

7 ENEMIES IN THE PROMISED LAND

INTRODUCTION

We are about to complete our 2013 Daniel fast. Whether we fasted for 10 days, 21 days or even if we didn't fast, the fasting that has been done has resulted in people have drawing nearer to the Lord, people have praying more, and spending more time in the word. We have had special Wednesday meetings and we can see that the fast has had an impact upon the entire congregation.

We fast at the beginning of the year because we want to start the year right. We want to place God first in our lives, receive vision **and receive total victory** so that we can be blessed throughout the year.

2 Wednesdays ago, we heard a message about the fast enabling us to get "total victory":

2 Kings 13:15-19 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows. ¹⁶ Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand *on it*, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. ¹⁷ And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened *it*. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; **for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them.**" ¹⁸ Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took *them*. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped. ¹⁹ And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed *it!* But now you will strike Syria *only* three times."

As we stand on the threshold of the rest of the year, we don't want only partial victory, we want full victory. We don't want to strike the enemy only 3 times, we want to defeat him in every aspect of our lives so that we can to cross our Jordan and possess our promised land, the land of milk and honey.

God told the Israelites of 7 enemies which they were to utterly destroy and make no covenant with. These nations represent 7 types of evil which we need to deal with and utterly destroy lest they prevent us from fully possessing our promised land.

MESSAGE

Deuteronomy 7:1-2 "When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out 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 mightier than you, 2 and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, **you shall conquer**

them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

- These nations were greater and mightier than the Israelites – they would not have been able to defeat them on their own.
- God would deliver them over to the Israelites.
- They were to be conquered and utterly destroyed.
- They were not to make covenant with them nor show them any mercy.

WHAT RISK DID THESE NATIONS POSE TO ISRAEL?

To us, these nations, which were literal people in the past, now represent 7 "varieties" of evil spirits, which are the evil counterparts of the 7 fold Spirit of God:

Isaiah 11:2 And the **Spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon him, the Spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the Spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the Spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear of the LORD**.

- These nations were idol (demon) worshippers.
- They offered human sacrifice.
- They would become a snare to the Israelites.

Even Solomon fell under their snare! **2 Kings 23:13** Then the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, which were on the south of the Mount of Corruption, which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon.

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THESE NATIONS TO US TODAY?

Hittites:

One who is broken; who fears, sons of terror, subliminal torments, phobias, depression, deceit.

Many people suffer from different fears, fear of the unknown, fear of the dark, fear of being robbed or attacked, fear of witnessing. Satanism thrives on fear, its one of the ways they keep people captive. Un-controlled fear leads to **a type of paralysis**, think of someone "frozen by fear". A person suffering from this kind of fear is broken and needs healing.

There is only one good fear and that is the fear of the Lord! All other fear is an opposing spirit!

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

We need to ask God to assist us with overcoming all unnatural fear and to replace it with a spirit of power, love and a sound mind. Then we will become effective as Christians and we will have no fear to be witnesses.

Girgashites:

One who arrives from pilgrimage, Clay dwellers.

Arriving from pilgrimage means that they have returned from the holy place they visited... **when they discovered what was good and right, they turned around and came back** .

They become clay dwellers – **clay represents earthliness!** Girgashites are people who go back and are earthy.

- This represents backsliding and carnality.
- It also represents unbelief in what cannot be seen
- Girgashites battle by degrees. That is, by little compromises.

This type of spirit promotes a focus on earthly, temporal, things, and produces a disdain for things that are "spiritual" and eternal, thereby denying the truth of the following passage: **2 Corinthians 5:1** "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Notice how the verse above does the opposite of the Girgashite spirit. It recognizes the temporality of our earthly tabernacle and sets its sights on things that are eternal in the heavens.

If we want total victory, we must learn to do battle with the little compromises that this enemy puts before us. **It's the little foxes that spoil the vine!** We must do battle with the spirit of backsliding and carnality. No habit or sin is too great that you and God cannot overcome it.

Amorites:

Means bitter; a rebel; a babbler

- Bitterness and unforgiveness go hand-in-hand. Bitterness defiles and is also infectious (many become defiled).
- The Amorites were people who were arrogant and boastful in their speech (babblers) – people who always know better.
- They were rebels - they always challenged and opposed – when people are rebellious, there is no place for unity!

Hebrews 12:14-15 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, **without which no one will see the Lord**: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble**, and by this many become defiled;

We too have to conquer our tongue, our attitude and our pride so that we will

not fall short of the grace of God and we will have complete victory!

Canaanites:

This name means merchants who humiliate.

- They were financial giants, lording it over others who had less!
- The name also means addictions, perversions – they were addicted to Mammon, the perversion of wealth.

Matthew 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

As God's children, we need to learn what God wants done in the area of our finances. The devil would love to conquer us through bad financial decisions or buy distracting them with chasing after earthly riches.

God want us to be **total conquerors in the area of our finances.** He wants us to be good stewards, **not loving money but loving God** and managing our finances in a way that they will be a blessing to our families and to the Kingdom of God!

Perizzites:

Dwelling in villages, limited vision, laziness, low self-esteem.

- A village is small, it's not a town and it's not a city. We will be citizens of Jerusalem, the Holy City which has no equal.
- People of limited vision don't see reason to fast or to get involved with the work of the kingdom.
- They have low self-esteem and don't believe they can make a difference.
- When the Israelites took the promised land, all the men fought, they didn't say, no, I'm remaining in this land that has been given me on the other side of the Jordan!

Proverbs 29:18 (AMP) Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.

We need to destroy all spiritual laziness, and say like Paul, "I am who I am through Christ". And we need to get up and take our promised land.

Hivites:

Meant wicked ,wickedness, vision limited to enjoying an earthly inheritance, hedonism.

The Hivites claimed to offer a good life by living their lifestyle. Many alternate philosophies and religions today offer to give their adherents "life". The enemy

loves to lure people into lifestyles claiming to be the answer to that person's needs and desires.

- Lifestyles such as "swinging",
- "if it feels good- do it",
- "don't worry what other people think",
- "look out for number one",

These things can all lure people away from the lifestyle that God requires of them.

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

God is calling us to completely overcome the alternate desires of the flesh so that we can have total victory in Christ.

Jebusites:

Jebus - treading under foot; manger, threshers, suppression of spiritual authority in fellow believers, legalism.

Doesn't this sound just like the Pharisees – hypocrites, they trod the word of God underfoot and in their legalistic way made the word of no value to the people!

The bible speaks of two areas where people can be defiled: sexually (Gen. 34:5) and religiously (Lev. 18:30; 20:3; Neh. 13:29). The Jebusite spirit seeks to destroy the believer in these two areas.

We fight by observing God's Word, not defiling it in any way by legalism, blind tradition or immorality, and we assist our fellow believers to live in total victory too!

CONCLUSION

- Hittites: Sons of terror, Subliminal torments, phobias, terror, depression.
- Gergashites: Clay dwellers, focus on earthliness, unbelief.
- Amorites: bitter; a rebel; a babbler..
- Canaanites: Addiction to earthly wealth.
- Perizzites: Limited vision, laziness, low self-esteem.
- Hivites: Vision limited to enjoying an earthly inheritance, anything goes as long as you enjoy it!
- Jebusites: Threshers, suppression of spiritual authority in others, legalism.

7 Enemies of our souls, 7 opposers of the sevenfold Spirit of God. If we want to experience total victory, we need to overcome and totally destroy these 7 areas as we come across them in our walk with the Lord. Let us start today!