

## January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013: The Resting Life

A B Simpson saw a wonderful type of the Christian Life in the journey of the Children of Israel. Their coming out of Egypt was a picture of the believer being delivered from the taskmaster of sin because of a lamb's blood being applied. The crossing of the Red Sea shows their separation through the sacrament of water baptism. It was never God's intent to keep them in the wilderness but to bring them into the place of Promise – Canaan. However, through unbelief, it took them 40 years to come into their earthly inheritance. This is like so many believers who never enter into the Deeper Life the Lord calls us to. Instead they are satisfied with manna and quails in the desert, not able, through unbelief, to taste of the grapes and honey of Eshcol, having sand in their mouths and sand in their feet, totally unaware that such a life is not the 'normal' Christian Life but a sub-normal (as Watchman Nee would call it) . It is only when they cross the Jordon (which Simpson sees as the Baptism with the Spirit) that they begin to claim their inheritance. Imagine how Caleb and Joshua must have felt, pining for 40 long years for the fulfillment of what they had seen earlier! I can imagine them sitting in their tent, often with Moses as companion, reminiscing of the wonders they had seen, but which their fellow men were not willing to enter into.

The writer to Hebrews says *"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should come short of it."* (4:1). He continues by showing how God rested after His creation and now calls us to enter into His rest. *"Today, harden not your hearts ... for there remaineth a rest for the people of God"* – (4:9). This is not heaven in the future, for there are battles to be won here, there are promises to be claimed here, there are miracles (of walls being torn down) to experience here. This is the Deeper Life for which we are called. For he that has entered into his rest, has **ceased from his own works**, as God did from His. This is the life where God is in control, leading His people, showing them His hand at work.

*"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."* (4:11). We will acknowledge, I am sure, that no man can enter heaven by striving – that is a blessing already bought for us by the blood of Jesus which we receive by faith. So what is it that we are exhorted to strive for? – Surely, a 'deeper life' here on earth wherein we experience the 'rest' of God.

*"O Lord, like Caleb of old, I would seek to dwell in the high mountain with you. Give me Hebron (though giants dwell there) for that is the place of close fellowship (the meaning of the word 'Hebron'). As I live my life below, help me to allow the Christ within to live His life out through me – ceasing from my own labours but yielded so You can work through me."*