

THE CALL OF GOD TO JOSHUA: HE WAS THE AIDE AND MILITARY COMMANDER TO MOSES

JOSHUA 01:01–09

Introduction

Allegiance or loyalty is an absolute essential in life. No group of people can be held together without allegiance, without being loyal to one another. Even nations and governments demand the allegiance of their citizens. For example, America challenges its citizens to pledge their loyalty to the nation and its principles. When confronting the American flag, American citizens are asked to declare their allegiance:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Without loyalty, a body of people falls apart, disintegrates. Loyalty is a necessity — an absolute imperative — to hold together any relationship. Allegiance is essential with any business, civic or social club; with any athletic team, army, spy network or nation.

The Israelites were about to face the challenge of their lives. They were now to cross the Jordan River to begin their conquest of the promised land. Army after army would oppose the Israelites, threatening to erase them from the face of the earth. The struggle for the promised land would last for years. If allegiance and loyalty were ever called for, it was now. Mobilization was needed — a mobilization of the entire nation had to be carried out in order to march and conquer the promised land. And underlying the mobilization there had to be total commitment, a commitment of allegiance and loyalty. The promised land could be conquered only if the people were loyal, only if they pledged their allegiance to the LORD and His people. This is the message of the opening chapter of Joshua. This is, *The Necessary Mobilization to Enter the Promised Land*, Joshua 1:1-18.

- I. The call of God to Joshua: he was the aide and military commander to Moses (vv. 1-9).
- II. The command of Joshua to the officers (vv. 10-15).
- III. The pledge of the officers to Joshua: loyalty — allegiance (vv. 16-18).

Joshua 01:01–09 The Call of God to Joshua: He was the Aide and Military Commander to Moses

The great book of Joshua opens with the call of God to Joshua. Joshua was the chief aide to Moses and the military commander of the armed forces of Israel. God had already called and commissioned Joshua to replace Moses upon the death of Moses. Now, Moses had just died, and the people had been in deep anguish and mourning over his death for thirty days (Deut 34:8). As soon as the thirty days of mourning were over, God immediately spoke to Joshua, restating His call to him (see *Joshua*, Josh 1:1-9; also see notes, Deut 31:14-23; see Deut 34:9).

1. God issued an arousing call to Joshua. The people's hearts were gripped with a deep sense of grief and anguish, broken over the passing of the man who had led them for so long. Keep in mind that Moses was the Father of the nation Israel. Through the guidance of God, Moses had founded and established the nation. Moses had freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and given them the law at Mt. Sinai and led them through the *wilderness wanderings*. Despite all the trials suffered by both Moses and the people, the people respected and revered, even loved, this dear man who was the father of them as a people. When he died, the people were bound to be deeply affected, gripped with an intense, perhaps almost unbearable, sense of grief. It seems that Joshua himself had fallen into a spirit of despair over the death of Moses, that he was lingering in grief well beyond what he should. For this reason, God forcefully spoke to the heart of Joshua and gave him an arousing call: "Moses My servant is dead! Arise! Fill the gap! Take up the mantle of leadership! Prepare the people to cross the Jordan River into the promised land."

It was time for Joshua to arise and cease his mourning over the death of Moses. It was time for him to take up the mantle of leadership and lead God's people. He was now the appointed leader of the nation, the Commander-in-Chief. Leading the people to claim their inheritance in the promised land was now his duty. And it was time to begin the mobilization. It was time to make the final preparations to cross the Jordan River and actually enter the land that had been promised to God's people for such a long time. But the arousing call was not all that God had to say to Joshua.

2. God gave three wonderful promises to Joshua and the Israelites (vv. 2-5). These were ancient promises, promises that had been given to God's people ever since their birth through Abraham. At long last, these promises were to be fulfilled and personally experienced by the Israelites. Their fulfilment was on the verge of taking place.
 - a. There was the promise of the promised land (vv. 3-4). The Israelites were to secure and occupy all the land, every place they marched. Note that God Himself gives the land to His people. It is a gift from God Himself; however, it was the people's responsibility to march forth and claim the land, claim it by faith in the promise of God. The promised land was theirs — a gift of God — but they had to lay claim to the promised land. They had to march forth, laying hold of the promised land. As they marched forth, they would secure the land that flowed with milk and honey. (See *Promised Land*, Josh 1:3-4.)

