

THE CENTRAL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION

The conquest of the Promise Land consisted of three major military campaigns.

- First was the Central Campaign (chs.5-8) Jericho and Ai/ Bethel.
- Second was Southern Campaign (chs.9-10) Gibeon and Amorites.
- Third was Northern Campaign (ch.11) The seven nations are defeated.

Joshua held a national celebration after the Central campaign at Mt. Ebal (8:30-35). At this celebration, the priest-nation of Israel was officially established as a Theocracy government in the Promise Land (Ex.19:6; Deut.11:29; 27:4-5).

This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of this Celebration of the Central Campaign victory.
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1. This national celebration of the conquest of the Promise Land was outlined by Moses in Deut.27-28 and Lev.26.

We have outlined the following five sections of the Deuteronomy Covenant.

- Deut.27:1-4 Write the Law on large stones in Promise Land.
- Deut.27:5-8 Build an altar of stone for burnt and peace offerings.
- Deut.27:9-26 Cursing from Mt.Ebal.
- Deut.28:1-14 Blessings from Mt.Gerizim.
- Deut.28:15-68 Warning of five cycles of divine discipline on priest-nation.

Joshua used this Scriptural outline to celebrate the victory of the Central Campaign (Josh.8:30-35).

2. The Mosaic Law was written originally on two tablets of stone (Ex.31:18).

Now Joshua is transferring it symbolically to stones from the Promise Land as fulfillment of God's promises.

This is the fourth monument placed in the land by Joshua.

- 1st – Jordan River stones (Josh.4:4-9)
- 2nd – Achan under pile of stones (Josh.7:26)
- 3rd – King of Ai under pile of stones (Josh.8:29)
- 4th – Law and altar on stones at Mt.Ebal (Josh.8:30-35)

The fourth monument was a symbolic pledge and praise to God's fulfillment of the Deuteronomy Covenant (Deut.27-28).

3. The Deuteronomy Covenant applied to the Land section of the Abrahamic covenant (Gen.12, 15, 17).

“And the Lord appeared to Abram and said, ‘to your descendants I will give this land.’ So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him.” (Gen.12:7)

“On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘to your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.” (Gen.15:18-21)

“And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.” (Gen.17:8)

4. There were three parts to Joshua's national celebration of the Central Campaign victory as outlined in the Deuteronomy covenant.

- Altar with two offerings – peace (reconciliation) and burnt (propitiation) (Josh.8:30-31; Deut.27:6-7).
- Writing the Deuteronomy Covenant on plastered stones (Josh.8:32; Deut.17:18; 27:3).
- Reciting of the Deuteronomy Covenant cursing from Mt.Ebal and blessings from Mt. Gerizim (Josh.8:33-35; **Deut.11:29**; Deut.27-28).

5. The Deuteronomy Covenant was so important to the priest-nation of Israel that they placed it with the Ark of Covenant (Deut.28:61; 31:26).

The discovery of it during the reign of King Josiah led to a great spiritual awakening in Israel from apostasy (2 Kings 22:8-13).

The celebration of the Central Campaign by means of the Deuteronomy Covenant warned the priest-nation of the five cycles of divine discipline for violation of it once they occupied the Promise Land (Deut.28; Lev.26).

6. The Promise Land is the only real estate with a special land contract between God and the priest-nation of Israel (Gen.17:7-8).

The 5th cycle would remove Israel from the Promise Land and the blessings associated with the land section of the Abrahamic covenant.

The 5th was exercised by God against the priest-nation of Israel three times in history: 722 BC to Assyria; 586 BC to Babylon; and 70 AD to Rome.

7. In the church age, the church is the divine agency within client nations (divine institution) (1 Pet.2:5, 9).

Therefore, Christians are instructed to pray for DI authority (1 Tim.2:1-2; 1 Pet.2:13-21; Rom.13:1-7).

The USA is a client nation that has offered religious freedom to Christianity as well as other religions. Many client nations house the church of Jesus Christ during the church age (Ps.33:12; Rom.13:1).

Client nations will be blessed by association with the teaching of Jesus Christ by the church (Gen.12:3).

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.” (Ps.33:12)

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” (Prov.14:34)