

"Nevertheless the Children of Israel Expelled Not The Geshurites, Nor The Maachathites: but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day." Joshua 13:13 KJV



Names in the Old Testament give insight into the Israelite's activities; recorded for the believer's benefit. God Told Israel, *"But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. Moreover it shall come to pass, that I Shall Do unto you, as I thought to do unto them."* But what did they do? *"Israel expelled not the Geshurites, nor the Maachathites."* The names are significant. The root of "Geshurite" is geshur (*ghesh-oor*); meaning to connect. The root of "Maachathite" is maak (*maw-ak*); meaning to pierce or press. Israel spared the "Connectors" and the "Piercers." The Believer's tolerance of old sins and burdens of the world before they came to the Lord Jesus for Salvation becomes a *"thorn in their side."* Paul tells us, *"Old things are passed away,"* but if we allow old habits, old friends, and old haunts, to remain in our lives, not only will we vex ourselves, but we'll incur God's Wrath and reap what we sow. Unbelievers are already doomed, *"because they have not believed. Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God. AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: but ye Are Washed, but ye Are Sanctified, but ye Are Justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the Faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. Flee these things; and follow after Righteousness, Godliness, Faith, Love, Patience, Meekness."* If all you see are prison bars, you're looking the wrong way! You're outside looking in! The Truth of Eternal Life Is: *"Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, There Is Liberty. Stand fast therefore in The Liberty Wherewith Christ Hath Made us Free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* Dear Believer, if you are caught in sin's net, it is your own doing! *"Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of HIS OWN LUST, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin. For, brethren, ye Have Been Called unto Liberty. Now ye Are Clean Through The Word."* The best Filter for impure thought Is God's Word!

When sinful flesh doth on you press,
And on your soul exacts duress,
Retreat thy soul to Holy rest,
The peace and joy of righteousness! –CGP

When, concerning the *"old things"* before Salvation you think, "I just can't," the absolute Truth is, *"I can do all things Through Christ."* Christ Is The Word Of God. What does this mean exactly? It means, I choose whether to obey or disobey God. *"Let (choice) the Word of Christ (God's Word) dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with Grace in your hearts to the Lord."* When Paul and Silas, chained in a Philippian jail, could do little else, they sang. When God Joined in, the jailhouse crumbled! The Jesus did not calm the storm until the disciples quit rowing in their own strength and turned in helpless pleading to Him. *"Master, Carest Thou not that we perish?"* Dear Believer, when you get to the end of YOUR rope, let go! God already Holds you In His Hand!

"There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, Who Rideth upon the Heaven in thy help, and in His Excellency on the sky. The Eternal God Is thy refuge, and Underneath are The Everlasting Arms: and He Shall Thrust Out the enemy from before thee; and Shall Say, "Destroy them!" Deuteronomy 33:26-27 KJV