

BALTIC-NORDIC CONFERENCE

(Hybrid: in-person and online)

January 26-28, 2024

Hosted by the church in Vilnius

Outlines

Living Stream Ministry
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The outlines in this conference are taken from Messages 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12
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2024 BALTIC-NORDIC CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Conference venue: Best Western Hotel Vilnius, Konstitucijos av. 14

Friday, January 26th

Registration	16:00 and onwards
First meeting	19:00-21:00 (Vilnius); 18:00-20:00 (Scand.)

Saturday, January 27th

Second meeting	10:00-12:00 (Vilnius); 9:00-11:00 (Scand.)
Third meeting	15:00-17:00 (Vilnius); 14:00-16:00 (Scand.)
Fourth meeting	19:00-21:00 (Vilnius); 18:00-20:00 (Scand.)

Lord's Day, January 28th

Lord's Table meeting	10:00-10:45 (Vilnius); 9:00-9:45 (Scand.)
Fifth meeting	11:00-13:00 (Vilnius); 10:00-12:00 (Scand.)

Questions, please call:

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Message One

Fighting for the Good Land

Scripture Reading: Josh. 1:2-6, 13; Eph. 2:2; 6:12; Col. 1:12-13

I. If we read the Scriptures carefully, we will see that there is a battle for the good land—Josh. 1:2-6, 13:

- A. Satan, the enemy of God, is doing his utmost to keep the people of God from taking possession of and enjoying Christ as the good land—Eph. 2:2; 6:12.
- B. All the battles in the Old Testament were concerned with the good land—Josh. 1:2-6; 5:11—6:27.

II. In order to understand the significance of the Israelites entering Canaan and the warfare in Canaan, we need to know that Canaan has a twofold significance in typology—Col. 1:12; Eph. 1:3; 2:2; 6:12:

- A. On the positive side, Canaan, a land of riches, typifies the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches—Deut. 8:7-10; Col. 1:12; Eph. 3:8:
 - 1. The good land is the ultimate type of Christ found in the Scriptures—Deut. 8:7.
 - 2. The good land, the land of Canaan, is a type of the Christ who is all and in all and who is everything to us—Eph. 3:8.
 - 3. In the Bible the land is a figure, a symbol, of Christ—Gen. 1:9; 2 Pet. 3:5:
 - a. The land that came out of the death waters on the third day in Genesis 1:9-10 and 13 is a type of the resurrected Christ who came out of death on the third day.
 - b. God's intention revealed in the Scriptures is that Christ should be our land—Deut. 8:7-10.
- B. On the negative side, Canaan signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan, the heavenlies that are full of Satan's forces—Eph. 2:2; 6:12:
 - 1. Satan has his authority and his angels, who are his subordinates as the principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world; hence, he has his kingdom, the authority of darkness—Acts 26:18; Matt. 12:26; 25:41; Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:13.
 - 2. To this day, evil forces are veiling the all-inclusiveness of Christ from God's people—2:8, 18; 2 Cor. 4:4.
 - 3. The book of Ephesians indicates that in the heavenlies there are different layers—1:3; 2:2; 6:12:
 - a. Christ is in the highest layer, the third heaven, to be our everything as our good land—Deut. 8:7-10.
 - b. There is a lower layer of the heavenlies—the air, where Satan as the ruler of the authority of the air is frustrating the people on earth from contacting God and receiving Christ; this is typified by the Canaanites, who were frustrating Israel from entering into the good land—Eph. 2:2.
 - 4. The Canaanites typify the fallen angels, the rebellious angels who follow Satan, who have become the powers, rulers, and authorities in Satan's kingdom, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies—Rev. 12:4, 7; Eph. 6:12.

III. The various pagan tribes that occupied the land signify the different aspects of our natural life:

- A. The gods (idols) of the pagan tribes (Exo. 23:24), with the demons behind them (cf. 1 Cor. 10:20), represent the spiritual forces of evil (Eph. 6:12).
- B. Behind our natural life are the forces of evil (cf. Matt. 16:23, footnote 1), who utilize, manipulate, and direct the aspects of our natural life to frustrate us from taking possession of the all-inclusive Christ and enjoying His riches.
- C. Because the natural life frustrates us from possessing Christ and enjoying Him, we must hate it (Luke 14:26) and, as we grow in Christ, be willing to drive it out.
- D. God will not cut off our natural life, signified by the pagan tribes, all at once, because this would leave us inwardly vacant and in danger of being taken over by demons, signified by the animals of the field—Exo. 23:29; cf. Matt. 12:43-45:
 - 1. God cuts off our natural life gradually, little by little, according to the degree of our growth in the divine life—Exo. 23:30.
 - 2. The more Christ increases in us, the more He will replace our natural life.
- E. God promised to drive out the pagan tribes (vv. 29-30), but God's people had to cooperate with Him by taking the initiative in destroying them—vv. 31-33; cf. Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5; Phil. 2:12-13.
- F. The more Christ increases in us, the more we will be able to cooperate with God in driving out the natural life.

