

## HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF NUMBERS, Book 2, Week 11

### Partners of Christ Fighting for God's Interest

Scripture Reading: Num. 13:17—14:38; Josh. 14:6-14; Heb. 3:14

- Num. 13:17- And when Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, he said to them, Go up this way into the Negev, and go up into the hill country;
- Num. 13:18- And see what the land is like; and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many;
- Num. 13:19- And whether the land in which they dwell is good or bad; and whether the cities that they live in are like camps or with fortifications;
- Num. 13:20- And whether the land is fat or lean; whether there are trees in it or not. Therefore strengthen yourselves and bring some of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes.
- Num. 13:21- So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath.
- Num. 13:22- And when they had gone up through the Negev, they came to Hebron; and Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)
- Num. 13:23- Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and from there they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes; and they carried it on a pole between two of them. They also cut off some of the pomegranates and some of the figs.
- Num. 13:24- That place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the children of Israel cut down from there.
- Num. 13:25- And they returned from spying out the land at the end of forty days.
- Num. 13:26- And they proceeded to come to Moses and to Aaron and to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, to the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to the whole assembly, and showed them the fruit of the land.
- Num. 13:27- And they told him and said, We came to the land into which you sent us; and it **indeed flows with milk and honey**, and this is its fruit.
- Num. 13:28- However, the people who dwell in the land are **strong**, and the cities are fortified and **very large**; and we also saw the descendants of Anak there.
- Num. 13:29- The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negev, and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites dwell in the hill country, and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the Jordan.
- Num. 13:30- But **Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.**
- Num. 13:31- But the men who went up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.
- Num. 13:32- And they brought to the children of Israel an **evil report** of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great size.
- Num. 13:33- And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.
- Num. 14:1- Then the whole assembly lifted up their voice and cried, and the people wept that night.
- Num. 14:2- And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron; and the whole assembly said to them, If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!
- Num. 14:3- And why does Jehovah bring us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder. Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?
- Num. 14:4- And they said one to another, Let us appoint a captain, and let us return to Egypt.
- Num. 14:5- Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the whole congregation of the assembly of the children of Israel.
- Num. 14:6- And Joshua the son of Nun and **Caleb the son of Jephunneh**, who were among those who spied out the land, tore their clothes.
- Num. 14:7- And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.
- Num. 14:8- If Jehovah is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey.
- Num. 14:9- **Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.**
- Num. 14:10- But the whole assembly said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of Jehovah appeared in the Tent of Meeting to all the children of Israel.
- Num. 14:11- And Jehovah said to Moses, How long will this people **despise Me**? And how long will they not believe in Me, **in spite of all the signs that I have done among them**?
- Num. 14:12- I will strike them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.
- Num. 14:13- But Moses said to Jehovah, Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for by Your might You brought this people up from their midst, and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, Jehovah, are in the midst of this people; for You, O Jehovah, are seen in plain sight, and Your cloud stands over them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.
- Num. 14:15- Now if You put this people to death as one man, then the nations that have heard the report about You will speak, saying,
- Num. 14:16- Because Jehovah was not able to bring this people into the land which He swore to give them, He has therefore slaughtered them in the wilderness.
- Num. 14:17- And now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying,
- Num. 14:18- Jehovah is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generations.

