

The Sunday School Lesson

by Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION:

The Lord had promised Israel the land of Canaan and had said they would make it their own. Under Moses' leadership they were led from Egypt to the southern border of Canaan, but were too frightened. As a consequence, that entire generation, except for Joshua and Caleb, were sentenced to wilderness wanderings until they died. The new generation did enter the land from the east under Joshua's dedicated leadership.

Just as their fathers had feared, there were severe conflicts and battles. But, beginning with Jericho, they found that with God's help they were constantly victorious whenever they were faithful to Him.

God wants us to become more mature in Christ. He is "able to make all grace abound" toward us. He wanted and promised to give Canaan to the Hebrews, but would not do so apart from their faithful submission to Him and a willingness to face opposition and conflict. So it is with us.

THE LESSON:

"And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt there in. And the Lord gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers; and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not aught of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all come to pass." (Joshua 21: 43-45) "Then Joshua called the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and said unto them, Ye have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you. You have not left your brethren these many days unto this day, but have kept the charge of the commandments of the Lord your God. And now the Lord your God hath given rest unto your brethren, as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you into your tents, and unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of Jordan. But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul. So Joshua blessed them, and sent them away; and they went unto their tents. (Joshua 22: 1-6)

God had promised to bring His people to a good land and He had done so. He had said He would make their enemies afraid of them and would help them conquer the territory. He had stopped the Jordan, cast down Jericho's walls, helped them stamp out any disobedience, and overcome all the military forces raised against them. Thus all God's promises came true for them. His presence blessed them, His power strengthened them, and His reward gladdened their lives.

Certainly this is an example to us. The Bible is full of God's promises, and as Christians we should be especially aware of the promises Jesus made.

From one point of view, the book of Joshua is a long lesson on the basis, nature, and value of faithfulness to God. The foundation for all of Joshua's success as a leader of God's people was his absolute reliance upon the Lord. When he took Moses' place, as leader of Israel he was replacing one who for forty years had guided, instructed, prayed for, and corrected the Israelites. Moses had led them from Egyptian slavery to the brink of Canaan. It was a heroic task to rally, organize, and direct the Hebrews in a series of military campaigns in a hostile and strange country - the task Joshua assumed. But God encouraged Joshua and promised that He would bless and magnify his leadership as he courageously confronted this great challenge. Joshua's trust in God became manifest in the careful way he obeyed every command. No matter how strange God's orders were, such as marching around Jericho, Joshua carried them out.

The mutual trust of student and teacher is the basis on which learning is expedited. The faith of a congregation in its preacher and of a preacher in his people is a cause of spiritual growth. The faithfulness of wife to husband and of husband to wife is the stability of marriage. The children who believe in their parents and the parents who can trust their children experience a happy home, while employees who are reliable in their work, combined with employees who are reliable in their work, combined with employers who are fair and concerned, make for productive work places. In many ways the interrelated actions of Joshua and the tribes of Israel who settled east of Jordan exemplify a general principle of life. Continued devotion to God and conformity to His will blesses every human relationship.

Salvation Is Revelation

By J. L. Little

"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And Jesus answered and said unto Him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jonah: FOR FLESH AND BLOOD HATH NOT REVEALED IT UNTO THEE, BUT MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." (Matt. 16: 16-17)

Salvation comes to the human heart by REVELATION ONLY! SALVATION IS THE REVELATION OF CHRIST to a repenting sinner's heart. If you don't believe that, I have no message for you, and the Bible has no message for you. You cannot know Christ unless He is revealed to your heart. You cannot believe Christ until He is revealed to your heart. I'll stake the destiny of my soul on this great and eternal truth: SALVATION IS THE REVELATION OF CHRIST. I don't care how long you have been in the church, how much you have believed, how much you have given to get the truth out, how much mission work you have done, how much you have prayed, how much you have taught the Word, how much you have preached the Word, if the Lord Jesus Christ has not been revealed to your heart, you are not saved! Now you can drive a peg down there and hold it. Salvation is impossible with man.

The old prophet Jonah cried out; "SALVATION IS OF THE LORD." (Jonah 2:9) I wish that our religious leaders today could go to the same school Jonah went to. Our religious leaders today do not know that salvation is of the Lord. Not only is salvation of the Lord, Salvation is the Lord. Christ, Himself. Do you know Christ? Do you? How long have you known Him? I'll never forget the time the blessed Holy Spirit revealed Christ to my heart. He had been dealing with my heart for years. But I'll never forget that early Saturday noon when the Holy Spirit broke me off the last idol of my heart, self-righteousness. I didn't believe before then that I was all that bad. But when the Holy Spirit threw back the curtain on my heart and let me see my hatred for God, His Word, and His people, I like to have died, and I did die. That was the death blow to my heart. I threw up my hands in my heart and cried unto the Lord; OH, I HATE GOD,

AND THERE IS NO HOPE FOR ME! I'LL JUST GO ON TO HELL WHERE I BELONG, I'M NOT GOING TO EVER OPEN MY BIBLE AGAIN, I'LL NEVER PRAY ANYMORE, I'LL NEVER LISTEN TO ANY MORE MESSAGES. I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I KNOW TO BE SAVED AND NOTHING HAS HELPED, I'LL JUST GO ON TO HELL WHERE I BELONG. And I meant that very thing. I was through, I was all done. Just a few moments later, much to my surprise, there came a revelation to my heart: "BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE CALLED TO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB." (Rev. 9:19) I saw Christ had blessed me from eternity to eternity and I could never perish. Right there was where Christ was REVEALED to my heart. Praise the Lord.

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