Joshua

the man, the Leader

2 Tim. 2:1-8

This is a charge that Paul is giving to Timothy. In verse 1-8 is a command from Paul. He is commanding him –

Verse 1 – Be strong in the Grace.

Verse 2 – Commit to faithful men.

Verse 3 – Endure hardness.

Verse 4 – Don’t get caught up in the affairs of this life.

Verse 5 – Strive lawfully for the crown.

Verse 7 – Consider the truth.

Verse 8 – Remember Jesus died rose from the grave.

We also have these same commands in our lives as Christian men. Yet we need to study other Christian men to see if our lives are matching up or not. We need examples to go by.

*THE OLD TESTAMENT WARRIOR*

One of the most exciting ways for every 20th-century man to learn practical lessons from facing today’s challenges successfully is to study Old Testament Bible characters. Joshua is one of those. Perhaps more than any other Old Testament person, Joshua exemplifies for every man, particularly, positive ways to live a victorious Christian life. He walks through the battlefields of the Old Testament as a godly man. Though he certainly made mistakes, he lived an exemplary life.

*DOING BATTLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL*

What can a 20th-century Christian man living in a different culture learn from a man like Joshua? He was definitely a great leader. His greatest task was to lead the armies of Israel to take possession of the land of Canaan. However, many of the challenges he faced are the same challenges that an American man faces today as he does battle against the forces of evil that are trying to capture his heat & mind.

While facing literal battles, Joshua demonstrates how men today can be*"strong in the Lord & in his mighty power"*by*"Clothing themselves"*with the*"the full armor of God"*in order to defeat*"the powers of this dark world" & "the spiritual fores of evil in the heavenly realms".*

WE HAVE TO LEARN TO LISTEN TO OUR SPIRITUAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Who is our Commander-In-Chief? GOD!

By Listening to God we can become a great warrior, & can learn lessons for living victoriously.

***11 THINGS HERE***

1) God understands our human weaknesses, our fears, our anxieties, our feelings of inadequacy.

2) God promises security & inner peace in the midst of fear & stress.

3) God wants all people to be saved from their sins & He continues to reach out to lost humanity, no matter what their background, their mistakes, their evil deeds, their depth of despair, or their behavior.

4) God honors & responds to faith but He does not expect His children to operate on "Blind faith."

5) God honors those who honor Him

6) When the family ceases to reflect God’s values, it takes only one generation for spiritual degeneration to take place.

*Since 1927 generations have been divided up into 4 different divisions.*

*1) Builders (born 1927-1945) 65% Bible-based believers.*

*2) Boomers (born 1946-1964) 35% Bible-based believers.*

*3) Busters (born 1965-1983) 16% Bible-based believers.*

*4) Bridgers (1984 or later) 4% Bible-based believers.*

7) As 20th -century Christians, we need "remembrances" lest we forget what God has done for us.

8) God can take even our mistakes & turn them into positive results.

9) We must take time on a consistent basis to maintain perspective on God’s will for our lives.

10) True love for God is the essence of Christian living.

11) Doing the will fo God involves a personal choice, an act of the will.

These are some practical lessons we need to learn, & Joshua learned them.

Joshua was a leader, & so are you! When you became a Christian, you inherited a leadership role. Just as when you become a father, you inherited a leadership role. You may not want it, but you’ve got it.

You are called to be a model – For Jesus Christ

Someone is looking to you – Your wife, your kids, your friends. Your co-workers

How do you function at this level of leadership will determine your advancement with God’s kingdom?

ONE THING I NOTICE ABOUT PEOPLE – They will work hard for advancement, & pay-raise. But sit on a church pew & not try for the advancement of the Kingdom of God!

*THE CULPRIT CALLED "IMPATIENCE"*

Have you ever become impatient because God’s timetable doesn’t match yours? Just so you want be disappointed, God doesn’t line His timetable for you & me. We have to line our timetable for Him.

Joshua’s basic training took many years. God was never in a hurry to give positions of heavy responsibility. God was concerned that we are adequately prepared. This often required years.

What is unique about Joshua? – in his early years he had an open heart, he had a willingness to be taught & His sprit of humility.

*JOSHUA’S GREAT, GREAT, GREAT, GRANDFATHER*

To understand & to appreciate Joshua’s place in biblical history, we need to understand his heritage. In fact, what happened in Joshua’s adult life relates to a specific promise God made to Abraham centuries before when He called him out of Ur of the Chaldeans.

*ABRAHAMS’ ENCOUNTER WITH GOD*

God made three basic promises to Abraham

1) He was going to bless him with land. A permanent home.

2) God promised Abraham a seed. An heritage, a great nation of people.

