

Breaking Through Enemy Lines - Part 2
The Necessity of an Enemy Series – Pastor Deborah
Grace Fellowship Church – 10/3/21

Today we are finishing our series called The Necessity of an Enemy. I'm preaching part 2 of the message Breaking Through Enemy Lines.

Last week Pastor Joe taught us that when we get a promise from God - between the Promise and the Promised Land – between the dream and its fulfillment – between the vision and the reality – there are times of temptation and testing, enemies to overcome and problems to solve.

And even when you enter the Promised Land – even when your vision is accomplished – there will still be enemies in the land. That's the bad news. But here's the good news – the Bible tells you exactly who those enemies are so we will be prepared to defeat them.

When the Children of Israel arrived at the Promised Land – all they had to do was cross over the Jordan and *everything was theirs*. Well not exactly....*Everything was theirs*, but they had to fight to get it. In Deuteronomy 1:8 God said:

See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land.

Remember, the Hebrew word for possess used here means “to occupy by driving out previous tenants and seizing their place.” As great as the land was, the Children of Israel still had to possess it, which meant they had to drive out 31 Kings and 7 nations. Deuteronomy 7:1-2 says:

When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations--the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you-- and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally.

Israel faced enemies larger and stronger than themselves! But they were not larger or stronger than God! And the enemy is stronger than you, but he's not stronger than God! God had a plan to defeat Israel's enemies and He has a plan to defeat your enemies!

Each of these 7 nations represents the enemies we have to defeat to breakthrough to our promises. The Children of Israel had to defeat them and we must overcome the same enemies today. To defeat them we must understand them. To understand them we will examine the meaning of their names.

Names in the Bible were symbolic of character so a study of these names will give us insight into how each of these spirits operates.

The first enemy was The Hittite Spirit. The name Hittite means fear or terror. Fear so strong that it depletes people of their strength, courage or will to fight. Fear that paralyzes people. This spirit of fear attacks everyone when they begin to step out in faith.

I had to overcome the Hittite spirit of fear when I felt called to preach. I was so afraid I would never be a good preacher. Studying was really hard for me and I was so afraid my messages wouldn't be good. So I would study really hard only to end up feeling like I didn't do a good job. I began to doubt myself and God's call on my life. I would think things like, "I just don't have what it takes." I had a terrible fear of failure. I had days where I just wanted to give up.

This is how the Hittite Spirit works. It uses fear to break us down so we give up. But I didn't give up. Instead, I turned to the word of God. 1 John 4:18 says:

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...

I claimed 1 Corinthians 9:16

When I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

It has taken a lot of courage for me to overcome this spirit of fear. Courage doesn't mean the absence of fear it means we trust God and do it afraid. That's how we overcome the Hittite Spirit.

The Second enemy is The Amorite Spirit. The word Amorite comes from a root word meaning "to talk."

Every single weapon Satan uses against us involves words. He attacks with deception, temptation, accusation, condemnation. Satan's power is the power of words and we overcome the words of Satan the same way that Jesus did: by speaking the word of God.

The third enemy is The Girgashite Spirit. The name Girgashite means Clay Dwellers. Clay refers to the earth - which refers to "earthliness" or "worldliness." This enemy wants to get our focus on earthly or worldly things. It wants us to focus on things that are temporal instead of things that are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says:

We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

This enemy wants us to focus on what we can see instead of having faith in what we cannot see. That's totally opposite of what the Bible teaches us in Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

The Girgashite spirit wants us to put our faith in what we can see. When we do that... these things can become idols in our lives. We also know that the Girgashites built idols in the land.

An idol is a false god. It is extreme devotion to something or someone other than God. Idolatry is putting people or things before God. Common idols in America are things like:

- Money- No matter how much money we make it's never enough.
- Things – No matter how much stuff we have it's never enough.

Other things like food, sex and entertainment can be idols. None of these things are bad in themselves – only when they take first place in our lives! So how do we break free of these idols? God told the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 7:5

This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones... burn their idols in the fire.

