

Farthest Limits

Joshua 18

1. 2011 was marked by delay, disorder...things held back; God uses delay to work things into us.
2. 2012 would be a year of sudden resolution; but this hasn't occurred in the way that God intends. **2 reasons:**
 - We wait for a season that is already upon us; we wait on God when in fact God is waiting on us; God intends for us to learn how to produce and re-produce out of season; **Ecclesiastes 4:12** – we need to plant not based on the rain; hardly ever is it the right of season to start anything; but God is waiting to see if His people can produce out of season & not be a "hot house" people
 - The second reason is that people won't produce because people don't know what theirs is rightfully. God's intent and what He intends us to inherit is set forth in the Bible. We don't need a new promise; we need a re-revelation of old one's, what God has already spoken.
 - There is nothing wrong with the seed of God's Word; but He is looking to see if the seed will fall on "good soil"; what we need is not a new word, but a reminder.
 - An excuse is a reason with no faith. We offer it as a reason, an explanation, but it simply states what we lack faith for

Joshua 18:2-3 *"There remained among the people of Israel seven tribes whose inheritance had not yet been apportioned.. So Joshua said to the people of Israel, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you?"*

Joshua 17:14-18 *"Why have you given us only one allotment and one portion for an inheritance? We are a numerous people and the Lord has blessed us abundantly." "If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites." The people of Joseph replied, "The hill country is not enough, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have chariots fitted with iron, both those in Beth Shan and its settlements and those in the Valley of Jezreel." But Joshua said to the tribes of Joseph – to Ephraim and Manasseh – "You are numerous and very powerful. You will have not only one allotment but the forested country as well. Clear it, and its farthest limits will be yours; though the Canaanites have chariots fitted with iron and thought they are strong, you can drive them out."*

- There were larger tribes and they had inherited some of the most fertile land in Israel.
- If the land is too small then go up to the hill country; go up & clear it – "You can drive them out!"

3 things

1. We have the FAVOR of God, **Psalm 30:5** – “God’s favor is for a lifetime.” This is our starting place, the basis
 - a. God’s favor is backed up by Himself – He is always there to implement and make them come to pass
 - b. Yet His favor is often regarded as “fleeting” – easy to miss and hard to come by
 - c. But this misses the fact that favor is not a “situation” but a “condition”; favor is not a seasonal phenomenon but a lifetime position.
 - d. Favor is on our life; the question is whether we will recognize it as upon our lives and begin to act upon it.
 - e. We equate “ease” with “favor” – we think if favored we’ll have ease in our circumstances.
 - f. But favor is a “condition”, a place of standing. “Whoever find Me finds life and favor from the Lord” [PROV] – Favor is bestowed
 - g. Mary is an example: The angel’s word to Mary was “Greetings for you are highly favored...” This wasn’t just a greeting to a unique bible character?
 - h. This is the same declaration over your life today because of the Cross of Christ. There is a lifetime of favor on our lives by virtue of God’s choice.
 - i. God intends that favor would be experienced corporately & be contagious – can his favor be experienced among his people and will it leak out? God’s favor is not intended to be primarily for personal consumption.
 - i. Too often we want to prosper individually – we think of favor as personally experienced when God intends for that favor to be experienced & shown forth among a people.
 - ii. Joseph’s life was favored and all he did prospered and from that favor came salvation for the world.
 - iii. We need to understand that the favor on our lives individually “leaks out” to the circumstances around us & we become a conduit. The fact that we are where we are so that the favor on our lives is to bless all around us. Again, that favor is not for ourselves only.
 - j. The Cross breaks a cycle of curses over our lives so that, on the basis of God’s favor on our lives, a new cycle of blessing of release can begin and flow forth from this point forward

2. Clear the FOREST to the farthest limits (**Joshua 17:18**) “Cut it down”
 - a. We need to clear the forest – for the purpose of building & planting.
 - b. We get romantic about the trees around our lives that block the view of the inheritance that we have & block our progress to attain that inheritance.
 - i. Trees of disillusionment, disappointment – need to be cut down to see beyond them to the lengths of one’s inheritance
 - ii. Some trees represent sin, business, preoccupation in our lives and they block our perception; we fail to see the farthest limits of what God wants to do in our lives.

- iii. We're occupied with so much that nothing in particular is growing well. Notion that we can know it all & have it all is not true
 - iv. "Lust" is a desire or acquiring anything beyond what God intends you to have.
 - v. When we get the elements of our lives in line with God's expectations and our lives come to rest & order; we have an inheritance to obtain; we must not be kept from it by the distracting things we desire.
 - vi. We're often so busy we can't see the boundary stones of what we're to inherit
3. FOES that can be overcome – **Joshua 17:18** – "You can drive them out"
- a. Often we refuse to acknowledge & state our condition for what it is, we feel to honestly state it we would disqualify ourselves.
 - b. All of us would like a no-hassle inheritance – we want our inheritance in God to be a simple & direct – we don't want to find, face or fight the foes.
 - c. In taking the land our inheritance contains, either the giants that occupy the land are going to get bigger or God is going to get bigger.
 - i. We must not allow the devil to squat on our inheritance & not drive him out
 - ii. Joshua told the tribes to overthrow the giants on their inheritance; they needed to go on the offense
 - iii. We must not be surprised when we find the enemy squatting on what is rightfully our inheritance. We must take authority over what has violated our space & attempt to keep us from what God has appointed for us.
 - iv. This is what we need to increasingly come to an offensive posture – like a grandmother's stand against a stray dog telling it to 'get out of here' – we must develop the same posture that drives out the squatters.
 - v. Some of these we've allowed to remain & we need to drive them off
4. Conclusion:
- a. God intends to bring us into sudden resolution and inheritance. For this to happen:
 - b. We need to affirm our inheritance – that God's favor is on our life
 - c. We need to deal with the forest – the trees – whether circumstances or sin; we need to see how far our inheritance extends
 - d. We need to run off the foes – they are occupying what is rightfully ours.