lord. I write about this in my book *The Prophetic Voice*—it’s called *prophetic preaching* and it’s very rare in churches today yet that is who we are at CCI. In the text from Ezekiel given above that the Lord reminded me of this morning at 3:33, it’s not a message for everybody! So much of what we hear in churches, on radio and T.V. ministries, etc., today is not prophetic preaching; sadly, much of the time it’s not even from the Lord although they may quote Scriptures to imply that it is. That’s because they (those preachers doing this)

don't know the Lord very well and they've not stood in His council.

We see on Facebook and other social media such as Twitter people giving words of the Lord that are no more words of the Lord than I'm the King of England. It's just a lot of nonsense and foolishness that they publish out of pride wanting to be known as a man or woman who hears from God. And if you know God very well you also know that most of the time what He speaks to you He doesn't want you to tell it to everyone because it's for you only.

Every month when I read the books of Kings, Chronicles, Jeremiah and Ezekiel I am reminded of a spiritual principle that is just as true today as it was in these Scriptures during the time that they were written—most prophets are false prophets! It's just a spiritual fact that Micaiah, Elijah, Elisha, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and other prophets of God had to deal with in their time and we do today in the body of Christ. True prophets of God have no hidden agenda; false prophets *always* have a hidden agenda and mostly today it revolves around money which is why I refer to them as “Balaam Boys.”

But now that we are in a new year—the year of vision—then if you expect to enter your Promised Land and live there off the “milk and honey” that is there then you need to hear from the Lord yourself and you should be able to do this. We get so many (scores) of prayer requests, requests to be mentored, etc., every day but my wife and I don't have the

time to pray for every single person who requests it; there simply isn't enough time in the day. We do respond to every single email, letter or IM but that doesn't mean we can honor your requests for prayers, etc. That is why *you* yourself must develop the Eye of the Eagle and be able to discern what is going on spiritually in your life and where the Lord is leading you. Remember, there are three plans for your life—your own, God's and Satan's. And if you don't have the Eye of the Eagle you will not be able to follow the Lord's perfect will for your life.

Now it's clear from the Scriptures that the Church is spiritual Israel. We see this not only in the Old Testament but also in the New. And I can tell you as a person who reads through the Bible every month that if you don't understand this concept it will be difficult for you to enter your own Promised Land.

Remember, and burn this into your own memory, Israel and the Church are *people of God* and they have a birth, life and future. This includes an inheritance. But that inheritance is always given by families! Yes, Israel as a nation was given "the Promised Land" but if you read Joshua you will understand that this inheritance was divided among tribes and families.

Similarly, in the Church, we have an inheritance that is divided among families—sure the Church of the living God is a family but then there are individual families within the Body of Christ and each family—each individual within that

family receives an inheritance. At least that is supposed to be how it works because God set it up that way. But remember this important spiritual fact, just because the Lord set it up that way doesn't mean that you will receive your inheritance or that other members of your family will receive theirs—it's up to you ultimately to enter your Promised Land. Remember, nobody can cross the River Jordan for you to inherit your promised inheritance—you have to cross the Jordan yourself and inherit the promises by faith.

And unfortunately, you may have difficulty finding a Moses or Joshua who can hear from the Lord to help you because of the state of the churches today—most have become businesses or little kingdoms that somebody is trying to establish without the Spirit of the Lord.

If you read *Another Gospel* you will know that most churches today preach *another* gospel just like Paul contended with in his day and they are led by *another* Jesus and *another* spirit—a religious spirit that mimics the Holy Spirit. As I've shared in my writings, the most shocking thing that the Lord has ever said to me was in October, 1991, just a few months after *Mysterious Secrets of the Dark Kingdom* was first published in June of that year. He said, "The church is not being led by the Holy Spirit—it's being led by religious spirits."

And you make think it's ludicrous for me to write as I did in *Another Gospel*, that most churches are this way you need

only look at what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church in 1 Cor. 12:28, and why we at CCI preach and teach Five-fold ministry.

“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers ...” So if you are honest with yourself and your “pastor” you will have to say that *IF* our church doesn’t believe in Five-fold ministry today then our church is not “the church” that Paul wrote his letter to; it is a different type of church led by another gospel, spirit and Jesus.

But the fact is most churches don’t even recognize this. Why? Because they don’t believe the Bible! You can go into any church in the world today and ask this question: “Do you believe the Bible?” They will all answer in the affirmative but they don’t. In fact, when the Lord spoke that shocking statement to me in 1991 about the churches being led by the religious spirit He said the following before that: “You say when ministering in churches that the number one problem in the Church is that my people don’t believe the Bible and that’s true, but another problem equally as bad is that the Church is not being led by the Holy Spirit—it’s being led by religious spirits.”

My brothers and sisters, as I’ve shared many times in preaching and writing, my wife and I have both been to Heaven a number of times though never together at the same time. One of the biggest surprises you will learn if you ever go there and speak with a number of angels is that they

cannot understand *why* we don't believe the Father! Why we don't believe the Word in the Bible!

More than anything else, not believing the Word of the Lord, the Bible, will keep you out of your Promised Land. I don't care how spiritual you think that you are you're probably not as spiritual as Moses was who spoke face to face with the Lord and yet did not inherit his promised land.