Note the enormous territory promised by God. The boundaries of the land are described by their furthestmost point in each direction:

- => South: the desert (the Negev)
- => North: Lebanon
- => East: the Euphrates River
- => West: the Mediterranean Sea

- b. There was the promise of conquering all enemies (v. 5). This is a picture of the believer's full and victorious life. As the Israelites marched forth, they would face opposition. There would be enemies who would confront and wage war against them. These enemies would do all they could to defeat the Israelites and either enslave or kill them. But the great promise of God is that of victory and triumph. They would conquer all the enemies who opposed them.

Thought 1. A full and victorious life is one of the great promises of God. The genuine believer who marches forth laying claim to the promised land will be victorious. There is only one condition: the believer must trust God, really focus upon God, marching forth and seeking the great promised land of God. This believer will conquer all the enemies, trials and temptations that confront him. He will live a full and victorious life through the presence and power of the LORD.

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Rom 8:35, 37-39 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Eph 6:10-13 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

1 John 5:4-5 *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Psa 44:5 *Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.*

- c. There is the promise of the continued, unbroken presence and rest of God (v. 5). The Israelites would defeat all enemies by the presence of God. God promised to be with them, to never leave them nor forsake them. The *unfailing presence of God* would always be present with His dear people. His *unfailing presence* would guide His people and give them victory over all enemies. What a promise from God, the glorious promise of His unfailing presence!

Thought 1. What a promise God has given us! The promise of His *unbroken presence*, that He will never leave us nor forsake us. No matter what enemy, trial or temptation may face us — no matter what trouble, difficulty or problem — no matter the size, the strength or the destructive potential of the obstacle — God will be with us. His unfailing presence will never leave us nor forsake us.

Mat 28:20 “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Heb 13:5 *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”*

Gen 28:15 *I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.*

Exo 33:14 *The LORD replied, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

Josh 1:5 “No one will be able to stand 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.”

Judges 6:16 *The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”*

1 Chr 28:20 *David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.”*

Isa 43:2 *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

3. God gave a forceful charge to Joshua, a charge to be “strong and courageous” (vv. 6-9). Note that the charge is repeated three times (vv. 6, 7, 9).
 - a. God encouraged Joshua to be *strong and courageous* in his task, that of leading Israel to inherit the promised land (v. 6). He was the military commander of an army that faced formidable enemies, and he knew that years of warfare lay ahead.

The land promised by God was a vast territory possessed by a number of powerful nations whose people were brutal and savage, wicked and evil to the core. Their “cup of iniquity” had become so full that God was now using the Israelites as His instrument of judgment against them. (See *Cup of Iniquity*, Josh 11:20.) In facing such enemies year after year, the days of warfare and the sight of maiming and killing could easily begin to wear upon Joshua. God knew this; therefore, he charged Joshua to be strong and courageous in his task of conquering the promised land. It was his task to conquer the land and to divide it among God’s dear people. He and the Israelites were to be the instruments of God’s justice and judgment against the Canaanites who had become so evil and corrupt. Throughout the days, months and years of warfare, this dear servant of God was to stay the course. He was to be strong and courageous throughout the struggle.

- b. God encouraged Joshua to be *strong and courageous* in obeying God, in obeying His law, His Word (vv. 7-8). He was to obey everything that Moses had written. Note exactly what God told Joshua to do with the Word of God:
- => He was to obey all God's law.
 - => He was not to turn away from God's Word.
 - => He was never to stop sharing God's law or Word.
 - => He was to meditate on God's Word day and night. This would assure obedience.
 - => The result of his obedience would be prosperity and success. All that he and the Israelites put their hands to would prosper and be successful.
- c. God encouraged Joshua to be *strong and courageous* in overcoming fear and discouragement (v. 9). Having to face enemy after enemy, year-after-year — having to make the decision to send young men, husbands and fathers into battle time and again who would be witnessing the bloodshed and horror of battle after battle — all this could break down the strength and courage of any commander and army. God knew this, and He cared for Joshua. Therefore, God commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous in overcoming whatever fear or discouragement attacked him. To encourage and assure Joshua, God gave him the promise of His continued, unbroken presence. God promised that He would go with Joshua wherever he went, never forsaking or leaving him.

Thought 1. There are two strong lessons for us in this charge given to Joshua.

