

JOSHUA 13:1-14
THE FULLNESS OF GOD!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Joshua chapter 13 as we continue our study through this amazing book on victorious Christian living.

Keep in mind that in Joshua chapters 6 through 21 the focus is on the conquest of the land of Canaan, the Promise Land or how to win these battles we are facing!

And I realize that some of these chapters we might not see as important, they may even be dry to us. But keep in mind that Paul said back in Romans 15:4, **“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”**

You see, there are things in these chapters that are for our learning and they will, in the end, give us the hope that God is working in us so that He can work through us.

I know, these are chapters that deal with the division of the land of Canaan, so what can we glean out of these dry sections of Joshua?

First of all, if they are dry to you, then you need to add the refreshing water of the Holy Spirit to them and allow God to speak to you, because there are lessons here for us!

We need to be open to what God is saying because God does not just add chapters and verses to fill in space. Again, Paul said in II Timothy 3:16-17, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

When Paul speaks of “**All Scripture**” that is exactly what he is saying, from Genesis through the book of Revelation is inspired by God and it is not only inspired by God, but it is profitable to our lives.

And we have said this before, but I think it bears repeating. God’s Word is profitable to us because it tells us what is right, it tells us what is wrong, it tells us how to get right when we have gone astray, and it tells us how to stay right.

For what purpose? That we may be complete, that we are ready to serve Him each and every day we wake up in the morning. Thus, let’s not read over or negate God’s Word, but let’s see what God has for us as we go through it!

Let me give you a little introduction to help lay a foundation for what we will be talking about this morning.

Remember back in Joshua chapter 9, the Gibeonites, who only lived some 25 miles from Gilgal and were the next city to be taken by the children of Israel, tricked the children of Israel into making a peace treaty with them by pretending to be from a distant land. They were to be wiped out, but this deceit fooled the children of Israel!

And it worked beautifully. How could that happen? The reason it worked so well, we are told, is that “**. . . they did not ask counsel of the LORD.**” Joshua 9:14.

You see, the Gibeonites realized they were no match for the children of Israel and thus, it was better to join them than fight against them.

On the other end of the spectrum were five kings who were going to join forces to fight against the children of Israel because they knew they could never defeat them on their own.

And in Joshua 9:1-2 we are told, **“And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon - the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite - heard about it, that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.”**

Now, when the other kings in the region heard what the Gibeonites did, making this peace treaty with the children of Israel, they were not happy, to put it mildly.

And thus, they came to attack the Gibeonites and because of this peace treaty with the children of Israel, Joshua and his men fought to protect the Gibeonites.

Now they are making headway into the land of Canaan, defeating these five kings in the southern part of the land and taking control of that region.

And then moving and defeating the northern area of Canaan. And what God had promised them was coming to pass, the land of Canaan was now theirs!

Remember what the Lord told Joshua before they even entered the land, **“No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.”**

Joshua 1:5-6.

The land that was promised to them, they were now taking possession of!

Now keep in mind that from the time Israel entered the land of Canaan until they defeated the 31 Kings of Canaan, listed in Joshua chapter 12, was roughly a seven-year period of time.

We are told in Joshua 11:23, **“So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.”**

Now, as we move into Joshua chapter 13 this morning, we are going to see that Joshua is old, he is well advanced in years and yet, there is still very much land that needed to be conquered and possessed!

I have called this study, ***THE FULLNESS OF GOD!*** And the reason for that is that it doesn't matter how young you are or how old you are, there is work that needs to be done and we all want the fullness of God in our lives.

I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning down into three sections. They are as follows:

UNCONQUERED LANDS – JOSHUA 13:1-7

MISSED IT BY THAT MUCH – JOSHUA 13:8-13

THE LORD IS MY INHERITANCE – JOSHUA 13:14

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Joshua chapter 13, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we look at this subject - ***THE FULLNESS OF GOD!***

JOSHUA 13**VERSES 1-7**

I don't know about you, but I do know that I am getting old and I am sure Joshua was well aware of it as well. Remember, Joshua died at the age of 110!

But we see here that the Lord reminds Joshua, “. . . **You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.**” Joshua 13:1.

Thus, this first point is simple, *UNCONQUERED LANDS!* They did not obtain all the land that God had given them and thus, the Lord tells him, “**There remains very much land yet to be possessed.**” In other words, there is still work that needs to be done!

