



GLOBAL GRACE NEWS

GGN is a teaching resource for ministers and churches all over the world. We advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ - Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

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CHRISTianity is to be all about CHRIST!

Some of the first recorded words of Jesus are "Repent and believe in the Gospel." The words repent and believe are here put together. Why is that? It is because repentance has to do with our thinking, with our believing. Strong's Concordance explains the word repentance as "to think differently" or "to reconsider".

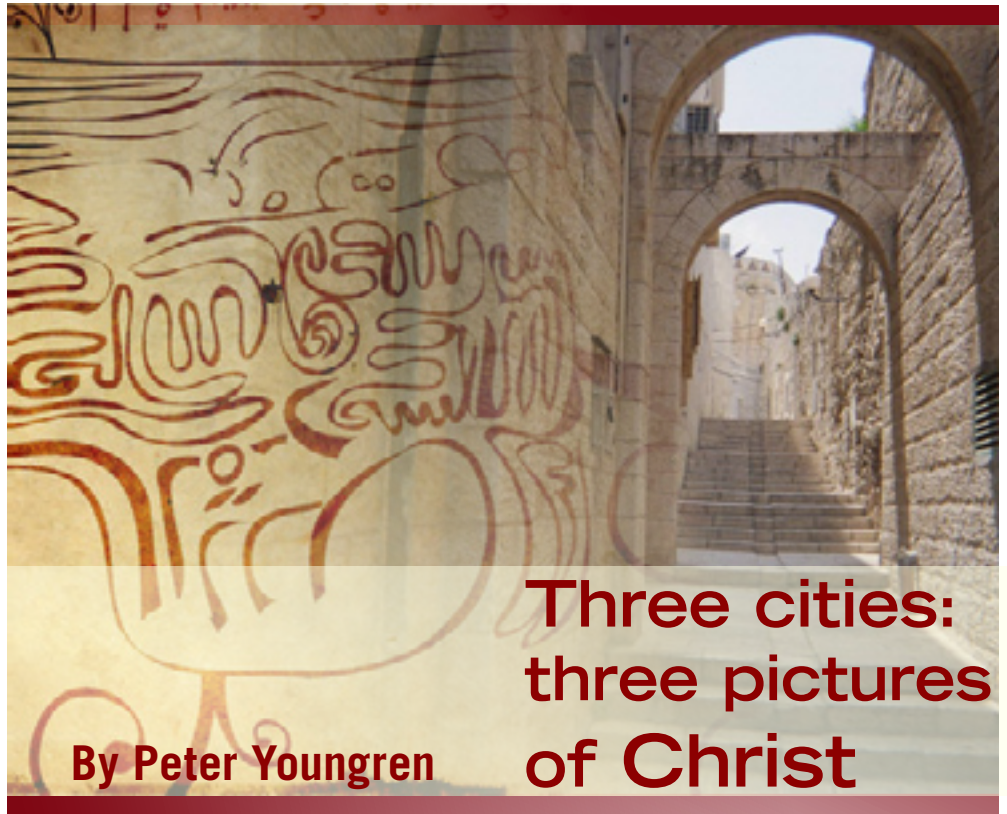
Just think about it: The Jews had to undergo a major change in their belief; from putting their trust in the Law and the Old Covenant systems to start believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the New and Living Way. All the old systems would now be replaced with Jesus! He is the fulfilment of the Law, He is the Blessing promised, He is the New and living way, He is the Source of life in us, etc. True CHRISTianity is ALL about what Jesus has already done and what He is doing today in and through His Believers.

The vision of Global Grace News is to help the Church to rediscover Jesus Christ and to take this message to the world.

Enjoy your Christmas season and be reminded that "CHRIST in you is the hope of glory."



Mary Felde
Editor



Three cities: three pictures of Christ

By Peter Youngren

The "promised land" that God gave to Israel is a picture of our life in Christ. We find the cities of Hebron, Kirjath Sepher and Timnath Serah. Let's together discover what they symbolize.

In many Christian songs and sermons the Promised Land has been depicted as heaven. This cannot be so, because in heaven there are neither enemies, nor sin and backsliding. What does the "promised land" mean for us?

The Promised Land symbolizes a spiritual reality here and now.

When Israel entered Canaan, their Promised Land, this was a landmark

victory - what they had longed for, they now possessed. We, too, come to an experience when, "Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The Promised Land is a place of spiritual rest.