- Num. 14:19- Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You have forgiven this people from Egypt even until now.
- Num. 14:20- Then Jehovah said, I have pardoned them according to your word;
- Num. 14:21- But as surely as I live, and as all the earth will be filled with the glory of Jehovah,
- Num. 14:22- None of those men who have seen My glory and My signs, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have tried Me these ten times and have not listened to My voice,
- Num. 14:23- Shall see the land which I swore to give to their fathers, nor shall any of those who despised Me see it.
- Num. 14:24- **Only My servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit** and has fully followed Me, will I bring into the land which he entered; and his descendants shall take possession of it.
- Num. 14:25- Now since the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valleys, turn tomorrow, and set out into the wilderness by the way that leads to the Red Sea.
- Num. 14:26- Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num. 14:27- How long shall I bear with this evil assembly, which murmurs against Me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they are making against Me.
- Num. 14:28- Say to them, As I live, declares Jehovah, just as you have spoken in My ears, so will I do to you.
- Num. 14:29- Your corpses shall fall in this wilderness, and none of you who were numbered, according to the number you counted from twenty years old and upward, who have murmured against Me,
- Num. 14:30- Shall come into the land, in which I swore to settle you, **except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.**
- Num. 14:31- But your little ones, whom you said would become plunder, I will bring in, and they will know the land which you have rejected.
- Num. 14:32- But as for you, your corpses shall fall in this wilderness.
- Num. 14:33- **And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and they shall suffer for your unfaithfulness until your corpses have been consumed in the wilderness.**
- Num. 14:34- **According to the number of the days which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for every day, you shall bear your iniquities, forty years; and you shall know My displeasure.**
- Num. 14:35- I, Jehovah, have spoken; surely I will do this to all this evil assembly who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.
- Num. 14:36- And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made the whole assembly to murmur against him by bringing up an evil report against the land,
- Num. 14:37- That is, those men who brought up an evil report of the land, died by the plague before Jehovah.
- Num. 14:38- Only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive out of those men who went to spy out the land.
- Deut. 1:34- And Jehovah heard the voice of your words, and He became furious and swore, saying,
- Deut. 1:35- Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall by any means see the good land which I have sworn to give to your fathers,
- Deut. 1:36- Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it. And to him I will give the land on which he has trodden, and to his children, because he has fully followed Jehovah.
- Deut. 1:37- With me also Jehovah was angry on your account, saying, You also shall not enter there;
- Deut. 1:38- Joshua the son of Nun, who attends to you, he shall enter there. Strengthen him, for it is he who will cause Israel to inherit it.
- Josh. 14:6- Then the children of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal; and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, You know the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God concerning me and concerning you in Kadesh-barnea.
- Josh. 14:7- I was forty years old when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me out from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I returned such a word to him as was genuinely upon my heart.
- Josh. 14:8- However my brothers who went up with me made the people's heart melt, but I fully followed Jehovah my God.
- Josh. 14:9- And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, for you have fully followed Jehovah my God.
- Josh. 14:10- And now, look, Jehovah has kept me alive, as He said, for these forty-five years, since the time Jehovah spoke this word to Moses while Israel walked through the wilderness. And now, look, today I am eighty-five years old.
- Josh. 14:11- Today I am still as strong as I was on the day Moses sent me out; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for battle and for going out and coming in.
- Josh. 14:12- Now therefore give me this hill country, of which Jehovah spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that the Anakim were there with great fortified cities. It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I will dispossess them, as Jehovah said.
- Josh. 14:13- So Joshua blessed him; and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.
- Josh. 14:14- Therefore Hebron has become the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day because he fully followed Jehovah the God of Israel.
- Heb. 3:14- **For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end —**

## DAY 1

I. **First Corinthians takes the history of the children of Israel in the Old Testament as a type of the New Testament believers—10:5-11; 5:7-8; 10:1-2;**

- A. Paul warned the believers **not to repeat the history** of the children of Israel in doing evil things against God—vv. 6-11.
- B. The goal of God's calling of the children of Israel was that they would enter into the promised land to enjoy its riches so that they might establish God's kingdom and be God's expression on earth—Exo. 3:7-8:
  - 1. However, although all Israel was redeemed through the Passover, delivered out of the Egyptian tyranny, and brought to the mountain of God to receive the revelation of God's dwelling place, the tabernacle, nearly **all fell and died in the wilderness**, failing to reach this goal because of their evildoings and unbelief—Heb. 3:7-19; 1 Cor. 10:5, 7-10.
  - 2. **Only Caleb and Joshua** reached the goal and entered into the good land—Num. 14:27-30.
  - 3. This signifies that although we have been redeemed through Christ, delivered out of Satan's bondage, and brought into the revelation of God's economy, we may yet fail to reach the goal of God's calling, that is, to enter into the possession of our good land, Christ (Phil. 3:12-14), and enjoy His riches for the kingdom of God so that we may be His expression in the present age and participate in the fullest enjoyment of Christ in the kingdom age (Matt. 25:21, 23).
  - 4. This should be a **solemn warning to all New Testament believers** about repeating the failure of the children of Israel in the wilderness—1 Cor. 10:6, 11:
    - a. Without God's **mercy** and grace, we would be the same as the children of Israel—Rom. 9:15-16.
    - b. We need to read the history of Israel as our history, paying careful attention to Numbers 13 and 14.

