

OUT OF BONDAGE INTO ABUNDANCE

Conquering Seven Nations

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INTRODUCTION

- A. The amazing story of God’s deliverance of His people Israel out of Egypt and His taking them into the Promised Land is a prevalent theme throughout Scripture. The Bible reveals that God had a two-fold purpose for His people: He **brought them out** of Egypt **to take them in** to Canaan, the Promised Land
- B. **Ex. 3:7-8:** *⁷The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the **misery** of My people in Egypt. I have heard them **crying out** because of their **slave drivers**, and I am concerned about their **suffering**.⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to **bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land**, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the **Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites**.*
- C. **Deut. 6:20-23:** *²⁰In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?”²¹tell him: “**We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt**, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.²²Before our eyes the LORD sent miraculous signs and wonders—great and terrible—upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household.²³But **He brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that HE PROMISED ON OATH** to our forefathers.*
- D. The Promised Land was a place of abundant provision (**Deut. 6:10-12**): *¹⁰When the LORD your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a **land with large, flourishing cities you did not build**,¹¹**houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant**—then when you eat and are satisfied,¹²be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*
- E. It was a well-watered, fruitful and rich land (**Deut. 8:7-10**): *⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a **good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in***

the valleys and hills; ⁸a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. ¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.

- F. Canaan was a land that drinks rain from heaven where they were to love and serve the Lord, enjoying long life like the days that the heavens are above the earth (**Deut. 11:8-15, 21**): ⁸...go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess... a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰**The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden. ¹¹But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. ¹²It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end... ²¹so that your days and the days of your children may be... as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.**
- G. **Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan is an amazing picture of the New Testament believer's salvation** out of the bondage of sin (John 8:34) and entrance into abundant life through Jesus Christ.
- H. Paul explained that the entire account of Israel's exodus from Egypt is an example for us (**1 Cor. 10:1-11**): ¹For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²**They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did... ¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings FOR US, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.**

- I. There were **three important steps** in Israel’s deliverance from Egypt that correspond to **three distinct New Testament experiences** in Christ (John 3:3-5):
1. Celebration of the Passover (Ex. 12) = salvation (*born again*)
 2. Crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 14) = water baptism (*born of water*)
 3. Coming to Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19) = baptism in the Holy Spirit (*born of the Spirit*)
- J. Just as Israel’s deliverance began with the blood of the Passover lamb, so the Christian’s salvation (from the slavery of sin) begins through the blood of Christ, the true Passover Lamb who was sacrificed for them (**1 Cor. 5:7-8**): *7Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.*
- K. As already noted, Paul referred to Israel’s “baptism” in the Red Sea (water baptism) and in the cloud (Holy Spirit baptism) in **1 Cor. 10:1-2**: *1For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.*
- L. Just as God descended at Mt. Sinai to “tabernacle” amongst His people and to give them His law, Paul told the Corinthians that they had become the “*temple of God*” (1 Cor. 3:16) through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the law being written “*by the Spirit of the living God... not on tablets of stone [as at Sinai] but on tablets of human hearts*” (2 Cor. 3:2-8).
- M. After wandering for forty years in the wilderness, the Israelites came to the River Jordan, where God affirmed through Joshua that it was time to enter into the Promised Land and begin to take possession:
- Josh. 1:1-6**: *1After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3I will give you*

every place where you set your foot... ⁵No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”

- N. Like the Red Sea forty years earlier, the Jordan River’s waters were miraculously parted, enabling the people to cross over on dry ground with renewed faith that God would drive out the seven enemy nations of Canaan:

Josh. 3:5-17: ⁵Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for **tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.**” ⁶Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the Ark of the Covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them... ⁸Tell the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: “When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.” ⁹Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. ¹⁰**This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that He will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Gergashites, Amorites and Jebusites...** ¹⁷The priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the **whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.**

- O. Next, Joshua met the Commander of the Lord’s army, and received a **very important revelation** that he and the Israelite community needed to understand before their conquest of Canaan and its seven nations began: this was NOT *their* battle but the *Lord’s*:

Josh. 5:13-15: ¹³Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a Man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua went up to Him and asked, “Are You for us or for our enemies?” ¹⁴“Neither,” He replied, “but as **Commander of the army of the LORD** I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked Him, “What message does my Lord have for His servant?” ¹⁵The Commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

P. From the very time God had appeared to Moses at the burning bush, He had been telling them about certain enemy nations that resided in the Promised Land:

1. **Ex. 3:8:** *So I have come down to deliver them [Israel] out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the **place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.***
2. **Ex. 23:20-28 (NKJV):** ²⁰*Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.* ²¹*Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.* ²²*But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.* ²³*For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the **Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.*** ²⁴*You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars...* ²⁷*I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.* ²⁸*And **I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you.***

Q. After 40 years in the wilderness, Moses enumerated **seven nations** that the Lord would drive out of Canaan:

Deut. 7:1-6: ¹*When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the **Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—***²*and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.* ³*Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,* ⁴*for they will turn your children away from following Me to*

serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. ⁵This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. ⁶For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession.

R. Why “seven” nations?

1. “Seven” is the number of fullness or perfection
2. The moral wickedness of the inhabitants of Canaan had reached “full measure”:
3. **Gen. 15:12-16:** *¹²As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its **full measure.**”*
4. “Full measure” [Heb. *shalem* = “complete, full, perfect”]

S. God made it clear to the Israelites that He was not driving these nations out because of Israel’s righteousness, but because of the wickedness and evil of these seven nations:

1. **Deut. 9:1-5:** *¹Hear, Israel: You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky. ²The people are strong and tall—Anakites! You know about them and have heard it said: “Who can stand up against the Anakites?” ³But be assured today that the LORD your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them; He will subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them quickly, as the LORD has promised you. ⁴After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, “The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.”*

No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is going to drive them out before you. ⁵It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the **wickedness** of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

2. “Wickedness” [Heb. *rishah* = “wrong (especially moral); fault, wickedness, iniquity”]
3. Their religious & moral practices were very evil and perverse:

Ps. 106:34-40: ³⁴*They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them,* ³⁵*but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs.* ³⁶*They **worshipped their idols**, which became a snare to them.* ³⁷*They **sacrificed their sons and their daughters to false gods.*** ³⁸*They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the **idols of Canaan**...* ³⁹*They defiled themselves... they prostituted themselves.* ⁴⁰*Therefore the LORD was angry...*

Lev. 18:22-28: ²²*Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.* ²³*Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a **perversion.*** ²⁴*Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how **the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled.*** ²⁵*Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.* ²⁶*...you must not do any of these detestable things,* ²⁷*for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled.* ²⁸*And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.*

- T. God would give the Israelites complete victory—they would not overcome with their own sword or bow:

Josh. 24:11-13: ¹¹*Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did also the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I gave them into your hands.* ¹²*I sent*

*the hornet ahead of you, which drove them out before you— also the two Amorite kings. **You did not do it with your own sword and bow.** ¹³So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.*

- U. Origin of the seven nations: Six of the seven were descendants of Noah's cursed grandson, Canaan, the son of Ham:

