

In the Old Testament, **God delivered the nation of Israel** from slavery in Egypt. *Ex 12:51. God led them through the Red Sea, Ex 14:29, to Mount Sinai, Ex 19:1*, where He gave them **His law**, and where they built the **Tabernacle**. The Tabernacle was a **HOLY PLACE** for God to dwell in the midst of His people. *Ex 25:8*.

When this was accomplished, God led His people on an 11day journey, from Sinai to the edge of the Promised Land of inheritance. *Deut 1:2*. All this took about two years from Egypt to Kadesh Barnea. However, Israel rebelled against the Lord's command to go up and take possession of their inheritance, *Deut 1:5, Deut 1:26*. As a result they spent the next 38 years wandering in the desert. When a new generation had been raised up, God led them into their land of inheritance across the river Jordan, under Joshua's leadership.

This Old Testament example, is a picture of **our initial salvation in Christ, water baptism, and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, 1Cor 10:1-4**.

Once we are established on these foundations, Heb 6:1-3, God starts to bring us into our inheritance in Christ. Our inheritance in Christ can be expressed in various ways.

Our inheritance in Christ: (the "rest" of *Heb 3,4* where we have stopped our own works and doing what God wants, or the fulness of the Lord Jesus in our lives, *Col 2:10*, or abiding in Christ and being fruitful, *Jn 15:1-5*.)

Or

1. Forgiveness of sins. *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18*.
2. Right relationship with God. Accepted as a son/daughter of God the Father. *Rom 5:1, 2Cor 6:18*.
3. Separated from the old life of sin. Baptised into Christ. Put on Christ. *Rom 6:1-14, Gal 3:27*.
4. Baptised with the Holy Spirit. Becoming the temple of God. God's presence in our lives. *Ac 1:5, Ac 2:1-4, 1Cor 3:16, Heb 13:5,6, Ex 33:14*.
5. Healing for our bodies. *Mat 8:16,17, Jam 5:14-16, 1Pet 2:24, Mal 4:2, Ps 107:20, Pro 4:20-22*.
6. Provision of all our needs, spiritual, mental, physical, material, financial. *Phil 4:19, Ruth 2:12, Mal 3:10*.
7. Deliverance from evil. *Col 1:13, Lk 11:4, Lk 10:19, Mk 16:17, 1Jn 3:8, 1Jn 4:4, 1Jn 2:13*.
8. Our work of service of worship, witness, caring, fellowship, discipleship, family and job/business. *Jn 4:23, Ac 1:8, Mat 25:35,36, 1Cor 11:24-26, Mat 28:19, Gal 6:10, Eph 6:1-4, Eph 6:5-9*.

The wonderful land of inheritance is described in *Deut 8:7-10*.

Our inheritance is practically expressed in worship, praise and thanks; prayer, faith and love; witness to the unsaved; caring for the poor and needy; fellowshiping at the Lord's Table; building up and discipling others in the church; fulfilling our ministry calling in the service of Christ, and in our family, job or business.

But for Israel, after they crossed Jordan, there were 7 nations already occupying the Promised Land, who were determined to keep Israel out, *Deut 7:1,2*. (Amorite, Girgashite, Hittite, Perizzite, Canaanite, Hivite, Jebusite.)

Israel had to enter the land by crossing the River Jordan, conquer the land, destroy/drive out the seven nations occupying it, possess the land, live in it and cultivate or farm it.

So it is with us. When God brings us to our land of promise and inheritance, **we have to fight and overcome**, forces and strongholds that oppose us, before we can enjoy our inheritance in God's Word and in Christ.

Some forces and strongholds we have to overcome are: (meanings from Strongs Concordance)

1. The attitude of **pride**, judging others, seeking man's praise, unforgiveness. *Lk 18:9-14*. (Amorites)
2. The giant of **doubt**. *Jam 1:5-7*. (Possibly the Girgashite. No one actually knows the meaning of Girgashite, so you can put in here the problem you are struggling to overcome.)
3. The stronghold of **fear**, terror, torment. *2Tim 1:7, Is 41:10*. (Hittite)
4. The power of **apathy**, hoha, can't be bothered, too tired to press into God and believe His Word. *Heb 2:3, 3:6, 4:1*. (Perizzite)
5. The lie of **riches**, possessions, wealth, *Mat 13:22, Rev 3:17, Ps 62:10*. (Canaanite)
6. The ability to generate your **own schemes**, plans, ministry, or humanism. *Mat 7:26,27*. (Hivite)
7. The burden of crushing **discouragement**, despair, hopelessness. *Josh1:9, Lk 4:18*. (Jebusite)

Overcoming sinful bondages that block us, or try to block us gaining our inheritance:

1. **Confess our sin to God and others. 1Jn 1:9, Jam5:16.**
2. **Choose against it** and hate it. **Turn away** from the sin as much as possible. *Josh 24:15*.
3. **Know** that Jesus has totally destroyed the power of sin in us at the Cross. *Rom6:6,11,14*.
4. **Believe** that you are dead to sin and alive to God through Jesus Christ. *Rom 6:11,14*.
5. **Keeping believing** and confessing the promises of God of freedom from sin, **until** freedom is gained. *Ezk 36:25-27, 1Pet 1:3, Deut 30:6, 1Pet 2:24, Rom 6:6,11,14, Phil 2:13, Heb 13:20,21*, etc.