

Getting Ready for Canaan (Part 3) Deuteronomy 7: 1-8

For the last couple of weeks we have been looking at this passage and considering what the Lord expected His people to do in order to inherit the Promised Land. In it we see a parallel for the church if we are to experience our spiritual Canaan. Most of us aren't enjoying the victory of Canaan because we are unwilling to meet God's standard of holiness.

I want to take just a moment to review what we have learned thus far. In our first study we dealt with **The Character of Sin**. There were seven gentile nations that inhabited Canaan who must be removed if Israel was to dwell in victory. These nations pictured how sin hinders the church even in our day.

- 1) **Hittites** – “Allowed to remain; sin that is allowed to remain in our lives.”
- 2) **Girgashites** – “Little is known about them; the secret sins of life.”
- 3) **Amorites** – “Bitter, rebel.”
- 4) **Canaanites** – “Known for immorality, false worship; merchant or peddler.”
- 5) **Perizzites** – “Dwelt in un-walled villages; allowed the world in.”
- 6) **Hivites** – “Unwilling to fight, arrogant.”
- 7) **Jebusites** “Trodden under foot.”

In our last study we dealt with **The Challenge of Sin**. We discovered that:

- 1) **Sin Must be Acknowledged (1b)** – We must admit our sin and realize that we can't handle it in ourselves.
- 2) **Sin Must be Addressed (2a, 5)** – We can't deny our sin or ignore it; we must address it.
- 3) **Sin Must be Abandoned (2b-4)** – There is no such thing as sin in moderation or a little indulgence. Sin must be forsaken, abandoned, and forgotten.

That brings us to the last point of our study concerning: [Getting Ready for Canaan](#). Let's consider the [truths](#) revealed concerning:

III. The Conviction of Sin (6-8) – Now that we have considered the character of sin and the challenge regarding sin where does that leave us? What was the purpose in all of this for the children of Israel? Why did God demand that the gentile nations be destroyed? Why was God so concerned with Israel?

- Looking at it from our perspective, what does all of this mean to us? Why does God care for us and seek our good? Why does He deal with us in relation to sin in our lives? These verses reveal the reason for conviction of sin and the beauty associated with it.
- We serve One who loves us too much to allow us to continue in our sin. God desires the best for His people and that always means an absence of sin. We cannot live without sin, but we can do our best to rise above it and live closer to the Lord. Looking at this passage from the perspective of the gentile nations picturing sin in our lives, let's consider why God brings conviction to our hearts regarding sin.

A. We are a Sanctified People (6a) – *For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God:* Do you remember the origin of the nation of Israel. God came to a man by the name of Abraham who dwelt in the land of Ur, a land of idolatry and wickedness. God brought Abraham out of sin and separated him unto Himself so that He might establish a people that would serve Him, [Gen.11:31-12:5](#).

- Hundreds of years later, even after 430 years in Egypt, God has brought them to the Promised Land. These were His people, an holy people that God had set apart to live for Him.
- We are not of the chosen people of Israel, but we have been chosen of the Lord. He came to each of us in our sin and called us to Himself. We are no longer of this world; we belong unto the Lord. God provided the means of our salvation and at the moment that we were saved we became part of the family of God.
- God wants us to rid our lives of sin because we are His. We are to be a holy people, a people who live according to the ways of God. We have been forgiven of our sin, and yet God wants us to live holy and upright before Him.
- Isn't salvation amazing? We were just like Abraham. We dwelt in a sinful land and God chose us out of that sinful condition to come to Him. God brings conviction because we are His.

B. We are a Separated People (6b) – *the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.* God chose them to be a special people, unlike the other nations. They were the children of Almighty God. They were not of this world. They were a people who were set apart of the Lord.

- If the gentile nations were allowed to remain, Israel would be tempted to become like them. Of all the people upon the earth, none could claim the separation that Israel enjoyed.

- The same is true for the church today. God has called us to live a life separated unto Him. We are His and not of this world. God desires and expects us to be different. If sin is allowed to remain in our lives then we appear no different than the world.
- The world doesn't have what the Christian possesses. They don't have the peace of God that passes all understanding. They don't have the Holy Spirit within them leading and guiding their lives. If anyone ought to be different and separate, it ought to be the church!
- God brings conviction to us so that we might continue to live separated lives. Sadly there seems to be little, if any, difference in the world and the average church member. I want to be set apart for the Lord. Many have no desire to attend church because they know others who do. I want to live a life that leaves no question as to whose I am.

C. We are a Special People (7-8a) – [The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: ^{\[8\]} But because the LORD loved you...](#) Do you fully understand what the Lord has said in these verses? Israel was not special just because they were descendants of Abraham. They were not special because of who they were; they were special because of who God is and that He loved them. God chose to favor them above the rest. He chose to make His covenant with them. They were special because God made them special.

- I rejoice that I can claim that in my own life. I had nothing to offer the Lord. There was nothing that I had that He would desire. I was just a young boy, living in the midst of a troubled life when He came to me. The Lord touched my heart and revealed Himself to me, showing me that He loved me and wanted to save me from my sin. Some 2,000 years ago provision was made for me. That makes me pretty special to the Lord.
- That may not do much for you, but it sure did something for me. I live my life today knowing that I am special unto the Lord. It is not because of my background or any of my achievements, but it is all in His good grace. God chose to show His favor unto one who was undeserving. If you are saved, you are special unto the Lord!

D. We are a Secure People (8) – [But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.](#) God knew the fears Israel possessed. He knew they were unsure of their future. It is here He reminds them of the mighty exodus. God had not failed them then, and He wasn't about to fail them now. God had promised a land of plenty and He was able and willing to provide.

- Many times the sin in our lives reflects a lack of dependence on the Lord. Many times our lives reveal a message that we cannot or will not trust the Lord. The saved are secure in Jesus. If you are saved He will care for you.
- I truly believe the Lord wants us to realize that we don't need all the "crutches" we so adamantly hold onto. We are in the midst of difficult times. God has blessed our church and it is time to step out in faith. God wants us to get rid of the temporal things we place so much confidence in and trust Him. He has not brought us this far to abandon us now.
- Living a life of doubt and fear is living a life in sin. We trusted Him with our eternal souls at salvation, and yet we are reluctant to trust Him with the temporal and trivial matters of life. It is time that we as God's people learn to trust Him!

Conclusion: I pray this passage has spoken to you as it did me. God wants each of His children to enjoy the land of promise. You can have that personally and we can have that corporately, but it is only achieved God's way. Has He brought some things to your attention? If so, He wants you to acknowledge it, address it, and abandon it. Remember that God brings conviction because you belong to Him. Why not come and begin your journey today?