Gen. 9:18-27: ¹⁸*The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (**Ham was the father of Canaan.**)* ¹⁹*These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth.* ²⁰*Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard.* ²¹*When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.* ²²**Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside.** ²³*But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.* ²⁴**When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him,** ²⁵*he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."* ²⁶*He also said, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem.* ²⁷*May Canaan be the slave of Japheth."*

Gen. 10:6-17: ⁶*The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put and Canaan...* ¹⁵**Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, and of the Hittites,** ¹⁶**Jebusites, Amorites, Gargashites, Hivites.**

- V. The following is a summary of the seven nations to be studied and what each represents spiritually:

1. Canaanites – worldliness & love of money
2. Amorites – pride
3. Hittites – fear & unbelief
4. Hivites – deception, lying & hypocrisy
5. Gargashites – backsliding & slothfulness
6. Perizzites – independence, separation & division
7. Jebusites – discouragement & depression

I. CANAANITES

- A. **Num. 13:29:** *The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.*
- B. **Literal meaning** of the name: Heb. *kenaan* = “peddler, merchant, trafficker”
- C. **Spiritual meaning:** worldliness, love of money and the world
- D. Love of the world forbidden in the New Testament:
1. **1 John 2:15-17:** ¹⁵*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*
 2. **James 4:4:** *You **adulterous** people, don't you know that **friendship with the world means enmity against God?** Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*
 3. **James 1:27:** *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself **unspotted** [“uncontaminated” – AMP; “unstained” – NAS; “not polluted” – NIV] from the world.*
- E. The present world order or system is under satanic control—the devil is the “god of this world”:
1. **1 John 5:19:** *We know that we are children of God, and that the **whole world is under the control of the evil one.***
 2. **Mat. 4:8-10:** ⁸*Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the **kingdoms of the world and their splendor.** ⁹“All this **I will give You,**” he said, “if You will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”*
 3. **2 Cor. 4:3-4 (NAS):** ³... *the **god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ...*

4. **John 14:30:** ⁰...*the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over Me...*
 5. **Eph. 2:1-2:** ¹*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,* ²*in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*
 6. **1 Cor. 2:12:** *What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God...*
- F. Because of Satan’s influence, the whole world system is wicked, perverse and ungodly:
1. **Gal. 1:4 (AMP):** *...to rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order...*
 2. **Phil. 2:14:** *...children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation...*
 3. **Mat. 16:4:** *“A wicked and adulterous generation...*
 4. **Eph. 6:12:** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*
- G. In the world, but not of the world:
1. **John 17:14-16:** ¹⁴...*the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.* ¹⁵*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one.* ¹⁶*They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.*
 2. **John 18:36:** *Jesus said, “My kingdom is **not of this world.** If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now My kingdom is from another place.”*
 3. **Gal. 6:14:** *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the **world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.***
- H. The Canaanites represent a “merchant spirit”— buying & selling, love of money, focused on temporal, material riches:
1. **1 Tim. 6:4-11:** ⁴*They are conceited and understand nothing... **people of corrupt mind,** who have been robbed of*

the truth and **who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.** ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹**Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap** and into many foolish and harmful desires that **plunge people into ruin and destruction.** ¹⁰For the **LOVE OF MONEY IS A ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL.** Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. ¹¹But you, man of God, **flee from all this,** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. [NOTE: Canaan was the “root of 5 of the other evil nations!]

2. **Luke 17:26-32:** ²⁶Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷People were **eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage** up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, **buying and selling, planting and building.** ²⁹But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹On that day **no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them.** Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. ³²**Remember Lot's wife!**
3. **Luke 12:15-21, 33-34:** ¹⁵Then He said to them, “Watch out! **Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.**” ¹⁶And He told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁸‘I will build bigger barns, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’” ²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’” ²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God...” ³³**Sell your possessions and give to the poor.** Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out,

a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

4. **Luke 16:13-15:** *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**”* ¹⁴*The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.* ¹⁵*He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. **What people value highly is detestable in God's sight.**”*
5. **Mark 10:17-25:** ²¹*Jesus looked at him [rich young ruler] and loved him. “One thing you lack,” He said. **“Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.”*** ²²*At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.* ²³*Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, **“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”*** ²⁴*The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵**It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.**”*

I. **How to overcome worldliness:**

1. **Faith:**

1 John 5:4-5: ⁴*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*** ⁵ *Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

2. **Grace:**

Tit. 2:11-14: ¹¹*For the **grace of God** has appeared that offers salvation to all people.* ¹²*It teaches us to say **“No” to ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,* ¹³*while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,* ¹⁴*who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.*

3. Don't conform or compromise:

- a) The Israelites were warned not to intermarry or make treaties with the seven nations—in other words, **NO COMPROMISE!**

Deut. 7:1-6: ¹When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—²and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must **destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.** ³**Do not intermarry with them.** Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, ⁴for they will turn your children away from following Me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. ⁵This is what you are to do to them: **Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire.** ⁶**For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession.**

Josh. 24:14-15: ¹⁴Now fear the LORD and serve Him with all faithfulness. **Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped** beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the **gods of the Amorites**, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

- b) **2 Cor. 6:14-18:** ¹⁴**Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.** For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or **what fellowship can light have with darkness?** ¹⁵What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or **what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?** ¹⁶**What agreement is there between the temple of God and**

*idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."*¹⁷Therefore, "**Come out from them and BE SEPARATE**, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."¹⁸And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

- c) **Rom. 12:1-2:** *¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

4. Listen to the Spirit of God, not the spirit of the world:

1 Cor. 2:9-14: *⁹However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love Him—¹⁰these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.*

5. Set your hope and affection on heavenly things:

- a) **Col. 3:1-4:** *¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When*

Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- b) **2 Cor. 4:17-18:** ¹⁷*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* ¹⁸*So we **fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen**, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

6. **Give to defeat the spirit of greed & covetousness:**

- a) **Luke 12:15, 33-34:** ¹⁵*Then He said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of **greed**; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions...”* ³³***Sell your possessions and give to the poor.** Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.* ³⁴*For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***
- b) **Prov. 11:24-25:** ²⁴*One person **gives freely**, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.* ²⁵*A **generous person** will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*
- c) **Prov. 28:22-27:** ²²*The **stingy** are eager to get rich and are unaware that poverty awaits them...* ²⁵*The **greedy** stir up conflict, but those who trust in the LORD will prosper...* ²⁷***Those who give to the poor will lack nothing**, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.*

7. **Learn to be content:**

- a) **Phil. 4:11-13:** ¹¹*I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.* ¹²*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **I have learned the secret of being content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.* ¹³*I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*
- b) **Heb. 13:5:** *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”*

