

In this lesson we want to put several pictures together which are taught in the scriptures about our responsibilities to fully come into the blessings which God has for the Body of Christ and later for the World of mankind.

To fully gain the blessings, it will take work, now for the true church and later for the world.

Our March 19 Manna comments tell us:

SOME Christians have the erroneous idea that God does all the fashioning, and that His children are to be merely passive in His hand;

There is work to be done in us and about us, and those who are not up and doing, but who passively sit and wait for the Lord to work miracles in their behalf, are greatly deceived

Php 2:12 ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

But God must first provide the means for our blessing, and then we must do the work to fully benefit from the opportunity.

Looking at the Abrahamic Promise – it was unilateral – it was about what God would do.

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

This says that God would provide the opportunity for this blessing. But it doesn't talk about what the recipients of this opportunity must do.

Again, in Gen 22:16-17

Gen 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Gen 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed

God will provide the opportunity for this blessing, but what about the responsibilities of those who will receive this blessing?

Now we come to God's promises about the Land...

Gen 13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.

Gen 15:7 And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

God tells Abraham of future hardship for his seed...

Gen 15:13 ...Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

This begins with Ishmael's taunting of Isaac, and continues with Israel in Egypt until the Passover and Exodus.

Gen 15:14 And also that nation [EGYPT], whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. [Exodus]

God then established the covenant of circumcision, intended for Abraham and his seed to show Israel's faith in God's promised deliverance.

Gen 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee... **[1]** to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Gen 17:8 And **[2]** I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Then to **Show** that they believed God...

Gen 17:10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

Gen 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token [evidence] of the covenant between me and you.

A Token - Like a wedding ring. When you wear a wedding ring, it means you believe the vow which your spouse made to you.

God wanted the parents to circumcise their infant males to demonstrate the parents' faith that God will **[1]** be their God and **[2]** bring them into the land.

But as the centuries passed, Israel was enslaved by the Egyptians, and they lost faith in God's deliverance. Then, circumcision became simply... a tradition.

Moses was circumcised as a baby, but was then raised in the house of Pharaoh. When he realized his true heritage, he killed an Egyptian, and fled Egypt to Midian for 40 years. He married Zipporah and had a son, Gershom.

God sent Moses back to Egypt as his representative to reestablish their faith and bring them out of Egypt. But, there was a problem... Moses had not circumcised his own son!

So, on the way back to Egypt...

Exo 4:24 ... the LORD met Moses, and sought to kill him.

Moses hadn't shown his own faith in God's promised deliverance by circumcising Gershom. So, Zipporah then circumcised Gershom. Moses lived and continued on his mission..

Pharaoh initially paid no attention to Moses and his request...

Exo 5:2 ...Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

Pharaoh commanded...

Exo 5:7 Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.

Now things looked bleak... with even more hardships.

But God tells Moses the final outcome...

Exo 6:1 ... Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall HE let them go, and with a strong hand shall HE drive them out of his land.

Exo 6:4 And I have also established my covenant with them (Gen 17:8), to give them the land of Canaan,

Then, Moses gave God's wonderful message to Israel...

Exo 6:6 ...I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, ...and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

Exo 6:7 And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Exo 6:8 And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob...

After hearing tis great news...

Exo 6:9 And Moses spoke so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.

God would now reestablish their faith, with the plagues that destroyed Egypt...

The purpose of the plagues is shown several times...

Exo 7:3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

Exo 9:16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee [Pharaoh] up, for to show in thee [Pharaoh] my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

By the time of the tenth plague – Israel's faith was reestablished

Israelites obediently took the Lamb into their homes on the 10th, killed it after sunset on the 14th, ate the lamb in the prescribed manner, and remained under the blood all that night.

(We have all studied these details in our Memorial studies.)

The Law of the Passover (the first feature of the Law) required that all males be circumcised to partake of the Passover.

Exo 12:48 ...for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

In the morning, Israel was on their way to cross the Red sea and then receive the Law at Mount Sinai.

