

June 20, 2010

NOW, THEREFORE, ARISE
Joshua 1: 1-9

Israel is NOW ready to enter the Land of Promise. They were NOT ready before. But, NOW they are. They were NOT ready to enter this land when they were in bondage in Egypt. They were NOT ready during the wilderness experience. They were NOT ready until their ðunbelieving fathersð were taken out of the way.

And, they were NOT ready while Moses lived. Moses was not to enter into this land, nor lead the nation into it. But, NOW Moses is dead. NOW all these things have been settled. NOW Israel is ready to enter into the Land of Promise.

Letð read these first two verses of our text.

Look at Joshua 1: 1-2, **“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,**

2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.”

It seems that the LAST thing standing between Israel and their entrance into the Land of Promise was Moses. I don't think it was Moses (personally), but rather, what Moses represented to this nation.

Moses was the man of LAW. It was thru him that the nation Israel received the ðFirst Testamentð, the Ten Commandments, the ðOld Covenantð. It was thru Moses that the strictness and specifics of LAW were given as recorded in the book of Leviticus. Moses whole history with the nation Israel concerned LAW.

Even in Christð day, the Jews were still trusting in Moses, (specifically, in the LAW God gave them thru him).

Look at John 5: 45, **“Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust.”**

Today? What does the name Moses bring to mind? 10 commandments?

But, Moses, the man of LAW, was dead. God would have it understood that Mercy and NOT Law gave Israel that land. God would have it understood that it was by His Grace that Israel inherited this land, and NOT Works (I.e. God would have it understood that Israelð entrance into this land had NO CONNECTION to a sinnersðobedience to LAW).

Look back at Joshua 1: 2, **“Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.”**

The man who represented the LAW in Christ's day, (and still does even today), was dead. NOW Israel is ready to enter the land they were promised.

How does this apply to you and me? REMEMBER! The Land of Promise is a TYPE of the eternal REST God brings each of His elect into in each successive generation.

No sinner has RESTED in Christ; NO sinner is ready to REST in Christ UNTIL the LAW has been settled in his/her mind. And, the LAW has NOT been settled until we have seen some things none of us know by nature.

Paul described a time in his life when his understanding of the LAW was confused. Look at Rom 7: 9, **“For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.”**

I see four things. First, that the STANDARD of LAW is perfection (thought, word, deed). God taught Adam this STANDARD. Paul described this STANDARD, quoting what Moses wrote in Leviticus.

Look at 10: 5, **“For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.”**

Christ taught this STANDARD in the Sermon on the Mount.

Look at Matt 5: 48, **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”**

NO sinner has RESTED in Christ until they have understood that the STANDARD of LAW is perfection.

Second, NO sinner has RESTED in Christ until they understand that NO SINNER has measured up to this STANDARD.

Look at Rom 3: 23, **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”**

Third, since the STANDARD of the LAW is perfection; and since NO SINNER has measured up to this STANDARD; all any sinner can deserve from God (based on our BEST efforts of LAW) is God's eternal wrath.

God says in Ezekiel, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” And, Paul reinforces that statement.

Look at Rom 6: 23, **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

NO SINNER has RESTED or can REST in Christ UNTIL they have seen that all we can deserve from God based on our BEST obedience is His eternal wrath.

Based on all this, WHERE, then, is a sinner to find hope? The ONLY (right) answer is in Christ ALONE.

This is the Fourth thing a sinner MUST understand before they can REST in Christ. Christ ALONE has met God's STANDARD. Christ ALONE has satisfied the LAW in its precept (i.e. its demand for obedience). And, Christ ALONE has satisfied the LAW in its penalty (i.e. in its demand of eternal death to every soul that sins). Christ ALONE attained the GOAL of the LAW. He ALONE established the ONE Righteousness based upon which God is Just to Justify the ungodly. And, in so doing He ended the law for righteousness for every believing sinner.

Look at Rom 10: 4, **“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”**

To the nation Israel the Land of Promise was a Land of REST. But, it is, also, TYPICAL of the Eternal REST that every believing sinner finds in the doing and dying of Christ ALONE. And, NO SINNER has found their REST in Christ UNTIL they have understood the NECESSITY of their being found in Christ's imputed Righteousness ALONE; and NOT in their own righteousness to any degree.

