What are You Waiting For?

Joshua 18:1-4 1 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

2 And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance.

3 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?

4 Give out from among you three men for each tribe: and I will send them, and they shall rise, and go through the land, and describe it according to the inheritance of them; and they shall come again to me.

INTRO: As the children of Israel finally begin to take possession of their inheritance,

- for some reason, we find 7 tribes that have failed to receive their inheritance.
- The same problem exists in the church today, there are many of God’s people who are living sub standard lives because they haven’t TAKEN HOLD OF THE PROMISES OF GOD

- We must recognize that when the Bible says they had not received their inheritance, what it actually means
  - is that they had failed to drive out the enemy.
  - It was an evident fact that their land though promised to them by God, was inhabited by people who opposed their right to the land.

- To posses their inheritance meant they had to dispossess the enemy.
  - By right of inheritance by the promise the land belonged to the children of Israel, but it was occupied & dominated by their enemies.

- With this clearly understood Joshua kinda rebukes them for not moving in faith concerning their inheritance.

LISTEN TO JOSHUA’S WORDS:
Joshua 18:3 (TLB) 3 ... ”How long are you going to wait before clearing out the people living in the land that the Lord your God has given to you?”
Why are you so (slow) to go in and take up your heritage in the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you?  GWV

How long are you going to waste time (conquering) the land which the LORD God of your ancestors has given you?  Rwebster

How long will ye (neglect) to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?

The point is:
#1 The land had been given to them by God
#2 It was their responsibility to do whatever they had to do in order to take possession of it.

Joshua was asking them how long they were going to hang back, & put off, possessing their inheritance.

How long were they going to be lazy, self preserving, fearful, & unwilling to engage the enemy & take their land.

There are many similarities between this old testament story & the new testament experience.

#1 By inheritance the land belonged to them,
   They were Abraham’s seed
   & heirs according to the promise.

#2 They must forcibly take possession of what was theirs legally.

#3 They were slack to take possession of what was theirs.
   We find this same scenario in the church world today.

The word of God is rich w/Gods promises toward the children of God.

We are also by faith THE SEED of Abraham, & WE ARE HEIRS to the blessing of Abraham

Gal 3:13-14 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
   That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:29 29 And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.
But as it was then even so is it today, there are enemies who have who possess our inheritance & we must be willing to fight for what is legally ours

Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

One reason many of God’s people are cheated out of their inheritance is:

because they do not know what belongs to them,
They are unfamiliar w/ the will.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

Another reason is:

we are just plain slack, slothful, lazy, (unwilling to have to fight for it).

Many Christians would rather live a low level mediocre self preserving life, & do w/out their rights & privileges as Sons & Daughters of God than have to engage the enemy in spiritual warfare.

& instead of admitting that we don’t have it because we’re not willing to fight for it,

We deceive ourselves & say (it’s not for us here to have here) (it’s all waiting for us in heaven).

Songs: There are songs written that suggest that our possessions are on the other side

This is unscriptural:

Our possessions are not over in heaven waiting for us to die so we can get them.

Our possessions are in Christ, waiting for us to rise up in faith, & drive out every enemy of our promises & take possession of what belongs to us through the redemptive work that God already did for us

The Promise Land of the O T was not a type of Heaven (There will not be any giants in heaven resisting our rights & privileges).

No sir, The Promise Land of the O T was a type of our inheritance in the NT, & we must possess it through aggressive faith in Christ Jesus
Heb 11:6... he is a rewarer of them that diligently seek him.  KJV
2 Co 1:20 For all the promises of God (in him) are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

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- We need a clear vision
  - of that what is ours in Christ, (Our inheritance)
  - Our rights & privileges as Sons & Daughters of God
  - The devil oppresses many of Gods people
  - & keeps them in Bondage,
  - because they do not know
  - who they are in Christ

- The devil’s greatest fear
  - is that we will discover who we are in Christ
  - & What belongs to us
  - & that we will take possession of our inheritance.

- The devil knows if the believer ever finds out
  - who they are and starts to fight,
  - they will win because
  - he knows he is already defeated
  - by the Power of the Cross

- So the devil tries to convince us
  - that there is nothing here worth fighting for,
  - that we’ll get our pot of gold at the end of the trail & we’ll get it when we die.

- But the truth is our inheritance
  - & that truth is willed to us,
  - & the Truth shall set you free
  - & we have full rights to that

- I Don’t Need Money When I Get to Heaven
  (I NEED IT NOW)
- I Don’t Need Healing When I Get to Heaven
  ( I NEED IT NOW).
- I Don’t Need Power over the Devil When I Get to Heaven
  (I NEED IT NOW).

- Joshua realized that to get them motivated
  - they needed to see =
  - (get a revelation of what belonged to them).
  - Eph 1:17-18 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
    18 (The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know) what is the hope of his calling, and what (the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints).
He Sent Them to Survey, to Spy out the Land = (Take Inventory).

This is what we must do:
We must get in the word
& search out our inheritance,
get a revelation of what belongs to us,
begin to see ourselves living in the fullness
of the life Jesus brought.

It’s time to stake your claim:
Hey If you do not stake your claim
concerning the promises of God,
& you do not personalize them
you will never possess them.

You can say: I believe the bible is true,
I believe every promise from cover to cover,
but if you do not know what those promises are
& you do not personalize them
& CLAIM THEM AS YOUR OWN,
YOU WILL NEVER EXPERIENCE THEM.

Many of Gods people miss out on their inheritance because they are waiting for God to give them what is already theirs by inheritance.

Many times we are praying
& asking for things that are already ours:
How ridiculous would it have been
for those 7 tribes to approach Joshua & say:
Please give us our inheritance,
please give us what God promised us.

No It was already theirs & they knew it,
They just had to possess it.

IT IS TRUE IN OUR CASE ALSO:
Eph 1:3 He (hath) blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
2Peter 1:3 According as his divine power (hath given) unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness
1 Co 3:21-23 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things (are) yours;
22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come;
all (are) yours;
23 And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.
Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

You see brothers & sisters: We are already delivered from the power of darkness Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

We are already the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.
2 Corinthians 5:21 ... we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

We are already healed by the stripes of Jesus according to 1 pet 2:24
1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

We have already been given power to tread on serpents and scorpions and all the power of the enemy. Lk 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to treadon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

These promises & many others constitute/make up Establish our promise land, our inheritance here on earth

According to Eph 1:6 We have already been raised up together & made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
Eph 2:5-14 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of
yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.
10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto
good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk
in them.
11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in
the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called
the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;
12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from
the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of
promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:
13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are
made nigh by the blood of Christ.
14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken
down the middle wall of partition between us;

✱ The question is not whether or not it belongs to you,
No the question is the same as that which was asked by
Joshua:
✱How long are you going to be slack concerning the
promises of God, to take possession of that which God has
already given you.

✱ How long are you going to let the devil cheat you
out of what belongs to you.

✱ JESUS PAID FOR IT WITH HIS BLOOD,
IT BELONGS TO YOU
BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT.

✱ The world has a saying,
there is a lot of truth in it.
ANYTHING WORTH HAVING
IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

✱ Whatever God has promised you is yours legally,
every dream, every prophetic utterance,
Now it's up to you to stand up in faith
& in the power of the Holy Spirit
& SAY IT'S MINE.

GIVE ME MY MOUNTAIN