



September 2, 2011

Why do we need to go into the Promised Land?

Rev. Sam-whan Kim

Why do we need to go into the Promised Land? (Dt 8:1-3)

Abraham's blessing is being called by God. It was God who made Abraham a world leader. God helped Abraham, watched over him, was with him, led his path and blessed him. At Abraham's back, there was God.

Gen 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Gen 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."

Gen 20:7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die.

It was God who made Abraham great. God is the director (directing and overseeing actors' performance, stage settings, costumes, make-up, lighting, music and every other elements).

Abraham was called out all by himself, and in every step God led him into, he experienced God's love and grace.

Isa 51:2 Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many.

Israel was also called out, and on their way to Canaan, they experienced God's power and love in numerous ways.

Dt 8:14-18 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

When Abraham and his family arrived in the land of the Canaanites, it was very much inferior to Ur. The land of Egypt, which Israel left behind, was the best land, but God was not there.

A person does not belong to a land. It is not important where one lives or what she possesses. Failure does not come from the world. A life without God is like a life in Ur or like a life in Egypt.

In this small land of Israel, world-class leaders spring up endlessly like bean sprouts.

25% of Nobel Prize Laureates in the past 109 years were Jewish. 48 won the Medicine Prize, 44 the Physics, 24 the Economics, and 12 won the Literature Prize (2009 figure). 70% of US economy is controlled by the Jews, and 30% of US professors are Jewish. Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Bill

Gates, Rupert Murdoch the media giant and Jef Raskin who created Macintosh were Jewish. And the Jews are leading the world's press owning the New York Times, AP, UPI and Reuters. They also lead in movies, music, philosophy and science.

The nation that leads the world is Israel. The people who has conquered and is reigning over the world are the descendents of Abraham. The secret is Canaan. The people who moves to Canaan. The person who lives in Canaan. That is the secret.

We are called, but we are hesitant to leave Ur. We are called, but we like Egypt too much. We have trouble leaving Egypt. We are called but have not arrived at Canaan yet.

Let's go to Canaan. Let's believe and serve God who will be with us in Canaan. Let's become His people and receive His blessing. An individual, a nation or a people are still in Egypt or in Ur of Chaldeans if God is not with them. Whoever serves and fears God only and lives according to His Word will become a people, a family or a church flowing with milk and honey.

When it served God who leads to Canaan, Rome became the greatest nation in the world. In the British parliament which benchmarked the Jews who served God, the parliamentary democracy flourished. The United States which served the same God became the greatest nation in the history of humankind.

Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Australia, etc., whether in the south or north, whether big or small, whether abundant in natural resources or not, whether with many challenges or few, whatever difficulties, despair and risk they might face, if they go to Canaan where God will be with them, the land will turn to a fertile land.

Isa 35:1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

• **Canaan. The people God is with.**

1. They have boldness, courage, confidence and peace in their heart because they trust in God.
2. They have continued passion and strength of life, and they challenge, develop and advance because they have creativity and vision. They succeed in whatever they do.
3. The person God is with interacts and have fellowship with everyone in gratefulness, love, sacrifice, humbleness, gentleness and faithfulness. They act as Oxygen wherever they go.
4. Greed, lust, pride, anxiety, laziness and resentment cannot permeated their character and heart.

In Korea, there are 2.73 million patients with mental illness, 13,000 suicides, 6,500 AIDS patients, 1 million drug addicts, 1,2 million prostitutes, 1.5 million alcoholics, 5 million dependent on alcohol (600,000 are women), 3.5 million compulsive gamblers (\$16.3 billion per year), those suffering with depression and bipolar disorder, 12,000 abandoned children and 10,000 homeless. In Canaan, there are no such people.

We can never overcome unless we escape the dark culture of Egypt and Ur that fills our heart sand lives.

Let's go to Canaan!