IV. If we would possess the good land for the fulfillment of God's purpose, we must engage in spiritual warfare to defeat the satanic forces—Josh. 6:21:

- A. We need to realize the necessity of spiritual warfare—a warfare between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God—Matt. 6:10; 7:21; 12:26, 28; Isa. 14:12-14.
- B. When Israel was ready to take possession of the land of Canaan, the land was filled with demon-possessed people, idol worshippers, and Nephilim—Num. 13:33.
- C. Because the Nephilim, a mixture of fallen angels and fallen man, dwelt in the land of Canaan, God commanded the children of Israel to take over this land and to destroy every living being there so that the human race could be cleared up—Deut. 7:1-2:
 - 1. According to the divine thought, the nations in the land of Canaan had to be exterminated because they were devilish and mingled with demons—v. 2; Josh. 11:21-22; 14:6-14.
 - 2. The Canaanites signify not only the fallen angels but also human beings who have joined themselves to the evil spirits, to the satanic power of darkness in the air—Num. 14:45.
- D. The kings of Arad (21:1), of the Amorites (v. 21), and of Bashan (v. 33) were the “gate guards” on the east of the Jordan, guarding the land of Canaan, the kingdom of darkness, for Satan:
 - 1. The kings defeated by God's army signify the rulers, the authorities, and the world-rulers of darkness, against whom we must struggle—Eph. 6:12.

2. In order for the children of Israel to enter into the good land, they had to pass through the territory controlled by these kings and had to fight against them, destroy them, and take over their territory.
 3. To gain the unsearchable riches of Christ, we must crush the spiritual enemies signified by the king of Arad, Sihon the king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Bashan—3:8; 6:10-12.
- E. Israel's fighting against the inhabitants of the land portrays the invisible spiritual warfare that is taking place behind the visible scene on earth—Dan. 10:10-21; Eph. 6:10-20:
1. It is crucial for us to see that behind the scene a spiritual struggle is taking place, a struggle not seen with human eyes.
 2. In addition to the war on earth, there is a war between God and the satanic forces in the air—2:2; 6:12.
- F. The fighting of the children of Israel against the Canaanites that they might possess and enjoy the good land typifies the spiritual warfare of the church as a whole, including all the members, against “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies” (v. 12) that the saints may enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive land.
- G. Christ is our good land, and God wants us to gain Christ, but there is a layer of devilish, demonic forces between us and the good land; if we would take possession of the good land for our enjoyment, we must defeat these satanic forces—Col. 1:12-13; 2:15; Eph. 3:18; 6:11-12:
1. There is an exceedingly real spiritual warfare in which we must engage; we must fight the battle to gain the all-inclusive Christ for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ, the new man, and the kingdom of God—vv. 10-12; 1 Tim. 6:12a; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; Col. 1:13, 18; 2:19; 3:10-11.
 2. If we would take possession of Christ for our enjoyment, we must be a corporate warrior, the church as the Body of Christ, fighting against and defeating the satanic forces so that we can gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, setting up and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth—Eph. 3:8; 4:16; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 11:15.

Message Two

**Inheriting the All-inclusive Christ as the Good Land
by Taking Heed to His Words of Advice and Warnings
and by Receiving His Renewed Training
to Have Our Inner Man Renewed Day by Day**

Scripture Reading: Heb. 3:12, 16-19; 4:2, 6; 11:1; 1 Cor. 10:1-14; Psa. 106:24-25;
Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4

- I. 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. 3:8, 14, 17:**
- A. 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 (Heb. 3:7-19) because of their evil-doings and unbelief.
 - B. 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, and enjoy His riches for the kingdom of God that we may be His expression in the present age and participate in the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the kingdom age—Matt. 25:21, 23.
 - C. Only Caleb and Joshua reached the goal and entered into the good land; like Caleb and Joshua, we New Testament believers need to "pursue toward the goal" (the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ) "for the prize" (the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the millennial kingdom)—Num. 14:27-30; Phil. 3:12-14:
 - 1. Ten of the twelve men whom Moses sent to spy out the land brought an evil report that caused the children of Israel to murmur and rebel against the word of the Lord, but Caleb and Joshua said to the whole assembly, "Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land [the Anakim], for they are our bread"—Num. 14:9.
 - 2. The word of God is our bread (Matt. 4:4), doing God's will is our food (John 4:34), and our bread is also the Anakim (Num. 14:9), who represent the seemingly insurmountable obstacles and impossible situations in our pursuit of Christ for the building up of the church.
 - 3. Every difficulty and temptation Satan puts in our way is food for us; this is a God-appointed means of spiritual progress (1 Tim. 4:15-16); if we are relying on the Lord for victory and allow His overcoming life to be manifested in us, we will find fresh nourishment and increased vitality (Josh. 14:11-15).
 - 4. In order to have God's keeping power, we must exercise our spirit of faith and keep our heart turned to the Lord to believe wholeheartedly in His promises (2 Cor. 4:13; 3:16; 1:20), to believe that He is with His people, and to believe that they are well able to overcome (Josh. 14:12-15; Num. 13:30); we must commit our souls as a deposit to God, the faithful Creator (1 Pet. 4:19), hand ourselves over to Him, and commit to Him the keeping of our life (2 Tim. 1:12).

5. If we trust in His promises and commit ourselves utterly to Him, we will be kept from this day to the day of His return; He is able to guard us from stumbling and to set us before His glory without blemish in exultation—Jude 24.
6. If we are going to fully possess Christ as the good land, we must beware of having an evil heart of unbelief; not to believe in the Lord is to rebel against Him—Deut. 1:25-26, 28, 35-39; 9:23; Heb. 3:12, 16-19; 4:2, 6; 11:1; cf. 2 Cor. 4:13; Gal. 3:2, 5; Rom. 10:17; Acts 6:5a; Num. 13:25-33; 14:4-10; 32:11-12; Josh. 14:6-12; 1 Cor. 10:1-13.
7. If we are going to fully possess Christ as the good land, we must beware of murmurings (discontented and secret mutterings, grumblings, and complaining); murmuring is an indistinct, whispered complaining in low tones, discontentedly and with a gloomy resentment—v. 10; Psa. 106:24-25; Phil. 2:14.