II. AMORITES

- A. **Num. 13:29:** *The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.*
- B. **Literal meaning** of the name: Heb. *emoriy* = “publicity, prominence; mountaineer”
- C. The Amorites lived in the *hill country* [lit. “promotion”] or high places! Dwelling on high is often used figuratively in Scripture to represent pride, arrogance and high-mindedness (**Isa. 26:5**): *He humbles those who dwell on high, He lays the lofty city low; He levels it to the ground and casts it down to the dust.*
- D. The Amorites were the “prominent” or tall ones! Israel had defeated two kings of the Amorites, Sihon and Og, before crossing the Jordan into the land of Canaan, and Og’s bed was 13 feet long and 6 feet wide! (Deut. 3:11)
- Amos 2:9-10:** ⁹*Yet I [the Lord] destroyed the Amorites before them, though they were tall as the cedars and strong as the oaks... ¹⁰I brought you up out of Egypt... to give you the land of the Amorites.*
- E. As mentioned earlier in *Section I.R.3* (p.6), God specifically referred to the “***sin of the Amorites***” when He spoke to Abram (Gen. 15:16)
- F. One of the sins of the Amorites was idolatry, the worship of false gods (**Josh. 24:15**): *Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.*
- G. **Spiritual meaning:** pride
- H. God rebuked the Israelites in the Old Testament, telling them that their father was an Amorite (**Ezek. 16:2-3**): ²*Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices ³and say, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Jerusalem: Your ancestry and birth were in the land of the Canaanites; **your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.**”*
- I. This coincides exactly with Christ’s rebuke of the Jews in the New Testament, where He tells them their father was the devil

(John 8:44): *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires.*

- J. It was pride and self-exaltation that led to Lucifer's fall, whereby God's "morning star" and "anointed cherub" became the devil, Satan:
1. **Isa. 14:11-14:** *¹¹All your **pomp** has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. ¹²How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, "**I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.**"*
 2. **Ezek. 28:12-17:** *¹²Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³**You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you... on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷**Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.**"***
- K. Pride is a strong form of deception whereby we "think more highly of ourselves than we ought"—we come to believe that we are greater than we actually are!
1. **Rom. 12:3-6:** *³**Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you... ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us...***

2. **Obad. 1:3:** *The **pride of your heart has deceived you**, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, “Who can bring me down to the ground?”*
 3. **Gal. 6:3 (NAS):** *For if anyone **thinks he is something when he is nothing**, he deceives himself.*
- L. We have two choices: humble ourselves or wait for God to humble us—there are numerous examples in Scripture where God humbled people—it wasn’t pretty!
1. **Mat. 21:42-44:** ⁴²*Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’”* ⁴³*“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. **Anyone who falls on this stone** [humbles himself] **will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls** [humbled by God] **will be crushed.**”*
 2. **2 Chron. 26:16-19:** ¹⁶*But after Uzziah became powerful, his **pride led to his downfall...*** ¹⁹*...**leprosy broke out on his forehead.***
 3. **Isa. 2:8-22:** ⁸*Their land is full of idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their fingers have made. ⁹So **people will be brought low and everyone humbled**—do not forgive them. ¹⁰Go into the rocks, hide in the ground from the fearful presence of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty! ¹¹The **eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low**; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. ¹²The **LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled)**, ¹³for all the cedars of Lebanon, tall and lofty, and all the oaks of Bashan, ¹⁴for all the towering mountains and all the high hills, ¹⁵for every lofty tower and every fortified wall, ¹⁶for every trading ship and every stately vessel. ¹⁷The **arrogance of man will be brought low** and human pride humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day... ²²Stop trusting in mere humans, who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem?*

4. **Dan. 4:37:** *Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And **those who walk in pride He is able to humble.***
5. **Luke 14:11:** *⁷When **He noticed how the guests picked the places of honor** at the table, He told them this parable: ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, **take the lowest place**, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹For **all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.**”*

M. Seven steps to overcome pride

1. Humble yourself: Submit to God & others

- a) **James 4:6-10:** *⁶But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ⁷**Submit yourselves, then, to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and He will come near to you... ¹⁰**Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and He will lift you up.*
- b) **1 Pet. 5:5-9:** *⁵In the same way, you who are younger, **submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,** because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ⁶**Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand,** that He may lift you up in due time.*
- c) NOTE: A person who is truly in submission to others is teachable, correctable, and values the views and opinions of others

2. Humble yourself: Boast in the Lord, not about yourself!

- a) **1 John 2:15-16 (NAS):** *¹⁵Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For **all that is in the***

*world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the **boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

- (1) NOTE: Just as Canaan begat the Amorites [see Gen. 10:15], so worldliness inevitably gives rise to pride and boasting; recall that one of the meanings of the name *Amorite* is “publicity”—when we boast, we are publicizing ourselves!
 - (2) We boast about what we have done or can do, what we have/possess; we boast about our title/position, about who we know, etc.
- b) **Rom. 3:23-27:** ²³*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* ²⁴*and all are justified freely by His grace...* ²⁷***Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith.***
 - c) **Gal. 6:14:** ***May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.***
 - d) **Eph. 2:8-9:** ⁸*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*⁹*not by works, so that no one can boast.*
 - e) **1 Cor. 1:26-31:** ²⁶*Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.* ²⁷*But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.* ²⁸*God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,* ²⁹***so that no one may boast before Him...*** ³¹*Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”*
 - f) The Gospel is designed to silence and eliminate ALL human boasting!
3. **Humble yourself: Acknowledge who you really are: NOTHING!**
 - a) **Obad. 1:3:** *The pride of your heart has deceived you.*

- b) **Gal. 6:3 (NAS):** *For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*
- c) **1 Cor. 4:6-7:** *⁶Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. ⁷For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*
- d) **Ps. 8:3-4:** *³When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, ⁴what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?*
- e) **Isa. 40:13-24:** *¹³Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed Him as His counselor? ¹⁵Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; He weighs the islands as though they were fine dust... ¹⁷Before Him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by Him as worthless and less than nothing... ²²He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. ²³He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. ²⁴He blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.*
- f) **James 4:13-16:** *¹³Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.*
4. **Humble yourself: Seek the praise of God, not men**
- a) **John 5:44:** *How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?*

- b) **Luke 14:7-11:** ⁷When **HE NOTICED** how the guests **picked the places of honor** at the table, He told them this parable... ¹⁰... **take the lowest place**, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹**For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.**”
- c) Jesus warned about the Pharisees who had an Amorite spirit (“publicity”)—they announced their “righteousness” with trumpets to be seen & honored by others:
- (1) **Mat. 6:1-6:** ¹Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others **to be seen** by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So when you give to the needy, **do not announce it with trumpets**, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, **to be honored by others**. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that **your giving may be in secret**. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, **go into your room**, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then **your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you**.
- (2) **Mat. 23:5-12:** ⁵**Everything they** [Pharisees] **do is done for people to see:** ⁶**they love the place of honor** at banquets and the **most important seats** in the synagogues; ⁷**they love to be greeted with respect** in the marketplaces and to be called “Rabbi” by others. ⁸But you are not to be called “Rabbi,” for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹And do not call anyone on earth “father,” for you have one Father, and He is in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah... ¹²For

those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

5. **Humble yourself: Serve others & in lowliness of mind esteem them better than yourself**

- a) **Phil. 2:3-8 (NKJV):** ³*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but **in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*** ⁴*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.* ⁵*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,* ⁶*who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,* ⁷*but **made Himself of no reputation,*** taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸*And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*
- b) **Mat. 11:29:** *Take My yoke upon you and **learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,** and you will find rest for your souls.*
- c) **Isa. 57:15:** *The high and exalted One says: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and **lowly in spirit,** to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.*
- d) **Rom. 12:10-16:** ¹⁰ *Honor one another above yourselves...* ¹⁶ *Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