As we have seen, the initial battles lasted some seven years, but now there were these pockets of resistance, the smaller towns and villages that were scattered throughout the land that needed to be conquered!

And I am going to break this down into two points.

First of all, for Joshua, even though he is old, even though he is advanced in years, he was not to rest or kick back and do nothing. The battle never ends until we go home to be with the Lord!

And if we don't continue fighting, we will be defeated, we will compromise what we believe and, in the end, we miss out on the blessings that God has for us! We are not to rest in our past accomplishments but to press on!

Remember what Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12-14? That is his point as he wrote, **“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”**

The idea here is that we must press on, not stop, never giving up as the Lord tells us!

Just a few days before Pastor Chuck Smith went home to be with the Lord, he was in the pulpit preaching a message. Yes, for several months he had to use oxygen because it was hard for him to breath, but it did not stop him. And, after that last message, within a few days, he was home.

He fought the good fight; he finished the race and I think we all want to do the same.

Yes, we are not all pastor’s, but we are in this battle and whatever the Lord has called us to do, may we do it faithfully!

Secondly, because Joshua is old, advanced in years, he has to pass this fight on to the next generation. He is not going to be around forever and thus, pass it on!

And what we see here is that Joshua tells them the land that remains to be occupied by the children of Israel.

And yes, God will drive out the enemy, that is His part.

For the children of Israel, they needed to walk by faith and possess what God had given them as well.

And now, it was not going to be the entire nation fighting together, but the individual tribes would fight the enemy that was in the land, those pockets of resistance.

How in the world does that even apply to our lives today?

Think about it. In our lives God wants us to drive out every area of the flesh. We are not to be comfortable with it. The flesh is a constant enemy towards our spiritual walk!

Do we get tired of fighting against it? I am sure we all do. But don't give up, don't give in, crucify the flesh!

And I do love this. God told Joshua, because he was now too old to lead the army of Israel into battle against the remaining Canaanite strongholds, that he was to divide the land by lot giving each tribe their own portion of land to conquer and possess.

Which meant, like I have said, each individual tribe would now be responsible to drive out the remaining pockets of enemy occupation and complete the mission Joshua had started thus taking full possession of the land that God had promised to give them.

If they continued to be faithful to Him obeying all that He had commanded them to do - He would then be faithful to give each tribe, little by little, the victory until they possessed all the land God had promised to give them.

But there was that problem of God's people being tired of war. They were tired of fighting and we will see what happens when we give in like that and we don't drive out the enemy completely as we read on in Joshua.

But to show you what I mean, in Joshua 16:10, for example, we are told, "**And they did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day and have become forced laborers.**"

And this compromise would become a problem for them in future generations!

And what we see here with the children of Israel, unfortunately, is also a common testimony of many of God's people today!

Remember when you first got saved, you took a stand for what you believed in. There was no compromise, there was no standing down, you fought the good fight of faith as you did battle against the flesh, as you did battle against the world, as you did battle against the devil!

But then time went by and there is no longer that zeal, there is no longer that fight in you and you just give into the flesh, the world and the Devil and it is never a good thing in your walk with the Lord!

Remember what Paul said in Romans 12:2, “**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**”

The world wants to put you into their mold, and they will do this with all kinds of things. And today, we are being bombarded with worldly things and instead of fighting, we give in! Don't do it!

Paul challenges us in Galatians 5:16-18 as he tells us, “**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**”

Here's the thing. God has given you the victory, are you willing to walk by faith and surrender your life to His Spirit? Are you willing to fight that good fight of faith or are you just giving in, making excuses for your behavior, what you are doing, what you are saying?

Make no mistake about it, many grow weary in doing well! They get tired of fighting the battles of the Lord and instead want to settle down into a comfortable Christianity where they come to church to “*fellowship*” more than to be trained to be good soldiers of Christ and rescue the lost.

The tragic result is that more and more Christians see their Christianity as merely a social outlet.

They call it “*fellowship*”, but true biblical fellowship is encouraging one another in the work of God and keeping each other accountable in living for Christ.

Let me share this with you about fighting the good fight of faith and not giving up. We are told,

It is written, “*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*” Romans 12:2. We have passions and desires that maintain the opposite. We have human reasoning that says, “This is impossible; then they will do what they want with me; they will walk all over me,” etc.