II. If we are going to fully possess Christ as the good land, the apostle Paul says that we must “flee from idolatry” (1 Cor. 10:14), referring to the children of Israel’s idolatry in worshipping the golden calf (Exo. 32:1-6):

- A. The golden calf was a made-by-God’s-redeemed-people idol; to stand up to play is to indulge in revelry (or boisterous merrymaking); an idol in our heart is anything within us that we love more than the Lord and that replaces the Lord in our life (Ezek. 14:3); as genuine children of the genuine God, we need to be on the alert to guard ourselves from idols (1 John 5:21), from all the substitutes and replacements of Christ in our life.
- B. We must be warned by the principle of the golden-calf idol, an idol made by God’s redeemed people to make them an idolatrous camp; idolatry involves five principles—1 Cor. 10:5-7:
 1. Self-beautification leads to idolatry (Exo. 32:1-4; 33:5-6; Gen. 35:1-4); God is our beauty, and He is beautifying the church as the house of His beauty so that He may be beautified (Isa. 60:7, 19, 21; Eph. 5:26-27); in the expression of our self there is division, but in the corporate expression of God, the divine glory, there is oneness (John 17:22-24); our work is our living to glorify, to express, God on earth (v. 4; 1 Cor. 10:31; Isa. 43:7), and in our speaking we should not seek our own glory by preaching ourselves, but we should preach Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as slaves to serve the believers (John 7:17; 2 Cor. 4:5).
 2. Idolatry is Satan’s usurping of what God has given us in order to make it a waste; it is our abusing what God has given us and not using God’s gifts, both material and spiritual, for God’s purpose; the gold given to the children of Israel by God through the Egyptians before their exodus from Egypt was to be used for the building of the tabernacle; however, before the gold could be used for God’s purpose, it was usurped by Satan and used by God’s people to make an idol—Exo. 11:2-3; 12:35-36; 25:2-8; 35:4-9.
 3. Idolatry is the worship of the things we enjoy, the worship of amusement and entertainment; yes, we have the enjoyment of the Lord, but this is not a form of worldly amusement and entertainment—32:6, 18-19; cf. Psa. 36:8-9:
 - a. Paul warns the Corinthians in this way: “Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play’” (1 Cor. 10:7; Exo. 32:6); C. A. Coates

says that they sported; on the weekends many people care only for eating, drinking, and sporting.

- b. *To play* is to frolic, to joke, and to act, perform, or speak with little seriousness; *to play* is to behave playfully and uninhibitedly; it is to engage in hilarity, that is, high-spirited fun.
 4. With idolatry there is the pretense of worshipping the true God—vv. 4-6; 1 Kings 12:26-30; cf. Matt. 4:8-11; John 4:23-24.
 5. With idolatry there is mixture in worship—Exo. 32:4-6, 21-24; cf. 1 Cor. 3:12.
- C. After the children of Israel worshipped the golden calf, Moses realized that the Lord's presence would no longer be in the midst of the people, so he removed his tent and pitched it some distance from the camp; his tent then became the tent of God, for both the Lord's presence and speaking were there—Exo. 33:7-11.
- D. After Moses removed his tent and separated it from the idolatrous camp, the Lord spoke to him face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion (vv. 11, 14); God and Moses were companions, associates, partners, involved in the same career and having a common interest in a great enterprise; Moses was intimate with God, and he was a person who knew God's heart, who was according to God's heart, and who could touch God's heart.

III. A renewed training was given by God through Moses to the new generation of the children of Israel after their long wandering, to prepare them to enter into the good land promised by God and inherit it as their possession; after the first generation, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua, had died out, the second generation was ready to enter into the good land and possess it:

- A. The first generation typifies our old man; the second generation typifies our new man—Deut. 2:14; 8:6-10; Exo. 3:8; Col. 1:12:
1. We need to be those who grow in life into the full possession and enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, God's promised land; transformation is the dying out of the old man and the growing up of the new man; God's economy is to have our old man (the outer man) consumed and our new man (the inner man) renewed day by day—2 Cor. 4:16.
 2. By the Lord's mercy and grace, since we have come into the Lord's recovery, we are being renewed for our growth in life and transformation in life to usher us into the enjoyment of Christ as our good land for God's building and kingdom—3:18; Rom. 12:2.
- B. Our transformation in life takes place as we let the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16); Deuteronomy 8:3 says that "man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah"; in Matthew 4:4 *everything* is replaced by *every word*:
1. All the words in the Bible are God's breathing, and all refer to Christ, who is the totality of God's Word (John 1:1; Rev. 19:13) to be the life and life supply of God's people; to live by every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God is to live by Christ, the embodiment of the divine breath (John 6:57, 63; 20:22).
 2. Because the Scriptures are the breathing out of God, the exhaling of God (2 Tim. 3:16), we should inhale the Scriptures by receiving the word of God by means of all prayer (Eph. 6:17-18); as we are teaching the Bible, we should be exhaling God into people.

3. In order to fully possess Christ as the good land, we must maintain our freshness and newness with the Lord by receiving His new speaking to us day by day (Lam. 3:22-24; Deut. 34:7; Rom. 7:6; Jer. 15:16); we must beware of languishing in the land (Deut. 4:25); the word *languish* implies “the loss of spiritual freshness, and the blunting of original impressions, produced by force of custom, or long residence in the same spot” (S. R. Driver).
4. If we love God, humble ourselves, and come to the Lord as the living word in His written word by pray-reading His Word, He becomes the applied word of the Spirit to us; His instant words are spirit and life to us for our supply and nourishment, we are infused with God’s substance through His words, and we become one with God in life and nature but not in the Godhead for His glory, His expression—John 5:39-40; 6:57, 63; Eph. 5:26-27.