6. **Humble yourself: Through fasting**

- a) **Ps. 35:13:** *Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and **humbled myself with fasting.***
- b) **1 Kings 21:25-29:** ²⁵*(There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil... **He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, LIKE THE AMORITES** the LORD drove out before Israel.)* ²⁷*When Ahab heard these words, **he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted.** He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.* ²⁸*Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹“Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? **Because he has humbled***

himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”

7. **Humble yourself: Seek humility not greatness**

- a) **Jer. 45:5:** *Should you [Baruch] then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them.*
- b) NOTE: Recall that one of the meanings of the name *Amorite* is “promotion”—pride gives rise to ambition, and we promote ourselves and our supposed greatness!
- c) **Mat. 18:1-4:** *¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²He called a little child to Him, and placed the child among them. ³And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*
- d) **Luke 9:46-55 (NKJV):** *⁴⁶Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. ⁴⁷And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child... ⁴⁸and said to them, “Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me... For **he who is least among you all will be great.**” ⁴⁹Now John answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us.” ⁵⁰But Jesus said to him, “Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side.” ⁵⁴And when His disciples James and John saw this [Samaritan’s rejection of Jesus], they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” ⁵⁵But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “**You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.***
- e) **Zeph. 2:3:** *Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility;*
- f) **1 Tim. 6:11:** *But you, man of God... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness [Gk. *praotes* = “humility, meekness”].*

III. HITTITES

- A. **Literal meaning** of the name: Heb. *chittiy* (derived from *cheth*) = “fear, terror; scare or make afraid”
- B. **Spiritual meaning:** fear and unbelief
- C. Fear was the very first consequence of Adam’s fall in the Garden (**Gen. 3:8-10**): *“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God... and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” ¹⁰He answered, “I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”*
- D. How often God says, “Do not fear... Do not be afraid!”
- E. Fear is a real tool of the devil:
1. **Heb. 2:14-15:** *¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*
 2. **1 John 4:18:** *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because **fear involves torment**. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*
 3. **Luke 1:74-75:** *⁷⁴To rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to **serve Him without fear** ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before Him **all our days**.*
- F. Fear and unbelief are not just bad feelings or emotions—Scripture refers to them as “evil” and “sinful”
1. **Heb. 3:12 (NKJV):** *Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil** [“sinful” – NIV] **heart of unbelief** in departing from the living God;*
 2. **Rom. 14:23:** *But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and **everything that does not come from faith is sin**.*
 3. **Mat. 8:26:** *He replied, “**You of little faith, why are you so afraid?**” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.*
- G. In Deut. 7:1, the Hittites were the *first* of the seven nations enumerated which Israel had to overcome; similarly, the

“fearful and unbelieving” are the first to be listed among those who will be cast into the fiery lake of burning sulfur:

1. **Rev. 21:7-8:** ⁷*He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.* ⁸*But the cowardly, the unbelieving, [“fearful, and unbelieving” – KJV] the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*
2. “Cowardly” here comes from the Greek *deilos* = “fearful, dread, timid, faithless”

H. How to overcome fear:

1. Trust God & His Presence – He is our Helper

- a) **Isa. 41:10-14:** ¹⁰*“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* ¹¹*All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.* ¹²*Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.* ¹³*For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, **Do not fear; I will help you.*** ¹⁴***Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob, little Israel, do not fear, for I Myself will help you,**” declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.*
- b) **Heb. 13:5-6:** ⁵*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**”* ⁶*So we say with confidence, “**The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.** What can mere mortals do to me?”*
- c) **Ps. 56:3-4:** ³*When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.* ⁴*In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?*
- d) **Ps. 27:1-3:** ¹*The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?* ²*When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.* ³*Though an army*

*besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then **I will be confident.***

- e) **Ps. 46:1-11:** *¹God is our refuge and strength, **an ever-present help in trouble.** ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... ¹⁰He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” ¹¹The **LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.***
- f) In regard to the seven nations of Canaan, God repeatedly assured the Israelites that they had nothing to fear:
- (1) **Deut. 1:21:** *See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, told you. **Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.***
 - (2) **Deut. 7:17-21:** *¹⁷You may say to yourselves, “**These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?**” ¹⁸**But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt.** ¹⁹You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the **peoples you now fear.** ²⁰Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until even the survivors who hide from you have perished. ²¹**Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God.***
 - (3) **Deut. 3:21-22:** *²¹At that time I commanded Joshua: “You have seen with your own eyes all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings [Sihon and Og]. The LORD will do the same to all the kingdoms over there where you are going. ²²**Do not be afraid of them; the LORD your God himself will fight for you.**”*

2. Fear God

- a) **Isa. 8:11-13:** ¹¹*This is what the LORD says to me with His strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people:* ¹²*“Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; **do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it.*** ¹³*The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, **He is the one you are to fear, He is the one you are to dread.”***
- b) **Ps. 34:4-7:** ⁴*I sought the LORD, and He answered me; **He delivered me from all my fears.*** ⁵*Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.* ⁶*This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles.* ⁷*The **angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.***
- c) **Prov. 9:10:** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...*
- d) **Prov. 10:27:** *The fear of the LORD adds length to life...*
- e) **Prov. 14:27:** *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life...*
- f) **Ex. 20:20:** *Moses said to the people [when they were trembling with fear at Mt. Sinai], **“Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”***
- g) **Luke 12:4-7:** ⁴*I tell you, my friends, **do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.*** ⁵*But I will show you Whom you should fear: **Fear Him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him.*** ⁶*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.* ⁷*Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

3. Walk in love

- a) **1 John 4:16-19:** ¹⁶*And so we know and rely on the **love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*** ¹⁷*This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have*

confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸**There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear**, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love because He first loved us.

- b) **Rom. 8:35-39:** ³⁵**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written: “For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, **in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
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IV. HIVITES

A. The Hivites living in Gibeon deceived Joshua and the Israelites, tricking them into making a peace treaty with them:

1. **Josh. 11:18-19:** ¹⁸*Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time.* ¹⁹*Except for the **Hivites living in Gibeon**, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle.*
2. **Josh. 9:1-24:** ¹*Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things—the kings in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites)—*²*they came together to wage war against Joshua and Israel.* ³*However, when the **people of Gibeon** heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,*⁴*they **resorted to a ruse:** They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended.* ⁵*They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy.* ⁶*Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.”* ⁷*The **Israelites said to the Hivites**, “But perhaps you live near us, so how can we make a treaty with you?”* ⁸*“We are your servants,” they said to Joshua. But Joshua asked, “Who are you and where do you come from?”* ⁹*They answered: “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. For we have heard reports of Him: all that He did in Egypt,* ¹⁰*and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan—Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.* ¹¹*And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, ‘Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, “We are your servants; make a treaty with us.’”* ¹²*This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is.* ¹³*And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.”* ¹⁴*The Israelites*

sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. ¹⁵Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath. ¹⁶Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them... ¹⁸But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel... ²¹They continued, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers in the service of the whole assembly.” So the leaders’ promise to them was kept. ²²Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, “**Why did you deceive us** by saying, ‘We live a long way from you,’ while actually you live near us? ²³**You are now under a curse:** You will never be released from service as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.”