Here we have an exhortation by Paul: “*Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin. To commit sin is to consciously do something that you know goes against God’s will. This can be in word, deed, or even thought. (James 1:14-15) . . . , but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*” Romans 6:11-12.

To fight the good fight of faith means that we stand firmly anchored in the Word in the power of the Spirit, reckoning ourselves dead to our feelings and our human reasoning, not letting sin rule in our mortal body by obeying its lusts. We have to do what Jesus says: Take up our cross daily and deny ourselves. (Luke 9:23) Paul also says the same thing: “*But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*” Romans 8:13.

This does not happen without a fight and sufferings. Peter says it like this: “*Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin . . .*” 1 Peter 4:1.

Therefore we must suffer in the flesh if we are to cease from sin. There will be sufferings in the flesh if we by the Spirit are to put to death what rises up from the flesh so that the lusts are not allowed to rule. Sin rules, and we suffer in our conscience if we do not suffer in the flesh.

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I realize that some may see this as silly, they really don't get it. But don't take my word for it, listen to what the Lord instructed the children of Israel before they even entered the land of Canaan. In Numbers 33 we are told, **“Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess. And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone’s inheritance shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers. But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.’”**” Numbers 33:50-56.

Make no mistake about it. God says what He means, and He means what He says!

We need to be careful we don't allow corrupt practices to come into our lives or into the church because it will affect and infect us with its poison and bring us into captivity just as it did the nation of Israel.

God warns us and then it is up to us to listen and obey. If you don't, like the Lord said to the children of Israel, these things will be a thorn in your life, they will be an irritant to you, they will harass you wherever you go!

As Paul said in Romans 6:6-7, "**knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.**" Don't allow that garbage to be resurrected in your life, be free in Christ!

I am sure you have seen that bumper sticker that says "Co-exist!"

And the idea with that is to co-exist with the other religions of the world, which Christianity can't do unless it compromises what God has said in His Word.

But I think we do that with the flesh, we think we can co-exist with the flesh instead of fighting against the flesh, crucifying the flesh!

If you ignore sin in your life, if you just begin to accept sin in your life, you are setting yourself up for trouble, make no mistake about it. We saw what God said to the children of Israel in Numbers 33 and He is also speaking to us!

And I do realize that today, in the church, we have this idea of building up the flesh, but you won't find that anywhere in the Bible.

You see, there is only one command that God has for the flesh, and that is to ***CRUCIFY IT!***

"But I've done pretty good, what more does God want from me?"

What He wants from you is ***TOTAL OBEDIENCE*** to what He has said! And we do have a choice, but the consequences for not obeying, ***“But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.”***

Don't make a treaty with the flesh. Let me share with you just a few verses that deal with finishing the race strong and not compromising what we believe!

First of all, in II Timothy 4:7 Paul tells us, ***“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”***

At the end of his life, Paul had fought that good fight of faith. Yes, it was a battle, and it continued to the very end of his life, and he finished the race strong as he kept the faith. May we do the same!

In I Timothy 6:12 Paul tells us, ***“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”***

Paul is telling Timothy to fight that good fight of faith and isn't that where the battle is at! It is against our faith, what God has said in His Word and we need to stand strong and not give in, not compromise what we believe!

In James 1:12 James tells us, ***“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”***

James is telling us that temptations will always be there, it is what we do with those temptations. Do we give into them or do we surrender to the Lord and obey Him? It is our choice, but the warning is there to fight that good fight of faith and don't give in!

And lastly, Paul wants us to understand who we are really fighting against, this battle, these temptations that are trying to bring us down, as he wrote in Ephesians chapter 6, "**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**" Ephesians 6:10-13.

Be wise and stand strong in the Lord and don't give into the flesh, don't compromise your faith, but drive out the enemy.

And please understand that there is a tremendous blessing we can enjoy as we personally serve the Lord. As we take those steps of faith, as we walk as He leads, trusting in Him. You know the blessing that you receive just as you serve Him faithfully.

If you don't, then walk and see the blessings that God has for you as you serve Him, as you are obedient to His Word!

UNCONQUERED LANDS – Let's drive out the enemy, crucify the flesh and make no room for the flesh in our lives!

VERSES 8-13

Now we see that Joshua describes the portion of land that was divided up between Ruben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh on the east side of the Jordan River. It was the land that was taken as they defeated Sihon King of the Amorites and Og King of Bashan.