God gave them more his reassurances about bringing them into the land again...

Exo 13:5 And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.

Exo 13:11 And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall GIVE it thee

At Mt Sinai, the Law Covenant was established:

Exo 24:...all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

After the tabernacle was built, it was time to finally enter the land at Kadesh-Barnea.

Here was their opportunity to live their faith in God shown by their circumcision.

[1] to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

[2] give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan,

At Kadesh-Barnea, The Lord spoke to Moses...

Num 13:2 Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan...

Num 13:20 ...And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land.

But the spies gave an evil report...

Num 13:27 ...We came unto the land, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

Num 13:28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great:

Num 13:31 ...We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

Num 14:3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword... were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

God declared to Israel [other than Caleb and Joshua]

Num 14:29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness... from twenty years old and upward, all which have murmured against me.

Num 14:34 ...ye shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years.

Then... many had a change of heart and decided to go up themselves

Num 14:40 ...saying, Lo, we will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised...

But Moses told them they would fail...

Num 14:42 ...for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.

In other words..."You are right – these enemies **ARE** stronger than you, you can't do this yourself in your own strength.

So... for the next 39 years... no circumcision and no Passover.

R3086 Grace Sufficient; Only Believe

"both the circumcision of their children and the annual commemoration of the Passover ceased during that period."

As the 40 years were ending, Moses reassures the people of God's promise...

Deu_7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and

the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations GREATER and MIGHTIER than thou;

Deu 7:2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them;

Deu 7:18 Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;

God told Joshua to tell the people...

Jos 1:6 Be strong and of a good courage

Jos 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you.

Joshua tells them the proof that God is with them:

Jos_3:10 And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

These are the seven nations GREATER and MIGHTIER than Israel.

Israel crossed Jordan in the spring during the treacherous flood stage.

But the Priests led the way with the Ark and Israel crosses on dry ground – no danger, no one dies.

The Canaanites knew that their days were numbered...

Jos_5:1 when the kings of the Amorites, and Canaanites, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, that their hearts melted, neither was there spirit in them anymore,

Then the males born on the journey were circumcised

Jos 5:3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel...

Because...

Jos 5:5 ...all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised.

And then the Passover...

Jos 5:10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

Now they were ready to take the land.

But, right before taking Jericho...

Jos 5:13 when Joshua was by Jericho, ...there stood a man over against him with **his sword drawn in his hand**: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

Jos 5:14 ...Nay; but **as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come**.

According to God's instructions, Israel marched around the city for 6 days, on the seventh, the priests blew their trumpets, the people shouted, and the walls fell down flat. And they utterly destroyed the city.

So, what is **God telling us** with these powerful types and pictures? Who are these for?

1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for **our admonition**...

For those who would be of the body of Christ, they must **first** have the desire to draw near to know the one true God without all the nominal errors and filters.

Jas_4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

God tells us that we must first learn of his Son, the perfect man, the ransom, whose voluntary death makes possible all of God's promises.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

Then we can approach God with vitalized justification... for consecration.

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

To be counted as a spiritual son of God.

We experience the antitypical circumcision of the heart.

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Partake of the antitypical Passover Lamb.

We receive the holy spirit poured on...

Joe 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

This is the powerful influence that enables us to slay the Canaanites in our characters as we see what true righteousness in God's law and his Son.

Rom 12:2 ...be not conformed to this world: but be ye **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Php 2:5 Let **this mind** be in you, **which was also in Christ Jesus**:

Our antitypical circumcision of the heart indicates that we believe that we can be victorious, that we can...

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith...

This **antitypical circumcision** shows our faith that God will bring us off more than conquerors if we maintain our faith and fight the proper battles the Lords has for us.

Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors through him that loved us**.

In R5705: Our Conquest of the Antitypical Canaanites

"We are, as New Creatures, to conquer, to destroy, these tendencies of the flesh which would enslave us. If we do not overcome and destroy them, they will overcome and destroy us. We are to vanquish the evil propensities, evil habits, vices, thoughts, desires, which have inhabited our minds, and are by our new wills to take entire control and fill the place of the former occupants with holy, pure thoughts, desires, ambitions, purposes, habits."

