

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
PROMISES FULFILLED
JOSHUA 21:43-45**

Introduction

Earlier, we sang the favorite old hymn, “*STANDING ON THE PROMISES.*” We who **KNOW** the **LORD** have come to **KNOW** as we **GROW** in the **LORD** that the **BIBLE** is full of **GOD’S PROMISES** that we can stand on!

Throughout the **SCRIPTURE**, the **LORD** has given mankind many, many **PROMISES! PROMISES** concerning **HIS LOVE, FORGIVENESS, SALVATION, THE HOLY SPIRIT, EVERLASTING LIFE, PEACE, JOY, FREEDOM, GROWTH, ENCOURAGEMENT, STRENGTH, CARE, COMING AGAIN, ETC. ETC.**

We have an **ALMIGHTY GOD** that **CARES** for us and **DESIRES** that we would **HEED HIS LEADERSHIP** for our lives! And so **HE CHALLENGES** us in the **TESTING** of our **HEARTS** and our **FAITH!**

HE does that so that we will **GROW** in our understanding of **HIS WAYS**, learning to **STAND** upon the **SOLID ROCK** of **HIS UNCHANGING** and **POWERFUL PROMISES!**

This Chapter speaks specifically of the cities of the **LEVITES** and how these cities and the common-lands were distributed to them. Then to close off the Chapter, we are given a reflective moment that magnifies the **FAITHFULNESS OF GOD** shown by **HIS FULFILLING** the **PROMISES HE** made to the nation of **ISRAEL!**

READ THE SCRIPTURE...JOSHUA 21:43-45

This evening I want us to look at five aspects of PROMISES FULFILLED that are found here in these verses!

I. THE LORD MADE PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE!

Joshua 21:43a—“And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers...”

The **LORD** gave **ISRAEL PROMISES** in order to **DEVELOP** within them the **REALIZATION** that they must be **DEPENDENT** upon **HIM** alone!

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
PROMISES FULFILLED
JOSHUA 21:43-45**

They were to have **no other gods before them**, but rather they were to cast all their energy into **FOLLOWING THROUGH** on the **DIRECTION** that the **LORD** gave them through **HIS PROMISES!**

The **LORD** told them when they left **EGYPT** that **HE** was **LEADING** them to a **LAND** flowing with milk and honey and that **HE** would **DELIVER** their enemies into their hands!

Why does the LORD make PROMISES to us? HE does so to **DEMONSTRATE HIS SOVEREIGNTY** and to **RAISE OUR LEVEL OF REVERENCE TOWARDS HIM!**

(e.g. The Children of **ISRAEL** with their backs against the **RED SEA** and **PHARAOH’S** army in pursuit in *Exodus 14:13-14*)

In much the same way that **HE** did with **ISRAEL**, the **LORD** makes **PROMISES** to us to help us **GROW** in our **FAITH** in **HIM** and to see the **REALITY** that **HE IS AN ALMIGHTY GOD WHO FULFILLS HIS PROMISES!**

The **LORD** is **MORE THAN ABLE! HE’S MORE THAN TRUSTWORTHY! HE’S IMPECCABLE, PERFECT, HOLY,** and **RIGHTEOUS** in **ALL HIS WAYS—INCLUDING WHAT HE SAYS AND DOES!**

THE LORD MADE PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE

II. THE LORD KEPT HIS PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE!

Joshua 21:45—“There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.”

Time and time again the **LORD** placed before the **ISRAELITES HIS PLAN** for their **SUCCESS! HE** gave them **PROMISES** and all **HE** asked was that they would **TRUST HIM** and be **FAITHFUL** enough to **FOLLOW THROUGH** with what **HE** told them!

HE PROVIDED for **ALL** their **NEEDS!**

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
PROMISES FULFILLED
JOSHUA 21:43-45**

HE GAVE them the **DIRECTION** and the **LEADERSHIP** that was needed and yet, often times, they **TURNED AWAY** from **OBEYING HIM** as they should have!

During this period in **ISRAEL'S HISTORY**, there was much that they had to **REJOICE** in! They could reflect on **GOD'S PROMISES** and **GOD'S GUIDANCE** that **HE PROVIDED** for the nation and they could **PRAISE HIS NAME** for the **GREAT THINGS HE** had done!

So here is a good question: Why Should We TRUST THE LORD?

Because we can see **HIS** track record in the **SCRIPTURE!** We can see from **SCRIPTURE** that the **LORD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!** **HE** doesn't let **HIS PEOPLE** down! (e.g. *HE is not like others.*)

HIS WORD is **UNSHAKEABLE** and we can **REST ASSURED** that when we live our lives by the **WORD OF GOD** that our lives are going to be fulfilling! (e.g. The **ABUNDANT LIFE** in **CHRIST!**)

Now that doesn't mean that we will be **FREE FROM TRIALS** and **TRIBULATIONS!** In fact, **JESUS** said that in this world we would have **TRIBULATION!** But even in **TRIBULATIONS** and **TRIALS** we can take **COMFORT** in knowing that the **LORD** is in **CONTROL** and all that **HE** has said **WILL** come to pass!

The **ULTIMATE VICTORY** will be the **GLORIFYING** of our **HEAVENLY FATHER** and if we have **TRUSTED IN THE LORD** we will **REJOICE** in the end as **HIS PROMISES** are **FULFILLED!**

*THE LORD MADE PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE!
THE LORD KEPT HIS PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE!*

III. THE LORD'S PEOPLE TOOK POSSESSION OF THE PROMISES! (AT LEAST SOME OF THEM)

Joshua 21:43b—“...and they possessed it..”