- a) The Hivites “resorted to a ruse” [Heb. *assah ormah* = “use trickery, guile, subtlety;” translated “worked cunningly and went pretending” – AMP]
- b) They employed a very elaborate plan, play-acting and utilizing many props (old sacks, moldy bread, worn sandals, etc.) to deceive Joshua and the Israelites

B. **Literal meaning** of the name: Heb. *chivviy* = “villager”

C. **Spiritual meaning:** deception, lying & hypocrisy

D. Jesus often railed against the Pharisees and religious leaders of His day for their hypocrisy [Gk. *hupokrites* = “an actor under an assumed character (stage player); hypocrite” and *hupokrisis* = “acting under a feigned part; deceit, hypocrisy”]

E. **How to overcome deception, lying & hypocrisy:**

1. **Know the source of all deception: Satan**

- a) **John 8:44:** *You belong to your father, **the devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. **When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.***
- b) **2 Cor. 11:3:** *But I am afraid that just as **Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning**, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

2. Know God's judgment for all liars

- a) **Rev. 21:7-8:** ⁷Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be My children. ⁸But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and **ALL LIARS**—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.
- b) **1 Tim. 4:1-3:** ¹The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow **deceiving spirits** and things taught by demons. ²Such teachings come through **hypocritical liars**, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. ³They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving...

3. Believe & love truth – walk in the light

- a) **John 3:19-21:** ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But **whoever lives by the truth comes into the light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.
- b) **1 John 1:5-10:** ⁵This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: **God is light**; in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, **we lie and do not live out the truth**. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, **we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us**. ⁹If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰**If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.**
- c) **2 Thess. 2:9-12:** ⁹The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders

that serve the lie,¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because **they refused to love the truth** and so be saved. ¹¹For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that **they will believe the lie**¹² and so that all will be condemned who have **not believed the truth** but have delighted in wickedness.

- d) **Ps. 51:6-7 (NKJV):** *⁶Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

4. Trust in the Holy Spirit

- a) **John 16:13:** *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.*
- b) **John 15:26 (AMP):** *But when the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who comes (proceeds) from the Father, He [Himself] will testify regarding Me.*
- c) **1 John 4:1-6:** *¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world... ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.*

5. Be real—don't pretend; be honest, sincere—no disguises or masks!

- a) **2 Cor. 11:13-15:** *¹³For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading [“disguising themselves” – NAS] as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no*

wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

- b) **2 Cor. 4:2:** *Rather, we have **renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.***

6. Put off all hypocrisy & deceit

- a) **1 Pet. 2:1-2:** *¹Therefore, **rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.** ²Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.*
- b) **Eph. 4:22-25:** *²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in **true righteousness and holiness.** ²⁵Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.***
- c) **1 Cor. 5:7-8:** *⁷Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the **unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.***

7. Don't exploit or manipulate others through flattery, exaggeration

- a) **2 Pet. 2:3:** *In their greed these teachers will **exploit you with fabricated stories.** Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*
- b) **Rom. 16:17-18:** *¹⁷I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own*

appetites. **By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.**

- c) **1 Thess. 2:3-6:** ³*For the appeal we make **does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.*** ⁴*On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.* ⁵*You know **we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness.*** ⁶*We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority.*
- d) **Jude 16:** *These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and **flatter others for their own advantage.***
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V. GIRGASHITES

- A. The Girgashites were an obscure nation, mentioned only seven times in Scripture; nothing is stated about their activities or place of dwelling; in the more than ten lists found in the Old Testament of the seven enemy nations of Canaan [see Ex. 3:8; 13:5; 23:23; 33:2; 34:11; Deut. 7:1; 20:17; Josh. 3:10; 11:3; 12:8; 24:11; Judges 3:5], the Girgashites are only found in three [Deut. 7:1; Josh. 3:10; 24:11], while all of the other six nations appear in every list except for one [Perizzites are also missing in Ex. 13:5]
- B. **Literal meaning** of the name: Heb. *girgashiy* = “dwellers in clay soil”
- C. Some interesting facts about clay soil:
1. Clay obviously speaks about the earth, i.e. an earthly life
 2. It is very heavy and sticky (we speak figuratively of being “stuck in the mud” when we are trapped in an unpleasant situation)
 3. When wet, it turns to into mud that is very slippery
 4. When baked in the sun or an oven, clay becomes very hard, as in the case of bricks or pottery
- D. **Ps. 40:2:** *He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.*
- E. Peter graphically describes a “backslider” as one who once knew Christ but “slid back” into the mire and sin of this world (**2 Pet. 2:20-22**): ²⁰*If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.* ²¹*It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.* ²²*Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”*
- F. **Spiritual meaning:** backsliding & slothfulness
- G. “Dwelling in clay” suggests an earthly focus and mindset, with little regard for heavenly things; this is a dangerous spiritual condition, as noted earlier in 2 Pet. 2:20-22, for we can get

“stuck in the mud” (entangled in the corruption of the world) and slide back into our old life of sin

- H. The Israelites made bricks out of clay in Egypt (Ex. Ch.1 & 5)—it speaks of bondage, slavery, the old life
- I. Laziness is graphically illustrated in a number of Scriptures found in the Book of Proverbs (*King James Version*) by two very slow-moving animals—the sloth and the slug:
1. **Prov. 6:6-11:** ⁶*Go to the ant, thou **slugard**; consider her ways, and be wise: ⁷Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, ⁸Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. ⁹**How long wilt thou sleep, O slugard?** when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? ¹⁰Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ¹¹So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.*
 2. **Prov. 12:24, 27:** ²⁴*The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute... ²⁷The **slothful** man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.*
 3. **Prov. 19:24:** *A **slothful** man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.*
 4. **Prov. 20:4:** *The **slugard** will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.*
 5. **Prov. 21:25:** *The desire of the **slothful** killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.*
 6. **Prov. 24:30:** *I went by the field of the **slothful**, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;*
 7. **Prov. 26:13-16:** ¹³*The **slothful** man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. ¹⁴As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the **slothful** upon his bed. ¹⁵The **slothful** hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth. ¹⁶The **slugard** is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.*
- J. **How to overcome backsliding & slothfulness:**
1. **Seek God for a heavenly hope & vision:**
 - a) **Col. 3:1-4:** ¹*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ*

is, seated at the right hand of God. ²**Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things** [clay]. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- b) **2 Cor. 4:17-5:2:** ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we **fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.** ¹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ²Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling.

2. **Go to the ant—follow the examples of diligent people who persevered in life:**

- a) **Prov. 6:6-8:** **Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!** ⁷It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, ⁸yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.
- b) **Prov. 22:29 (KJV):** *Seest thou a man diligent* [Heb. mahir = “quick, in a hurry, ready”] *in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.*
- c) **Prov. 10:4-5:** ⁴*Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.* ⁵*He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.*
- d) **Heb. 6:10-13:** ¹⁰*God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.* ¹¹*We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.* ¹²**We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised...** ¹³...Abraham...