3) God promised that through Abrahams, the whole world would be blessed.

No matter what was going to happen on earth. God was going to fulfill His plan, & His promise. *Satan may try to stop it, but God had a plan.*

Abraham responded to God’s call & command. By faith, he entered the land of Canaan, & a series of events followed.

Abraham had two sons, Ishmael & Isaac.

Isaac had two sons, Esau & Jacob.

Jacob had 12 sons, later called the sons of Israel.

Jacobs older sons hated their younger brother, Joseph, because their father favored him. The brothers sold him as a slave to a band of Midianites. Joseph ended up in Egypt & stays. He was the 1st in command of all Egypt, right under the Pharaoh himself.

Joseph was the great-grandfather of Joshua.

In Egypt things went bad & all of Israel is now in slavery to the Egyptians.

*GOD DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT*

God did not forget His promises to Abraham. *{HE WANT FORGET YOURS NEITHER!}*

In His divine timing, He raised up a great leader named Moses who led the children of Israel out of Egypt. A great multitude, miraculously crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. Though they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because of their sins, God eventually brought them to the edge of the land He had promised Abraham & his descendants so many years before.

*THE LARGEST SANDALS A MAN HAS EVER SEEN*

At this point, Joshua walked onto God’s divine & miraculous stage as successor to Moses. Because Moses failed to obey on one very important occasion, God did not allow him to enter the Promised Land. *{HERE IS A GOOD POINT, YOU HAVE TO STAY OBEDIENT, YOU NEVER ARRIVE UNTIL YOU GET THERE. }*

HE COULD SEE IT BUT HE COULD NOT CROSS OVER THE Jordan River. God Himself buried Moses & records the following statement on his tombstone.

Deut. 34,10 NIV -- no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

Joshua was destined to step into the largest sandals he’d ever had on his feet.

*BOOT CAMP FOR JOSHUA*

Joshua was born in Egypt. His father & mother was slaves along with all the children of Israel who had become victims of the Pharaoh. The new king who arose over Egypt & did not know Joseph.

When Joshua grew older, he too became a working slave. Like any young Hebrew man, there were times when he could have been killed. But in God’s providence, he survived.

*A GREAT MENTOR*

Num. 11,28 -- And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men,

Joshua started with Moses as a Young man, or as a Youth! Joshua soon became Moses’ right-hand man.

Moses must have already become an ideal role model in Joshua’s heart & mind. He knew of Moses great faith blended with courage as Moses confronted Pharaoh & pronounced judgment on Egypt. Joshua saw the results of the faith & courage as a young man.

Joshua must have stood speechless & breathless when he saw Moses stretch his rod over the Red Sea, & the waters parted, allowing Israel to march across on dry ground. & Then he saw Moses extend his rod once again over the waters, causing the sea to return to its place, destroying all the Egyptian warriors who followed the Israelites into the midst of the sea.

By this time in his life, Joshua had settled a very important issue. HE KNEW & BELIEVED THAT THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL WAS INDEED THE ONE TRUE GOD. He also knew that Moses was God’s appointed leader of Israel.

*WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE*

Moses developed unusual confidence in his young lieutenant. This is demonstrated in several events during the wilderness journey from Egypt to Canaan.

*JOSHUA’S FIRST MILITARY ASSIGNMENT*

On the way to the Promised Land, the children of Israel faced enemies who resented the intrusion into their territory. It was the place where Moses struck the rock & brought forth water. The Amalek’s army attacked the Israelites. Joshua led a counterattack & with God’s supernatural assistance. He led his fledgling army of men to their first Military Victory.

This experience helped prepare Joshua for the challenges he would face in the land of Canaan. His most important lesson was that God was on their side. If they would simply obey Him, they would be victorious over their enemies.

*JOSHUA’S MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE*

When Israel arrived in the wilderness of Sinai & camped in front of that great mountain, all the people could hear God’s voice echoing from that sacred place. Later, God wrote His laws on tablets of stone & commanded Moses to climb the mountain, enter His presence & receive the 10 Commandments. Responding to God’s order, he also took Joshua with him. Not allowing the other leaders in Israel to join them.

The exact details in the story are not clear. It’s doubtful that Joshua experienced God’s glory to the same degree as Moses, but he did enjoy greater access to the Lord’s presence than the other leaders. Yet his exposure to God’s presence was 2nd only to Moses. Joshua was so overwhelmed with Moses’ personal relationship with the Lord that at times he would not leave Moses’s side.

What happened in Sinai demonstrates dramatically the unique position Joshua already held as Moses’ right-hand man. It also reveals the unique relationship he had with God. All of these experiences were divinely designed by the Lord to prepare Joshua for his future leadership role with Israel.