- (1) We must be strong and courageous in obeying God. We must keep His law, His commandments and Holy Word. We must never turn away from His Word; rather, we must meditate on it day and night. If we obey God, living in His Word and keeping His commandments, we will prosper and be successful in whatever we do. Whatever we put our hands to will be blessed by God. God will give us purpose, achievement and fulfilment throughout life. But note: this promise is given only to those who obey God by meditating in His Word day and night, only to those who do exactly what He says.

Mat 6:33 *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

John 14:21 *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

James 1:25 *But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.*

Rev 22:14 *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*

1 Tim 4:15 *Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.*

Deut 5:29 *Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!*

Deut 26:16 *The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Deut 29:9 *Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do.*

Josh 1:8 *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

1 Chr 22:13 *Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the LORD gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.*

Psa 1:1-3 *Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

(2) We must be strong and courageous as we march throughout life. Fear and discouragement can be conquered only as we are strong and courageous. God is with us, and He will never leave nor forsake us. This is His promise to us just as it was to Joshua. His unfailing presence is always with us wherever we go. Therefore, we must stand strong and courageous against all the enemies, trials and temptations that confront us. No matter how many crushing problems, tough situations or difficult people we face — no matter how many lustful temptations or terrifying trials we face — God is right there with us. God will deliver us and give us victory over the enemy that confronts us. We must stand strong and courageous, conquering and fulfilling our task for the Lord.

Eph 6:10-13 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

1 Cor 16:13 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.*

2 Tim 2:1 *You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

1 King 2:2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, act like a man.”

2 Chr 15:7 But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded. ■

JOSHUA 01:03–04

THE INHERITANCE OF THE PROMISED LAND

The hope of the promised land was first given to Abraham and then to his son and grandson, Isaac and Jacob. Through the patriarchs, the hope of the people was passed down to all generations of Israelites. Down through the centuries, true believers among the Israelites longed for the land promised by God. Hope in the promised land of God was the beat of their hearts, the motivating force that drove them throughout life.

Their very purpose for living was the promised land of God. They desired — strongly craved, yearned, coveted, and sought after — the great inheritance promised by God.

When God first made the promise to Abraham, all Abraham had to base his faith on was what God said. Abraham had to step out in faith and believe God’s Word — His promise — that God was someday going to give him the land out in the future.

But now, centuries later, the Israelites were at last ready to cross the Jordan River and enter the promised land of God. Finally, they were ready to lay claim to the great inheritance given them by God, the inheritance of the promised land of God. Just as Abraham had to believe God to inherit the promised land, so the Israelites led by Joshua had to believe God to receive their inheritance. It was all a matter of faith. If the Israelites believed God, they would be given the promised land of God, the land of plenty and of rest, of both physical and spiritual rest. □

JOSHUA 01:03–04

THE PROMISED LAND — INHERITANCE; HEAVEN; SPIRITUAL REST

God first gave the hope of the promised land to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3). But God did not identify the land. The land was only promised: it lay out in the future; it was not to be immediately possessed. The land was just what believers have called it for centuries, *the promised land*. It was to be the great hope of Abraham.

All Abraham had was the promise of God, what God had said. Abraham had to step out in faith and believe God’s Word — His promise — about *the promised land*. Note several facts about this great promise to Abraham.

1. *The promised land* definitely refers to Palestine, the land of Israel. This is clearly stated by God time and again.
 - a. Note God’s promise to Abraham.

Gen 12:6-7 *Abram travelled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

Gen 13:14-15, 17 *The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.... Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."*

Gen 15:7, 18-21 *He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates — the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."*

Gen 17:8 *"The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

- b. Note God's promise to Abraham's son, Isaac.

Gen 26:3 *Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.*

- c. Note God's promise to Abraham's grandson, Jacob.

Gen 28:13 *There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying."*

Gen 35:12 *The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you."*

2. *The promised land* definitely refers to heaven; the promised land of Canaan is a symbol (a type, a picture, an illustration) of heaven, of God's promise to the believer that he will inherit heaven, the new heavens and earth. Note two facts:
- a. God's promised land refers to *the whole world*. It is *the whole world* that Abraham and believers are to inherit.

Rom 4:13 *It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.*

The inheritance of the whole world could only refer to the *new heavens and earth* — the new universe — which God is going to re-create in the end time. It could not refer to a corruptible universe that is deteriorating, wasting away, running down, and that would eventually cease to exist millions of years from now — cease to exist just by the natural process of time. (See notes, 2 Pet 3:1-18.)