IV. The renewed training by God was His charge to His people in nine matters:

- A. We must fear the Lord; to fear the Lord is to be in fear of offending Him, of losing His presence, and of not receiving Him as our reward in the next age; we should be in fear of missing the Lord’s smile in this age and His reward in the next—Prov. 1:1, 7; Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 5:9-10.
- B. We must walk in God’s ways; whatever God is, is a way to us; hence, to take what God is as our ways and walk in these ways is to live God, to live Christ; to take Christ as our way is to live Him, and to live Him is to express Him, to magnify Him—John 14:6; Phil. 1:19-21a.
- C. We must love the Lord Jesus, who is our God (John 20:28); because God loves us and has set His affection on us (Deut. 10:15; Jer. 31:3), we should love Him in return by setting our affection on Him (1 Cor. 2:9).
- D. We must love and serve God with all our heart and all our soul; our heart is linked to our spirit, for our conscience, which is a function of our spirit (Rom. 9:1), is also a function of our heart (Heb. 10:22); thus, to love and serve God with all our heart and soul indicates that we love and serve Him also with our spirit (Rom. 1:9), which is a spirit of love (2 Tim. 1:7).
- E. We must keep His commandments and statutes for our good; this means that today we need to keep Christ as the reality of God’s commandments and the riches of Christ that have been ministered to us so that we may be blessed—Deut. 10:13.
- F. We must circumcise the foreskin of our heart, which means that we crucify the flesh (Gal. 5:24), which is all that we are and have in our natural being, by our living and serving in our regenerated spirit (Rom. 1:9; 2:28-29; 7:6; 8:4, 16); this makes us the true “circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh” (Phil. 3:3).
- G. We must not be stiff-necked any longer; our stiff neck signifies our stubborn and rebellious will (Deut. 31:27), which must be subdued and resurrected by Christ through Him as the transforming Spirit to become our beauty in our obedience to Him (S. S. 1:10; Phil. 2:13).
- H. We must hold fast to Christ as God’s whole commandment; then we will be strengthened and encouraged to go on to possess Christ as our good land (Deut. 11:8, 24); this means that we will gain Christ (Phil. 3:8); furthermore, our days will be extended in Christ (Deut. 11:9, 21), God’s eyes will be

upon us to care for us and give us the blessing of His presence (v. 12), and we will enjoy the heavenly rain, the watering of the Spirit to reap a harvest of Christ (vv. 14-15).

- I. “By His name shall you swear. He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you, which your eyes have seen” (10:20b-21); in New Testament terms and experience, this means that we call upon the name of the Lord so that we may enjoy His organic salvation and His unsearchable riches (Rom. 10:12-13).

Message Three

**Christ as Our Sabbath Rest,
Typified by the Good Land of Canaan**

Scripture Reading: Heb. 3:7—4:13

I. If we would have the proper understanding of the Sabbath rest in Hebrews, we need to know the significance of the first mentioning of the Sabbath rest in the Bible—Gen. 2:2-3:

- A. God rested on the seventh day because He had finished His work and was satisfied; God's glory was manifested because man had His image, and His authority with His dominion was about to be exercised for the subduing of His enemy—1:26.
- B. When there is a situation on earth in which man expresses God and represents God, that situation is a Sabbath rest to God; the Sabbath rest is simply God's satisfaction in His heart's desire—vv. 26-28; Heb. 2:6-8a.
- C. God's seventh day was man's first day; after man was created, he did not join in God's work, but he entered into God's rest; man was created not to work but to be satisfied with God and rest with God—cf. Matt. 11:28-30.
- D. The Sabbath signifies that God has done everything, completed everything, and prepared everything and that man must stop all his work; to keep the Sabbath is to stop our work and to take God and all that He has accomplished for us as our enjoyment, rest, and satisfaction; this is God's economy—Exo. 20:8.
- E. The New Jerusalem will be God's ultimate and eternal Sabbath rest because there all the redeemed saints will fully express God in glory and reign with God's authority for eternity—Rev. 21:10-11; 22:1, 4a, 5b.

II. The Sabbath rest is Christ as our rest, typified by the good land of Canaan (Deut. 12:9; Heb. 3:7—4:13); Christ is rest to the saints in three stages:

- A. In the church age the heavenly Christ, the One who has expressed, represented, and satisfied God and who rests from His work and sits at the right hand of God in the heavens, is the rest to us in our spirit (Matt. 11:28-29); the Sabbath rest in Hebrews 4:9 is Christ as our rest, typified by the good land of Canaan (Deut. 12:9; Heb. 4:8).
- B. In the millennial kingdom, after Satan has been removed from the earth (Rev. 20:1-3), God will be expressed, represented, and satisfied by Christ and the overcoming saints; then Christ with the kingdom will be the rest in a fuller way to the overcoming saints, who will be co-kings with Him (vv. 4, 6) and share and enjoy His rest.
- C. In the new heaven and new earth, after all the enemies, including death, the last enemy, have been made subject to Him (1 Cor. 15:24-27), Christ, as the all-conquering One, will be the rest in the fullest way to all of God's redeemed for eternity.
- D. The Sabbath rest mentioned in Hebrews 4:8-9 refers to Christ as our rest in the first two stages, and especially in the second—the rest that remains for us to seek after and enter into diligently:
 - 1. The rest in the first two stages is a prize to the Lord's diligent seekers, who enjoy Him in a full way and become the overcomers; the rest in the third stage is not a prize but the full portion allotted to all the redeemed ones.

