

## Getting Ready for Canaan (Part 2)

### Deuteronomy 7: 1-8

Last week we began this study concerning the children of Israel and their preparation to enter the Promised Land. This was God's will for their lives. He had brought them out of bondage to a land reserved for them to inhabit. There was a major obstacle that they must overcome if they were to dwell in the land. Canaan was occupied by several gentile nations. These were people who would hinder their walk with the Lord and lead them away from His paths. If Israel was to possess the land, the occupying nations had to be removed.

In these nations we found a picture of those things that often hinder our walk with the Lord:

- 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.”

If we are to possess the fullness God intends for us, we too must rid our lives of those things we have allowed to dwell among us that prevent us from being all we should be for the Lord. Canaan is attainable for the church, but it must be achieved according to the will of God. Christians cannot live a life of abundance and victory while allowing the world to remain an influence in their lives.

I want to continue examining the [truths](#) within this passage as once again we consider: [Getting Ready for Canaan](#). It is time for us to advance and inhabit the land of promise. As we looked at the nations mentioned in [v.1](#) we considered **The Character of Sin**. Also we need to consider:

**II. The Challenge of Sin (1b-5)** – There was never a question as to whether God wanted Israel to inhabit the land, but it would not be an easy process. Israel understood the nature of the people that dwelt in the land. They were aware these nations had to be destroyed and removed. We too saw those things in our lives that hinder us.

- We are aware of the character and destructive nature of sin. The question is: what are we going to do about it? These verses give some insight on how to approach and deal with the sin that hinders our lives. Notice:

**A. Sin Must be Acknowledged** (1b) – The Lord revealed there were [seven nations greater and mightier](#) than the people. It was clear that God wanted Israel to possess the land, but here we find that this will be a most difficult challenge.

- God didn't present a misleading picture. He told them up front they faced an adversary that was greater and mightier than they were. God wanted them to know the battle was not within their means to handle. They were in a situation that was beyond their ability to control. He wanted them to see themselves as dependent upon Him. The task they faced was greater than they were. It would be impossible without the Lord.

- If we are to overcome and enjoy the land of promise, we too must acknowledge that we cannot handle the sin and difficulties in our lives. One of the greatest challenges in our day is getting folks to admit there is a need in their lives. We are faced with countless situations that are greater and mightier than we are in the flesh.

- Simply put, you cannot handle sin in yourself. You may think you are doing pretty well, but I can assure you that sin will defeat you every time. It will take the presence and power of God in our midst if we are to overcome. There isn't a one of us here today who could not fall. There isn't a one of us that is exempt from temptation. You need to acknowledge your weakness and seek the help of the Lord! David was a man after God's own heart and yet he succumbed to temptation.

**B. Sin Must be Addressed** (2a, 5) – [And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; <sup>\[5\]</sup> But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.](#) God was prepared to deliver the people into their hands and He expected Israel to deal with them as He commanded. God wanted them to utterly destroy the enemy. They were to rid themselves of any remembrance and influence of the pagan ways of the gentiles.

- It would've been futile for Israel to have tried to possess the land with the enemy still there. They couldn't just ignore them and hope they would leave. The enemy had to be dealt with; they had to address this issue.

- There is no difference in our lives. Sin must be addressed. We cannot just ignore it or deny it. God brings conviction to our hearts concerning those things that are not right with Him.

- If He has brought it to your attention, He expects you to deal with it. We cannot overcome it in ourselves, but we can take it to the Lord. When the Lord brings conviction to your heart, He is offering you an opportunity to find deliverance from the sin in your life.

- For years I dreaded the conviction of the Lord. It really bothered me when God would deal with my heart. I still don't enjoy it when God chastens me, but I have come to realize chastening is for my good. The Lord chastens and convicts us so that He might help us and bring us back to where we need to be. Once you have acknowledged your sin, you must address it. Sin must be dealt with; it will only grow and get much worse left alone. Once sin is acknowledged and addressed, then:

**C. Sin Must be Abandoned** (2b-4) – *thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:* <sup>[3]</sup> *Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.* <sup>[4]</sup> *For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.* There was to be no mercy in regard to the pagan nations. They were not to compromise or show sympathy toward them.

- *Their children were not to intermarry with them.* There would always be the danger for sinful influence if the enemy was allowed to remain. God wanted Israel completely removed from any influence of the gentile nations.

- The same is true for our spiritual lives today. Once we have dealt with the sin in our lives it must be abandoned completely. There is no such thing as sin in moderation. There is no such thing as a little indulgence. What is done in moderation usually leads to excess. If you are dabbling in sin today it will become obsessive sooner than you think.

- We must rid our lives of anything that would hinder us from serving the Lord. If you think you can't handle it, you are right and the best thing to do is avoid it all together.

- How many homes have been destroyed because a spouse thought they could handle a casual conversation with a co-worker? How many alcoholics said they would take a drink just one time? How many relapses occur in addicts because they think they can handle just a little bit?

- Sin is nothing to play with. It is dangerous and the best approach is to avoid it all together. Keep yourself from those places and situations that cause temptation. When you seek forgiveness, leave it at the feet of Jesus instead of picking it up again.

**Conclusion:** We have considered and understood the character of sin and now we have dealt with the challenge of sin. The reason we aren't having revival in our day is because the church is unwilling to deal with sin. We must be willing to acknowledge our sin, address that sin, and then completely abandon our sin.

You might say, “Well if I come to the altar, everyone will think that I have a problem with sin.” Are you more concerned with what others think or the need to please the Lord and live a life that honors Him? We will never reach our spiritual Canaan as long as we are unwilling to deal with the sin in our lives. If God has spoken to your heart, I would come and deal with Him.

Conviction is a wonderful thing. Through it we know our hearts are tender enough for God to speak and that He is still dealing with us. It is dangerous when we can no longer feel conviction. Don’t put off the call of God. This could be your last opportunity.