Remember what I have called this section here in Joshua chapter 13, these verses –

MISSED IT BY THAT MUCH!

What do I mean by that?

I mean that these tribes which remained on the east side of the Jordan River were not in the Promise Land. They were close, the Jordan River separated them from all that God had for them, and, like I said, they ***MISSED IT BY THAT MUCH!***

And as we will see in a few minutes, compromise will lead to more compromise and it is never a good thing.

First of all, let's look at what this word, "***compromise***" means. We are told,

To compromise is to make concessions or accommodations for someone who does not agree with a prevalent set of standards or rules. The Bible makes it clear that God does not condone compromising His standards: "Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey His laws and search for Him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in His paths. You have charged us to keep Your commandments carefully" (Psalm 119:1-4, NLT).

The word *joyful* or *blessed* describes people of righteousness, those who are totally subservient to God's will and wholeheartedly devoted in their relationship to Him. We do not compromise or deviate from His standards but "walk only in His path." We hear only God's voice (1 Kings 18:21; John 8:47; John 10:27), and we do not yield to or permit any deviation from His Word (Deuteronomy 4:2; Psalm 119:128; Revelation 22:18-19).

Not compromising requires our unswerving submission to Him and to Him only, regardless of the world's concession to godlessness (Joshua 24:15; Psalm 119:10; Psalm 119:15).

As believers, we must "see to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8; see also Hebrews 3:12).

We are also commanded to be "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you . . ." (1 Peter 3:15).

In other words, we are commanded not only to remain faithful to the Word but to defend it and correct those who are in opposition to it (2 Timothy 2:24-25).

God is serious about our not compromising His Word with the values of the world - the reason being that those outside of Christ may then "come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil . . ." (2 Timothy 2:26).

Then there are those who profess to being Christians, yet live lives not in keeping with the precepts of the Scripture, i.e., compromising their biblical beliefs by living like the world.

For them, the things of the world and its sensual allurements take precedence over the Word of God (Acts 20:30; 1 John 2:16-19).

Jesus referred to these people as “those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful” (Mark 4:18-19).

These are the ones who, though professing to follow Christ, compromise their faith by craving worldly success and accolades from their fellow man.

Jesus chastised such people who rationalized their questionable behavior: “How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?” (John 5:41-44).

In other words, to compromise in one’s total allegiance and devotion to God is to allow the allurements of this world, with its accompanying worries, to take precedence over Christ (Matthew 6:24).

How do we compromise the Word of God?

- When we fail to accept the Word: “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).
- When we place our desires, and that of others, ahead of the Word of God: “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God” (Acts 5:4).

As true believers in Christ, we must accept God's Word as absolute, inerrant truth (2 Timothy 3:16). We must be fully obedient to His Word (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 1:6). And we must recognize that His Word is not to be compromised for any reason or for anyone (Deuteronomy 17:11; Proverbs 24:7; Revelation 3:15).

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That is exactly what these tribes did. They saw that the land was great. It would sustain their animals and their own lives. The cities were already there, the enemy was defeated, why not go and live there?

The reason is simple. God told them that the land that He had given them was on the west side of the Jordan River, in the land of Canaan, the Promise Land.

But they refused to listen to God's Word, and they stayed on the east side of the Jordan River, outside the perfect will of God for their lives and they paid for it.

You see, when the Assyrians came down against them, they did not have the protection of the other tribes to help them and they were the first to be taken into captivity!

Not only that but remember what I said. That a little compromise will lead to more and more compromise and we see that here.

Look down again at Joshua 13:13 and look at what it says, "**Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.**"

When we read in the Scriptures this idea, when God uses this word to describe or point to something we did not do or we did, "**Nevertheless**" and that is not good!

Yes, they defeated these enemies, but they left two remaining and that is not what the Lord told them to do.

Make no mistake about it, the same is true in our own lives. God wants us to drive out those enemies of the flesh in our lives, these fleshly passions.

And we listen to the Lord and yet, we ***MISSED IT BY THAT MUCH!***

You see, we do most of the work but leave pockets of resistance that will, not might, rise up and cause us trouble. Again, we ***MISSED IT BY THAT MUCH!***

We don't play with the flesh, we don't entertain the flesh, but we crucify it! Paul put it like this in Galatians 5:24, "**And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**" May we crucify the flesh!