2. In the second stage of His being our rest, Christ will take possession of the whole earth as His inheritance, making it His kingdom for a thousand years—Psa. 2:8; Heb. 2:5-6.
3. In the second stage of Christ's being our rest, all His overcoming believers who seek Him and enjoy Him as their rest in the first stage will participate in His reign in the millennium (Rev. 20:4, 6; 2 Tim. 2:12); they will inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5; Psa. 37:11; Luke 19:17, 19), and they will partake of the joy of their Lord (Matt. 25:21, 23).

III. We need to take heed to the Lord's word in Matthew 11:28-30—"Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light":

- A. Toil refers not only to the toil of striving to keep the commandments of the law and religious regulations but also to the toil of struggling to be successful in any work; whoever toils thus is always heavily burdened.
- B. Rest refers not only to being set free from the toil and burden under the law or religion or under any work or responsibility, but also to perfect peace and full satisfaction.
- C. To take the Lord's yoke is to take the will of the Father; it is not to be regulated or controlled by any obligation of the law or religion or to be enslaved by any work, but to be constrained by the will of the Father.
- D. The Lord lived such a life, caring for nothing but the will of His Father (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Isa. 42:4a; cf. 53:2; 11:1-4a); He submitted Himself fully to the Father's will (Matt. 26:39, 42); hence, He asks us to learn from Him (Eph. 4:20-21).
- E. To be meek, or gentle, means not to resist opposition, and to be lowly means not to have self-esteem; He submitted Himself fully to the will of His Father, not wanting to do anything for Himself or expecting to gain something for Himself; hence, regardless of the situation He had rest in His heart; He was fully satisfied with the Father's will.
- F. The rest that we find by taking the Lord's yoke and learning from Him is for our souls; it is an inward rest and is not anything merely outward in nature.
- G. The Lord's yoke is the Father's will, and His burden is the work of carrying out the Father's will; such a yoke is easy, not bitter, and such a burden is light, not heavy—cf. Mal. 3:14.
- H. His yoke being easy means that His yoke, the Father's will, is good, kind, mild, gentle, pleasant—in contrast to hard, harsh, sharp, bitter.

IV. Exodus 31:12-17 reveals that the Sabbath follows the charge for the building of the tabernacle:

- A. "You shall surely keep My Sabbaths; for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am Jehovah who sanctifies you...Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed"—vv. 13, 16-17.

- B. On the seventh day God “rested and was refreshed”; man was God’s refreshment because man was created in God’s own image with a spirit so that man could fellowship with God and be God’s companion and counterpart.
- C. We need to see the following divine principle—God first supplies us with enjoyment, and then we work together with Him; in order to be one with God in His work, we must enjoy Him.
- D. At Pentecost the disciples were filled with the enjoyment of the Lord—“they are full of new wine” (Acts 2:13); then Peter and the eleven stood to work together with the Lord (v. 14).
- E. With God it is a matter of working and resting; with man it is a matter of resting and working; then we work with the Lord by being one with Him.
- F. As God’s people, we should bear a sign that we need God to be our strength, energy, and everything so that we may be able to work together with Him for the building up of the church as Christ’s Body; this honors and glorifies Him—1 Cor. 15:10, 58.
- G. The sign we bear is that we rest with God, enjoy God, are refreshed with God, and are filled up with God first; then we work together with the very One who fills us in oneness with Him; this is an eternal covenant, an eternal contract, with God.

V. The means of enjoying Christ as the good land is the living and operative word of God that is “sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart”—Heb. 4:12:

- A. The children of Israel are a type of us, the New Testament believers (1 Cor. 10:6a, 11), in our participation in the full salvation of God:
 - 1. In the first stage we receive Christ and are redeemed and delivered from the world, just as the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt.
 - 2. In the second stage we become wanderers in following the Lord, just as the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness; our wandering always takes place in our soul.
 - 3. In the third stage we partake of and enjoy Christ in a full way, just as the children of Israel partook of and enjoyed the riches of the good land; this is experienced in our spirit.
 - 4. The Hebrew believers were wondering in their mind what to do with their Hebrew religion, and this wondering in their mind was a wandering in their soul, not an experience of Christ in their spirit.
- B. The writer of the book of Hebrews advised the Hebrew believers not to stagger in the wandering of their soul but to press on into their spirit to partake of and to enjoy the heavenly Christ:
 - 1. The very Christ who is sitting on the throne in heaven (Rom. 8:34) is also now in us (v. 10), that is, in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22), where the habitation of God is (Eph. 2:22).
 - 2. At Bethel, the house of God, the habitation of God, which is the gate of heaven, Christ is the ladder that joins earth to heaven and brings heaven to earth (Gen. 28:12-17; John 1:51); since today our spirit is the place of God’s habitation, it is now the gate of heaven, where Christ is the ladder that joins us, the people on earth, to heaven and brings heaven to us.

