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***Conquest & Settlement:***

***Historical Framework and Doctrinal Summary***

This summary is meant to be a helpful memory jogger for review as well as key points for training of children and grandchildren in the historical framework methodology of God's word. Refer to Lessons #61-67 in the Biblical Framework series for detailed analysis.

**Scriptural Texts:**

Exod 32-34; Numb 33; Deut 9-10; Josh 1-Judg 2

**Historical Event of Conquest & Settlement**

The Book of Joshua charts the rugged terrain of sanctification as the nation tries to learn loyalty to God so they can enjoy living securely in the Promised Land. Positionally, the Promised Land was there's by divine right, but experiential enjoyment of the Land was conditioned on obedience to the Mosaic Covenant given at Mt Sinai. The aim of the Mosaic Covenant was for the nation to learn loyalty to God. This would require them to meditate on the Mosaic Law day and night so they could learn to trust that the Lord would defeat their enemies. If they trusted and obeyed they would enjoy victory over their enemies and increased enjoyment of the Land. If they failed to trust and obey they would be defeated by their enemies and they would not enjoy the Land. The nation would then need to confess their sin and be restored to fellowship.

Finally, that generation failed to learn loyalty and God pronounced doom at Bochim. However, because God will not break His Abrahamic Covenant, in the future God will draw a generation of Israel to Himself who will be learn loyalty to Him and God will send His Conqueror, the Messiah, before them to take the whole Promised Land and bring the nation into it, planting them securely forever.

**Doctrine of Sanctification**

*Phases.* The Phases of Sanctification taught in the Conquest & Settlement are two: 1) Positional – this is what God does for us. In the case of Israel God outlines what He will do for them in the Abrahamic Covenant. 2) Experience – this is what God wants us to do. In the case of Israel the God outlines what He wants them to do in the Mosaic Covenant.

*Aim.* The Aim of Sanctification is to learn loyalty to God through His word. The illustration for Israel is the victory at Jericho. When Joshua and the people trusted the Lord He gave them victory over their enemies.

*Means.* The Means of Sanctification is always two-fold. 1) Law - God's revealed standard for the life of Israel detailed in the Mosaic Law. 2) Grace - God's provision necessary to meet the standard of the Law. God's provision for the Israelites was the intercessor Moses.

*Dimensions.* The Dimensions of Sanctification are two. 1) Existential Present - you are either in fellowship or out of fellowship. The nation was either in fellowship and enjoying blessing or out of fellowship and facing cursing. 2) Long-Term Growth - over time you should grow spiritually. The nation Israel should have conquered more and more land.

*Enemies.* The Enemies of Sanctification are three. 1) The World - the cosmic system that is against God. 2) The Flesh - the inherent sin in all fallen humans. 3) The Devil - the arch-enemy of God and present ruler of this cosmic system. All three enemies will be eliminated by God's sovereign power.

### **Apologetic Value**

The Conquest & Settlement is the most controversial part of the Bible outside of Genesis and the reason is because it contains Holy War, the total annihilation of men, women, children and animals prescribed by God during this period. The three criticisms you'll hear from non-Christians are; 1) there is *genocide*, 2) *intolerance* and 3) an *aversion to peaceful co-existence* in this section of Scripture. And they are right, these things are in the Scriptures, we can't avoid them.

We have to be prepared to answer these three criticisms. The basic answer is that the ethics of the Conquest are the ethics of final judgment. God suspended the ethics of common grace temporarily to reveal the ethics of future judgment. God's common grace ethic will not go on forever, He gives men an opportunity to repent but there will come a day when the opportunity to repent is no longer available and the final judgment will occur, separating good from evil forever. To quote Meredith Kline, "It will only be with the frank acknowledgement that the ordinary ethical requirements were suspended and the ethical principles of the last judgment intruded that the divine promise and commands to Israel concerning Canaan and the Canaanites come into their own." There can be no peaceful co-existence between the kingdom of man and the Kingdom of God. God is holy and He is intolerant to evil because of His nature. Therefore finally there will be total genocide of all who reject His gracious plan of salvation.

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