Our rest is not in a geographical land, but in Jesus Himself. To live a New Covenant life means an end to the pursuit and chasing of elusive spiritual dreams

and never quite receiving them. Many spend years looking for blessings, deliverances, joys and glory, not recognizing that we already have received these in Christ. Spiritual rest is in the realization that what we pray and hope for we already have in and through Jesus Christ. The finished work of Christ really is finished. This discovery gives us the power to live the life that Jesus provided for us.

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The Promised Land is very personal.

Each tribe, family, and individual in Israel had their own geographical place within the overall inheritance. There was a personal inheritance for each one. Similarly, there is a personal inheritance for each one of us in Christ. Yet that personal inheritance of victory and blessing in Christ always fits in with God's overall plan for all His people.

The “promised land” that God gave to Israel is a picture of our life in Christ. We find the cities of Hebron, Kirjath Sepher and Timnath Serah.

Hebron: The City of the Father's Love.

“Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb...” (Joshua 14:14). Hebron was important militarily

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because of its high elevation. Caleb set his heart on this choice region as his inheritance. He had waited for forty years in the wilderness while his contemporaries died. Before Caleb finally laid claim to Hebron, he fought four more years with the Israelites so that each tribe could take their inheritance. Caleb wanted it because it was the highest and best in the land. Some people settle for the good, others for the better, and then there are those who want God's very best - the “perfect will of God” (Romans 12:12) and to “fulfill every good purpose of God” (2 Thess 1:11).

Hebron literally means “the loving friend.” Caleb, who is a picture of enduring faith, lived in Hebron, which shows the connection between faith and love, because “faith works by love.” Caleb had held on in faith for forty years, foreshadowing the faith that works through Jesus (Acts 3:16).

Before Caleb, Hebron had been the city of Abraham, God's friend, and later on it would become the city of David, the man after God's own heart. Both Abraham and David were flawed individuals. If even a small part of the weight of the Law of Moses had been applied to Abraham and David, they would both have been stoned to death. Because of love and faith, they instead become types of new covenant believers who receive the grace of God. Abraham and David did not get what they deserved, just as we

don't get what we deserve, but what Jesus has provided.

The mind of Christ.

The city of Kirjath Sepher, conquered by Othniel, speaks of the mind of Christ in us. We read, “Caleb said, “He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife.” So Othniel... took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife. Now it was so, when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, “What do you wish?” She answered, “Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water.” So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs” (Joshua 15:16-19).

The literal meaning of Kirjath Sepher is “*The City of the Book.*” The city was also called Debir, which means “*The Speaker.*” Here we see a picture how the Word of God affects our thoughts and speech. Before Christ, all we knew was either the legalistic requirements of religion, or the wisdom of this world, but now we have received the mind of Christ. Othniel, which means “*the Lion of God*” is also a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ, the lion of Judah living within us.

Achsah, Caleb's daughter, is a picture of grace. She asked her husband to

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pursue great things, just like grace causes us to believe for God's best. Grace doesn't make us lazy. On the contrary we become energetic because we see Him, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think (Eph 3:20). Othniel received a rich inheritance because of Achsah (grace), just like the grace of God causes us to inherit what Jesus has provided. When Achsah makes her request, she steps down from her donkey, lowering herself. God always gives grace to the humble. In the end, her father gave her more than she asked for. That's how grace works. When we come to God because of the finished work of Christ, the blessing we receive is even greater than what we anticipated.

While some people think that the receiving only belongs to a few, John writes, "And of his fullness we have all received and grace for grace" (John 1:16). Notice it doesn't say that some have received and others are still seeking to receive. No, we have "all received." Why? Because of Jesus.

Both Achsah and Othniel were thinking big and received big, foreshadowing the mind of Christ, which makes us think bigger and receive bigger than we ever dreamed possible.

Jesus Himself.

The third city is Timnath Serah, the City of the Sun, which is a picture of Jesus Himself. "... the children of Israel gave an inheritance among them to ... According to the word of the LORD they gave him the city which he asked for, Timnath Serah in the mountains

of Ephraim; and he built the city and dwelt in it" (Joshua 19:49-50).

