

BREAKTHROUGH ON THE THRESHOLD

³¹ Once more a remnant of the kingdom of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above. ³² For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 37:31,32

¹⁰ The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden. ¹¹ But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. ¹² It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end. ¹³ So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today--to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul-- ¹⁴ then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. ¹⁵ I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. ¹⁶ Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

Deuteronomy 11:10-16

¹³ In accordance with the LORD's command to him, Joshua gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah--Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.) ¹⁴ From Hebron

Caleb drove out the three Anakites--Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmi, the sons of Anak.

Joshua 15:13-14

- I. A land of hills and valleys (Joshua 5:10-12)
 - A. The land of hills and valleys would be nothing like the pot they left behind them.
 - B. Their pot, Egypt, was a monotonous boring flatland. (Nothing but man-made hills, and no valleys)
 - C. In Egypt they exhausted themselves pumping with the foot, and digging canals and complex irrigation systems. There would be no such sweat in the new land. This land would flow.
 - D. Canaan was “their” land, their planting place, a fruitful place beyond their comprehension.
- II. Hebron - Caleb’s first and last planting place (Joshua 15:13-16)
 - A. Hebron was an ancient city – built seven years before Zoan in Egypt. (Psalm 78:12,42-43)
 - B. Abraham moved to Hebron and built an altar after Lot departed from him. Here, God revealed the land that would belong to him and his ancestors. (Genesis 13:8)
 - C. Hebron was the second holiest place, next to Jerusalem.
 - D. Hebron belonged initially to the Hittites, allies of Abraham. (Genesis 23:17-20)
 - E. Hebron was a priestly city given to the Kohathites - the shoulders. (I Chronicles 6:54-57)
 - F. Hebron became a city of refuge - a sanctuary for the unintentional manslayer. (Exodus 21:12-14; Numbers 35:6-29; Deuteronomy 19:1-13)

- G. Hebron became the capital of Judah, and the first city and planting of King David for 7 1/2 years.
(II Samuel 2:1-4;5:3)
 - H. Hebron was the hallowed ground where the matriarchs and patriarchs were buried. Abraham (Genesis 25:10), Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob (Genesis 47:29-30), and Leah (Genesis 49:30-32).
 - I. Hebron was fruitful and famous for fruits, herbage, honey, vines olives, grains and water.
 - J. David's son and false king of Israel, Absalom, was crowned in Hebron. (2 Samuel 15:7-9)
 - K. At Hebron, all power came to David. (II Samuel 21:15- 22)
 - L. Hebron, when violated, became a place of legitimate cursing. (II Samuel 3:28,29)
 - M. In Hebron true justice reigned, revealing David's integrity. (II Samuel 4)
- III. Eight facts revisited - potted plants vs. planted plants
- A. Potted plants are entirely dependent on an external source for nourishment.
 - * All water, fertilizer, etc. must be added daily. The plant is essentially on life-support at all times.
 - ** Planted plants derive all nourishment from an inexhaustible, God-given source. Ground water is drawn from deep cisterns that will not run dry. The natural cycle of life and death continually put nutrients into the ground.
 - B. Potted plants become "root bound."
 - * Potted plants develop a circular root system. A root bound plant cannot effectively absorb nutrients or water, even from a nutrient rich environment. If

nonfunctional roots are not trimmed, and the roots are not planted, the plant will die.

** Planted plants are able to draw from increasingly rich supplies of materials, because they have deep and wide roots, while simultaneously supporting the growth of neighboring plants.

*** Roots uncontained and free to travel benefit both the tree itself, and the forest in which it lives.

**** Roots provide structural support to surrounding trees, and are a means by which nutrients can flow to and from other members of the planted community.

C. A potted plant is only as stable as its pot.

* Attempts at growth or fruit are dangerous, as there is no foundation to ground them. (Gifts without character; growth without integrity.)

** Planted plants are inherently stable because of their extensive root systems and their association with the deep and wide root systems of neighboring plants.

*** It is virtually impossible to uproot a tree in a forest because of its blended and extensively deep root systems.

D. Potted plants can never enjoy the help and resources that come only from rooted relationships with other plants.

* Planted plants are able to receive structural and mutual support from surrounding plants.

** Roots draw nutrition from a network of fungi associated with the roots of other trees that might better access resources & water. Trees, in association, provide protection from soil erosion due to wind and water movement.

- E. Potted plants can never positively influence their environment.
- * Planted plants are able to significantly influence their environment, because they form close association with all other life.
- F. Potted plants are sensitive to adverse environmental conditions.
- * Excessive heat or cold will destroy roots. Excessive water will rot roots.
 - * Planted plants are not easily impacted by adverse environmental conditions. The ground in which roots reside provide an effective buffer to extreme temperatures and humidity.
- G. Potted plants are easily moved and look deceptive in groups.
- * Planted plants are authentic from their roots downward to their fruit upward. No counterfeits here!
- H. A buried potted plant is still a potted plant.
- * Planted plants never move. They cannot be removed and live. They “grow” everywhere and “go” nowhere.