God wants to give us a breakthrough so we can break free of idolatry. But we must put God back in His rightful place in our lives. There is one and only one place for God. First place! That means we must get serious about dealing with our idols.

- We could put away our credit cards and spend less money.
- We could choose to watch less TV and instead read our Bible.
- We could refuse to join a sports team that competes on Sundays.
- We could end relationships that draw us away from God.

Whatever it takes to put God first! Destroying our idols and having faith are the solutions to the Girgashite Spirit.

The fourth enemy is The Canaanite Spirit. All the people dwelling in the Promised Land of Canaan were Canaanites. You see, a Canaanite spirit affects us all.

The word Canaan has a double meaning. The first meaning is to humiliate, to bring down low, to subdue. This enemy wants to subdue us and bring us down so low that we never break through to our Promised Land.

The second meaning of the word Canaan is merchant or trafficker. Canaanites made their living as merchants. Hosea 12:7 says:

The merchant uses dishonest scales; he loves to defraud.

The word here for “merchant” is the word “Canaan.” So we see that the Canaanites were dishonest merchants and traffickers. Webster’s Dictionary defines a trafficker as a person who trades in illegal goods. A trafficker trades one thing for another. Ezekiel 28:18 tells us that Satan was a trafficker. *By your many sins and the iniquity or your traffick you have desecrated your sanctuaries.*

If we put it all together we conclude that the Canaanite Spirit brings us down by convincing us to trade one thing for another. It wants us to trade our privileges in God for Satan's counterfeits.

Remember the story of Jacob and Esau. Esau traded his birthright for a pot of stew. He gave up his promised land for a bowl of meat and potatoes. He forfeited a lifetime of blessing for a moment's gratification.

What trades have you made with the enemy?

- What privileges have you traded for Satan's counterfeits?
- What promises have you traded for Satan's lies?
- What birthright have you traded for a pot of stew?

Here are some of the things we trade.

- Prayer and Bible Study for our favorite TV shows.
- Good Stewardship for self indulgence.
- A clear conscience for the pleasures of sin.

So how do we get free of this spirit? In the book of Joshua the Children of Israel were defeated by this enemy. As a result, Joshua cried out to the Lord. Here's God's reply in Joshua 7:11-13

Israel has sinned... That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies...I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction... You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it.

The items devoted to destruction are referring to the plunder that the Children of Israel hid in their tents after the battle of Jericho. God told them to destroy everything that belonged to the enemy and they disobeyed. The Canaanites were able to defeat them because of hidden sin and the only way to conquer our enemy is to remove the hidden sin in our lives.

I encourage you today that if you have hidden sin in your life you confess to God and then find a trusted person and confess to them. Here's why – It's better to confess than to conceal your sin. Because Luke 12:2 tells us...

There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

You don't have to trade your inheritance for a pot of stew. You can have all of the Promised Land that you want.

The fifth enemy is The Perizzite Spirit. The name Perizzite refers to an inhabitant of an open country or people who dwell in unwalled villages. The word comes from a root word meaning to separate.

The Perizzites were nomads. They wanted to be “free to wander” without responsibility or accountability to a community.

The Perizzite spirit is alive a well today. You will recognize this spirit in people who go from relationship to relationship never committing to one person. They wander from job to job never moving ahead in a career.

And we see it in the church when people wander from church to church. Even more serious today is people wandering away from the church. There are some people with health issues who cannot attend church because of COVID. But there are many people who have simply wandered away from church. Some have wandered away from giving. Some have wandered away from serving. As a result, most churches in American are down in attendance, down in giving and struggling to find volunteers who will serve. That is true for us here at Grace.

There are several Scriptures about people who wandered from the faith. For example, 1 Timothy 6:10 says:

Some people... have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Wandering from the faith will not end well. So, how do you overcome this wandering spirit? By doing what Psalm 92:13 says:

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish.

Being planted means I join a local church and I put down roots. I don't just attend on a regular basis. I get involved, I give, I commit, I serve.

