

ENEMIES IN THE PROMISED LAND

Judges 3:1-5, 4

The Israelites left Egypt; went through the wilderness to the Promised Land. After they got into the Promised Land, it was all that they could want, but they also found lots of enemies. Let's first trace their steps to the Promised Land, then look at some of the enemies they had to fight.

EGYPT IS A TYPE OF THE WORLD

GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE NO BUSINESS ENSLAVED TO THE WORLD

GOD HIS CHILDREN OUT OF EGYPT SO THAT THEY MIGHT SERVE HIM

1. The reason why people don't serve God is because they are in Egypt
2. They are serving Pharaoh and his taskmasters

THE WILDERNESS PICTURES CHRISTIAN GROW

GOD DID NOT WANT THEM TO LIVE IN THE WILDERNESS

BUT THE WILDERNESS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR GROWTH IN GRACE

1. It's a place to learn to depend on God
2. It a place to learn to walk with God
3. It's where they received the Ten Commandments
4. It's a place where God fed them with manna
5. It's a place where the bitter water was made sweet
6. It's a place where God brought water from the Rock

SOME OF THE BEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE WILL BE THE WILDERNESS DAYS

1. The wilderness days of your marriage when you had nothing but each other
2. And the wilderness days of going off to college, or the wilderness days of a new job that was so hard

IT IS SAD, BUT MOST PEOPLE WHO LEFT EGYPT NEVER SAW CANAAN

1. They had enough faith to get out of Egypt, but not enough faith to get into the Land of milk and honey
2. Like Peter who had enough faith to get out of the boat, but not enough faith to walk to Jesus

THE PROMISED LAND

IT IS NOT A TYPE OF HEAVEN, IT'S A PICTURE OF VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE

IT IS A TYPE OF GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

1. If you ever find God's perfect will for your life, you will find it's not a place of rest, it's a place of battles
2. Because there's a lot of enemies out there that don't want you in the Promised Land
3. They don't want you where God has called you

ENEMIES IN THE PROMISED LAND

JERICOITES

1. These are giants that face you even before you enter the will of God
2. One thing we learn from this is that the battles begin the day you get right with God
3. Some people think that the battles stop when you get right with God, but that is false.
4. The battles begin when you start serving God

PHILISTINES

1. This enemy is mentioned more than any other
 - We first read of them envying the Jews and stopping up their wells
 - Shamgar slew 600 Philistines with an oxgoad
 - Jephthah delivered the Jews from the Philistines
 - Samson lost his sight to the Philistines
 - Saul and David also fought the Philistines
 - Goliath was a Philistine
2. These are enemies that never go away
3. They constantly attack
4. These are the sins that you will fight the rest of your life

MIDIANITES

1. These are probably the second most often mentioned enemy of God's people
 - These are they who sold Joseph to Potipher
 - Moses fought with them
 - Gideon fought them
2. They are raiders
3. They attack when you least expect it
4. You are going to find lots of raiders in the Christian life that come out of no where

AMMONITES

1. The most popular is Nahash who came against the people of God and demanded that they pluck out one eye of each man
2. Another time Jephthah fought with them, but he first tried to make peace and said, why have you come up to fight against us
3. And they said, because of the land that you took from us
4. They are talking about something that happened 300 years before
5. This is a perfect illustration of people who hold grudges forever

MOABITES

1. The most famous is Balak who hired Balaam to curse the people
2. But Balaam would not, but because of his love of money he said, here's how you can defeat the Jews: but committing fornication with them
3. Because Balaam knew that God would not bless such sin
4. There will always be enemies out there who will tempt you to commit sins of the flesh