



PARKSIDE

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LIFE NEWS

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LOOKING TO THE PROMISED LAND



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Often as we read the Old Testament, we want to see ourselves as the hero. We read about David fighting Goliath and try to find out how we, too, can defeat the giants in our lives. As you probably know already, these heroes point us to Christ. They are a shadow of the Savior who will one day come to crush Satan and establish His kingdom. In the New Testament, we are given a few ways to view the stories of the Old Testament and learn how they apply to us.

First, we see the shadow of Christ as the one who will redeem His people; He defeats sin and the grave, killing our greater Goliath. He is the great Moses, greater Joseph, and greater Joshua. Second, the people of Israel are a warning for us; they teach us how we often respond to God and what our response

should be to Him. They show us what it looks like to reject the redemption God offers through Christ. Third, they give us the proper response to a holy, sovereign, and loving God. We are to put our faith in Him, and He will save us from the curse and bring us into his kingdom.

One of the major stories we find in the Old Testament that points to these truths is the story of Joshua leading the people into the promised land. In Joshua 1, we learn that Moses has died, and Joshua will now lead the people into the promised land of God. Joshua does this, and during his lifetime, they have success throughout the land, and their borders are enlarged. They finally have the inher-

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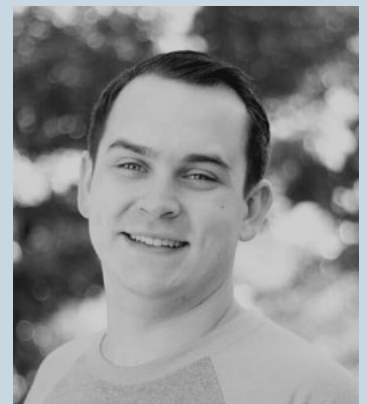
itance for which they've waited. The question often is, "What does this have to do with me?" Are we to determine our promised land and enter it? Or is there a greater picture being painted in the first six books of the Bible?

In Hebrews 11:39, we are told, "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised," this included those who entered the promised land with Joshua. This promised land entry was done in faith, but the Israelites were pointing us to a greater promised land. In the land of Israel, the Old Covenant would stand, and God's presence would be in the Holy of Holies. In Revelation, we are told there is a new Jerusalem coming; in this city, God will dwell with His people. In this new creation, we will be with Him forever. Hebrews is letting us know that it was by faith the people of Israel entered into their promised land, and it is by faith that we gain entry to our promised land – the new heaven and the new earth.

This is not the only way this passage points us to a greater reality. Moses is a representative of the Law throughout scripture. He appears on the mount of transfiguration in this role. As the people

are ready to take the promised land, he dies. The representative of the Law does not enter the promised land because of his own sin. In the New Testament, we are told that the Law cannot justify anyone. You will not be made righteous by the Law because the Law shows our inadequacy. So it is not Moses but Joshua who will lead the people into the promised land. It is not through the Law that we will be saved but by grace through faith. Joshua leads a generation of faith-filled Israelites into the promised land. Jesus will lead his faith-filled people into the new heaven and new earth.

Why does this matter? In the world today, it is easy to find ourselves in despair... to look around and wonder if everything will be made right. The narrative of the promised land gives us assurance. Just as the people of Israel received their hope of a promised land, so we will receive our better hope of a new heaven and a new earth. All things will be made new. So, as we find ourselves walking through the wilderness of life, we do not give up our hope. We do not shrink back but put our faith fully in Christ, knowing that He and He alone can bring us into the promised land.



by Jeremiah Shawver, Youth Pastor