

Believing God:
Part 3

To get me to Gilgal

2/7/2010

The Promised Land is both a real place and a metaphor of where God wants us. God is leading each of us on a journey towards the Promised Land both here and now and in eternity. To get to this Promised Land...

Joshua 4:19-20; 5:2-12

1. I must be set free from the bondage of sin

The Red Sea – The bondage of sin

Israel was delivered from Egyptian captivity at the Passover.

“Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of the (the first month) each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.” Ex 12:3

It would appear that Israel would get out of Bondage in one place only to find themselves in a new form of Bondage. What’s up with that?

The church in Galatians had the same problem. They got out of the bondage of sin only to enter into the bondage of legalism.

Is it possible that we have been delivered from the bondage of sin but have entered into some other type of bondage?

2. I need to be set free from the bondage of a wounded heart.

- Sin will keep me from Believing God but so will a wounded heart.

The Jordan River – The bondage of a wounded heart.

“On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan...”

What keeps me out of the Promised Land and wandering in the desert?

The Cycle of Defeat

What will end my spiritual wanderings and lead me to the Promised Land?

The Cycle of Victory

Gilgal is the place where two important works occur:

A. God brings you full circle and breaks any looming cycle of failure

B. God rolls away my reproach by healing my heart.

“Then the Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’” Joshua 5:9

Gilgal: Wheel

Galal: rolled away

We know we’re coming full circle with God when we stand at a very similar crossword where we made such a mess of life before, but this time we take a different road – enabled by a healed heart.

3. I must cooperate with what God is doing

Symbols of Israel's cooperation:

A. Stones

“So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan...” Joshua 4:8a

B. Circumcision

There ought to be a “mark” of God's ownership of me.

“So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way.” Joshua 5:7