Have you ever heard the story of the guy who could not decide what side he wanted to fight for during the Civil War? He put on the coat of the North and the trousers of the South, and guess what? He got shot at from both sides!

This is what happens to the compromiser, the person who tries to live in two worlds. It's one miserable place to be. And sadly, there are many in the church today that live a compromised life.

May we be like Daniel, a man who was not willing to compromise his faith no matter how difficult it would be to stand strong for the Lord! We are told in Daniel 1:8, "**But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.**"

This was a remarkable young man, maybe 15 to 20 years old at this point when he was taken into captivity by the Babylonians. And yet he stood strong upon his faith, what he believed about the God he loved.

And that is the key for us, we have to decide for ourselves what we are going to do? We are going to have to decide for ourselves, purpose in our heart if we are going to follow the way the world is going or follow the way of the Lord. You see, we have a choice but there is only one that is the right one and that is following the Lord!

Now Daniel could have said, *“While in Babylon, do as the Babylonians do!”*

It was a precursor to the Roman thing! But he didn't.

He purposed in his heart not to do these things.

Proverbs 4:23 tells us **“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”**

What an example Daniel is to us. You see, Daniel was in the world, but the world was not in him.

It is like a boat, it needs to be in the water to function but once the water gets into the boat, that is when the trouble begins, and the boat begins to sink, and it will be sunk eventually.

The same is true with us! Once you let the world into your life, once you begin to compromise your faith, you are sunk!

Yes, we can say that we were close to doing all that God wanted. We can say that we only ***MISSED IT BY THAT MUCH!***

But in the end, that compromise will lead to more and more compromise and it is dangerous.

Just look at the church today and how many churches, how many denominations are standing up for the LGBT agenda. They see no problem with it.

Also, look at the churches and leaders that support abortion, tragic!

Look at how many churches don't believe in six literal days of creation. And you may say, "Big deal, it is not a foundational truth!"

It is a big deal. You see, that little compromise, will lead to more. Think about it. There is no Adam or Eve, we just evolved over millions of years.

If there is no Adam and Eve, then there is no original sin.

So if there is no original sin, then we are not sinners separated from God.

If we are not sinners separated from God, then we don't need a Savior.

If we don't need a Savior, then we don't need Jesus!

I hope you have seen that a little compromise can bring us to a tragic ending, like we see here with those who were living on the east side of the Jordan River, outside the perfect will of God. They only ***MISSED IT BY THAT MUCH!***

VERSE 14

Let me share a little of what is going on here and then we will make the application to our own lives today.

Keep in mind that Levi received no formal land, but the Lord was their portion!

Also, they did receive 48 cites spread throughout the land. These areas had pastures for their herds and they, as priests, would be close to every tribe. That was important to the nation, as they would teach the people the things of God. (Numbers 35:1-5, Joshua 14:4, 21:41)

You see, the tribe of Levi, as I have said, didn't receive an inheritance of land because they were the priestly tribe and the Lord told them in Joshua 13:33, **“But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.”**

We also see this spoken of even before they entered the land of Canaan. In Deuteronomy 10:8-9 we are told, **“At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day. Therefore Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the Lord is his inheritance, just as the Lord your God promised him.”**

How awesome is that, that the Lord was their inheritance. Of this, Alan Redpath tells us, Great honor was allotted to these people; for they were called to a life of worship: the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance. They possessed Him - all His resources, all His power, all His blessings were to come to them, and then through them go to others. No relationship of secondary importance was to be allowed to hinder their communion with their God. He alone was their inheritance. Their interests were to be centered entirely in Him, and His service was to be undertaken without any distraction whatsoever.

- Alan Redpath

As great as that is, what does that have to do with us today?

I think there is a beautiful picture that comes out of this for us today as Christians, something that I think applies to us as well. And it deals with the last point we will be looking at – ***THE LORD IS MY INHERITANCE!***

I think this fits our lives perfectly today. Now maybe some may wonder about us being priests and how this all fits together. Listen carefully to what Peter tells us in I Peter 2:5, “**you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**”

Do you see that? Since we are the priests of God in the New Covenant, then God is our portion, or ***THE LORD IS OUR INHERITANCE!***

Thus, we should possess the fullness of God in our lives, but how? How do we possess the fullness of God in our lives today?

