

## The Battle With Amalek- A Kingdom at Stake Part 5

1). We've covered a lot of ground so far, so let's review what we've learned—

- In order to interpret Scripture correctly, we need to understand that one of the ways that God structures His Word is through the use of types/antitypes.
  - A type in Scripture is an historical person or event that points to something future. The anti-type is the fulfillment of the type.
- The purpose of man's creation is to rule.
- Satan deceived the woman in the garden by first questioning God's Word, and then contradicting God's instructions by telling the woman that she "shall surely NOT die" if she disobeys.
- Prior to Noah's Flood, Satan and his angels attempted to corrupt the entire human race by the fallen angels taking women unto themselves, bringing about the Nephilim.
- Through this means Satan did indeed accomplish (temporarily) his goal of perverting the "seed of the woman." Therefore, God wiped out the human race through using a world-wide flood (except of course Noah and his family, the only ones found righteous).
- The call of Abraham and the promises to him concerned descendants, a land, and an inheritance in that land, and a promised 400 year period of his descendants being sojourners and enslaved, prior to receiving the land as an inheritance.
- We need to understand the doctrine concerning the setting aside of first things and the establishing of the second. We saw this through Ishmael and Isaac, Jacob and Esau (among others).
  - Esau, we learned, disdained and forfeited his birthright. It is recorded that God "**hated** Esau." (Malachi 1:3). Jacob received the birthright instead.

2). The night of Passover ended the four hundred-year period of sojourning and eventual enslavement. The newly born nation of Israel was taken out of Egypt and was led toward the land of promise.

- Then just days out of Egypt, just days out of the Red Sea passage, the nation of Israel came to a place called Rephidim ("a place of beds") wherein they had no water (until God mercifully gave them water). Let's read it again—

#### **Exodus 17:1-4**

Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" 3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

- So instead of simply asking God to do for them what they could not do, they quarreled with God and tested Him. The way in which they tested Him was that *they questioned His intentions in bringing them out of Egypt*. They murmured, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt? To kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst!?"
- Then mercifully the Lord said to Moses –

#### **Exodus 17:5-8**

5... "Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 And he named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?"

Then, with this as the setting, Amalek comes--

#### **8 Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim.**

- Amalek was the first enemy to come against Israel in their trek to the Promised land. Amalek was Esau's descendant; therefore he represents the fleshly man. The flesh attacks at a place of rest, when the guard is down, when one is weary and weak.
- You will remember that Moses sent Joshua into the battle with the Israelites. Moses went up on the hill to pray for them, holding up his staff over them. But his hands grew tired and when he lowered his hands Amalek would prevail, but when he lifted his hands Israel prevailed. Aaron and Hur helped him in holding his hands up, so that Joshua was able to be victorious in battle as he defeated the enemy with the edge of the sword.

- But Joshua was in the battle with Israel defeating the enemy *with the edge of the sword*, and Moses was on the mountain in intercession for Israel.
  - What a beautiful picture for us. Joshua and Moses are both types of Christ, depicting for us how the Lord helps us in the battle against the flesh: He intercedes on the mountaintop to ensure victory, and He is down in the battle with us with the sword.
- Finally, about 3 months or so after coming out of Egypt, Israel comes to a place in the wilderness where God wanted them to stop so that He could teach them. They came to Mt. Sinai, and there they learned the reason why they were redeemed out of Egypt, what God would do for them, and what God expected from them.

3). Then after they had been at Mt. Sinai for 1½ years learning all that God had to teach them, God moved them away from this place of learning. After three months (or so) they finally came to the place wherein they could begin to take their inheritance. They came to a place called Kadesh Barnea. But rather than going in, they asked if they could send spies into the land. So God let them.

- By way of quick overview, the first generation (except for Joshua and Caleb) forfeited their inheritance through disobedience, which emanated out of:

**1. unbelief of what God said about their enemies, and**

**2. fear of the “Giants in the land” i.e., the Nephilim (in particular the “sons of Anak” [Anak was part of the Nephilim]), as well as the other inhabitants of the land, including the Amalekites.**

- Through this example we can clearly see the Nephilim and the Amalekites in the land as enemies of God’s redeemed people. These enemies stand poised to do all they can so as not to allow God’s people to take the land, the very inheritance that God was planning on giving them, if they would only ***believe and obey!***
  - Get the picture here for us...the Nephilim (representing emissaries of Satan) and the Amalekites (representing the fleshly man) both stand poised to work together against us in our intent to receive our inheritance.
  - But all God expects from us is to believe and obey.
  - The children of Israel show us a picture of *disobedience*, born out of unbelief, or lack of faith, in what God had clearly revealed to them.

4). Continuing with review...we have also learned that Saul lost his right to continue on the throne, due to blatant disobedience.