Christians we minister to every day are often shocked when I tell them, especially if they are battling a terminal illness such as cancer, "God will let you die." In case you don't know it, my brother and sister, there is a book—a file folder—in Heaven with your Name on it. Now I'm not talking about the Book of Life which is a huge book that contained at one time all who have ever been born. No, there is a specific book written about you! But whether you fulfill what is written there or even fulfill your "number of days" is up to you—how you live your life each day. You probably don't realize it but it's true and I can prove it to you from the Bible that you can add to, subtract from or even multiply the number of days you will live on this earth if the Lord tarries past your appointed time. And things that you do, especially sin and in particular a "sin unto death" will cut short your life on the earth.

Now when you're reading through the Bible each day you need to look for these spiritual truths concerning the Promised Land—the promises of God—to you that apply to your own life and the Church today. On the journey to the

Promised Land how did God lead the people? A cloud, right? Or if they were moving at night it was a pillar of Fire but both symbolize the Holy Spirit today. Now what would have happened if the people had just followed *any* cloud? Would they have ended up at the Land of Promise? No. And why not? Because they did not know where the Promised Land was located and they had to live and move by faith each day just like you do today.

ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND

As an individual in the Body of Christ it is your responsibility to go into and enter your Promised Land. Remember, you have a free will. And just like a person or whole tribe of Israel in their day could have refused to cross the Jordan so can you or members of your family—God never forces us—He gently leads. If you ever feel pressured to do something then it's not of the Spirit.

But just remember this important fact where your own promises of God abide—your personal Promised Land, entering the Promised Land and possessing it are two separate matters. Just look at the town or city where you live; how many churches are there? One would think that those churches are called by God to possess the Promised Land but are they?

About 8 years ago we were driving in Alabama enroute to minister at a church. As we drove through a small town in southern Alabama I remarked to my wife: “You can always

tell when you're in the South—there's a police car and a church every few blocks.” At that moment the Lord (did you know that the Lord rides with you in the car when you drive?) spoke up and said, “Yes, with all these churches in town how come the devil's still in charge of this community?” And that's a sad fact about most communities but the reason is simple—they have entered the Promised Land but they have no intention of possessing it! No, they want to just have a nice, short little service every Sunday morning and pretend that they are doing something for the Lord. They want to pretend that they are possessing the Promised Land but they don't want to pay the price to actually do it because that involves a lot of work—spiritual and physical work.

Some aren't possessing the land because they don't know how to do it—there are many toddler churches and pastors out there who want to do it all by themselves but they don't know how.

POSSESSING THE PROMISED LAND

So how does the Church and how do you as an individual possess your Promised Land? You do it just like Israel did; you do it through warfare! But because the Church is spiritual Israel it must be accomplished through spiritual warfare.

And on your own spiritual journey, like Israel, you must first pass the test of Kadesh Barnea—the test of faith! You must

believe the Word of God and act on it! You must know your promises for example in the way of healing and appropriate them when the devil attacks you or your family or you may die before entering your Promised Land. And this means that you have to spend a lot of time reading and meditating in the Word to know what it says and what your promises are.

Remember this important fact: there are general principles of God that apply to every born-again believer through covenant just as Israel had promises as the covenant people of Moses' day. You need to understand the principles of covenant and know what your New Covenant promises you.

Next, you need to spend time in personal prayer with the Lord and the Father. This requires time as well. In addition to regular quiet time with the Lord at home or out in the mountains you can spend a lot of time living a life of prayer by praying in (or by) the Spirit throughout the day.

Jesus is our example here. Look at the gospels; how often He ministered to people all day long who came to Him from early morning 'til long into the night. Yet we read, like in Luke 6, that He went to a deserted place and in Luke 6:12 we read: "Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." No doubt His physical body was dog tired from ministering all day and into the night with people yet He knew the importance of spending quality time in prayer for direction.

The fact is my brothers and sisters, you cannot possess your Promised Land—your own particular promises from God without prayer and having a spirit that is sensitive to the Lord because you must be able to hear His voice.

As I've shared in my writings and preaching, the Lord said to me over 20 years ago that He "is building the Church by revelation!" You must have revelation to know where to go and what to do. And, unfortunately, that is not how most churches are building their own little kingdoms. No, they are doing through the ways of the world.

"Spend much time praying in the Spirit," the Holy Spirit said to me in Africa 30 years ago, "and as you pray in the Spirit you will walk in the Spirit and spiritual things will become more real to you." That is how you develop the *EYE OF THE EAGLE* that you hear us talk about so much.

And finally, third, to possess your Promised Land, you must enter into spiritual warfare. Read the book of Joshua. Remember, just because the Canaanites, etc., were afraid of the Israelites doesn't mean that they just laid down their weapons and let them take their cities and lands. No! Warfare was required. And the churches in your town will never take their Promised Land without spiritual warfare; it's impossible.

Likewise, you have to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12) and war with your personal prophecies (1 Timothy 1:18-19) which are promises that the Lord has given

to you in particular either through a prophet or as a *rhema* word from the *Logos*.

Spend a lot of time meditating on Israel in the Pentateuch and in Joshua to learn from their mistakes so that you don't make the same ones. You will see that the first generation coming out of Egypt—except for Joshua and Caleb—did not inherit the Promised Land because of sin and rebellion. They were *not* doers of the Word but hearers only so they were deceived (James 1:22).

I hope this teaching article has helped clarify the steps that you need to take to reach your own Promised Land—THE VISIONS AND DREAMS THE LORD HAS GIVEN YOU because if you don't it will negatively affect the Church and the plan of God for this generation. We need your gifts and callings!

MARANATHA