*ANOTHER IMPORTANT LESSON HERE*– Only God knows our future, & in His miraculous timing, He unveils His sovereign plan, which in some unclear way is interconnected & interwoven with our freedom to make choices.

Moses’ sin & failure was not predetermined by God, but Joshua’s unique preparation was!

*JOSHUA’S SURVEILLANCE MISSION*

Joshua’s opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to God & the people came when Moses appointed him, along with eleven other men, to enter Canaan to spy out the land. When they returned from their mission, only Joshua & Caleb was positive about entering Canaan. *AT THIS POINT YOU SEE THE MATURITY LEVEL OF JOSHUA.*

*A UNIQUE "MEDAL OF HONOR"*

Joshua received a *"Medal of Honor"*bestowed on very few people in God’s great army. Originally, his name was Hoshea, (Num. 13,8). But Moses changed his name to Joshua (Num. 13,16)

Paul did this to Barnabas in the New Testament. Barnabas’ name was Joseph.

Barnabas – Son of Encouragement. The reason why is because Barnabas was such an unselfish, caring leader during the early days of the church.

Hoshea – Salvation. From a human point of view, Hoshea would be Israel’s savior.

Joshua – The Lord is Salvation. From a divine point of view, God would lead Israel into Canaan.

In God’s time, he became ready to allow the Lord to use his abilities & skills & all that he had learned during his years of preparation.

*BY BECOMING GOD’S MAN TODAY THERE ARE PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY.*

*WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THREE.*

**PRINCIPLE #1**

It takes time to become prepared to be a faithful leader of others.

Joshua’s prominence in Israel came only after many years of faithfulness, both to the Lord & His commandments, as well as to Moses. Joshua proved himself worthy of trust.

Many people today want to bypass the process of demonstrating faithfulness over a period of time. But the period of time will be a process of testing of our lives of faithfulness unto God.

Hear IS WHAT GOD IS LOOKING FOR ACCORDING TO 1 TIM. 3:1-7

To have a good reputation

To be morally pure

To demonstrated a well-ordered life

Have self-disciplined

To have respect & credibility among others

To be unselfish in the use of themselves & will as their Possessions.

Not to be in bondage to fleshly appetites

To be sensitive

To be non-defensive

To be Kind & Gentle

To be proper leaders of their own families

& finally, not to have a high level of spiritual leadership responsibility because of the temptation toward pride

**PRINCIPLE #2**

As Christian men, we must realize there is a unique balance between dependence on God & confidence in ourselves.

Without question, God used Joshua THE MAN as a means to achieve His goals. But Joshua knew it was God Himself who would guide & direct Israel.

It was His power that rolled back the waters of Jordan,

His strength that cause the walls of Jericho to collapse,

His wisdom that enabled Joshua to have strategies against the enemies of Israel.

God does use us with our faithfulness, our commitment, our human capacities & capabilities. But in reality, without Him we’ll accomplish little what we do accomplish may turn out to be WOOD, HAY, & STRAW.

*We have to Build Carefully*

To build carefully is a very straightforward exhortation to all of us as Christians men. We are not only regarding our ministry in the church, but in our marriages & families. We can’t face life’s challenges in our own strength & be ultimately successful.

On the one hand, God wants to use all of our human resources. Yet, He is the One who enables us to succeed. So we have to know: –

I DO BECAUSE IT’S CHRIST IN ME

I CAN BECAUSE I AM STRENGTHENED WITH HIS POWER

I OVERCOME BECAUSE OF THE ARMOR OF GOD I WEAR

**PRINCIPLE #3**

We must begin to serve God now in order to be prepared for future responsibility

It does take time to become prepared to handle important spiritual responsibilities. However, that time should be spent faithfully serving God in less demanding roles & leaning from more mature & experienced men. In this sense, we all need mentors. This was Joshua’ s strength. Moses was his example, his role model, & his spiritual shepherd.

NOTICE THIS – Joshua served faithfully without even knowing that someday he would take over Moses’ leadership role.

*CONCLUSION*:

Ask yourself this? What about my life?

1) Where am I in the process of demonstrating my commitment both to God & His kingdom?

2) Have I been faithful in the little things & in the long haul?

3) Will I have a great testimony when I leave this planted?

LISTEN TO THE TESTIMONY OF JOSHUA

Josh. 24,31 -- Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

What an honor for a MAN’s life!

Chapter 2

*A CALL TO COURAGE*

Joshua 1:1-18

Suppose the board of directors of a large corporation selected you to be the next president. But even as they were appointing you to this leadership role, they made the statement – in your presence – that the previous president was irreplaceable. Furthermore, you knew from your own experience that what they were saying was absolutely true. You had worked side by side, day after day, with the previous president. You witnessed his leadership ability. You saw his wisdom & his courage. More important, you observed firsthand his faith in God. There was no way to fell that you could ever measure up to that man in any respect!

