

A The land that was lost

- ❖ God appointed Adam and Eve rulers of this world (Gen. 1:27-28) and placed them in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8). When they disobeyed God, they were cast out (Gen. 3:23). They had lost dominion over the earth.
- ❖ But God had a plan for humanity to recover the lost land. In the first phase, He gave Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob a small piece of land: Canaan (Gen. 13:14-15).
- ❖ Gradually, the possession would be extended to the whole earth, as the knowledge of God was reaching every people and nation (Is . 11:9).
- ❖ Israel's disobedience led to a change in the original plans. God raised up children of Abraham from the stones to inherit his promises: us (Luke 3:8; Hebrews 6:11-12).

B The land that God gives

- ❖ Just as Adam and Eve did nothing to deserve the Garden of Eden, Abraham and his descendants did nothing to deserve the Promised Land. It was a gift from God.
- ❖ We can compare this gift to a rented house. Although Israel could live in Canaan, the land remained God's possession (Ps. 24:1).
- ❖ The owner of the house is the one who takes care of the maintenance of the roof, the plumbing, etc. Similarly, God is the one who provided the rain, protected the crops, etc., so that Israel could live confidently in the land that God gave them.
- ❖ Just as in Eden, there was rent to “pay”: obedience (Lev . 20:22). It was really a matter of relationship: loving God and enjoying His blessings. Yesterday, as today, it remains a matter of faith (Heb . 11:9-13).

C Conquer the land

- ❖ When Joshua was old, God commanded him to divide the land among the tribes of Israel, including the unconquered territories (Josh. 13:1-7).
- ❖ The land was theirs, but they still had to make an effort to possess it. God does not act independently of man; He wants us to do our part.
- ❖ Although they fought for victory, their success was not their own merit, but God's (Deut . 9:5). Like Israel, we can do nothing to obtain salvation and inherit the promises (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal . 3:29). But if they fought... what should we do today?
- ❖ Once saved, God requires two things of his heirs: obedience (Phil. 2:12); and gratitude (Heb . 12:28).

B' Keep the gift

- ❖ Once the inheritance was received, there were special rules governing the use of the land: the sabbatical year and the jubilee.
- ❖ The Sabbath year, a large-scale extension of the Sabbath, allowed the land to rest (Lev. 25:2-5). Failure to observe this law was one of the reasons for the exile (2 Chron. 36:20-21).
- ❖ The jubilee involved the return of lands to their original owners, avoiding social inequalities (Lev . 25:10, 23, 40-41).
- ❖ In essence, this is the main purpose of the Gospel: to erase the distinction between rich and poor, employers and employees, privileged and disadvantaged, placing us all on an equal footing by recognizing our total need for God's grace.

A' The recovered land

- ❖ Because of their disobedience, Israel was uprooted from their land and cast into Babylon. But God did not abandon them.
- ❖ He promised to bring them back, give them the land forever, and set David as king over them (Ezek. 37:25). But Israel did not possess that land forever, and David had been dead for a long time. What, then, does this prophecy mean?
- ❖ Here Jesus is proclaimed, the true King who reigns eternally. He who, through his blood, assures us of an eternal inheritance.
- ❖ He is the fulfillment of all the promises (Rom. 15:8; 2 Cor. 1:20). In Him we receive blessings now and, in the future, the promised inheritance (1 Pet. 1:3-4). Soon, our feet will set foot in the Promised Land.