3. **Realize how short time is—Jesus is coming soon!**

- a) **Rom. 13:11-12:** ¹¹*And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to*

wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

- b) **Heb. 10:35-39:** ³⁵So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶**You need to persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. ³⁷For, **“In just a little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay.”** ³⁸And, **“But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”** ³⁹**But we do not belong to those who shrink back** and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.
- c) **2 Pet. 3:13-14:** ¹³But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. ¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.**

4. **Keep pressing on, making every effort—there is a reward at the end!**

- a) **Hos. 6:1-3 (NAS):** ¹Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. ²He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him. ³So let us know, **let us press on to know the LORD.** His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.
- b) **Phil. 3:10-14:** ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but **I press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and **straining toward what is ahead,** ¹⁴**I**

***press on toward the goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

- c) **Heb. 12:1-3, 14-15:** ¹*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us **run with perseverance** the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart... ¹⁴**Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.** ¹⁵**See to it that no one falls short** of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*
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VI. PERIZZITES

- A. The Perizzites are first mentioned in the early part of Abraham's life, when he came to Bethel in Canaan (**Gen. 13:7**): *And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and **Perizzites** were also living in the land at that time.*
- B. No genealogy is given in Scripture—nothing is known about their origin! They were the only nation not descended from Canaan—they were not related to anyone—they were totally separated and independent!
- C. **Literal meaning** of the name: Heb. *p'rizziy* = “of the open country; rustic villagers; dwellers in unwalled towns; from *paraz* = “to separate”
1. Same word is translated “unwalled villages in Deut. 3:5
 2. The Perizzites lived in the uncleared forest, somewhat like modern-day backwoodsmen or “hillbillies” (**Josh. 17:15**): *Joshua answered, “go up into the **forest** and clear land for yourselves there in the **land of the Perizzites**...”*
 3. The Perizzites lived separate, by themselves—they were not a part of any organized city—if they had any government, it was their own!
- D. **Spiritual meaning**: independence, separation & division
- E. Satan first tempted Adam and Eve to be independent of God (Gen. 3:1-5)
1. Self-will is the very root of sin: “I’m the boss, I’ll do it my way and I don’t care what *anybody* says!”
 2. **Isa. 53:6**: *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, **each of us has turned to our own way**; and the LORD has laid on Him the **iniquity** of us all.*
- F. People under the control of a “Perizzite” spirit reject all forms of government and authority (God’s and man’s)—it is a **spirit of lawlessness**, rebellion and self-will; the Kingdom of God is the *GOVERNMENT* of God, and even civil government is established by God:
1. **Mat. 7:21-23**: ²¹*Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the **kingdom** of heaven, but only the **one***

who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name drive out demons and in Your name perform many miracles?” ²³Then I will tell them plainly, “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”

2. Jesus told a frightening parable about the Kingdom of God and those who rejected His rule over them (**Luke 19:12-27 – NKJV**): ¹²Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to **receive for himself a kingdom** and to return. ¹³So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’ ¹⁴But **his citizens hated him**, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We will not have this man to reign over us...’ ²⁷But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.’”
3. **Rom. 13:1-6**: ¹Let everyone **be subject to the governing authorities**, for there is **no authority except that which God has established**. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, **whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted**, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, **it is necessary to submit to the authorities**, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. ⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for **the authorities are God's servants**, who give their full time to governing.
4. People who aren't under the control of the Holy Spirit have no self-control—they cannot govern their own lives and are compared to “unwalled cities!” (**Prov. 25:28 – NAS**): *Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.*

- G. Peter and Jude warned us about false teachers and brethren who could be easily recognized by their independent spirit:
1. **2 Pet. 2:10 (NKJV):** *And especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and **despise authority**. They are presumptuous, **self-willed**. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries...*
 2. **Jude 13 (NKJV):** *Raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; **wandering stars** for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*
- H. Paul also gave many warnings about rebellious, divisive people in the church who bring trouble and discord:
1. **Rom. 16:17-18:** *¹⁷I urge you, brothers and sisters, to **watch out for those who cause divisions** and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸**For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.** By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*
 2. **2 Thess. 3:11-14:** *¹¹We hear that **some among you are idle and disruptive**. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. ¹⁴Take special note of **anyone who does not obey our instruction** in this letter. **Do not associate with them**, in order that they may feel ashamed.*

I. **How to overcome independence, separation & division:**

1. **Surrender to God's Kingdom rule & the Lordship of Christ:**
 - a) **Rom. 10:9-10:** *⁹If you declare with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*
 - b) **Rom. 12:1-2:** *¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the*

pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. **Get joined to the Body of Christ—don't be a "lone ranger":**

- a) **1 Cor. 12:12-18, 25-28:** ¹²*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but **ALL** its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For we were **ALL** baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were **ALL** given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not **belong to the body**," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not **belong to the body**," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But in fact **God has placed the parts in the body, EVERY one of them, just as He wanted them to be... ²⁵so that there should be **NO DIVISION in the body**, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷Now **you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.*****
- b) **Eph. 4:11-16:** ¹¹*So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip His people for works of service, **so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we **ALL** reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching***

and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From Him the **whole body, joined and held together** by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

3. **Submit to those whom God has placed in authority over you:**

- a) **Heb. 13:7, 17 (NKJV):** ⁷Remember those who **rule over you** [“your leaders” – NIV], who have spoken the word of God to you, **whose faith follow**, considering the outcome of their conduct... ¹⁷**Obey those who rule over you** [“your leaders” – NIV], and **be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
- b) **1 Thess. 5:12-13 (NKJV):** ¹²And we urge you, brethren, to **recognize those who labor among you, and are** [“have charge” – NAS] **over you in the Lord** and admonish you [“give you instruction” – NAS], ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
- c) **1 Pet. 5:1-6:** ¹**To the elders** among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ²**Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them**—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³**not lording it over those entrusted to you**, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. ⁵In the same way, **you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders**. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ⁶**Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.**

- d) **Rom. 13:1-7:** ¹*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established...* ⁵*Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities...*
4. **Watch out for gossip, slander & criticism:**
- a) **Prov. 16:28:** *A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip [“slanderer” – NAS] separates close friends.*
- b) **Prov. 17:9:** *Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*
- c) **Prov. 26:20:** *Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.*
- d) **James 4:10-11:** ¹⁰*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.* ¹¹*Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.*
- e) Deal with quarrels and conflicts in a mature, Biblical manner (**Mat. 18:15-17:**) ¹⁵*If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.* ¹⁶*But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that “every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”* ¹⁷*If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*
5. **Stay away from “wandering stars” and independent people who have a critical, divisive spirit:**
- a) **Rom. 16:17-18:** ¹⁷*I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.* ¹⁸*For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*
- b) **2 Thess. 3:11-14:** ¹¹*We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are*

busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. ¹⁴Take special note of **anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them**, in order that they may feel ashamed.

