

# ***IT IS SETTLED!***

"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13b)

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*By Howell Lasseter*

## From Heaven, or of Men? (Part 9)

1 Kings 8:56: *"Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant."* Last week we noticed the Lord's question to a certain lawyer: *"What is written in the law? How readest thou?"* (Luke 10:26). The lawyer did not want to know the correct answer; he only wanted to put down the Lord. Readers, the question for each of us is: Do **I** want to really know what God has written?

The descendants of Abraham, through Isaac then Jacob, were God's chosen people. Bible students are familiar with the history of Jacob's descendants in Egypt: they were oppressed by the Egyptians; God made a way of escape for them, destroying the Egyptian army in the Red Sea; God led them toward Canaan, the promised land. However, the people were not permitted to enter the promised land because, as the Hebrews' writer tells us, of unbelief: *"So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief"* (Hebrews 3:19). Because they did not believe God's promise to be with them so they could conquer the peoples of the land of Canaan, they were turned away from the promised land and wandered in the wilderness 40 years: *"Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, ... your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness, and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from 20 years old and upward, ... doubtless ye shall not come into the land, ... save Caleb the son of Jephunneh [v. 24 says Caleb "hath followed me fully"], and Joshua the son of Nun ... after the number of days in which ye searched out the land, even 40 days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even 40 years, and ye shall know my breach of promise"* (Numbers 14:23,29,30,34; for the full account, read the entire 14<sup>th</sup> chapter).

Joshua and Caleb and the descendants of those who died in the wilderness did indeed go into Canaan, a land that "flowed with milk and honey." God's instructions were for Israel to destroy the peoples in Canaan, to leave none alive. But the book of Judges records over and over that Israel did not follow God's instructions, but left alive some of those living in Canaan. (Read Judges 1:27,30-33, etc.). All was downhill for Israel from there, through evil kings and division of the nation, ending with the eventual destruction of the Israelite nation. Look again at the verse with which this article begins. God faithfully kept all His promises to Israel. The problem was Israel forfeited the blessings of His promises because the nation did not obey His commands. Let us learn this lesson today. Yes, God has recorded many promises for the human race today. Remembering that He is unchangeable, let us learn that, to benefit from and enjoy God's promises, it is essential that we obey His commands!