

THE PLACE OF GOD'S CHOOSING = FULNESS

By

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I want to share with you from the recent dealings of the Lord in my heart regarding God's Plan of Redemption and Salvation: that which is ours NOW in Christ. And it is summed up by the word "fulness". And more and more I am seeing that God desires to have His People come to KNOW: not only intellectually, but experientially the fulness of His Eternal Plan and the Relationship of Oneness that He has brought us into with Himself. And this is a real burden on my heart because the Scriptures declare that our Salvation is real NOW: not in part but in the fulness of The Finished Work of The Cross. And since God has brought us into this "So Great Salvation", He desires that we experience all of it, and live in the daily Reality of our New Life in Christ Jesus.

Let me begin just by reminding us of the Apostle Paul's prayers for the church, which I believe were inspired by the very Spirit of God in expressing God's desire for His People.

- **Ephesians 3:19:** *"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."*

God does not want us just to come to an incomplete, partial

knowledge of our Salvation, but come to a FULL, Perfect knowledge of everything that The Cross of Christ has done for us. Becoming “religious” does not satisfy God’s Heart; but coming to the fulness of our Relationship with Him in Christ does.

- **Hebrews 6:1:** *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,”*

And because it was God’s Desire that we come to be filled with His fulness and go on to the Perfect (complete) Knowledge of our Perfect Salvation in Christ The Perfect One, the Apostle Paul’s heart was fixed upon attaining this.

- **Philippians 3:13:** *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

And I pray that even through this sharing your hearts may be stirred up to the same determination: to reach and possess for yourselves the FULNESS of everything that God has planned for us in Christ. And may you not allow anything to deter you in reaching that goal!

So when we are talking about coming to experience the Fulness of God’s Plan of Salvation I pray that we are understanding that His Plan was not just to bring a people **OUT**: out of sin, out of death, out of the world etc.; but unfortunately this is how many times we preach “Salvation”

today. And many Christians are still struggling trying to “get out”. But God’s Plan was not just to bring a people **OUT**: but to bring them **IN**: into not just a “literal, physical location”, but into a Relationship with God Himself: a Covenant Agreement by which He is “their God” and they are “His People”. The Scriptures speak of this in type as “The Place” and “The Land”, but we need to appreciate the word “THE.”. God didn’t just bring them into “A” place, or “any place other than Egypt”, or “a land in a different country”. To God it is always exclusively “THE”: what God prepared for His people. We see this beautifully in **Exodus 15:17**: *“Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established. 18: The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.”* By the Mighty Hand of God they were not only brought **OUT** but brought **IN** – to a Place of Rest (“in” implies a state of being at rest) and planted securely in The Place the Lord made not only for them to dwell in, but for Himself to dwell in – where He reigns.

And I want to point out the “**OUT - IN**” because that is essential to God’s Plan. And I want us to consider this regarding how we are experiencing God’s Salvation. Many of us are not enjoying the fulness of our Salvation because we have not fully come **OUT** of our old life and therefore have not entered **IN** fully to the New Life in Christ. We see these same two words spoken to Abraham in **Genesis 12:1**: *“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee **OUT** of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, **UNTO** a land that I will shew thee:”* God told Abraham that he had to get out of everything of his first life and come into a different place, a different life, that the Lord would reveal to

him. But sad to say, Abraham, just like so many of us, did not fully obey God. Abraham came out physically from the land of his birth: but he brought with him the remains of that life. **Genesis 12:4:** *“So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. 5: And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.”* Now these were not necessarily “bad” things, but they were an impediment to Abraham, and caused his journey in “the land” to stop. And it was only after Lot was separated from him that the Lord could truly show Abraham this Land. (Genesis 13:14) And I hope that we can see from this that our disobedience to The Word of the Lord will always be an impediment to us causing us not to experience the fulness of God’s Salvation.