Now, Look at Joshua 1: 3-4, **“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.**

4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.”

EVERY hill would be taken. EVERY valley would be settled. EVERY city would be occupied. EVERY square inch within these geographical boundaries belonged to the nation Israel.

These verses speak of the COMPLETENESS of Israel's inheritance. There are boundaries to this land. But, EVERYTHING inside those boundaries was the inheritance of the nation Israel. EVERY part of that land was their promised possession. And, it was GIVEN to them by God's providential goodness and mercy alone.

Moses described the fullness and completeness of this land.

Look at Deut 8: 7-9, **“For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;
8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;
9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.”**

This is describing a land of ABUNDANCE. It was a land without WANT (nothing lacking).

This is, of course, speaking (typically) of the COMPLETENESS that every regenerated sinner finds in Christ. There is NO want in Christ. There is NO lack in His provision. EVERY sinner in Him is COMPLETE.

Look at Col 2: 8-10, **“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”

NO sinner in Christ lacks for anything to stand before God and be counted Just and Righteous in His sight. What every sinner needs is to be brought to the knowledge of this COMPLETENESS. What every sinner needs is to be brought to the Christ who has done everything to make every sinner in Him stand COMPLETE.

Faith does not “complete” a sinner’s standing before God. Faith sees a sinner’s standing COMPLETE in Christ ALONE. And, (true) Faith is the EVIDENCE that a sinner stands COMPLETE in Christ ALONE.

The command of the Scriptures is, “Rest your whole salvation in Christ ALONE.” And, Christ promises REST to any sinner seeking such REST.

Look at Matt 11: 28-29, **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

The REST spoken of is “rest” from YOUR efforts to please God; “rest” from YOUR attempts to make yourself acceptable with God. That is what every sinner is doing before we see the COMPLETENESS of Christ’s work for His sheep. All are “laboring” under this “heavy load” of effort to gain or maintain our approval and favor of God.

These commands, “come”, “take”, “learn” are not conditions sinners meet in order to obtain or improve their acceptance with God. They are EVIDENCES that a sinner has found his/her COMPLETENESS in the finished work of Christ. They are EVIDENCES that a sinner has RESTED their whole salvation NOT in their works, but in Christ’s work ALONE.

We are to work (“labor”), but not to obtain or improve our acceptance with God. That is legalism. We are to “labor” to enter into that REST found in the doing and dying of Christ ALONE .

Look at Heb 4: 8-9, **“For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.**

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.”

He is speaking of Joshua giving Israel (temporal) REST. Their REST was (typical) of the eternal REST found in Christ ALONE.

Look at Heb 4: 10-11, **“For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.**

11 ¶ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

When the Spirit brings a sinner to Christ and gives them REST in Him, that REST is COMPLETE. It lacks nothing. There is still plenty to be done. But, there is NOTHING (lacking) for every sinner in Christ to be saved and kept in God’s eternal favor. Salvation is of the Lord. And, the COMPLETENESS of that salvation is in the doing and dying of Christ ALONE.

EVERY sinner in Christ is COMPLETE (in Him). HE (alone) is their COMPLETENESS.

The next thing we will see is the CERTAINTY of Joshua delivering to EVERY Israelite the inheritance they had been promised.

Look at Joshua 1: 5-6, **“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**

6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.”

Joshua is encouraged to be strong and of a good courage, NOT just within himself, but, TOWARD God. He is encouraged to be strong toward God’s willingness and power to fulfill His Promise to give Israel this land.

I.e. God is commanding Joshua to be like Abraham. Be fully persuaded that what God has promised He is able also to perform.

Look at Rom 4: 20-21, **“He (Abraham) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;**

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”

God had promised Israel this land. And, now He has promised Joshua that he is the one appointed to cause everyone in this nation to inherit the land they were promised.

God’s command and encouragement to Joshua was. Be strong and of a good courage (not necessarily in himself), but, rather, towards God’s faithfulness to fulfill His Promises.