- He did not kill all the Amalekites (and all their flocks and herds), therefore his kingdom was taken from him.
- Eventually an Amalekite took his life and his crown.
- This story of Saul shows us a picture of the flesh *not being willing to obey God's clear directive*. It doesn't appear to be necessarily born out of unbelief, but rather simply fulfilling the desires of the flesh.
- We need to note something very significant in both the story of Saul and the story of the first generation of Israel--in BOTH cases the people involved GREATLY desired to change things in the end. They were both GREATLY desirous to have done things differently. But there was no repentance on God's part. *He did not change His mind.*

5). Let's linger for a moment at what we can learn through the events that took place at Kadesh Barnea. Today I would like to spend some time on a specific person in the story. His name is Caleb. And he is from the tribe of Judah.

- There is no mention of Caleb prior to the day that he was called upon to be one of the leaders who would go into and spy out the land. (While Joshua had been mentioned several times prior to this, Caleb had not been mentioned.)
- Caleb was one of the 12 spies chosen to go into the land in order to bring back a report to the rest of the congregation regarding what the land looks like and what the people in the land look like.

So the spies checked out the land, all of it, and when they returned (with some fruit from the land) they gave a report to the congregation. Let's read some of the story—

**Numbers 13:28-33**(The 10 spies reported this)--

**28 Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan."**

**30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it."**

**31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." 32 So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying,**

**"The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size.**

**33 There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."**

Then the whole congregation, believing what the ten said about the land, cried out and wept to the Lord, wishing they could go back to Egypt. They wanted to appoint different leaders (rather than Moses and Aaron) and return to a land of slavery. The story continues—

**Numbers 14:7-11**

[Joshua and Caleb spoke to the people saying,]

**7... "The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land.**

**8 If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it to us--a land which flows with milk and honey.**

**9 Only do not rebel against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they shall be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them."**

**10 But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the LORD appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel.**

**11 And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst?**

God then said that He will get rid of the people of Israel, and make another nation for Moses. Moses asks the Lord to forgive them of their iniquity. Continuing with the story—

**Numbers 14:20-35**

**20 So the LORD said, "I have pardoned them according to your word; 21 but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. 22 Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs, which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness,**

**yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, 23 shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.**

**24 But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it. 25 Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites live in the valleys; turn tomorrow and set out to the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea."**

**26 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 27 "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me.**

**28 "Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; 29 your corpses shall fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me.**

**30 Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.**

**31 Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey--I will bring them in, and they shall know the land which you have rejected. 32 But as for you, your corpses shall fall in this wilderness. 33 And your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they shall suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.**

**34 According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt a year, even forty years, and you shall know My opposition. 35 I, the LORD, have spoken, surely this I will do to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be destroyed, and there they shall die."**

Then Moses told the congregation what God had said and the people mourned GREATLY. Then a group of them decided to go in to the land anyway, without God's protection, and all of them were slaughtered by the enemy.

6). Then, 38 years later, after the entire first generation died in the wilderness, Moses spoke to the second generation, who were now poised to go in and begin to receive their inheritance. Moses said:

**Deuteronomy 1:34**

**"...34 Then the LORD heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath, saying, 35 'Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers, 36 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and to his sons I will give the land on which he has set foot, because he has followed the LORD fully.'**

- After a series of events Moses died, Joshua was visited by the Lord and was commanded to be strong and courageous and OBEY the law. Joshua led the second generation across the Jordan River, into the Promised Land to receive their inheritance. There they could eat the produce of the land, for the provision of manna had stopped.
- Next was the taking of the city of Jericho...and chapter after chapter in the book of Joshua he tells the story of the way the Lord allowed Joshua and the children of Israel to come into the Land and to receive their inheritance.
- FINALLY, 5 years after the taking of Jericho, this event happens—

**Joshua 14:6-14** (Caleb said to Joshua...)

**6 ... "You know the word which the LORD spoke to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh-barnea. 7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought word back to him as it was in my heart.**

**8 Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the LORD my God fully. 9 So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.'**

**10 "And now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today.**

**11 I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in.**

**12 Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out as the LORD has spoken."**

**13 So Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. 14 Therefore, Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite until this day, because he followed the LORD God of Israel fully.**

- Joshua 15 goes on to explain that Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from the land which was to be his inheritance. Caleb drove out the sons of Anak, who were the

Nephilim. Caleb, even over 40 years later, was determined to get his inheritance. He was not tired or weary; he was faithful to the end.

- Then, before his death, Joshua puts the choice before the children of Israel.

**Joshua 24:15**

**15 "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

- "CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF WHOM YOU WILL SERVE...."
- Remember the story of the first generation of Israel, that all but two were disobedient to the word of God. All but two died before entering the land of their calling.
  - The two who remained faithful to the Lord still had to wait another 43+ years before receiving their inheritance. They had to endure the wilderness with the unfaithful congregation that was just waiting to die, never to receive their inheritance. Joshua and Caleb remained patient, remained faithful, remained confident that God would indeed deliver on His promises.
  - And when they did receive the land that was promised, they were just as excited, just as enthusiastic as they were 40+ years earlier. They were still willing to fight to get the land; they would not let anything get in their way.

So for us, as end our series on the Battle with Amalek, please think on this story we've just recounted, and hear the following words that were written to the church-

**Hebrews 4:6-16**

**6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before,**

**"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS." 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that.**

**9 There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.**

**11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the**



division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. **14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

**15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

**16** Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.