

Walk Through the Land

Purpose: to encourage the church to find out what God has given us to do, knowing that He will only give us what we can handle and will protect us from the schemes of the evil one.

Has God given you something to inherit? Something to conquer? What strongholds exist in your family? At your workplace? Among your friends? What can we learn from the children of Israel as they began to defeat their enemies?

After their great victories (Jericho, Ai, etc.) the children of Israel continued to battle, but did not possess all of the land, but God had already told them that this would happen:

Deu 7:17 - "If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?'—

Deu 7:18 - you shall not be afraid of them, *but* you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt:

Deu 7:19 - the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

Deu 7:20 - Moreover the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed.

Deu 7:21 - You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD your God, the great and awesome God, *is* among you.

Deu 7:22 - And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become *too* numerous for you.

Deu 7:23 - But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed.

God drove out their enemies little by little. Why? Because the wild beast would become too much to for them to handle. He only gave them what they could bear. But what would wild beast do?

Lev 26:21 - 'Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins.

Lev 26:22 - I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.

2 Ki 17:25 - And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, *that* they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed *some* of them.

Jer 15:3 - "And I will appoint over them four forms of *destruction*," says the LORD: "the sword to slay, the dogs to drag, the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy.

Beast may also represent spiritual forces that must be conquered:

Pro 28:15 - *Like a roaring lion and a charging bear
Is a wicked ruler over poor people.*

Dan 7:3 - And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

Dan 7:4 - The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Dan 7:5 - "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

Dan 7:6 - "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

Dan 7:7 - "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns.

Mat 7:15 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Rev 13:1 - Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

Eze 13:4 - O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts.

This is one of the reasons why spiritual enemies are defeated little by little – we can only handle so much:

1 Co 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

The children of Israel still had much to conquer, so God told them to survey the land:

Jos 18:1 - Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.

Jos 18:2 - But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.

Jos 18:3 - Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?"

Jos 18:4 - Pick out from among you three men for *each* tribe, and I will send them; they shall rise and go through the land, survey it according to their inheritance, and come *back* to me.

Jos 18:5 - And they shall divide it into seven parts. Judah shall remain in their territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall remain in their territory on the north.

Jos 18:6 - You shall therefore survey the land in seven parts and bring *the survey* here to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.

Jos 18:7 - But the Levites have no part among you, for the priesthood of the LORD *is* their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them."

Jos 18:8 - Then the men arose to go away; and Joshua charged those who went to survey the land, saying, "Go, walk through the land, survey it, and come back to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh."

Jos 18:9 - So the men went, passed through the land, and wrote the survey in a book in seven parts by cities; and they came to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh.

What can we learn from them?

- Survey the land – each of us should look around to find out what God wants us to do
- Divide it into seven parts – where is your part?
- As a church, what has God given us to conquer – our area of inheritance?
- I need to survey – but what am I looking for?

Let's consider the example of the children of Israel:

Num 13:17 - Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, "Go up this *way* into the South, and go up to the mountains,

Num 13:18 - and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it *are* strong or weak, few or many;

Num 13:19 - whether the land they dwell in *is* good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit *are* like camps or strongholds;

Num 13:20 - whether the land *is* rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time *was* the season of the first ripe grapes.

What am I looking for when I search the land?

- What are the people like? (What are the strengths and weaknesses of my adversaries?)
- What are their cities and habitat like? (What strongholds do I need to pull down in prayer?)
- Is the land rich or poor? – (Are there resources to receive?)
- Are there forests there? – (Are there difficulties to overcome?)

Summary:

- God is encouraging us to survey, walk through the land, and find our role to play
- God will only give us what we can handle

- God will teach us how to deal with the wild beast
- God has given us something as our inheritance – a part to conquer