

## TO PROSPER IN A TROUBLED LAND

By Keith Greer

Israel had been in bondage in Egypt. God brought them out by a mighty hand. After wandering in the wilderness for forty years, due to their unbelief, they were about to enter the Promise Land. The land promised to Abraham.

"Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.' And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. " {Genesis 12:7}

Moses, due to his own sin, (Numbers 20:8-12) would not go in to that land. Moses, in giving some final admonitions to the people, gave them the key to "true prosperity" in that new land. What he told them will also cause us to "prosper" in the troubled land in which we live.

"That you may fear the LORD your God, ... " (Deuteronomy 6:2) Fear the Lord. If they would prosper, they must respect and revere God. Why? Who brought them out of Egypt? Who gave them this land? Who will help them maintain it? Who gave us life? Who brought this world into existence by His very word? Who allows us to enjoy life? "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. "(Proverbs 1:7)

"Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you; .. " (Deuteronomy 6:3) Realize the power of sin. What separates man from God? Sin is the enemy! It kills the soul. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) Disobedience kept them from entering earlier and it will be the cause of them losing this land later!

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. " (Deuteronomy 6:5) Trust the Lord. No matter what the situation was in that land where they were going, it was imperative that they trust God, unquestionable trust.

Remember, Abraham? Did he trust the Lord? When told to leave his homeland--he left.

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." {Hebrews 11:8} Do you trust God?

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. "(Deuteronomy 6:7) Know the will of God. Moses emphasized the need for teaching their children. Why? How will they come to know God?

"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. " {Judges 2:10} Did they teach their children? Do we teach ours?

" ... To keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, .. {Deuteronomy 6:2} Keep His commandments. Is it enough to trust the Lord? To know what His will is? To fear him? To understand the terribleness of sin? Without application how can any of these things matter?

What good is understanding, believing what God has called upon us to do, and just ignore His instructions? The proof of one's service is seen in the doing! James 1:22-25; James 2:14-24.

And what about us? Are we "prospering" in a troubled land? Temptations, tribulations and obstacles are always going to seek to hinder our way. Satan will make sure we have constant mountains to overcome. Yet, he can never defeat one of God's children who take these five steps and put them into practice in our lives. Are you walking in these steps? \*\*\*