But I want us to see that This Land, This Place is symbolized as a land of **FULNESS** for God’s People, and in This Place they will receive the Fulness of their Relationship with Him. And I feel this is important for us to understand because God did not just bring them OUT so that they could live unto themselves: but He brought them INTO Himself: into a Covenant Relationship with Jehovah. This “Land” is represented in the Bible as “Canaan” and this is The Place of God’s choosing for His Chosen People: those He had Redeemed unto Himself. And all of God’s working in their midst was to bring Israel, God’s People into This Place where they would experience the Fulness of this Covenant Relationship with Him. And I want us to see that “This Place” was not in Egypt, and not just “out of Egypt” –

in the wilderness. It was a different place that He would bring them into: they had never been here before. And “being in The Land” was necessary for God’s full thought for His People to become manifested. What I mean is that even though God “provided” for their needs in the wilderness, the Fulness of God’s blessings and the greatness of their Relationship with their Jehovah God only became fully known and experienced when they were “in The Land”.

Now I want to just jump ahead to **Ephesians 1** where we see the fulfillment of “The Place” and “The Land” that we read about in the Old Covenant as being defined as “**IN CHRIST**”. We must understand that “in Christ” is The Place of God’s choosing: everything He has Eternally planned and prepared is in this “Place”. But as even the type alluded to, this is not simply a physical location in the earth; it is a Spiritual Relationship: a Spiritual Union of being as One in The Resurrected Christ. **Ephesians 1:3:** *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”* Notice that ALL Spiritual blessings are “**in Christ**” – The Resurrected Son of God. And God had planned a people to be “in HIM” even before the world was formed. Now the people individually are not “chosen” to be saved or lost. But the Place of God’s Salvation and having a Relationship with Him is “in Christ”. So if we desire God’s

Salvation and a Covenant Relationship it is only “in Christ”. Here (in Him) we are holy, come to a Sonship Relationship and are accepted in Him. **Ephesians 1:7:** *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8: Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9: Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13: In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”*

“In Him” we have Redemption and Forgiveness: here we experience all of God’s Wisdom and Understanding. This is “The Place” where God planned to sum up all things. Everything of Spiritual Life, of Covenant Relationship with God, all His promises - they would all be fully realized “IN CHRIST”. And we must appreciate the “ALL” of this! This is speaking of fulness – nothing lacking! This is the inheritance that God had promised the People that He had called unto Himself. But it is for His Purpose. His Purpose is that we – as God’s People would make Him: would make His virtues known. This is all speaking of “The Place of God’s Choosing”: of the “in whom” – **IN CHRIST**.

And I want to strongly declare that God does not have any other place for us! There is no other place where the fulness of God's Blessings and Promises are. Only in Christ: in the land that He is: that He defines as being Himself. And I also want us to consider that when we "come to Salvation": when we are "Redeemed by the Blood of The Lamb", this is where God sees us, and He wants us to live here and fully experience This Place. Now as is typed in the Old Testament as "the wilderness experience", there will be a time of learning Him, but God does not want us to fall short of entering in – and living daily and fully experiencing "This Place": The Land of milk and honey: The Land of full Relationship with Jehovah God.

Now as we read the story of Israel being delivered out from Egypt and being brought by the hand of God to "enter into Canaan", we know that most of Israel (even though they were brought OUT): refused to enter IN. And I want us to understand why God was so angry with Israel when they saw "The Land" at Kadesh Barnea.

- **Numbers 13:27:** *"And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. 28: Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there...32: And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature."*

- **Numbers 14:1:** *“And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2: And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! 3: And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? 4: And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.”*

Now they went into The Land and spied out The Land and they saw that it was what Jehovah said it was, but still they were concerned for themselves and not for God. So they refused to enter into The Land, and wanted to go back to Egypt: the place that God had delivered them from: and even closed up the Red Sea to them so that there was no means by which they could return there! This is an awesome type of the Greatness and the Finality of The Work of The Cross! Please consider this! And because **they rejected** “The Place of God’s Choosing”, God brought severe judgment upon them.

