

The
William Booth
Collection

SALVATION SOLDIERY

CHAPTER 17: MOSES **AN OLD SALVATIONIST VIEWING THE LAND**

YES, Moses, look, and look again. There it is at last. Long heard about, and imagined, and longed for; now your eyes see it. But look; what is that? It comes nearer! Surely the land moves – is it coming over the river to me, as God has said I cannot go unto it? No, Moses. Jehovah is only strengthening your vision, and, in panoramic fashion, enabling you to see it more clearly. What a landscape! Did ever eyes see such beauty? Whichever way you turn – to the north, or to the south, or to the west, it is, alike, entrancing. Mountains, and hills, and valleys, and rivers, and woods, and pastures, and vineyards, and gardens covered with herbs, and flocks, and grapes, and olives, and pomegranates, and figs. Surely here is corn, and wine, and oil, and milk, and honey, and every temporal blessing God can lavish or the heart of man can desire.

But look again, Moses; on those hill-sides and in those lovely valleys there are cities with walls reaching up to Heaven; cities inhabited by men of tall stature, and fierce countenances, and dark devilish deeds, the enemies of your God, whom Jehovah has appointed to be destroyed on account of their wickedness, and to conquer whom He has appointed your nation. Here, then, is the honour of being the Lord's Soldiers, who shall cover Him, and through Him cover themselves, with the glory of conquest and victory. Oh, Moses, what a sight those undimmed eyes of yours are looking upon just before they close on all earthly sights for ever.

Now, my comrades of The War Cry, let us ascend our Nebo, and climb our Pisgah, and together view our Promised Land – the Canaan – the "higher up religion" to which God calls us. Let us enquire, and consider the inheritance of which God wants us to come into possession in this life.

Come along, brother. Your eye is not dim, nor, thank God, is your physical force abated. You will be of some use in the open air, and the coming crash of the battle, which will be far more taxing to flesh and blood than anything we have seen as yet. "Able-bodied men," ay, and women too, are wanted in this war as in others. Bone and muscle has its value, and if your eye is dimmed, and your physical strength is abated,



come along also. Come along!

Let us look at the land. You have been a long time in the wilderness. Thank God you are out of Egypt. You have done with the garlic; still, you are sometimes in a quandary as to whether you were not quite as happy then as you are now. Is there not something better than this? Do you ask? Of course there is. God never intended you to knock about in the wilderness all these years, and if you don't mind your bones will bleach there. Come along, THERE IS A CANAAN FOR You. Let us have a look at it. There are in it three distinct features, THE FIRST OF WHICH IS –

I. VICTORY OVER ALL YOUR ENEMIES. These poor Israelites had already had any amount of fighting of one sort or another. But it had been in self-defence. To keep themselves in existence had been about all they had dared to hope or contend for. But in the Canaan at which Moses looked the lighting was to be of the kind that is enjoyable; it was to be a war of conquest, and it was to be always victorious. And so, look here, my comrades, at your Canaan. Instead of being mastered, you are to be the master. Your doubts, and fears, and tempers, and lusts, and idols shall all not only be subdued, but driven out or destroyed. Death is the sentence passed upon them; they are the enemies of God and man; they must and shall be annihilated. Your bodily appetites shall be subdued, kept under the rule of enlightened conscience and reason, and made the servants of righteousness in the soul and the ministers to your happiness.

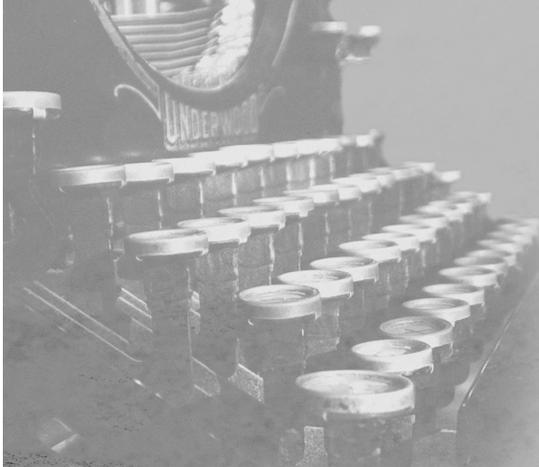
Oh, here is a Canaan; here is victory. Look, listen to the announcement of victory over the three-fold enemy.

(The World – This is the victory which overcometh the world, even your faith).

(The Flesh – If ye walk in the Spirit, ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh).

(The Devil – The shield of faith shall quench all the fiery darts of the wicked).

