

***Where is My Victory?
Or
Why is My Victory Incomplete?
Part Two***

There is a second great reason that many Christians do not experience the victory that Christ has bought and secured for them and it, too, is found in this section of scripture, dealing with the conquest of Canaan.

But, first, I would like to remind you of the specific instructions that the Israelites had received before going into the land concerning the inhabitants they would find and the way Israel was to handle them.

Deut 7:1-8

- 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;
- 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 shew mercy unto them:
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: 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.
- 7 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, 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. KJV

Deut 20:16-18

- 16 But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:
- 17 But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:
- 18 That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God. KJV

The instructions are pretty clear, are they not? Israel was not to allow *any* of these people to

remain in the land because their presence there would ultimately be destructive to Israel. Apparently, there were extremely few, if any, of the Lord's elect among them and would not be in their children if they were allowed to live.

They would not be dissuaded from worshiping their false gods and the unregenerate children born to Israel would become easy prey for the lies of the Canaanite religions.

There was no equivocation on the part of God concerning this matter. But look what happened.

Josh 9:1-15

- 1 And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof;
- 2 That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord.
- 3 And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai,
- 4 They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up;
- 5 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy.
- 6 And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us.
- 7 And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you?
- 8 And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye?
- 9 And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt,
- 10 And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth.
- 11 Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us.
- 12 This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy:
- 13 And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.
- 14 **And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.**
- 15 And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them. KJV

Three days later, Israel found out that they were the next cities on the horizon and would have been destroyed if things had progressed as anticipated.

Here, Joshua was presented with a thorny problem, which always happens when we make major decisions (enter into questionable relationships) without seeking God, or without paying attention to what He has said about a matter.

Some in Israel wanted to destroy them because God had commanded them to do so, but Joshua and the elders of Israel had sworn an oath to the, presumably in the name of the Lord, and did not want to go back on the oath lest they incur the wrath of God for that.

Josh 9:17-19

- 17 And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and Kirjath-jearim.
- 18 And the children of Israel smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation murmured against the princes.
- 19 But all the princes said unto all the congregation, We have sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them. KJV

The way this is phrased it looks like there was an active desire among the people to obey Moses and God but Joshua and the elders offered another solution.

Josh 9:20-21

- 20 This we will do to them; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we sware unto them.
- 21 And the princes said unto them, Let them live; but let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto all the congregation; as the princes had promised them. KJV

These people were Hivites and were among the ones that Israel had been specifically ordered to destroy but now they let them live.

One wonders whether Joshua's solution was right or wrong. It is definite that the first decision was a wrong one that would have been easily resolved had they but sought the Lord before entering into the covenant with them. But, once the covenant was made, should they have gone back on it? The historian here makes no comment one way or the other. But there is a place in scripture that will help us.

During the reign of Saul, he attempted to exterminate the Gibeonites. There is nothing recorded about this in the history of Saul's reign but we are told of it during the record of the reign of David.

2 Sam 21:1-6

- 1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.
- 2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had

- sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)
- 3 Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?
- 4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you.
- 5 And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel,
- 6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them. KJV

Here it is plain that Saul's violation of this covenant was a sin against God and one that God visited with judgment upon Israel.

So, we conclude that it appears that Joshua did right by keeping the oath even though he had done wrong by making the oath.

But the consequences were exactly as God had warned at the beginning. The Hivites kept their Baal worship alive and it was a plague upon Israel time and again.

Not only that but having left the Hivites without conquering them completely it appears that the notion that they all were to be exterminated was sort of lost and other tribes were left to survive and other cities were left unconquered. One must read the whole of the book of Joshua to realize this.

Thus, Israel's victory was not complete because they had entered into an improper and forbidden relationship. Their entire history was marred by the incomplete obedience in dealing with the Canaanites.

This serves as a picture and a warning for the people of God who are looking for victory in their lives in the New Covenant. Relationships are to be guarded and certain relationships are to be avoided.

The marriage of a believer to an unbeliever is forbidden.

1 Cor 7:39

39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord. KJV

The serious believer who enters into an intimate relationship with an unbeliever is sure to have much difficulty because of it. Thus, Paul warns against it.

This is also covered in a more general principle of the NT which covers more than just marriage.

2 Cor 6:14-18

- 14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
- 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?
- 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,
- 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. KJV

Though marriage is not in direct view here, the principle would certainly apply. But it is obvious that there is a larger consideration. How does a believer interact with the wicked world around him, the culture of ungodliness? He is to separate himself from it and not 'fellowship' nor 'commune' with it. There is to be a definite and clear separation of himself from the behaviors and practices of the ungodly. This is not isolationism but it is a very definite separation. The reason? It is a hindrance to communion with God, v.16. As far as victory is concerned, we must conclude that it must ever be an incomplete one so long as improper relationships are kept.

It even goes so far as family relationships, Jesus said.

Luke 12:51-53

- 51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:
- 52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.
- 53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. KJV

Luke 14:26-27

- 26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.
- 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. KJV

There comes a point in the lives of many believers when they must choose between family relationships and Christ. When those times come, Jesus said, there should be no contest, the love for Him must be so much greater than the love for them that it looks like one hates his family.

Improper family relationships often hinder God's people from completely following Him and experiencing the victory that He has for them.

Then, there is a principle concerning the church. There are even improper relationships which hinder the victory of believers that can happen within the framework of Christianity itself.

1 Cor 5:1-8

- 1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.
- 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.
- 3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,
- 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?
- 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:
- 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. KJV

A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I am not entirely certain of all that this means but I do know that the sins of Achan caused Israel to lose a battle and 36 men to die. I know that Saul's sin against the Gibeonites caused a famine during the days of David.

And, I am just as certain that two of the great hindrances to Revival in Our Time are secret sins and improper relationships on many levels: individuals to the world, the church with the world, and lack of discipline within churches.