- c) **Mat. 7:15-17:** ¹⁵**Watch out for false prophets.** They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.
- d) **Mat. 24:4-5:** ⁴Jesus answered: **“Watch out that no one deceives you.** ⁵For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.”
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VII. JEBUSITES

- A. **Literal meaning** of the name: Heb. *yebusiy* = “trampled or trodden down; polluted”
- B. In most of the lists of the 7 nations [see *Section V.A.* on p.36], the Jebusites appear last; they were the final stronghold to be conquered only during the reign of King David:

1 Chron. 11:4-7: ⁴*David and all the Israelites marched to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus). The Jebusites who lived there* ⁵*said to David, “You will not get in here.” Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David.* ⁶*David had said, “Whoever leads the attack on the Jebusites will become commander-in-chief.” Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, and so he received the command.* ⁷*David then took up residence in the fortress, and so it was called the City of David.*

- C. The Jebusites lived in Jebus, the city of Jerusalem:

Judges 19:10-11: ¹⁰*The man left and went toward Jebus (that is, Jerusalem)...* ¹¹*When they were near Jebus and the day was almost gone, the servant said to his master, “Come, let's stop at this city of the Jebusites...”*

- D. **Spiritual meaning:** discouragement & depression

- E. **2 Sam. 5:6-9:** ⁶*The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, “You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off.” They thought, “David cannot get in here.”* ⁷*Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David.* ⁸*On that day David had said, “Anyone who conquers the Jebusites will have to use the water shaft to reach those 'lame and blind' who are David's enemies.” That is why they say, “The 'blind and lame' will not enter the palace.”* ⁹*David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David.*

1. The discouraging voice of the Jebusites: “You will not... you cannot...”
2. The ‘blind and lame’ Jebusites speak figuratively of those who lost their vision or became crippled in their walk through discouragement:
 - a) Seeing is believing—faith is what gives us vision—so spiritual blindness indicates a loss of faith (**Heb. 11:1**):

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- b) **2 Pet. 1:8-10:** ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But whoever does not have them is **nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.** ¹⁰Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will **never stumble.**
- c) **Rev. 3:14-18:** ¹⁴To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ¹⁵I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶So, because you are **lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of My mouth.** ¹⁷You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.” But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, **blind** and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and **salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.**
- d) **Heb. 12:11-13:** ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. ¹²Therefore, strengthen your **feeble arms and weak knees.** ¹³“Make level paths for your feet,” so that the **lame** may not be disabled, but rather healed.
- e) **Heb. 12:12 (AMP):** So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and **drooping hands** and strengthen your **feeble and palsied and tottering knees** [Isa. 35:3].

F. God knew that discouragement would be an enemy we all have to face at some point in our life, so He gave the admonition repeatedly in Scripture, “Do not be discouraged”:

1. **Deut. 1:21:** See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the

*God of your ancestors, told you. Do not be afraid; **do not be discouraged.***

2. **Deut. 31:8:** *The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; **do not be discouraged.***
3. **Josh. 1:6-9:** *⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷Be strong and very courageous... ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; **do not be discouraged,** for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*
4. **Josh. 8:1:** *Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; **do not be discouraged.**”*
5. **2 Chron. 20:17:** *You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; **do not be discouraged.** Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.*
6. **2 Chron. 32:7:** *Be strong and courageous. **Do not be afraid or discouraged** because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him.*
7. NOTE: In all of these references, “discouraged” is the Hebrew *chathath* = “to prostrate or **break down; beat down**, discourage, dismay,” meanings very similar to those for “Jebusite”—“to trample or tread down”—demonic spirits that keep beating down our faith and hope and even give us nervous “breakdowns!”

G. How to overcome discouragement & depression:

1. Abound in hope:

- a) **Ps. 42:5-11:** *⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? **Put your hope in God,** for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. ⁶My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon... ⁸By day the LORD directs His love, at night His song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life. ⁹I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?” ¹⁰My bones*

*suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?” ¹¹Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? **Put your hope in God**, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.*

- b) **Rom. 15:13:** *Now may the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may **abound in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
- c) **1 Thess. 5:8:** *But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a **helmet the hope of salvation**.*
- d) **1 Thess. 4:13-18:** *¹³Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the **rest of men, who have no hope**. ¹⁴We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. ¹⁵According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore **encourage each other with these words**.*
- e) **Tit. 2:11-13:** *¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³**while we wait for the blessed hope**—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.*
- f) **1 Pet. 1:3-6, 13:** *³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth **into a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and **into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade**. **This inheritance is kept in heaven for you**, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in*

*the last time...¹³Therefore... **set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming.***

- g) **1 Cor. 15:19:** *If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.*
- h) **1 John 3:2-3:** *²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, **we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.** ³All who **have this hope in Him** purify themselves, just as He is pure.*
- i) **Job 19:25-27:** *²⁵I know that **my Redeemer lives**, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷**I myself will see Him** with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

2. **Set your face toward the heavenly Jerusalem—have an eternal vision!**

- a) The Jebusite spirit tries to blind and cripple the believer, discouraging him from entering the New Jerusalem
- b) **Heb. 11:8-10:** *⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; **he lived in tents**, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For **he was looking forward to the city with foundations**, whose architect and builder is God.*
- c) **2 Cor. 5:1-7:** *¹For we know that if the **earthly tent** we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, **an eternal house in heaven**, not built by human hands. ²Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with **our heavenly dwelling**, ³because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with **our heavenly dwelling**, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now the one who has fashioned*

us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, **guaranteeing what is to come.**

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷For we live by faith, not by sight.

- d) **2 Cor. 4:16-18:** ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an **eternal glory** that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we **fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen**, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is **eternal**.
- e) **Heb. 12:22-24:** ²²But you have come to **Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.** You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- f) **Rev. 21:1-8:** ¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the **Holy City, the new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a **bride beautifully dressed for her husband.** ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷**Those who are victorious will inherit all this**, and I will be their God and they will be My children. ⁸But the cowardly, the

unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

- g) **Rev. 21:9-23:** ⁹*One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”* ¹⁰*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the **Holy City, Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God.* ¹¹*It **shone with the glory of God**, and its **brilliance** was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.* ¹²*It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.* ¹³*There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.* ¹⁴*The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.* ¹⁵*The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls.* ¹⁶*The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long.* ¹⁷*The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick.* ¹⁸*The **wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.*** ¹⁹*The foundations of the city walls were **decorated with every kind of precious stone**. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰*the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.* ²¹*The **twelve gates were twelve pearls**, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.* ²²*I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.* ²³*The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for **the glory of God gives it light**, and the Lamb is its lamp.**

- h) **Ps. 87:1-3 (NKJV):** ¹*His foundation is in the holy mountains. ²The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings .of Jacob. ³Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!*
- i) **Ps. 48:1-2 (KJV):** ¹*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. ²Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*
3. **Stay in first love for Jesus:**
- a) Only David could conquer the Jebusites: Heb. *David* = “love, loving”
- b) **Rev. 2:1-5 (NKJV):** ¹*To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, “These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ²I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. ⁴Nevertheless **I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”***
4. **Encourage one another daily:**
- a) **Heb. 3:13:** *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.*
- b) **Heb. 10:24-25:** ²⁴*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- c) **1 Thess. 5:10-11:** ¹⁰*He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. ¹¹Therefore **encourage one another** and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

- d) **1 Thess. 4:16-18:** ¹⁶*For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*
¹⁸**Therefore encourage each other with these words.**