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL? THIS MIGHT DESCRIBE JOSHUA’S FEELINGS.

*FACING REJECTION:*

Probably even more frightening to Joshua than living in the shadow of Moses’ great achievements would be his awareness of the number of times that the children of Israel rejected their leader.

How cold he help but have memories of the times the children of Israel rose up against Moses, even to the point of threatening to kill him.

How could he forget that fearful moment when He & Caleb returned from spying out the land of Canaan & dared to confront those who defied God & refused to go in & take the land immediately?

& You can only image all the stuff in the 40 years of wondering in the land.

Now Moses was gone! Joshua stood alone with the tremendous responsibility of taking over the leadership of this great multitude of unpredictable & often unfaithful people. SO HOW WOULD THE DEVIL FIGHT HIM IN HIS MIND ABOUT REJECTION?

*BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS*:

There’s no doubt about it! Joshua faced one of the greatest challenges of his life.

How could he handle this great a responsibility?

What if the children of Israel did not accept him as Moses’ successor?

What if he failed?

What if the children of Israel rebelled?

Whose fault would it be?

The Reality was an Awesome job for Joshua. Yet God understood Joshua’s dilemma. The Lord never gives us a task without providing the resources & help to carry out the responsibility. But in God’s word there is always comfort, even in working above your capabilities.

Josh 1:3,5 -- Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Even through God had prepared him ahead of time. The reality of what lay before him was awesome. God charged Joshua to "BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS." A phrase that appears 4 times in this opening chapter.

Verse 6 – Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Verse 7 – Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Verse 9 – Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Verse 18 – Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

Joshua’s fears are indeed comprehensible. He had been chosen to follow in the footsteps of one of God’s most powerful & distinguished leaders of all times.

Even though Joshua had proven himself again & again, & had been informed on several occasions that he was going to take over Moses’ responsibilities, when the moment finally arrived, it was an intimidating challenge.

Calvin once wrote – Even some of the bravest men, although fully prepared beforehand, either stand still or hesitate when the thing needs to be done.

Joshua was a brave man, even through he was nervous about the new position he was going to have to fulfill. But Moses helps him to get ready. Not just in the training purpose’s, but also in the Spiritual purposes.

Deut. 34,9 -- And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him:

*Some people are not afraid just because they are to ignorant to know.*

A group of university students from Toronto had gone up to Georgian Bay for a fishing trip. They hired a boat & a captain to take them out into the bay. That morning, a storm broke. The captain, an old sea dog, sat at the helm with a worried look on his face. The students laughed at his fear & through their laughter declared, "We are not afraid!" The old sea captain looked at them & said, "Yes, you’re too ignorant to be afraid."

How would you or I feel about replacing a leader whom God had publicly declared could not be replaced?

Deut. 34,10 -- And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

*CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS*

Josh. 1:7-9 -- Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

The Lord did more than reassure Joshua of His presence & power. He also spelled out very specifically & clearly the conditions for successfully taking the land.

Be careful to do according to all the law.

Do not turn from it to the right or to the left.

This book of the law shall not depart from our mouth.

You shall meditate on it day & night.

Be careful to do according to all that is written in it.

God made it clear to Joshua that if he consiste4ntly obeyed these commands, he would be successful & prosperous.

These commands can be summarized in 3 ways.

1) Joshua had to make sure that he knew & understood the law that God had already given to Moses. To achieve this goal, he must review it regularly & consistently meditating on it day & night.

2) Joshua had to practice the law of God in his own personal & public life. Not turning from it to the right or to the left. He could not lead Israel to obey God without exemplifying obedience in his own life.

3) Joshua had to boldly & confidently communicate God’s Word to the children of Israel. The law of God must never depart from his mouth.

*OVERCOMING HIS FEAR*

As God gave these commands, He encouraged Joshua to be *"Strong & Courageous."*Becoming even more specific, the Lord said in verse 9 - *"Do not Tremble or be Dismayed."*Joshua was never to shy away from his responsibility. He shouldn’t fear the children of Israel & allow himself to become intimidated. He was to be bold & strong like Moses & to speak with the very authority of the Lord God of Israel.

To over coming fear; there is only one route to take: "TRUST & OBEYS", for as the song says "THERE’S NO OTHER WAY TO BE HAPPY IN JESUS, BUT TO TRUST & TO OBEY."