Timnath Serah, the last of these three special inheritances, was to be Joshua's home. *The city depicts Jesus Himself*, the son of righteousness, who is "all and in all." *The sun guides our steps*, just as Jesus said that those who follow Him will never walk in darkness, but rather have continual direction (John 8:12). *The sun provides life and power*; without it we have no life at all, and without Jesus we can do nothing. *The sun gives warmth*, a picture of God's kindness and love. It is by knowing the width and the length and the depth of that love that we "may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph 3:19). *The sun gives healing*. No wonder Jesus is prophesied to be the "Sun of Righteousness with healing in his wings" (Malachi 4:2). The natural sun is a healer - so much more, the Son of God. *The city of the sun has no clouds*. This speaks of unbroken communion with Jesus where there is no "shadow of turning in Him" (James 1:17). We read in Isaiah 60:20, "Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended."

Because the sins of the world have fallen on Jesus, we have the possibility of unbroken communion with God. Joshua built the city of Timnath Serah because he planned to live there. *We live in the city of the sun*. Jesus Christ is our place of dwelling. Often people say "we must enter God's presence" or "spend time with the Lord" which indicates that we are spending time with Jesus, and then time without

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Jesus. Timnath Serah is a picture of the continual life and presence of Jesus Christ. Joshua didn't only plan to live in Timnath Serah, he actually did. Sometimes people make plans to walk with Jesus, but instead, what was meant to be a permanent dwelling place becomes like a summer cottage. Make sure Jesus is not your summer cottage but your permanent place.

Jesus told His disciples that the Books of Moses, the prophets and all the Psalms spoke of Him. In Joshua we discover many beautiful pictures of who Jesus is and wants to be in each one of us. Christ in you, the hope of Glory. These three choice inheritances remind us of Christ's love, His mind in us and that He is our daily sustainer.



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- Part 3 -

Rest in Jesus

By Mike Walker

Our life with the Lord should be restful. So how can we serve the Lord and still be restful?

We, who are in this New Covenant that God has given us through Jesus Christ, have the opportunity to live a restful, stress-free life with God. For many people this truth seems so far away because of the chaos in and around their lives. Jesus still brings peace to the storms of life. There is a genuine, tangible rest for the people of God! Unbelief brings stress and restlessness, but believing in the finished work of Christ brings rest.

Hebrews 4:1-4 – “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn

in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.”

The kingdom of heaven is ours

Our life with the Lord should be restful and not storm-tossed with the winds of adversity blowing us in all

directions. We can live and operate in an atmosphere where we have ceased from our own works (Heb. 4:9) and know that every promise of God is ours because Christ fulfilled every requirement and sat down at God's right hand. We can say with confidence that we know in whom we have believed and are persuaded that He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him (2 Timothy 1:12).

The kingdom of heaven is ours through Christ – it has been given to us.

2 Peter 1:3 – “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.” Our God is a good God and He has given us every good thing required for life and

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godliness through Christ Jesus. We have wisdom, peace, righteousness, and all the exceedingly precious promises in the Bible bestowed on us.

Labour to enter into His rest

Hebrews 4:11 – “Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” There are many stressed-out people in Christianity who have failed to understand and grasp that when we have Jesus, we have everything! Jesus is with us every minute of every day and He is enough for our tomorrows and the future ahead of us. Some people need to have hands laid on them with a word of prophecy, but we need to believe in the Jesus in each of us – the One who will never leave nor forsake us!

“ There is a place where we can run the race set before us without getting tired and faint-hearted. ”

Isaiah 40:29-31 – “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up

with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” There is a place where we can run the race set before us without getting tired and faint-hearted. In **1 Corinthians 15:10** Paul states that he “laboured more abundantly than they all” but it was the “grace of God which was with me.” His approach to ministry was in a place of rest where the work was enabled by the Lord. Jesus completed the “works which the Father hath given me to finish” (**John 5:36**). He said and did what the Father told and gave Him to do and rested on that reality. He knew the path the Father had for Him to follow and rested in the outcome of everything laid before Him.

Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” We need to be going forward in the things that are prepared for us. We need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and stay in the plan of the Father. Give everything we are and have to the Lord and He will guide us without the stress and indecisiveness of our own making. If we don't have the assurance to move ahead in a decision, don't move! Jesus is Lord of our lives and we need to be listening to what He is saying.

We are yoked with the Lord

Matthew 11:28-30 – “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you

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rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Christian life was intended to be a restful, stress-free life. There is no room for burnout in ministry and in serving the Lord. When we are truly working for Jesus, we can never get burned-out because we are not operating in our own efforts. We are doing the work that the Lord has prepared for us; the work He has laid out for us. What a difference when we are yoked with the Lord – He is the one who pulls the heavy load, not us! This is the stress-free, abundant life that Jesus came to give. The answer to stress is this: Come and learn of me!



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