First of all, positionally speaking, we are already filled with God because the Father and the Son, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, have all taken up residence in our heart!

But, practically speaking, on a day by day level, we ***MUST*** fill ourselves with the Word of God and we must do this each and every day because the Word of God is all about Jesus!

Remember what Jesus said in Hebrews 10:7, “**Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come - In the volume of the book it is written of Me - To do Your will, O God.’**”

THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IS WRITTEN OF JESUS!

Not only that, but in John 5:39 Jesus said, “**You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.**”

THE SCRIPTURES TESTIFY OF JESUS!

Thus, Paul tells us to, “**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**” Colossians 3:16-17.

In other words, as you take in the Word of God, as you fill yourself up with the Word of God, we are seeing more of Jesus and what we take into our lives will overflow in our lives.

That is what Paul said in Ephesians 5:18-21, being filled with God. He wrote, “**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.**”

As we continually fill ourselves up with the things of God, as we are in His Word, then what flows from our lives will reflect who our inheritance is, *JESUS!*

Once again Alan Redpath fill us in on this important point of the Lord being our inheritance. He wrote,

Oh, my dear friends, in the matter of the knowledge of Christ, how much land there is to be possessed! Why is it that we are so ignorant, really?

Because we know so little of the Book. How many pages of your Bible are unpossessed, unexplored territory? How many of them have never been marked or underlined to show what God means to you?

We go over the same portions again and again; we live in simple ‘ABC’ truths in John 3 and other such chapters, great and wonderful, indeed, as they are.

But whole continents of God’s redemptive purpose, revealed for the enlightened mind to discover, to feed upon, and to rejoice in, are left unpossessed.

You cannot know Jesus our Lord unless you know Him in His Word. Fellow Christians, venture into some unexplored field in the Word of God, and find what blessing there will be to follow . . . There is much land to be possessed! We know this is true.

But how may we possess our possession in Jesus Christ . . . Remember that, first, we must be possessed by the Lord before we can know what it is in fullness to possess Him.

- Alan Redpath

He goes on to say,

Listen to the three great words of Christian experience in the order in which I give them to you: “surrender,” “consecration,” “appropriation.”

First, there must be utter submission to the Lord . . . (there is no true surrender that is not absolute surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ).

Next, there must be the consecration of life and talents and everything that we have, in every department of life.

Then comes appropriation by a living faith of the life that God sends by His Spirit through His Son.

That is the divine order: we cannot possess the Lord Jesus in fullness until He possesses us.

We cannot appropriate Christ until he has conquered our will and we are altogether his.

We need not look for victory in our lives until we come to Jesus in utter self-surrender.

We expect the Lord Jesus Christ to lead us on to higher ground?

We expect Him to give us victory?

We expect to possess our possessions?

It is only when in our hearts we have accepted the authority of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, and every part of our being is yielded in unconditional surrender to the Trinity, that we count on victory and seek to possess our possessions in Christ.

- Alan Redpath

When I was younger I would write reports at school on people like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and others. I studied their lives as I read about them in books. And out of that I wrote my report.

But I really never knew these men, only through studying them. There was no personal relationship with them that I had. And granted, I may be old, but not that old!

I think that is true also for our Christian lives. We can read, study a lot about God, be in His Word and memorize so much of it, but God is not going to test us on how much Scripture we know.

No, He wants a personal relationship with us! Yes, we know Him through His Word, the Bible. But we must take that further, much further and have that intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

That was the cry of Paul, that He wanted to know His Lord more and more. He wanted to enjoy that fellowship with Jesus!

In Philippians 3:7-11 Paul wrote, **“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”**

Do you see the heart of Paul, to know Him, to know Jesus?

He said, **“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.”**

He didn't care what he lost because they were nothing. All he wanted was that he **“may gain Christ.”**

All Paul wanted was, **“that I may know Him.”**

May we have that same passion, to know Him, because ***THE LORD IS MY INHERITANCE!***

Yes, there are ***UNCONQUERED LANDS*** out there and it is not time to sit back and do nothing. We must fight that good fight of faith and crucify the flesh!

Yes, we can ***MISS IT BY THAT MUCH***, but we don't have to! We must not compromise our faith but stand strong upon what God has said in His Word and obey Him!

And lastly, we must never forget that ***THE LORD IS MY INHERITANCE!***