

going out singing the songs of victory right into the face of this cruel enemy, right into the teeth of death. I think it is wonderful, if you notice what took place in the 22nd verse: "And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, which were come against Judah, and they were smitten." Ah! that is it. When they took the position not only of trust and expectation—of definite trust—they took also the position of joyful trust. As soon as they took that place then God stretched out His arm upon His enemy, and they were smitten. In their confusion they smote and destroyed one another. The same thing happened when Joshua came up against Jericho. Seven times he went around the wall, and then at the last time, when they raised a shout of victory, the walls fell down. Are you willing to come to the place where you shout? Where no matter how dark it is in your business or life, no matter how many difficulties are piled up in the way, no matter how many may come up like these remorseless enemies against you, you will by the grace of God stand up and praise Him for victory? Do you ask where the valley of blessing is? When you get to that place you are in it. That is the valley of blessing. When you get to the place that you can so rely upon God that you can praise Him no matter what comes—the dark day or the bright day; the day of failure, or the day of success, as the world calls it, you are beyond the power of the world; the world can do nothing. When you get to the place where you can praise God for every single thing. That is the place into which God will bring us if we trust Him.

I have not time to speak of what they found when they got there. There were five beautiful things. First, as stated in the 24th verse, they got a great victory, "And when Judah came toward the watch-tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped." The Americans had not any victory like that in Cuba, nor the Sirdar in the Soudan. There never was such a victory as that. Not an enemy left. That was complete. Then the next thing is great spoils. They were three days gathering it up. We will never know what are the spoils of a Christian life until we get into a life of victory. There is an idea among cannibals that the life and strength of the enemy goes into the body of his slayer. I think that gives light on the meaning of the word in the 8th of Romans, when the Apostle says, "We are not merely conquerors, but more than conquerors." The very strength of the enemy we have overcome becomes a part of our spiritual life thereafter. The next thing is great joy. The 27th verse says, "Then they returned, every man of Judah and