Joshua was very encouraged & strengthened because of God’s direct communication. He wasted no time responding to God’s charge. In Joshua 1:10-18, we are able to read how he first assumed the leadership role by calling together the officers & leaders of the people. Then he issued a command which can be divided into tow sections:

1) He directed his words to all of the children of Israel. They were to get ready to cross over Jordan to take possession of the land of Canaan.

2) he spoke specifically to the Reubenites, the Gadites & the half-tribe of Manasseh. He reviewed for them what had happened under Moses’ leadership.

After Joshua had reviewed Moses’ conditions, everyone agreed. They responded willingly & with eagerness & said

Josh. 1:17 -- According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

This positive response was the reassurance Joshua needed. From this point on, he felt like their leader.

*3 PRINCIPLES WE NEED TO LOOK AT*

1*) PRINCIPLE #1*

*WE TOO CAN, & MUST, BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS*

No matter what comes our way; whatever our responsibilities or our position in life; we as men of God have to walk in the privacy of God & we also can be Strong & Courageous.

As businessmen, as husbands, as fathers, as church leaders, & active members of Christ body, we can face our responsibilities with confidence & assurance. Most important, the basis of that security lies not in ourselves, but in the fact that the same help that was available to Joshua is available to each one of us.

GOD UNDERSTANDS!

Like Joshua, we all have human weaknesses – Fears, Anxieties, & feelings of Inadequacies. But, God understood all of these problems in Joshua’s life & reassured him & helped him rise above his frustrating circumstances.

God also understands our humanness. He made us, He knows us. He sympathizes with us. There is no struggle with which He does not identify. He does not stand over us ready to condemn us in moments of weakness. Rather, he is reaching out to help us, to reassure us, just as He did for Joshua!

*2) PRINCIPLE # 2*

OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSINGS

Martin Luther once said that "He who walks according to God’s Word acts wisely & happily, but he who goes according to his own head acts unwisely & to no profit."

This statement reflects a major lesson in the first chapter of Joshua. God shared with this new leader of Israel a very important secret to successful spiritual living & leadership. Obedience to His Word brings blessings.

We have to remember that blessings from God are not only temporal but eternal. The most important reward for obedience to God’s Word will be "*WELL DONE, THOU GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANT."*

HOW MANY OF YOU WANT TO HEAR THAT STATEMENT?

*3) PRINCIPLE # 3*

GOD WILL NEVER FORSAKE US

Josh 1,9 -- Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

These must have been the most reassuring words that God spoke to Joshua. The Lord Himself promises to be his continual companion & divine resource.

Jesus made a verse similar statement

Matt. 28,20 -- Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS

Men there is one we can trust!

Heb. 10:23 -- Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

FAITHFUL – trustworthy; believing, sure, & true

PROMISED – to announce upon, to engage to do something,

My question would be – What has God promise to us?

CON:

Life is filled with threatening situations. To act responsibly in today’s times calls for daily courage:

In our Marriages,

in our families,

in the business world,

in our competitiveness,

in our dealing with others,

in our challenges,

& In our churches.

Most importantly in our lifestyle!

Chapter 3

*An Example of Faith & Humility*

Josh. 3:5-10

Background – According to Joshua 2,24 – Joshua’s two spies returned from Jericho, They were enthusiastic about entering the land of Canaan. *NOTICE Joshua didn’t seen 12 Spies but only 2. These two were excited about what was going to happen.*

God had already told Joshua that the land was theirs, & Joshua believes that, but he was reassured when the two men came back "fire up"

I: SOMETHING BETWEEN US & VICTORY

There is always something between us & out Victory. Sometimes it is in plan view & sometimes it’s not.

Joshua’s greatest test of faith, was in plan view. Though the Canaanite’s who lived beyond Jordan appeared to be no obstacle, the children of Israel face a raging river that separated them from the land of Promise.

True faith & godly works go hand in hand. Joshua wasted no time after he had received the positive report from his spies. He broke camp "early in the morning" & moved the whole company of Israelite close to the Jordan River.

The Jordan River was at flood tide, it was as wide as a football field is long.

The word JORDAN MEANS – descender.

The river drops approximately 1,000 feet in its journey from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. This decent has created a natural current, during flood season, the speed increases to nearly 10 miles per hour. There was no way for the children of Israel to cross over with their children, their animals, & their supplies. There were no bridges, no ferryboats, no helicopter, JUST SOMETHING BETWEEN THEM & VICTORY

Most of the children of Israel who faced this crisis represented a new generation. Their minds must have been filled with a mixture of anticipation & fear.

WOULD GOD DO IT AGAIN?

II: FAITH IS VICTORY

Listen to the faith of Joshua to the people.

Josh. 3,5 -- And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

There is no hesitation in his voice. The specifics were not yet told, but Joshua believed that God would give those instructions when they were needed. & Because God is faithful to His promises, He did just that!