II. **Of all the children of Israel who came out of Egypt, only two, Joshua and Caleb, entered the good land—Deut. 1:34-38; Num. 13:17–14:38;**

- A. Although all were redeemed, **only two overcomers**, Joshua and Caleb, received the prize of the good land— Josh. 14:6-14; 19:49-51.

## DAY 2

- B. According to the record in Numbers 13 and 14, the people had an **evil heart of unbelief**—13:31-33; 14:1-3, 9, 11:
  - 1. Nothing is more **offensive** to God than unbelief—Heb. 3:8-12.
  - 2. Unbelief is evil because it insults the living, faithful, and almighty God; if we do not believe in God, in His work and in His ways (Psa. 103:7), we insult Him.
  - 3. Nothing **insults** God more than our unbelief, and nothing **honors** Him more than our belief in Him— John 14:1; Rom. 10:9-10.

## DAY 3

- C. Because the people believed neither in God nor in His word and even murmured against Him (Num. 14:1-4), God swore in His wrath that not one of the unbelieving generation would enter into the good land; only Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter (Deut. 1:34-38).
- D. As indicated by the **evil report of the ten spies** (Num. 13:31-33) and the **murmuring of the people** (14:1-4), the children of Israel did not care for God but cared only for themselves:
  - 1. In everything and in every way **they were for themselves**, not for God's interests.
  - 2. Because of this, **they did not believe in God**, and **they offended God** to such an extent that they became abhorrent to Him.
  - 3. Their situation brought in God's judgment and punishment.
- E. Joshua and Caleb took the word of God as their faith—13:30; 14:7-9:
  - 1. Joshua and Caleb **believed** in the word of God, **obeyed** the Lord, and pressed toward the goal.

## DAY 4

- 2. Joshua and Caleb **honored** God, and God, in turn, honored them—v. 38.
- 3. God alone is the source of faith; if we would have faith, we must **learn to care for God's interests** and not for our benefit.
- 4. The example of Joshua and Caleb in the Bible shows us what it is to believe—13:30; 14:7-9:
  - a. Joshua and Caleb were not the ones who overcame in Numbers 13 and 14; **it was the One in whom they trusted**.
  - b. God did everything; they simply enjoyed what God did—v. 8.
- 5. We should follow the example of Joshua and Caleb; they had hearts full of faith—13:30.

III. **We need to be today's Calebs, partners of Christ, who is the real Joshua—14:24; Josh. 14:6-14; Heb. 2:10; 3:14;**

- A. Christ, the Captain of salvation, is the real Joshua, leading us to take possession of the land, and **we, today's Calebs, are His partners, fighting with Him against the enemies** and **sharing with Him in taking and possessing the land**—2:10; 3:14:
  - 1. Christ has been anointed by God to carry out God's commission, and we as His partners share with Him in carrying out God's commission.

2. Hebrews 3:7-14 deals with entering the good land; the type of this entering the good land was the entering of the land under the **leadership of Joshua** (Josh. 1:1-6), and **Caleb was his partner** in possessing the good land (Num. 32:12; Josh. 14:6-8).
3. Today Christ is the real Joshua, and we are His Calebs, His partners—Heb. 2:10; 3:14.
4. As Christ's partners, we are working together with Him and cooperating with Him to fulfill God's desire to have a corporate expression of Himself.

B. Caleb had a different spirit and fully followed the Lord by a different spirit, which was different from all the other spirits— Num. 14:24.

#### DAY 5

- C. We must be **resolute** and **determined** in our will to stand with the Lord, just as Caleb fully followed God—vv. 6-9, 24; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:14:
1. Caleb fully followed the Lord because he knew that **God wanted the children of Israel to enter into the good land**— Num. 14:24; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:8.
  2. Since God wanted them to enter the good land, He would fight for them and accomplish everything for them—Num. 14:7-8.
  3. Caleb knew that God would fight on their behalf and destroy the enemies.
- D. Joshua and Caleb **did not fear** the Nephilim or the inhabitants of the land of Canaan but said, "They are our bread"—v. 9:
1. Caleb believed that the Nephilim (Anakim) would be defeated and become their bread because he knew that God had promised to bring them into the land—13:30, 33.
  2. Caleb's experience demonstrates that the more Nephilim we eat, the stronger we will become; he was full of vitality at eighty-five because by assimilating so many Anakim over the years, he had developed a constitution that showed no trace of age— Josh. 14:10-14.
  3. Our battle with the enemy will be a defeat to him, but it will be bread for us; the defeated enemy is the most tasteful bread—Num. 14:9.
  4. The enemy will be our food, and swallowing him will be our satisfaction.