3. Hence, whenever we turn to our spirit, we enter through the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder—Heb. 4:16.
 4. The staggering Hebrew believers were wandering in their soul and had neglected their spirit, but the new testament is absolutely a matter in our spirit, not in our soul—Rom. 8:16; 2 Tim. 4:22; Gal. 6:18.
- C. The Hebrew believers' soul, with its wondering mind, its doubting concerning God's way of salvation, and its considering its own interests, had to be broken by the living, operative, and piercing word of God that their spirit might be divided from their soul—Heb. 4:12:
1. As the marrow is concealed deep in the joints, so the spirit is deep in the soul; just as the dividing of the marrow from the joints requires mainly the breaking of the joints, the dividing of the spirit from the soul requires the breaking of the soul—1 Pet. 3:4.
 2. Whenever we read the Bible, it must be living, energizing, and sharp enough to divide our soul from our spirit and discern our thoughts and intentions, revealing which are of and for the self and which are of and for God; we must mix the word with faith by means of all prayer in spirit in order for it to be living and operative—Heb. 4:2; Eph. 6:17-18.
 3. The living word of God must pierce into our being and deliver us from our wondering mind and wandering soul into Christ as the Sabbath rest in our spirit; we should not be those who stagger in the wandering of our soul, but we need to deny the soul and press on into our spirit to partake of and enjoy the heavenly Christ so that we might participate in the kingdom rest of His reign in the millennium.

Message Four

The Surplus of the Produce of the Good Land and the Corporate Worship of God the Father in Truthfulness

Scripture Reading: Deut. 8:7-10; 12:6-7, 11-12, 18; 16:15-17; Eph. 3:8; John 4:23-24

I. We use the word *surplus* because the people of Israel put aside a certain portion of their produce from the labor on the good land for the purpose of worshipping God—Deut. 12:5-15, 17-18, 20-22, 26-27; 14:22-23; 15:19-20; 16:16-17:

- A. The surplus of the produce of the good land typifies Christ—8:7-10.
- B. The people of Israel offered Canaan's produce to God and enjoyed it with God.
- C. The enjoyment of the surplus of the produce of the good land typifies the corporate enjoyment of Christ as our worship to God—Eph. 3:8.
- D. According to the New Testament fulfillment of this type, when we come to worship God in a corporate way, we must bring the Christ whom we have experienced—Eph. 3:17-18; Col. 1:27; 3:3-4, 11.

II. If we faithfully labor on the all-inclusive Christ, we will have the riches of Christ as the produce to exhibit Christ in the church meetings—Eph. 3:8; 1 Cor. 14:26:

- A. The proper life of Christians is to labor on Christ every day and thus have the rich surplus of Christ to bring to the meetings for a rich exhibition of Christ—v. 26:
 - 1. We come together in the church meetings to have an exhibition of Christ—Col. 1:18, 27.
 - 2. Through our daily experiences of the riches of Christ, these riches will become an exhibition of the produce of Christ—Eph. 3:8, 17-18; Col. 2:6, 9-10, 17.
 - 3. Our meetings should always be an exhibition to show forth what Christ is, what Christ has, and what Christ does—Heb. 1:3; 2:9, 14; 1 John 3:8; 4:9, 15; Acts 2:24, 32-33; Rev. 1:17b-18.
- B. We meet to exhibit not only the Christ given to us by God but also the Christ we have produced, the Christ on whom we have labored and whom we have experienced; this is the Christ whom we come together to exhibit—Col. 1:12-13; Phil. 3:10.
- C. If we continually labor on Christ, we will have the rich surplus of Christ to bring to the meetings for a rich exhibition of Christ—1 Cor. 1:24, 30; 10:3-4; 14:26.
- D. Whenever we come together, regardless of the kind of meeting we are having, we should come with the Christ experienced by us as the surplus to be offered to God and exhibited to the whole universe and to the enemy, putting him to shame—John 4:23-24; Eph. 3:10, 17; 4:15:
 - 1. Then our meetings will be enriched and strengthened because they are full of Christ—Col. 3:4, 10-11.
 - 2. Such a church life is an exhibition of Christ, an expression of Christ—Eph. 3:21.
 - 3. We need to bring the surplus of Christ to every meeting to exhibit Christ—v. 8.
 - 4. We need to enjoy Christ in our daily life and come together to exhibit Him—1 Pet. 1:8.

- E. To have proper Christian meetings, we need to contact the Lord daily in our personal life and then come to the meetings with the realization and understanding that we are coming to exhibit Christ and share Christ with others—1 Cor. 14:26.
- F. “Whene’er we meet with Christ endued, / The surplus of His plenitude / We offer unto God as food / And thus exhibit Christ. / Let us exhibit Christ, / Let us exhibit Christ; / We’ll bring His surplus to the church / And thus exhibit Christ”—*Hymns*, #864, stanza 1 and chorus.

III. We need to labor on the all-inclusive Christ in order to have a surplus of Christ to bring to the church meetings for the corporate worship of God our Father—John 4:23-24; Eph. 3:21:

- A. “For more than forty years [spoken in 1982] I have been fighting the battle concerning the genuine worship of God. This battle has not yet been won”—*The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John*, p. 142.
- B. For our worship of Him, the Father requires that we come to Him with a harvest of Christ; thus, we need to come to the church meetings with the riches of Christ—John 4:23-24; Eph. 3:8.
- C. Daily, we should labor on Christ to have a harvest of Christ’s riches to bring to the church meetings for the corporate worship of God the Father; Christ will be exalted and glorified, and the Father will be pleased and satisfied—Deut. 12:6; 16:15-17; 1 Cor. 14:26; John 4:23-24.
- D. It is crucial that we diligently labor on Christ to have our hands full of Christ and then come to the church meetings to enjoy this rich and glorious Christ with God’s children and with God the Father Himself—1 Cor. 10:31; 14:26; John 4:23-24; Rom. 15:6.
- E. Whenever we come to the Lord’s table meeting to remember the Lord and worship the Father, we must come with the riches of Christ produced by our daily laboring on Christ—Deut. 16:15-17:
 - 1. To worship God with Christ is to worship Him collectively with all the children of God by enjoying Christ with one another and with God—1 Cor. 14:26.
 - 2. We need to produce enough of Christ so that there will be a surplus to share with others and to offer the best part of the produce to God the Father for His joy, delight, and satisfaction—Deut. 15:11; 18:3-4; 12:11.
- F. In these last days the Lord will recover the genuine experience of Christ for a surplus of His riches in the meetings for the building of the church as the Body of Christ and for the bride making herself ready for the Bridegroom’s coming.