To me I see people believing in 3 different types of faith.

1) Unseen FAITH

2) FACT FAITH

3) LEAP INTO THE DARK FAITH

*LEAP IN THE DARK FAITH*

Some are confused about the subject of faith. Some think faith is a leap in the dark. This faith want get you down the road. Today many Christians are being led astray by relying on their on feelings & experiences which are in some instances in direct opposition to the written Word of God.

This is when I just want to name & claim something I can’t afford to claim.

This is when I think I desire what the next person has.

This is when I want to get down the road, & don’t make away to get there.

We need to make sure the promises we claim are promises for us today.

FOR EXAMPLE – God never promised you or me that He would roll back the waters of the Jordan River.

God never promises us the promise land that He promise the Children of Israel. Ours is a different promise land.

God had a special purpose in mind for Moses, Joshua, the Children of Israel. So He had too performed this miracle for them. Yet He has promises us other things also, & if we stay faithful unto Him, He will fulfill His obligation to us.

OUR PROMISE – He would never leave us nor forsake us.

He wouldn’t leave us comfortless.

His presence will always be with us.

He would baptize us in the Holy Spirit.

We can be healed.

We & our families are bless.

It is given to us press downs until it runs over.

We’ve got heaven to get to.

*"SO MANY MORE"*

"BUT REMEMBER; GOD NEVER CALLED US TO TAKE A BLIND LEAP!"

*Unseen FAITH*

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Sometimes we step out not very good judgement, but with the voice of God. *In this case you better have heard from God.*

Un-Seen faith is when I don’t have the evidence in the flesh or with nature, but I believe in the Spirit that as spoken to my heart & that its real & it will be taken care of.

It’s when I don’t know where I’m going, but I know God said Go this way.

It’s when I step out in the knowledge of Faith, & not the smarts of man.

It’s when I pay my tithes, but can’t pay my bills.

It’s when I surrender my life & now it belongs to God will, & ways.

It’s when I but obedience above common since, but I know this is what God wants.

*FACT FAITH*

When you look at Faith with the Old Testament Characters as looking in Hebrews chapter 11, most of these men acted upon faith with the facts of God Direction, Revelation & the Promises He made to these faithful followers.

Joshua experience brought him great faith, but he also had great evidence & factual information on which to base his faith.

When God asked Joshua to approach the Jordan River & to believe that the waters would roll back, Joshua’s faith was based not only on God’s direct statements to him personally, but upon previous experience, which included the similar, very dramatic parting of the Red Sea.

It’s very important to note that Joshua’s work of faith was not based on BLIND faith. It was faith based on fact. God spoked, not through some inner voice, but through Direct Revelation. Joshua miraculously heard the voice of God say, *"I’m going to take you across Jordan."*Just as God had verified His presence with Israel on many occasion when Moses was leading them.

Once again God was speaking directly to Joshua, & just at the right time. As they approached this raging river, God said, "*This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you."*

NOW WE HAVE A SPECIFIC PROMISE WITH A SPECIFIC MEANING

The Specific Promise -- As I was with Moses, I’ll be with you!

The Specific Meaning -- I’m going to the other side & so are you!

WE TODAY HAVE A SPECIFIC PROMISE -- I’LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!

WE TODAY HAVE A SPECIFIC MEANING -- I’LL GET YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE, FOR VICTORY IS YOURS!

I said early that "Faith was Victory"

yet

Faith with Fact is Guarantee Victory

CON:

My question then is this, how many of you need Guarantee Victory? Then as Joshua went up to the rivers of Jordan, you come up to the Rivers of the Altars & receive your Guarantee Victory.

Chapter 4

*A Cure for Fading Memories*

Joshua 4:1-24

Deut. 6:12 -- "then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

This was the warning Moses issued to all Israel just before they entered the Promised Land. This is also the warning God wants us to hear today!

It was the Lord who would bring them into a land flowing with milk & honey

It was the Lord who would make them victorious over their enemies.

It was the Lord who would provide them with herds & flocks & silver & gold.

As is often the case with us, the children of Israel’s temptation would be to become proud & to say – "WE DID THIS OURSELVES"

God taught the children of Israel many important truths on their journey from Egypt to Canaan, but one important truth was the *"MEMORIAL STONES."*They were going to inter Canaan with the promised to be free. They needed to stones to remind them of just that.

For them to enjoy this freedom, they were required to live up to some very specific conditions which had been outlined by God. They must never forget the commandments He gave them at Mt. Sinai. They must obey these commandments.