- **Numbers 14:28:** *“Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: 29: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, 30: Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. 31: But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall*

*know the land which ye have despised. **32:** But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.”*

Only Joshua and Caleb of the generation that came OUT would enter IN because they believed in God’s Place and His ability to bring them into it. But I want us to see that there will always be a problem of coming into God’s Fulness: into The Place of His inheritance as long as we still think that we have our own lives, and desire something apart from Him. And this is all because of what God HAS DONE for us by The Finished Work of The Cross.

- **II Corinthians 5:15:** *“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”*
- **I Corinthians 6:19:** *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **20:** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”*

We see this vividly (and for me sadly) at the end of the book of Numbers. This is after the 40 years of wandering when all those who would not believe God and enter into Canaan died. And the whole emphasis of this book of Numbers is “to go into The Land”: but still some would not. **Numbers 32:1:** *“Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle; **2:** The children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spake unto Moses, and to Eleazar the priest, and unto the princes of the congregation, saying:... **4** Even the country which the LORD smote before the congregation of Israel, is a land for cattle, and thy servants*

*have cattle.” They “saw The Land” but it was according to what was good for them: for their desires. And it is interesting to me that their concern was for “their cattle”: meat; living by flesh for the flesh. And because this was the desire of their heart –for their own concern and life: they did NOT want to satisfy God’s heart. **Numbers 32:5:** “Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.”*

Now Jordan represents an understanding of God’s Plan and leaving all of the old comprehension and life behind. But Moses reminds them what happened to Israel when their fathers wouldn’t enter in: God destroyed them! **Numbers 32:6:** *“And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here? 7: And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them? 8: Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadesh–barnea to see the land. 9: For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them. 10: And the LORD’S anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying, 11: Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: 12: Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD. 13: And the LORD’S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was*

consumed. **14:** And, behold, ye are risen up in your fathers' stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the LORD toward Israel. **15:** For if ye turn away from after him, he will yet again leave them in the wilderness; and ye shall destroy all this people."

But even with this admonition the 2½ tribes (including the half tribe of Manasseh) said they would help the rest of Israel obtain their inheritance in the land, but would not possess it for themselves. **Numbers 32:16:** "And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones: **17:** But we ourselves will go ready armed before the children of Israel, until we have brought them unto their place: and our little ones shall dwell in the fenced cities because of the inhabitants of the land. **18:** We will not return unto our houses, until the children of Israel have inherited every man his inheritance. **19:** For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward. **20:** And Moses said unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the LORD to war, **21:** And will go all of you armed over Jordan before the LORD, until he hath driven out his enemies from before him, **22:** And the land be subdued before the LORD: then afterward ye shall return, and be guiltless before the LORD, and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the LORD." Now God allowed them to do that, and they did get cities and "land for themselves": but this was NOT in the fulness of God's Land!

And I want us to consider God's Heart: in bringing a People OUT of the world and the realm of death, and bringing them INTO a Living Relationship with Himself. And God desired

that He make Himself known in their midst as “their Covenant God” and that they could live as “His Special Treasure”. But still most of the people refused to accept not only what God offered them, but what the Lord brought them into! And I believe that God’s Heart was grieved because they did not experience the fulness of this Covenant Relationship that God had brought them into. But may we not be like these 2 ½ tribes who only desired things that were “good for themselves”, but never satisfied the Heart of their God and His plan for them.

I want to stir up our hearts so that we would not just be content knowing that we are “Saved” but that we would desire to experience the Fulness of this Salvation in the very Person of Christ Jesus. I believe that was the deep desire of the Apostle Paul’s heart that he expressed in **Philippians 3:10**: “*That I may know **HIM**...*” May this also become the cry of our heart. And to this heart I know He will make Himself known: even as the Lord said unto Abraham in **Genesis 13:14**, “*...Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 15: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever...17: Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.*” God desires that we come to experience daily the height and depth and length and breadth of the Fulness of Christ!

That is my prayer also for you!