

Entering the Promised Land in 2021

We have just celebrated the beginning of the new year of 2021.

Approximately 3,500 years ago, God's people, the Israelites were also celebrating a new beginning.

For four hundred years they had served as bondslaves in Egypt.

Then, under the leadership of Moses, they were led out of their bondage in Egypt to head for a land that God had promised to them.

As the people approached the threshold of their new land, they were preparing to enter in and take possession of their inheritance.

Likewise, here at the beginning of 2021, we are also preparing to enter into a new opportunity that God has given to us.

Our situation is like that of the ancient Israelites in four distinct ways.

They were standing on the brink of their new land, and we are standing on the brink of a new year.

- First, just as God gave the Israelites their land, He has given us a new year. The land was graciously and freely given to them by God Himself.

The Lord, in all of His grace and goodness, has blessed us with another year of life and another opportunity to serve Him.

- Second, though a great opportunity lay before them, they did not know what the future held.

Likewise, we do not know what 2021 holds in store for us.

All the people of Israel know of their new land was that they were directed by God to go in and possess it.

They knew nothing of the challenges or conflicts they would face.

As the Book of Joshua records the Israelites' entrance into the Promised Land, it also teaches us lessons about our spiritual lives and the victories of faith we can enjoy when we trust the Lord and obey His will.

Just as God led His children into their new land, today He desires to lead us into lives of victory and blessing as we embark on the new year of 2021.

- Third, the Israelites had to decide to face the future or focus on the past. For the past forty years, they had lived in a physical and spiritual desert.

Were they going to be willing to face the future with faith, courage, and determination?

Joshua was now their new leader, and they had to decide whether or not to follow his leadership.

Joshua 13:1 – Joshua was old and stricken in years, but there was still much land that needed to be possessed; there was still more work for God's people to do.

Regardless of your age, God has a work for you to do in 2021.

Will you have the faith, courage, and determination to do it?

- Fourth, they had to decide whether or not to follow the Lord. The Christian life is a life of battles and blessings.

Conflicts without faith result in defeat, but conflict with faith results in victory.

Similarly, disobedience always results in failure, but obedience to the Lord results in great blessing

When the people of Israel obeyed the Lord, God worked on their behalf and blessed them richly.

But, when Israel disobeyed because of unbelief, God abandoned them to their own ways and allowed defeat in their lives.

Likewise, at the beginning of this new year, we must decide whether to live our lives obediently before the Lord or to follow our own will.