II. The SECOND gnat feature of this Canaan is PLENTY. Away with your famine-stricken notions of the salvation provided for God's children on earth. Who authorised you to



The
William Booth
Collection

SALVATION SOLDIERY

make out God's Son as a sort of Lazarus lying at His Father's gate, and getting a crumb or two of comfort now and then from His table, and having to fall back upon the Gentile dogs to lick His sores, consoling Himself with a perpetual moaning wail about His being a miserable wretch with an unclean heart under a deadly necessity to sin and grumble all the days of His pilgrimage? Come along, and sit down alongside Moses, and we will show you something better. Listen! The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice." My God shall supply all your need." No more famine. No more living on manna. No MORE TASTELESS RELIGION. Going to meetings, public and private, because it is your duty, without any sense of comfort, or power, or joy, or God in them. Going to church and chapel and closet from a sense of oughtness, just to keep body and soul together. No! NO!! NO!!! Peace, joy, power. Hallelujah.

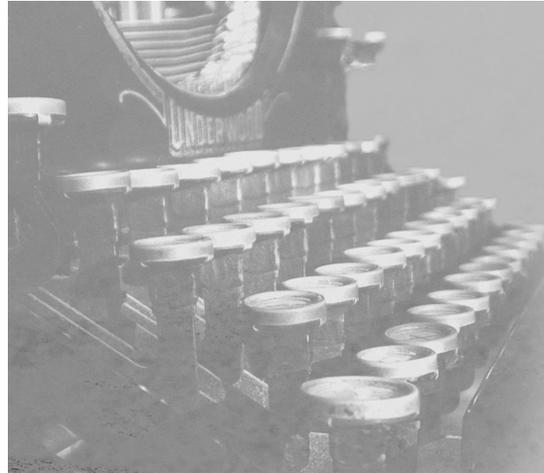
"The men of grace have found
Glory begun below,
Celestial fruit on earthly ground
From faith and hope do grow,"

Grapes, pomegranates, honey – all manner of heavenly luxuries down here on earth. Do you want to enjoy yourself – to find your happiness, your heaven, your all in religion? Then oh, do come, and not only look at, but enter into this Canaan.

III. A THIRD feature in this Canaan is THE PRESENCE OF JEHOVAH. God promised to live in Canaan with these Israelites. It was His presence that was going to protect and provide for and make them conquerors. This was to be the joy of the joys, and the gladdening of the gladness, and the heaven of the heaven on which Moses looked. So here,

"Thy gifts. alas! cannot suffice,
Unless Thyself be given;
Thy presence makes my paradise,
And where Thou art is heaven."

Now then for Pisgah. Here is the telescope of faith; get it the right way on. Have a



The
William Booth
Collection

SALVATION SOLDIERY

good long look, and then you will be ready to look again. To know any good thing is to desire it. To see this Canaan is to want to go into it, and if you will only keep on looking, you will want to go without longer delay.

Some people won't look. They have heard a bad report of the land, and they will not be at the trouble to climb Pisgah. They say, "There is no such condition of victory and plenty and blessedness. You must ever be in bondage in some little degree, at least. Satan and the Philistines must for ever occupy and plague the heart. Or, if there is such a Canaan, and if God were indeed to bring them into the possession thereof, they could not retain it, so they had better abide as they are."

Oh, these lies of the enemy – these faint-hearted spies, who bring an evil report of the land, why trust them?

Come up to Pisgah yourself – the prospect will help you.

Look through the length and breadth of the land. How do you like the thought of being more than a conqueror, through Him that loved you, over the world, the flesh, and the devil? Of peace flowing as a river in your souls, and righteousness abounding as the waves of the sea in your life? Of overcoming the Philistines of temper and lust, and covetousness and doubt, and fear and unbelief, and capturing their cities and spoiling their goods, instead of them overcoming and capturing and spoiling you? Have another look! here is the land of plenty – plenty of pardon, plenty of assurance – plenty of peace, plenty of purity – plenty of joy, plenty of the presence and power and glory of God, making continued victory, and, consequently, a continued heaven.

VIEW THE LAND! View it carefully. View it often. View it until to remain outside of it is impossible. View it, until you rise up and say, "Let us go up and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it."

And having viewed the land, what are YOU to do? Like Moses, die where you are? Go to the still more glorious Canaan in the whirl of the enthusiasm created by looking at this? No, we hope not! if you are likely to cross over and be of any use in this; otherwise, we don't care how soon you go. And if the angels bury you, it will save



trouble and expense to those you leave behind.

But what are you to do? Look and admire, and long and desire, and then refuse to cross, and so go back into the wilderness of weakness and doubt and fear? No, ten thousand times no! What then? Go down at once into the valley of decision. Sanctify yourself by the completest separation possible from all that is forbidden by Jehovah in your heart and life, consecrating all you are and have for the accomplishment of His purposes; and then by faith cross the Jordan of the cleansing blood, and enter the Canaan of conquest, abundance, and power, there to magnify the grace and goodness of your great Joshua by following Him to still further victory.