"Our warfare against spiritual foes must result in the utter destruction of the fleshly mind, and will also mean the death of the human body."

We are assured of victory...

As Moses told Israel they would go against...

Deu 7:1 **seven nations GREATER and MIGHTIER than thou**;

But don't be afraid, because they are no match for Lord's holy spirit – holy influence working in us.

As Joshua was met by the Captain of the Lord's Hosts with a drawn sword. We also have the Captain of the Lord's hosts, who is now glorified Christ, to help fight our battles right beside us. His sword is already drawn to help us fight against our character enemies.

As Paul told us...

2Co 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds [in ourselves]

2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought [our thoughts] to the obedience of Christ;

Our resolve to entirely destroy our character enemies is powerfully shown...

Jos 10:24 ...Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these [Canaanite] kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

Jos 10:25 And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

Jos 10:26 And... Joshua smote them, and slew them

We must not be like King Saul who saved alive Agag the king of the Amalekites – we must put our feet upon the neck of even our “dearest” character enemies and slay them.

Jos 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you

Our characters, this side the veil, are to be the land flowing with milk and honey and be very fruitful, as Paul tells us..

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Peter tells us:

2Pe 1:5 ...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2Pe 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2Pe 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2Pe 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our character development must be this side the veil. There is no character development on the other side.

It takes work to enter into rest in our antitypical Canaan, this side the veil. As Paul tells us:

Heb 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Heb 4:11 Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Peter urges us to give all diligence to make our calling and election sure.

Our March 13 Manna Article reminds us, we run for the Mark of the Prize.

The lesson of these types continues...

The world of mankind are also included in this type of Circumcision, Passover, and Entering the Land.

But, they certainly cannot do these things now, as Br Russell tells us on F458

F458:

"...hundreds of millions of humanity have a craving for liberty from bondage to their own sins and weaknesses, as well as for release from the penalties of these--pain and death. **But without divine aid, mankind is powerless**. A few make a vigorous struggle, and accomplish something; **but none get free**.

This was shown in the type after God condemned Israel to the 40 years in the wilderness until all the adults (other than Caleb and Joshua) died. When they saw their condemnation, they tried to go into the land themselves, but Moses told them...

Num 14:42 (AMP) "Do not go up, or you will be struck down before your enemies, for the LORD is not among you.

They must go in under the Antitypical Joshua ("Deliverer") – the Christ head and body.

As the Ransom Price is paid over to divine justice, they will realize that the antitypical Jordan River has been stopped for them to pass over, because of the work of the Christ head and body.

They will have the circumcision of heart and recognize the antitypical Passover Lamb and be nourished by it.

Joh 6:51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

They will have the influence of the holy spirit...

Joe 2:28 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

They will see things happening that their fathers could only hope for.

They will realize that they can then make progress.

Isa 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Eze_36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Isa 35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

They will realize that they can also be successful and finally vanquish the Canaanites in their characters, under the antitypical Joshua.

Num 33:51 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan;

Num 33:53 And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it.

Continuing in R5705

"This is also a picture of conditions in the Millenium... Christ, the Antitype of Joshua, will then be in control, and will show man how to exterminate these things of sin and thus eventually come into possession of the earth, the Eden of God, and each man be a king, a sovereign."

Revisiting the Abrahamic Promise...

Br Russell uses this translation to show that even through the Abrahamic Promise is unilateral and unconditional, mankind also has responsibility...

Gen_22:18 [Rotherham] So shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves in thy seed,—
Because thou didst hearken unto my voice.

In other words, they will have to work to fully avail themselves of the blessed opportunity of human perfection presented to them. But they must do the work, they must fight the battles to the finish.

And... once these battles have been completed...

Isa_14:7 The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

And God's amazing prophecy... given right after Israel's failure at Kadesh-Barnea, will come true.

Num 14:21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.