The Hebrew word from flourish means to grow abundantly, but it also means to break out! You won't experience breakthrough by wandering from church to church. You must find where God wants you to be planted and stay there. Then you will flourish. Then you will overcome the wandering Perizzite spirit.

The sixth enemy is The Hivite Spirit. The Hivites were an enemy that seemed peace loving. As a matter of fact, their name means “life-giver”. They were a family-oriented people that avoided war. They seemed so “good” that it was hard to see them as an enemy.

For fear of being destroyed by Israel, the Hivites pretended they were from a far-away land. They even had worn-out sacks and old wineskins to make it look like they had traveled a long way. They let Joshua sample their provisions and told him they were his servants.

They must have been really convincing because Joshua had no clue that this tribe was an enemy. So Joshua made an alliance with them that violated the command of God not to make a covenant with the enemies in the land.

One of the most popular TV shows for over 20 years is Survivor. For one month a group of people live on an island and compete for a million dollars. These individuals form separate tribes that want to OUT WIT, OUT LAST AND OUT PLAY each other. One of the main strategies of the game is to make alliances with others. The problem is no one ever knows who they can trust. Everyone lies and deceives and will say or do anything to win the game. They never know who their friend is and who their enemy is. The very ones that promised allegiance are the ones that turn on them. Yet, almost everyone makes alliances and in the end these alliances usually cost them a million dollars.

In our walk with God there will be enemies that want to deceive us into an unholy alliance. Many times these enemies seem like friends, but in the end they will turn on you. Sometimes it's hard to discern who we can trust. Obviously Joshua wasn't able to discern wisely.

But Joshua 9:14-15 helps explain why Joshua could be deceived.

The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord. Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live...

Joshua was deceived into an unholy alliance because he didn't seek the Lord. Prayer and discernment are our protection from the Hivite spirit.

The seventh enemy is The Jebusite Spirit. The word Jebusite comes from the root word meaning "to trample" or tread down under foot. This spirit wants to trample on your hopes and dreams. It wants to bring you down and discourage you. To be discouraged means to deprive of courage, hope or confidence.

When this happens we can lose heart. To lose heart means to stop believing you can succeed. In 2 Cor. 4:16 Paul said,

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing our inward man is being renewed day by day.

The phrase "lose heart" means to unstring a bow for lack of seeing any game. Many times on the path of life we get discouraged and lose heart because:
We aren't seeing answers to prayer.
We aren't seeing our dreams come true.

So we unstring our bow. We lose heart, we shrink back. Our hope is gone. And that is exactly what the Jebusite spirit wants. It wants us to unstring our bow...to lose sight of our breakthrough, our promised land of blessing, and our destiny. It wants to wear us out so we unstring our bow and stop fighting. Because as long as this enemy occupies our land we won't receive our blessings.

Do you know that the Children of Israel could not drive out the Jebusites from the land? You know why?...because of their endurance and tenacity.

This enemy is the most tenacious enemy we will face. It drains our strength by appearing impossible to breakthrough.

I'm here today to tell you that you can breakthrough. The enemy wants you to unstring your bow. He wants you to be discouraged and hopeless. He wants you to shrink back - but listen to what God says about that in Hebrews 10:35-39

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

What discouraging situation are you facing today?
 It could be an addiction to drugs or alcohol or sex.
 It could be a relationship problem.
 It could be a chronic health problem.
 It could be jealousy, rejection, fear or anger.

Regardless of what you're facing, don't give up!
 Don't unstring your bow!

You can breakthrough enemy lines and overcome:
 The fear based Hittite Spirit through faith in God!
 The evil speaking Amorite Spirit by speaking the word of God!
 The worldly and idolatrous Gergashite Spirit by putting God first!
 The low-living Canaanite Spirit by confessing your sin to God!
 The wandering Perizzite Spirit by getting planted in the house of God!
 The deceptive Hivite Spirit by seeking discernment from God!
 The discouraging Jebusite Spirit by refusing to stop fighting!

We will break through every enemy line IN JESUS' NAME!!