IV. According to John 4:23-24, we need to worship God our Father in spirit and in truthfulness:

- A. Truthfulness is the revealed divine reality—the Triune God dispensed into man in the Son, Jesus Christ—becoming our genuineness and sincerity so that we may live a life that corresponds with the divine light (1 John 1:5) and worship God, as God seeks, according to what He is (2 John 1; 3 John 1).
- B. Out of the enjoyment of the divine reality issue human truthfulness, sincerity, and genuineness—John 4:23-24; 1 John 3:18; 2 John 1; 3 John 1.

- C. Truthfulness is the human genuineness, sincerity, honesty, trustworthiness, and faithfulness as a human virtue and as an issue of the divine reality—John 14:6.
- D. *Truthfulness* in John 4:23-24 denotes the divine reality becoming man's genuineness and sincerity for the true worship of God.
- E. The divine reality is Christ as the fountain of living water, the life-giving Spirit, partaken of and drunk by the believers to be the reality within them, which eventually becomes their genuineness and sincerity in which they worship God with the worship He seeks—vv. 10, 14, 23.
- F. To worship the Father in truthfulness is to worship Him with the Christ who has saturated our being to become our personal reality through our experience and enjoyment of the Triune God as the divine reality—vv. 23-24.

Message Five

Living a Life of Enjoying Christ as the Good Land with the Temple, the Dwelling Place of God, and the City, the Kingdom of God, as Its Issue

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 13:14; 1:12; 4:15; 6:1; 8:1, 9; 9:8, 14; 12:9

- I. First Corinthians takes the history of the children of Israel in the Old Testament as a type of the New Testament believers (5:7-8; 10:1-13), but there is no reference to the good land in 1 Corinthians, because, spiritually speaking, the reality of the good land is in 2 Corinthians:**
- A. The reality of the good land in 2 Corinthians is Christ Himself as the divine grace; the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is the central thought and the subject of 2 Corinthians—13:14; 1:12; 4:15; 6:1; 8:1, 9; 9:8, 14; 12:9.
 - B. *Not I but the grace of God* in 1 Corinthians 15:10 equals *no longer I...but...Christ* in Galatians 2:20; the grace that motivated the apostle and operated in him was not some matter or some thing but a living person (John 1:16-17), the resurrected Christ, the embodiment of God the Father (Col. 2:9; John 14:7-11) who became the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17), who dwelt in the apostle for his empowering enjoyment (2 Tim. 4:22; 2:1).
 - C. Grace is God in Christ as the Spirit given to us for our enjoyment, energizing us, enabling us, supporting us, and strengthening us to face any kind of trouble, to fit all situations, to endure any kind of treatment, to accept any kind of environment, to work under any kind of condition, and to take any kind of opportunity so that we may be good stewards to dispense the varied grace of God into others for the building up of the church as the house of God and the kingdom of God—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:3-12; 12:7-9; 1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 3:2.
- II. We need to see how to live a life in the eyes of God that will enable us to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ typified by the good land—Col. 1:12; 2:6-7a:**
- A. We need to live a life of laboring upon Christ, a life of enjoying Christ personally so that we may enjoy Him together collectively for the building up of the Body of Christ as the temple, the house, of the living God—1 Cor. 3:17; 1 Tim. 3:15.
 - B. God's will is for us to enjoy Christ (Heb. 10:5-10; 1 Cor. 1:9); we need to seek to enjoy Christ and experience Him in every situation (Phil. 3:7-14).
 - C. Christ is rich beyond measure, but the church today is groveling in poverty because the Lord's children are indolent—Prov. 6:6-11; 24:30-34; 26:14; Matt. 25:26, 30.
 - D. When we come to the meetings to worship the Lord, we should not come with our hands empty; our hands must be full of the produce of Christ—Deut. 16:15-16:
 - 1. We must produce enough of Him so that there will be a surplus remaining for the poor and the needy, for the priests and the Levites, and with the best for the Lord Himself—15:11; 18:3-4; 12:11.
 - 2. To worship God with Christ is to worship Him collectively with all the children of God by enjoying Christ with one another and with God—1 Cor. 14:26.

- E. If we want to be overcomers, we need to labor on Christ as our good land, to gain Christ as our enjoyment:
1. Every morning we must consecrate ourselves sincerely to the Lord for the simple purpose of enjoying and experiencing Him—cf. Phil. 3:13-14.
 2. Every day we need to spend time to be with the Lord privately and secretly to have intimate fellowship with Him—Matt. 14:22-23; 6:6; Exo. 33:11a.
 3. We need to enjoy the Lord in the Word every day early in the morning to have a new start of each day—Psa. 119:147-148.
 4. We need to deal with sins thoroughly so that there is nothing between us and the Lord—1 John 1:7, 9; cf. Ezek. 1:22, 26.
 5. We need to maintain our fellowship with the Lord moment by moment, living a life of prayer—2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 4:6-7; Lam. 3:55-56; cf. Matt. 11:25-26.
 6. We need to redeem our time and spend our energy to be saturated and soaked with God's holy Word—2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 3:16.
 7. We should redeem the time to be filled in spirit by rejoicing always, praying unceasingly, and giving thanks in everything—Eph. 5:18; 1 Thes. 5:16-19.
 8. In order to experience the riches of Christ as the good land, we must be dominated, governed, directed, moved, and led by our spirit—2 Cor. 2:13.
 9. In order to experience the riches of Christ as the good land, we must live in the person, the presence, the face, of Christ—v. 10; 4:6-7; 3:16-18; 12:2a:
 - a. In order to possess Christ as the all-inclusive land, we must be governed by His person, His presence—Exo. 33:14.
 - b. Because Paul lived in the person of Christ, he experienced Christ as changelessness (2 Cor. 1:17-20), as meekness and gentleness (10:1), as truthfulness (11:10), as power (12:10; 13:4), as grace (v. 14), and as the One speaking in him (v. 3; cf. 2:17).
 10. We receive Christ as grace, the reality of the good land, through the breaking and constituting work of the Holy Spirit, whereby our inner being is rebuilt with the Divine Trinity—12:7-10; 13:14.