2 Pet 3:10-13 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.*

Rev 21:1-4 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

Psa 102:25-27 *In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.*

Isa 34:4 *All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shrivelled figs from the fig tree.*

Isa 51:6 *Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.*

Isa 65:17 *“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”*

Isa 66:22 *“As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure.”*

- b. God’s promised land refers to a *heavenly country* and a *heavenly city*. It is a heavenly home — a heavenly country and city that are eternal — that Abraham and believers are to inherit. Note how clearly Scripture states this:

Heb 11:8-10, 13-16 *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ... All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

Heb 12:22 *But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly.*

Heb 13:14 *For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.*

Rev 21:2-4 *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

Rev 21:10 *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.*

3. The promised land was the assurance of a *personal inheritance*: the possession of a new country, of one’s own property with all its good land, wealth and rights. Abraham believed that he would live in a new city within his own land and country — all given by God Himself. And the land was to be forever, for it was promised by the eternal God Himself.

Note this, for it is important: Abraham’s hope was for a permanent, eternal city and country. True, he was physically journeying all throughout the promised land of Canaan, believing that God was going to give him and his seed (descendants) the land of Canaan. But while he was journeying, his hope was for the permanent, eternal city and country of God. Abraham knew that God’s promised

land referred to the heavenly as well as to the earthly land. Note how clearly Scripture states this:

Gen 13:15 “All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.”

- a. God’s promise included the eternal, permanent possession of the promised land, and Abraham knew this.

Heb 11:9-10 *By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

- b. God’s promise refers to the heavenly Jerusalem, the capital of the new heavens and earth (see Heb 12:22; 13:14. See Note 2b above. Also see note Rev 21:2.)

Heb 11:13-16 *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

Note v. 15: it clearly states that Abraham’s mind was on the heavenly and eternal country. If it had not been, he would have returned to his former home. Never would he have wandered about, suffering the hardships he bore.

Thought 1. Note how the promise given to Abraham parallels the promise given to the believer. Abraham was to inherit *the promised land* if he turned away from the world and followed God. We are to inherit the promised land of heaven if we turn away from the world and follow God. *The promised land* is a symbol, a type a picture of heaven.

- (1) The promise given to Abraham.

Gen 17:8 “The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

- (2) The promise given to the believer.

John 14:2-3 “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

2 Cor 5:1 *Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

Phil 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Heb 11:8-10 *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

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1 Pet 1:3-5 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Rev 22:14 *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*

4. The promised land is the assurance of *conquest and rest, of spiritual victory and spiritual rest*. The promised land was to bring a God-given peace and security, freedom and liberty, deliverance and salvation to Abraham. The promised land meant victory and rest to Abraham, a God-given victory and rest...
 - from having to wander about.
 - from never being settled.
 - from restlessness.
 - from being exposed to all kinds of enemies — trials, dangers, threats, attacks, slavery and bondage — which result from having no settled home within this world, from having no place that is given and protected by God Himself.

To Abraham, the promised land was the assurance of victory and rest, the conquest and triumph over all enemies, a victory and rest that was to be given by God Himself.

Thought 1. Note how the spiritual victory and rest promised Abraham represents the spiritual rest promised the believer (see note, Heb 4:1).

(1) The promise given to Abraham.

Gen 12:2-3 *“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

Gen 15:1 *After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”*

Gen 22:17-18 *I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies. And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.*

(2) The promise given to the believer.

Mat 11:29 *“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

Rev 14:13 *Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them.”*

Heb 4:1-3 *Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, “So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”*

Heb 4:11 *Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.*

Exo 33:14 *The LORD replied, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

Psa 55:6 *I said, “Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.”*

Psa 116:7 *Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.*

Isa 28:12 *To whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the weary rest;” and, “This is the place of repose” — but they would not listen.*

5. The promised land is the assurance of *God's own presence*, that is, of God's love, care, provision and protection. Abraham was bound to know this: if God was going to give him the promised land, then God must love and care for him. God would therefore provide and protect him no matter what lay ahead. God — His strong presence — would be with him through all the trials and struggles of life.

Thought 1. Abraham's assurance of God's presence symbolizes the believer's experience. The believer can be assured of God's presence: of God's love, care, provision and protection.

- (1) The promise given to Abraham.

Gen 17:8 *"The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

Gen 28:15 *I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.*

- (2) The promise given to the believer.

Deut 20:1 *When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you.*

Isa 43:2 *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

Mat 6:33 *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Mat 28:20 *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Heb 13:5 *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." □*