5. **Encourage yourself in the Lord (Scripture promises):**

- a) **1 Sam. 30:6 (AMP):** *David was greatly distressed, for the men spoke of stoning him because the souls of them all were bitterly grieved, each man for his sons and daughters. But David encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord his God.*
- b) Sometimes there is no one to encourage us—we must learn how to encourage ourselves by remembering God’s promises and confessing what His word declares!
- c) **Phil. 4:13 (NKJV):** *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
- d) **2 Cor. 2:14 (NKJV):** *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*
- e) **1 John 4:4 (NKJV):** *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*
- f) **Rom. 8:31-39 (NKJV):** ³¹*What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written: “**FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE***

SLAUGHTER.” ³⁷Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6. **Put on the garment of praise:**

- a) **Isa. 61:1-4 (NKJV):** ¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to **heal the brokenhearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to **comfort all who mourn**, ³to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the **garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**...
- b) **Ps. 42:5-11:** ⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for **I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.** ⁶My soul is downcast within me; therefore **I will remember You** from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar... ⁸By day the LORD directs His love, at night His song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life. ⁹I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?” ¹⁰...my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?” ¹¹Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for **I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.**
- c) **Ps. 77:1-13:** ¹I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. ²When **I was in distress**, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted. ³I remembered you, God, and I groaned; I meditated, and my spirit grew faint. ⁴You kept my eyes from closing; I was **too troubled to speak.** ⁵**I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; ⁶I remembered my songs in the night.** My heart meditated and my spirit asked: ⁷“Will the Lord reject forever? Will He never show His favor again? ⁸Has His unfaithful love vanished forever? Has His promise

*failed for all time? ⁹Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has He in anger withheld His compassion?” ¹⁰Then I thought, “**To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out His right hand. ¹¹I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember Your miracles of long ago. ¹²I will consider all Your works and meditate on all Your mighty deeds.**” ¹³... What god is as great as our God?*

7. **Stay filled with the Holy Spirit—the anointing breaks the yoke:**
 - a) **Isa. 10:27 (KJV):** *And it shall come to pass in that day, that his **burden** shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and **the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.***
 - b) **Acts 10:38 (NKJV):** *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and **healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.***

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. Seven wicked nations occupying Canaan, the Promised Land, had to be defeated and driven out before the Israelites could possess their inheritance
- B. Just as Israel’s disobedience and unbelief prevented them from entering into God’s promised rest, we must now be careful to walk by faith in God’s promises and obey His every command if we are to enter that rest:

Heb. 3:18-19: ¹⁸*And to whom did God swear that they would never enter His rest if not to **those who disobeyed?** ¹⁹So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their **unbelief.***

Heb. 4:1-11: ¹*Therefore, since **the promise of entering His rest still stands,** let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. ²For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. ³Now **we who have believed enter that rest...** ⁶It still remains that some will enter that rest, and **those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their***

disobedience...⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. ¹¹Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

C. The spies' evil report:

1. From the account in Numbers, it seems that the sending of 12 spies into the Promised Land was God's directive:

Num. 13:1-21: *¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Send some men to explore the land of Canaan... ¹⁷When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. ¹⁸See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. ¹⁹What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? ²⁰How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.) ²¹So they went up and explored the land...*

2. However, on closer examination, we find out that sending the spies in to explore Canaan was the people's idea:

Deut. 1:19-23: *¹⁹We set out from Horeb and went toward the hill country of the Amorites... and so we reached Kadesh Barnea. ²⁰Then I said to you, “You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us. ²¹See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” ²²Then all of you came to me and said, “Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to.” ²³The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe.*

3. The spies came back with proof that Canaan was a good land flowing with milk and honey:

Num. 13:23-27: *²³When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs... ²⁵At the end of forty days*

they returned from exploring the land. ²⁶They reported to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land.

²⁷They gave Moses this account: **“We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.”**

4. But the spies spread a bad report about the good land, poisoning the people with their spirit of unbelief:

Num. 13:28-33: ²⁸**“But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.** ²⁹The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.” ³⁰Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, **“We should go up and take possession of the land, for WE CAN certainly do it.”** ³¹But the men who had gone up with him said, **“WE CAN’T** attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” ³²And **they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.** They said, **“The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.** ³³We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). **We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”**

5. The people’s hearts melted with fear; they rebelled and were unwilling to go up to the Promised Land:

Deut. 1:26-27: ²⁶**But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled** against the command of the LORD your God. ²⁷You grumbled in your tents and said, **“The LORD hates us; so He brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us.** ²⁸Our brothers have made our hearts melt in fear...”

6. There were a number of things the Israelites wanted to find out through the spies, but this was actually done in unbelief, because God had *already* told them *everything* they needed to know about the Promised Land:

- a) **Their questions:** “What is the land like? Is it good or bad? Is the soil fertile or poor?”

God’s answers: God had already told them it was a good and spacious land flowing with milk and honey, etc.

- b) **Their questions:** “What are the people who live there like – are they strong or weak, few or many?”

God’s answers: “The home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (Ex. 3:8); “My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out (Ex. 23:23)

7. The results of this “spy mission” were disastrous; the entire Israelite community became discouraged, grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and wanted to go back to Egypt:

Num. 14:2-4: ***²All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” ⁴And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”***

8. Joshua and Caleb were the only spies who believed and spoke a positive message of faith, trying to encourage their fellow Israelites:

Num. 14:6-9: ***⁶Joshua and Caleb ⁷said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸If the LORD is pleased with us, He will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.***

9. God decreed that all of the rebellious, unbelieving generation 20 years and older (except for Joshua and Caleb) would never see the Promised Land – they would die in the wilderness:

Num. 14:26-30: ***²⁶The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: ²⁷“How long will this wicked community grumble against Me? ²⁹In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against Me. ³⁰Not one of you will***

enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

10. Forty years for forty days (**Num. 14:31-34**): ³¹*As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected.* ³²*But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness.* ³³*Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness.* ³⁴*For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have Me against you.*

- D. When Joshua was nearing the end of his life, he reminded the Israelites of God’s faithfulness and all He had done for them:

Josh. 23:2-14: ²*[Joshua] summoned all Israel: “I am old and well advanced in years. ³You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you... ⁵The LORD your God Himself will drive them out of your way. He will push them out before you, and you will TAKE POSSESSION OF THEIR LAND, as the LORD your God promised you. ⁶Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. ⁷Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. ⁸But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now. ⁹The LORD has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day no one has been able to withstand you. ¹⁰One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as He promised. ¹¹So be very careful to love the LORD your God... ¹⁴Not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.*

- E. Let us not repeat the same mistakes the Israelites made—let us trust God and obey His every command, for the promise of entering His rest still stands—we are more than conquerors through Christ and we will succeed!

- F. As Christians, our warfare is not with earthly nations or people; Paul taught the Ephesian Church that our *real* enemies are spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places:

Eph. 6:10-13: ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

- G. Paul also taught that *ALL* of those evil powers have already been defeated by Christ on the Cross:

Col. 2:15: *And having **disarmed the powers and authorities**, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

- H. Therefore, let us rise up in the power of our God, being more than conquerors through Jesus Christ! AMEN!