*TRUST ME WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS*

Before the priests ever stepped a foot into the Jordan River, God had given Joshua some general instructions regarding what should happen once they crossed the river. Twelve men were selected, one from each tribe, to carry out the rest of God’s plan as soon as the children of Israel crossed over Jordan.

This is the way God often works! He doesn’t reveal all of His will at one time. But as we respond to the light we have, He adds more light & clears the path ahead of us. Our responsibility is to trust Him. With all our hearts & to avoid leaning on our own understanding.

Pr. 3:5,6 -- Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;  In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Once they had finished crossing, the Lord gave more specific instructions. These men were to go back to the center of the riverbed where the priests were still standing, holding the Ark. Each man was to pick up a large rock or stone from the middle of the Jordan & carry it to the side of the river where Israel now camped in the land of Canaan.

*GO WHERE*

Imagine what these twelve men must have thought, Go back into the middle of the Jordan. Israel must have taken most of the day to complete the crossing. & The waters were still piled high, the ground still dry! BUT FOR HOW LONG?

Whatever their feeling’s & anxiety, these men obeyed. They did not allow whatever fear they may have felt to dominate & control them. By faith they reentered the riverbed. We read that they took up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, just as the Lord said to do. They carried them over with them to the lodging place & put them down there.

*ANOTHER PILE OF STONES*

Something very interesting happened once they arrived in the middle of the Jordan. While the twelve men were transporting their stones back to the shore, Joshua, in his excitement suddenly began to pile up stones in the middle of the river, right at the feet of the priests.

There is no record that God had instructed him to do this. It appears to be a spontaneous act of worship. Joshua already knew what God’s purpose was in having them carry the stones from Jordan, so he simply decided to pile up twelve stones in Jordan as a personal testimony to what God had done for Israel in backing up the waters of the Jordan River.

*THE TWELVE STONES*

The moment their feet touched the other side, the wall of water that had poled up for miles back up the river came crashing forward.

NOW what an awe-inspiring sight this must have been for the children of Israel as they stood in the land of Canaan watching the completion of this great miracle. But following their shouts of joy & triumph there must have been a gradual silence that crept over them. Everything SEEMED SO NORMAL AGAIN.

The children of Israel moved onto Gilgal, carrying the twelve stones from Jordan, proof that the experience was no dream. It was a reality. & There in Gilgal the stones were set up as a memorial.

Joshua 4:21-23 -- Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?'  "then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land';  "for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over,

This was God’s primary reason. These stones were to remind Israel & succeeding generations that God is a God of great power & glory & it was he who brought them over Jordan. They were also to be a witnesses to unbelievers.

2 Principles to look at

*1) When we fail to model & teach God’s Word, it only takes one generation for degeneration to take place.*

America is an Exhibit to this. It may be different to comprehend how such a change could take place in Israel in such a short period of time. But think for a moment about what has happened in American culture in the last fifty to sixty years. Our whole value system has changed, which has affected the family unit dramatically. When we ceased to reflect God’s values in our homes, it only took one generation for spiritual degeneration to take place.

We were a nation built upon the value system that grew out of the Hebrew-Christian ethic as spelled out in the Bible. Our civil laws were forged out of the teachings of Scripture. IN TWO GENERATIONS, OUR NATION HAS CHANGED.

*2) The Bible teaches that as men we have a tremendous responsibility to take the lead in teaching our children biblical values.*

What is happening in you home & in mine? What will our children remember about us? Will they remember a beautiful home, big-screen television, video players, computer games, fast cars, a vacation home, a speedboat, an open-ended allowance? & All the frantic efforts we put forth to accumulate & keep these possessions?

Don’t misunderstand! God does not say that material things are wrong & out of the will of God. If they were, God wouldn’t have given the Children of Israel all the things mentioned in Deuteronomy 6 & 8. Both Abraham & Job would be millionaires by today’s standards.

Material things, therefore, are not the issue. Our attitude toward them, & God is! The Children of Israel became materialists. They took the credit for their blessings.

What about us? Do we even have any memorial stones that can remind us & our children about God’s blessings?

Chapter 5

*The Walls Came Tumbling Down*

Joshua 6:1-5

Intro – The first thing I want you to look at is in verse 3 – I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour."

God told Joshua, In this first victory, I’m going to give you 3 things.

*1) JERICHO*– Jehovah, Joshua's Commander, promised the divine, supernatural destruction of Jericho as the earnest of the capture of all Canaan. Joshua therefore no longer needed to devise any plan to take Jericho. Jericho belongs to him. This is their blessings, their victory.

2) THE KING – The word King here means royal. God was putting Joshua above the best of royalty of the sinners.

3) THE MIGHTY MEN OF VALOR – No matter how great the enemy is, it is not a match for the plan of God, nor Gods children.