And, Joshua was! Not one Israelite household failed to inherit their portion in the Land of Promise. Joshua did not rest until that was a reality. The remainder of Joshua's life was consumed in that effort.

This is typical of the CERTAINTY of Christ bringing every "heir of grace" into the REST they were "promised" in Him "before the world began".

Can ANY sinner chosen by God and redeemed by Christ fail to REST their whole salvation in Christ ALONE? Can ANY sinner Christ died for arrive at Final Judgment NOT knowing the Savior who bought them? Not a possibility! Christ will not REST until that is a REALITY.

"My sheep hear by voice, and I know them and they FOLLOW ME." "All that the Father giveth me SHALL COME TO ME." "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold. Them I MUST bring."

Each one of Christ's sheep will come to Him, because **He** will not "rest" until He has brought them to faith and repentance (i.e. until He has brought them to REST in Him ALONE).

Look at Luke 15: 3-7, "**And he spake this parable unto them, saying,**
4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?
5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.
7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Notice! Christ relates His "finding the lost sheep" to the sheep's repentance. I.e. "Lost sheep" have been "found" when they come to true faith in Christ ALONE and repentance of dead works and idolatry.

This world cannot end until each "sheep" has been given this REPENTANCE.

Look at II Peter 3: 9, "**The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**"

Joshua (the type) spent his final days making sure every Israelite inherited the land they were promised. Christ (the antitype) "ever liveth" to make sure each of His elect REST in the salvation He worked out for them by His obedience unto death.

Look at Heb 7: 20-25, "**And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:**

- 21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)
- 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.
- 23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:
- 24 But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.
- 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Joshua did not fail to ðivide for an inheritance the landö Israel was promised. And, Christ ðever liveth to make intercessionö for His sheep. He ðever livethö to make sure each one receives every benefit He merited for them by His obedience unto death. He ðever livethö to bring each one to REST in His finished work ALONE. REST for His sheep is CERTAIN, because HE will not ðrestö until their REST is a reality.

Look now at the last point. Look at Joshua 1: 7-8, “**Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.**”

- 8 **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”**

God commanded Joshua to be zealous toward the LAW. But, why? Because the LAW he was under pointed him to Christ. Christ was TYPIFIED in every aspect of the Mosaic LAW. Paul (a natural born Jew as was Joshua) said in Gal, “**The law was our schoolmaster unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**”

Joshua was ðacting wiselyö when he considered, when he meditated upon, when he ðturned not from the right or the leftö of that which taught him of Christ.

For over 1500 years the LAW taught Israel of Christ thru pictures and types. When Christ came, He fulfilled every picture and type and ended the LAW (as it was given to that nation).

Today, we have the Gospel, (wherein the Righteousness of God is revealed). What is Righteousness? It is perfect satisfaction to Godø LAW and JUSTICE. It is the MERIT Christø obedience unto death.

We STILL consider the LAW, but NOT thru our ðfeebleö efforts at obedience, but, rather, in Christø PERFECT obedience. He ALONE ðmagnified the lawö. He ALONE made the law ðhonorableö.

We ðact wiselyö when we consider Christ and the Gospel which reveals Him. Where would this world be without LAW (without a STANDARD)? The GOSPEL reminds us that there is a STANDARD to be met. Christø death reminds us God will not compromise that STANDARD.

God commands sinners to **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”** And, that is His command to sinners in EVERY generation. His STANDARD has not changed. God ALWAYS demands perfection. He can command NO LESS.

But, who has such perfection? It is (certainly) NOT found in any son or daughter of Adam. That is why sinners (like you and me) MUST look outside themselves for ALL of salvation.

Iðl conclude this lesson with the last verse in our text.

Look at Joshua 1: 9, **“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”**

Under Godø command to enter in, and under His promise to give Israel that land, and in His presence all the way, how could Joshua go wrong? He could not. God (Himself) was guaranteeing his success.

Nor, can any sinner today go wrong seeing: that Godø STANDARD has NOT changed; that He STILL demands perfection; that God has provided salvation for the öchiefö of sinners in Christ and Christ ALONE; that He is öwithö every sinner who RESTS in Christ imputed Righteousness ALONE.

By Mark Pannell