III. We must meet together to have an exhibition of the Christ upon whom we have labored, the Christ whom we have enjoyed and experienced—Deut. 14:22-23:

- A. When we enjoy Christ personally in our daily life for our collective enjoyment of Him in our meeting life, God is among us, and we are His dwelling place and His kingdom.
- B. When we enjoy Christ to such an extent, the church meeting will be filled with God, and all its activities will convey and transmit God to people that they may be infused with God—1 Cor. 14:25.
- C. The true worship of God by His people is when everyone is full of Christ, radiant with Christ, and exhibiting the Christ upon whom they have labored.
- D. We should always have something to speak in all the meetings as a freewill offering to God and to the attendants—v. 26:
 1. Before coming to the meeting, we should prepare ourselves for the meeting with something of the Lord, either through our experience of

Him or through our enjoyment of His word and fellowship with Him in prayer.

2. After coming into the meeting, we should not wait for inspiration; we should exercise our spirit and use our trained mind to function in presenting what we have prepared to the Lord for His glory and satisfaction and to the attendants for their benefit—their enlightenment, nourishment, and building up—vv. 31-32.

IV. We must meet with the Lord's children for corporate worship at the place that the Lord has chosen—in our spirit and on the unique ground of oneness—Deut. 12:5, 11, 13-14, 18; 16:16; John 4:24:

- A. First, God's sanctuary, His habitation, is in our spirit (Eph. 2:22), and second, it is the church (1 Tim. 3:15); thus, to go into the sanctuary of God, we need to turn to our spirit and go to the meetings of the church; in our spirit and in the church we receive divine revelation and the explanation to all our problems (Psa. 73:16-28).
- B. We must keep the unique oneness of the Body of Christ on the genuine ground of oneness:
 1. The practice of the church life is the practice of having one church for one city, one city with only one church—Acts 8:1; 13:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; Rev. 1:11.
 2. On the genuine ground of oneness, we enjoy the Lord as the anointing oil, the refreshing dew, and the commanded blessing of life—Psa. 133.
- C. There are four characteristics of the place the Lord has chosen:
 1. The place chosen by the Lord must not have any name other than the name of Christ—Deut. 12:5; Rev. 3:8.
 2. The place chosen by the Lord is full of the exercise of the spirit—Eph. 2:22; John 4:24; 1 Tim. 4:7; 1 Cor. 14:32.
 3. The place chosen by the Lord is a place of the enjoyment of the riches of Christ—Deut. 12:7, 18; Psa. 36:8-9.
 4. The place chosen by the Lord is a place of rejoicing—Deut. 12:7, 12, 18; Psa. 42:4; 122:1.

V. The issue of our enjoyment of the all-inclusive riches of Christ as the good land is the church as the temple, the dwelling place of God, and as the city, the kingdom of God—Eph. 2:21-22:

- A. The land with its temple and city is the center of God's plan—1 Kings 8:48 and footnote 1:
 1. The land is Christ Himself, and the temple and the city are the fullness of Christ, the church, which is His Body—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22.
 2. The temple is for the expression of God, and the city is for the dominion of God; this fulfills God's eternal purpose—Gen. 1:26.
- B. The main aspects of God's house, His dwelling place for His expression, speak of God's presence:
 1. God's house is the place of God's presence, which is God's glory (Psa. 26:8; 29:9), God's beauty (27:4, 8), and God's riches (36:8-9).
 2. God's house is the place of revelation and God's answer—73:16-17; 3:4; 18:6.
 3. God's house is our hiding place—27:5; cf. 31:20; 84:3.
 4. God's house is the place where we may be planted, flourish, and bear fruit—92:13-14.

5. God's house is the place of springs—87:7.
 6. God's house is the place where we are strengthened—68:35; 96:6.
 7. God's house is the place where we are mingled with God—92:10.
 8. God's house is the place where God is our portion—73:26.
- C. The main aspects of God's city, His kingdom for His dominion, speak of God's authority:
1. God's city is a strong city, the city of the great King—31:21; 48:2.
 2. There is a river with gladdening streams in God's city—46:4-5.
 3. God is known in her and is a high retreat in her—48:3.
 4. She is a terror to the enemy—vv. 3-6; 76:2-3.
 5. She is the perfection of beauty—50:2.
 6. She is the goal of God's good pleasure—51:18.
 7. The thrones of judgment are set in God's city—122:5.
 8. The Lord blesses others out of her and is blessed out of her—134:3; 135:21.

VI. The ultimate issue of our enjoyment of Christ as the good land is the divine-human incorporation of the processed Triune God with His regenerated, transformed, and glorified tripartite people as the eternal dwelling place and the kingdom of God—Rev. 21:3, 22; 22:5.