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
PROMISES FULFILLED
JOSHUA 21:43-45**

Now the way in which the people of **ISRAEL** took **POSSESSION** of the **LAND** was not the way the **LORD** had originally designed. Nevertheless, it was completed. (*They didn't drive out all the inhabitants in the LAND!*)

SCRIPTURE shows us how the nation, through **DISOBEDIENCE**, allowed **OBSTACLES** to get in their way, such as, the **FEAR** of the **GIANTS** that sent them wandering in the wilderness for forty years.

The **LORD** expects us to **TAKE POSSESSION** of that which **HE PROMISES** us! When **HE** puts forth **HIS PROMISES**, **HE EXPECTS HIS PEOPLE** to **TRUST HIM** and **OBEY HIM!**

We should learn from the people of **ISRAEL** and see how that many times they were their own worst enemies and understand that it is easy for us to not be much different than they were! We're still **FLESH!**

There is **NOTHING** to worry about when we **FULLY TRUST** the **LORD** and **LEAN** on **HIS PROMISES!** Our **HEARTS** should be filled with **JOY** and our cups overflowing with anticipation of **WHEN** and **HOW** the **LORD'S PROMISES** will come to pass, not if they will come to pass!

IV. THE LORD'S PEOPLE DWELT IN WHAT HE PROMISED!
Joshua 21:43c— “...and dwelt in it.”

Here we see the nation of **ISRAEL** now **DWELLING** in the **PROMISED LAND!**

No doubt it was a time of **GREAT JOY** and **REFLECTION** over the **GREAT THINGS** the **LORD** had accomplished for their nation! Quite possibly, some of them shook their heads when they thought of the foolish decisions they made along the way.

But at the same time they **REJOICED** in the **SPLENDOR** of the **LAND** the **LORD** had given them!

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
PROMISES FULFILLED
JOSHUA 21:43-45**

Could I tell you that the **LORD** wants us to **DWELL** in **HIS PROMISES** as well! **HE** not only wants us to be aware of the **PROMISES HE** has made, but **HE** wants us to see them come to pass through our **FAITH** in and **OBEDIENCE** to **HIM!**

HE wants us to be in tune with the **LEADERSHIP** of **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** in our lives and follow through in **FULL OBEDIENCE** to the **DIRECTION HE** gives us!

When we come to **POSSESS** the **PROMISES OF GOD** and **DWELL** in them, then we too will both **REFLECT** and **REJOICE** when the **VICTORY** becomes ours!

The **LORD** wants us to take time to **REFLECT** on the **MAGNIFICENT WAYS** that **HE WORKS** in our lives and then lift both our **HANDS** and our **HEARTS** in **PRAISE TO HIM!**

In this busy world in which we live, we're quick to jump into the next thing on our agenda. But **GOD** calls for us to stop and **REJOICE** and **PRAISE HIS NAME!** That's why **HE** demonstrates **HIS POWER** in carrying out **HIS PROMISES!** It is for us to **GLORY** in **HIM** and **HIS NAME!**

So we are to stop and **GLORIFY HIM!** Recognizing that everything good comes from **HIM** and without **HIM** our actions are futile!

Dwelling in the good things that **GOD** has done focuses our attention on **HIM** and that's exactly where our attention ought to be.

We should never allow the working of **GOD** in our lives to be responded to as if they were mundane or commonplace! **HE** deserves our sincere **PRAISE** and **GRATITUDE!**

THE LORD MADE PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE...KEPT HIS PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PEOPLE TOOK POSSESSION OF THE PROMISES and DWELT IN WHAT HE PROMISED.

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
PROMISES FULFILLED
JOSHUA 21:43-45**

V. THE LORD GAVE HIS PEOPLE REST!

Joshua 21:44-45- "44 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. 45 There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

The people of **ISRAEL** were given **REST!** They were no longer striving and struggling at this point in their history.

They had **PEACE** and **COMFORT**, **RESTING** in the **FULFILLED PROMISES** of **GOD** in the **PROMISED LAND!**

We can only imagine how **JOY** and **JUBILATION** must have warmed their souls! **WORRY** and **PAIN** had taken a back seat. Affirming **GOD'S SOVEREIGN WISDOM** overshadowed the difficulties of the past.

It is a **WONDERFUL** thing to **REST** in the **PROMISES** of **GOD!** **GOD** wants us to **REST** in **HIS PROMISES!** **HE** wants us to get to the place of awareness that **HE** is an **ALL-KNOWING, ALMIGHTY GOD** that has no reason to be **DOUBTED!**

Each and every **PROMISE HE** makes **WILL** come to pass!
Jeremiah 29:11- "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

It is with **VERSES** such as this that the **HOLY SPIRIT** encourages and reminds us of the beauty of **GOD'S PLAN** for us!

We may be frustrated at times because **HIS WAYS** are not our ways and we want the **PROMISES FULFILLED** sooner rather than later, yet we should be at **PEACE** in our lives knowing that **HE IS IN CONTROL!**

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
PROMISES FULFILLED
JOSHUA 21:43-45**

Because there is no higher or mightier **WORD** to **REST** upon than that of the **WORD OF GOD! HE** knows what is best for us!

Conclusion

GOD has given us many **PROMISES** and **GOD** will **KEEP ALL HIS PROMISES!**

The question is this: Will we **TRUST GOD** by taking **POSSESSION** of **GOD'S PROMISES** and **DWELLING** in **GOD'S PROMISES** so that **GOD** can us **REST?**