#### DAY 6

**IV. As today's Calebs fighting for God's interest, it is crucial for us to see a vision of the all-inclusive Christ typified by the good land and to conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—Deut. 8:7-10; Eph. 1:10; Rom. 16:20:**

The situation **into which we were born** was altogether **messy** and **chaotic**. There was no administration or arrangement or plan. We did not know what to do, where to go, or what kind of person we should be. This was my situation before I was saved. But one day, while I was in such a **chaotic condition**, the gospel, the glad tidings, came to me. I attended a gospel meeting where I heard about God, the Lord Jesus, and Satan, who is typified by Pharaoh. I was caught by the Lord, and I prayed to Him. Immediately after I prayed, something bright and shining, something of splendor, came into me. As I was walking home after the meeting, I stopped on the street and said, "God, from today I would like to be Your preacher. I do not want to be anything else. I just want to preach Christ." The Triune God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the divine life had come into me. Also, **the divine economy had come into me as a kind of administration, arrangement, and plan that put everything in order**. I was **joyful**, and I was in an **orderly situation**.

**Do you know what the Christian life is? The Christian life is a life of economy mixed with chaos.** The economy is divine, and the chaos is satanic. Hence, **the Christian life involves both the divine economy and the satanic chaos**. The Christian life is a **history of economy and chaos, of chaos and economy**. During our time with the Lord in the morning, we experience economy, but later in the day we may experience chaos.

- A. The good land, the land of Canaan, is a type of the all-inclusive Christ, the Christ who is all and in all and who is everything to us—Deut. 8:7-10:
1. The good land **provided whatever the children of Israel needed**: water, wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive trees, animals, milk, honey, stones, iron, copper.
  2. The good land surely is **a type of the all-inclusive Christ**, the embodiment of the Triune God given to us as our inheritance—Acts 26:18; Col. 1:12.
- B. In order to possess the good land, we need to engage in spiritual warfare to conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—Eph. 1:10; 6:10-12; Rom. 16:20:
1. The history of the universe is a history of **God's economy** and **Satan's chaos**—Gen. 1:1-2, 26; Rev. 20:10—21:4:
    - a. Satan is the source of chaos, and God Himself is the divine economy.
    - b. Both in the Bible and in our experience, **the satanic chaos always goes along with the divine economy**—2 Cor. 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:4.
  2. Instead of delivering us from chaos, God wants us to be one with Him **to conquer the destructive satanic chaos** and to carry out the constructive divine economy—Eph. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:17.
  3. As we are suffering the chaos, we need to stand for and live out the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:4, 18; 2 Tim. 4:7.

4. The overcomers **conquer** the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:3-4, 19-20; 4:1-2; Titus 3:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8:
  - a. The overcomers suffer the chaos, but instead of being disappointed or discouraged, they are strengthened and enabled to stand for and live out the divine economy according to the truth—Eph. 3:16; 6:10-12.
  - b. We **conquer** the chaos by the processed and consummated Triune God as the all-sufficient grace—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Tim. 4:22.

**NOT BEING DELIVERED OUT OF THE SATANIC CHAOS BUT OVERCOMING AND CONQUERING IT TO TRIUMPH IN GOD'S UNIQUE CONSTRUCTIVE ECONOMY**

In one meeting I heard someone pray, “*Lord, deliver us from the chaos.*” I would like to ask whether this prayer is right or wrong. Some may say that this is right because the Lord Jesus told us to ask the Father not to bring us into temptation but to deliver us from the evil one (Matt. 6:13). We may, however, have a wrong concept about what this kind of deliverance is. God does not want us to be delivered out of the satanic chaos. What God wants is embodied in the words **overcome** and **conquer**. If God delivered us out of the satanic chaos, He would not need us to **overcome** it, to **conquer** it. **God wants us to conquer the satanic chaos.** The real deliverance to us from God is our conquering. In Ephesians 6 Paul tells us that we need to be empowered in the Lord to **stand against** the stratagems of the devil (vv. 10-11). Then he says, “*Take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand*” (v. 13). We are not to be delivered out of the chaos, but we are to stand against it.