

Christian Warfare Deuteronomy 7 Verses 1-6

Remember God's commandment to Israel concerning the inhabitants of the land of promise? **De 7:1-6; 1 ¶ "When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; 2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: 3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. 4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. 5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. 6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."**

As we think upon God's commandment in these verses, we see and understand a principle to be applied to our spiritual lives today. When we are born again, by the mercy and grace of God, we are entered into the land of promise which Christ established for us. We have become a part of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Having been indwelt with the Holy Spirit presence, we are immediately entered into warfare with our old sinful nature.

We point out that God said **"When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land"** tells us that God does the saving, it is not of ourselves. **"and hath cast out many nations before thee"** This tells us that the word of God, through the Holy Spirit power, is what cast out the enemies of our hearts and minds.

God also told Israel the reason they were to utterly destroy the former inhabitants of the land of promise, seen in: **De 18:9 ¶ "When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations."** God was telling Israel if you don't annihilate the inhabitants, and the very appearance of the evils of their idolatry, you will turn from serving me to being an idolater.

Wherefore, we understand that the nature of our Christian warfare is not to engage in physical fighting; but, it is a warfare that goes on in the heart and mind of a person, when we understand that we have a fleshly sin nature, which tempts us to disobey God. This is what we are to guard against, and the battle is to cast that weakness aside, and replace it with the goodness of God.

Israel did not follow the commandments of God completely, they did not utterly destroy all the inhabitants, and even made a pact with some of them: so, it is in our Christian walks in life. Most of us do like Israel did; we start out good and really strive to utterly destroy the very appearance of sin in our lives. However, as time and life goes on; we may not be as exuberant as we once were to fight. Sometimes, we do like Israel did; we see some of our foes as too big to overcome and do not attempt to drive them out. Or maybe, we see that it will make life for us easier if we keep some alive to be slaves to us.

Whatever our reasons; just like Israel, if we do not purge our minds and hearts completely of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; we will be pestered, and wearied, by those who are not driven out. Those sinful passions that we marry, or we allow our sons and daughters to marry, will overcome, and we, and/or they, will fall from our position of favor with God.

What does the scripture say to us in? **2Co 10:3-6; 3 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."** We must remove strongholds of evil, vain imaginations, and high things that exalt our flesh, for they will turn us from God. We have a weapon, tried and proven to be sure and true, the weapon called **"all prayer."** We have a, defensive and offensive, weapon sharper than a two-edged sword, it is the **"Word of God."**

God tells us very definitely, in the New Testament, the very fleshly nature of our hearts, seen in: **Mr 7:21-23; 21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All**

these evil things come from within, and defile the man." These are things we must fight against and the way to conquer them is with the Word of God.

We are also told in: ***Lu 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."*** Thus, we see what comes out of our mouth, which includes how we walk as a Child of God, declares to the world, and our brethren, our spiritual status. Herein, we see the spiritual battle going on in the heart of the Child of God. If our walks and talks are not declaring the glory of God, and spreading light and salt to those around us, we understand that the old nature has gotten the upper hand. This is that constant warfare that we are engaged in here in time.

2Co 10:6 "And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." This is our reminder; we have need to put on the whole armor of God, each day, and fill our hearts and minds with the things of Christ. When we recognize our former fleshly lust tempting us to turn from God, we must be ready to give an answer from the word of God, and with vengeance cut them down. When we do this, as God has commanded, our hearts and minds will be filled with the goodness of God, and our walks and talks will bring glory and honor to God, which is the duty of every Christian.

When blessed to walk uprightly, by God's grace, we can then witness with the desire expressed by the poet man **With thoughts of Christ and things divine, Fill up this foolish heart of mine;** (sing after the sermon) as seen in the Lloyd hymnal: **507 L. M. Lord's day evening.** (Sing to the tune Sweet Hour Of Prayer)

- 1 LORD, how delightful 'tis to see A whole assembly worship thee!
At once they sing, at once they pray, They hear of heaven, and learn the way.
- 2 I have been there, and still would go; 'Tis like a little heaven below:
Not all that hell or sin can say, Shall tempt me to forget this day.
- 3 O write upon my memory, Lord, The text and doctrine of thy word;
That I may break thy laws no more, But love thee better than before.
- 4 **With thoughts of Christ and things divine, Fill up this foolish heart of mine;**
That, hoping pardon through his blood, I may lie down, and wake with God.

May God help us to look upon the scriptures and the lessons they teach us; which, if we yield ourselves in obedience to God's commandments, will make our spiritual lives so pleasant, that we will have no desire to turn from God to idolatry. If Jesus loved us enough to lay down his life for us, surely, we should love him enough to be willing to lay aside our old nature and live in the fulness, of the newness of life in Christ.

The glory of the gospel is found in the truth; that even though Israel fell repeatedly, God continued to love them, and to save a remnant of them. Even today, God is still saving some of them to eternal life in Christ. The same is true for us, the Gentile Christians; we may stumble and fall many times, but the finished work of Jesus on the cross still stands secure, and we can know that we have eternal forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Thank you, King Jesus, for your sacrificial love on our behalf. Hallelujah! Amen!