



2023-5783 The Year of Retribution, Recompense, & Payback
Taking Advantage of the Opportunity, Despite the Opposition.

Sunday Sermon – April 30, 2023
Bishop Steven A. Norman

Joshua 1:10-17 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.'" 12 And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying, 13 "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land. 14 Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them, 15 until the Lord has given your brethren rest, as He gave you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the Lord's servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise.'" 16 So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the Lord your God be with you, as He was with Moses.

God told Abraham years ago, that He would give this inheritance to His descendants. Now it was presented before the 1st generation of Israelites.

It was right before them, theirs for the taking! They had longed for it, prayed for it and now here it is.

They didn't take advantage of the opportunity because of the opposition that was before them.

Often the revealing of what God has promised, comes as an opportunity to attain what God has given.

God reveals it, but we have to receive it and/or attain it.

So, it was with this second generation of Israelites, the same opportunity to attain the promise was staring them right in the face.

Not only was the opportunity to attain what God had promised still before them, but the oppositions were there as well. The same is true with us, God will always be true to what He has promised, but rest assured, there will be opposition.

Three different types of opposition

- 1. The opposition within.**
- 2. The natural opposition.**
- 3. The opposition from the enemy.**

Jesus is Lord~Assembly of Love
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The opposition within

Overcoming the enemy within me!

Fear, doubt, unbelief, wrong attitude, etc.

These are created within us mainly in three different ways.

Past Results of Others

Never let the results of others, cause you to doubt the results God says we can get with Him!

The second generation of Israelites didn't let the attitude from the first generation keep them from applying faith to what God had said.

Let the faithfulness of God form your attitude and expectations, not the results of others.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

The IT, in this verse is whatever God has said to you or called you to do.

Past Failures of Your Own

Try to allow what was a failure in the past to be nothing more than a learning tool for today and tomorrow!

Ask God to give you insight into why you failed! When understood properly, failures can be a tool to increase your faith, instead of increasing your doubt.

In John the 21st chapter it says the disciples had been fishing all night long and caught nothing.

John 21:3-6...So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. 4 At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. 5 He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied.

Sometimes it's good for us to consult the Lord about the opportunities that we have taken that have not produced. Before you quit, consult Jesus He will always communicate to you how to achieve.

6 Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

But when they heard the voice of the Lord, who told them to try again, they found out that they were fishing on the wrong side of the boat.