

HOW TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND

The Promised Land of the ancient Israelites was a type of the Promised Land of today's people of God. In order to understand how to enter the Promised Land of today's people of God, we need to study how the ancient Israelites entered their Promised Land.

Ex. 13:17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

Why didn't God lead the Israelites through the short route that leads straight to Gaza, but instead led them through a long way that involved long period in the desert?

Ac. 14:22 "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Ja. 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

Ja. 1:3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Ja. 1:4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

People generally hate tribulations, but tribulations happen to be avenues for a human being to increase his faith. It is advanced faith in God that pushes a human being into the Promised Land. Therefore, God led the Israelites through hard tribulation in order for them to develop advanced faith in God. In a similar manner, the people of God of today must pass through hard end-time tribulation before the rapture.

Nu. 13:1 The LORD said to Moses,

Nu. 13:2 "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."

Nu. 13:3 So at the LORD's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

Nu. 13:27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.

Nu. 13:28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there."

Nu. 13:30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

Nu. 13:31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are."

Nu. 14:1 That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.

Nu. 14:2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert!

Nu. 14:3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

Nu. 14:26 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

Nu. 14:27 "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites.

Nu. 14:28 So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say:

Nu. 14:29 In this desert your bodies will fall — every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.

Nu. 14:30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Nu. 14:31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected."

About one year after the Israelites left Egypt, they were close to entering the Promised Land. But God had to test their faith to see if they were qualified to take the land. The Israelites failed the faith test and God decreed that all the Israelites from 20 years and above, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua, would not enter the Promised Land.

The Promised Land for today's people of God

The Promised Land for today's people of God is heaven, and the only way to enter heaven is through the rapture of the saints of God. What is the requirement for those that will participate in the rapture?

Ep. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Ep. 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

Ep. 5:27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

1Jn. 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1Jn. 3:3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

The requirement for anyone that will participate in the rapture is that the person must be holy and blameless (perfect). The person must become like Jesus, in righteousness and holiness. Generally, when the people of God hear this, they say that it is impossible.

Ps. 95:10 For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways."

Mt. 19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Ps. 95:10 shows us why the people of God have been seeing perfection as impossibility. The hearts of the people of God are always going astray; they have not known the ways of God. What is this saying? Well, you see, Jesus said, "With God all things are possible." This means that when the hearts of God's people are with God in His ways, everything becomes possible for them. But when the hearts of God's people go astray from the ways of God, many things become impossible for them.

Ro. 4:17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." [Gen. 17:5] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed — the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Ro. 4:18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." [Gen. 15:5]

In order for a person's heart to consistently be with God, the person must have a clear understanding of the ways of God. In fact, a person's heart can be consistently with God only if the person is always following the ways of God. What are the ways of God? We can see them in Ro. 4:17. God gives life to the dead and He calls the things that are not as though they were. A person's heart being with God means that the person is copying God's ways as his own ways; he believes that through the Holy Spirit, God can give life to the dead and God can cause things that are nonexistent to come into existence. In Ro. 4:18, Abraham's and Sarah's bodies were dead, as far as procreation was concerned, but Abraham chose to follow the ways of God.

How ancient Israelites entered their Promised Land

Nu. 20:2 Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron.

Nu. 20:6 Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell face down, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them.

Nu. 20:7 The LORD said to Moses,

Nu. 20:8 "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so that they and their livestock can drink."

God wanted to teach the people of Israel a very important aspect of faith, which is speaking to the Spirit of God, but Moses bungled the whole lesson. God promptly declared the end of Moses' ministry. The word of God comes through His Holy Spirit. When we confess the promises of God through word of faith, we are invoking the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Rock that Moses was supposed to speak to.

Jo. 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant:

Jo. 1:2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them — to the Israelites.

Jo. 1:3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

Jo. 1:5 No-one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Jo. 1:10 So Joshua ordered the officers of the people:

Jo. 1:11 "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'"

Shortly after God made some great promises to Joshua, Joshua ordered the officers of the people to go through the camp and make proclamations that are in line with the promises God had given him. Obviously, the people would tell one another those same proclamations. All those proclamations spoke to the Spirit of God (the Rock). That was the secret of Joshua's success in crossing the Israelites into the Promised Land. The key to the Promised Land is word of faith.

How to achieve perfection through Faith

Ez. 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

Ez. 37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

Ez. 37:7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.

Ez. 37:8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Ez. 37:9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"

Ez. 37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet — a vast army.

In the valley of dry bones of Ez. 37:1-10, the process that led to resurrection began with the prophet prophesying the word to the dry bones; this made the dry bones to put on flesh, but there was no life in the new bodies. This is then followed by the prophet prophesying to the breath (the Spirit) to enter the bones that had put on flesh; this led to resurrection. Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world only creates a people that have a form of godliness, but without power of resurrection (2Ti. 3:5). It takes the word of faith for the Holy Spirit to bring the power of resurrection into the people of God.

In order to enter the Promised Land, the Rock of God (the Holy Spirit) must be present. A person who doesn't have the Spirit of God cannot enter the Promised Land. It is only when the Holy Spirit is present that speaking the word of faith could cause resurrection.

2Pe. 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2Pe. 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

God's divine power has given us everything we need (not want!) for life and godliness. Everything we need to rise up to perfection is available through the divine power. How do we access the divine power in order to obtain what we need? It is through God's great and precious promises. How?

Hk. 2:2 Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

Hk. 2:3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

Mt. 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" [Deut. 8:3]

Whatever promise God has made in His word is sure. Base your life on the promises of God and the fact that the divine power at work within you is able to fulfil the promises of God through the Holy Spirit. As you confess the promises of God with your mouth, you are invoking the Holy Spirit. Let me give an example.

Ph. 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, Ph. 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

"In the mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ, let the Holy Spirit of God continually work in me and make me to always be doing the will of God."

"Praise be to God! The Holy Spirit of God shall continue to work in me and make me to consistently do the will of God, in the name of Jesus Christ."

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