When God gives you something, He give you something know matter what the enemy has to say about it.

IS GOD UNJUST?

One thing that used to be difficult for me to understand & except was God’s judgment on pagan people in the Old Testament. Some people believes that the Lord suddenly descended on the Canaanite people without warning & wiped them off the face of the earth.

Not so! Remember Rahab’s report to the spies? Her people had known about the God of Israel for at least 40 years. They had heard of all He had done to the Egyptians because of their sins. They knew what had happened to those who opposed Israel in the wilderness. They also knew about the miracle at the Jordan River. She said – Their hearts melted with fear. There was no spirit in them any longer. They were literally demoralized (5,1)

They Had Their Opportunities To Repent!

Here at Jericho, God gave them seven more days to turn from their sins. Throughout the Old Testament, God never judges people without warning them numerous times that He was going to destroy them because of their idolatry & immorality.

MOVING FORWARD!

In chapter five, The children of Israel were now in the land of Canaan. A dream comes true! God again demonstrated His great power. The Lord reminded them of His unconditional covenant with them. He also reminded them of His grace in delivering them from Egyptian bondage. They were now ready to take the land through military advancement. The city of Jericho was, by God’s direct command, to be their first target.

JERICHO WAS TAKING NO CHANCES

The people of Jericho were terribly frightened, according to the message Rahab expressed to the spies. Not only had they heard about the Red Sea disaster for the pursuing Egyptians some forty years earlier, but more recently they had received reports of how the two kings of the Ammonites beyond Jordan, along with all their people, had been literally wiped off the face to the earth.

When God rolled back the waters of the rushing Jordan River so Israel could cross on dry ground, they were completely demoralized. Joshua 6,1 says – *Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.*

"The Arm Of Flesh Will Fail You" – Somehow the people in Jericho believed they could protect themselves from the God of Israel by man-made walls.

Hear IS MY QUESTION? The people of Jericho knew this –

God delivers Israel from Egypt. & Defeated their army.

God rolled back the waters 40 years ago.

God bet all the armies in the wilderness.

God rolled back Jordan.

Why did they think the Walls of their city could hold back God.

*THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO; REPENT!*

GOD SAID MARCH

Attacking Jericho was not a human idea that originated in Joshua’s mind. It was God’s will & command to Israel. The Lord’s instructions were very specific.

God had prepared Joshua in a special way for this battle, through the 40 years in the wilderness. Yet God still showed up to help. *"The Captain of the Lord’s host"*who was probably God Himself in human form appeared to Joshua while he was surveying

Jericho.

Jos. 5:13-15 -- And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?  And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?  And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

**I LOVE THAT VERSE** – there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy.

Even in battle, IT HOLY GROUND FOR THE CHILD OF GOD!

MOVING AHEAD BY FAITH

The initial preparation for this battle was spiritual. All of Israel needed to be prepared spiritually & psychologically for what would appear to be a ridiculous & bizarre battle plan.

Joshua was ready! He was going to Move ahead by Faith! His response was immediate! How could he doubt now? Had God not proved faithful in the face of the impossibilities? He knew God would come through with what He said He would do. & Now He even shows up in human form.

They begin to march. The Soldiers were marching around the city. In the middle of the procession, priests of God carried the Ark of the Covenant, & others had their ram horns. But, just as God had commanded, none of the Israelites said a word. They marched in total silence.

Now Jericho was a city of about 9 acres. That would have taken about 30 minutes to march around.

They march around it in silence the first day.

They march around it in silence the second day

They march around it in silence the third day

They march around it in silence the forth day

They march around it in silence the fifth day

They march around it in silence the six day

The seventh day was a little different. They march around the city seven times. On the seventh time Joshua gave the first command of the week, the Israelites begin to shout, & the men begin to blow their trumpets. & The walls of Jericho cam crashing to the ground.

Everyone in Jericho died that day except Rahab’s family.

The battle was the Lords! When the walls collapsed, the army of Israel entered Jericho & began to destroy their enemies.

God was on Israel’s side all th way. Both outside & inside the city. It was a supernatural victory. Remember God said in Verse 2 – *I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.*& SO HE DID.

The death blows that fell on the inhabitants of Jericho was a judgment from God because of their sin & their unrepentant hearts.

RAHAB & HER FAMILY WAS SAVED

Josh. 6,25 -- And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Rahab & those members of her family who responded to her warning of coming judgment were spared. Just as the spies instructed, she had gathered her relatives into her house & hung the scarlet rope in the window. Joshua honored her obedience. He ordered the two spies whose lives she had saved to enter Jericho & bring Rahab & her whole family outside of the city & into the camp of Israel.

Looking at God’s strategy with Jericho, there are various interpretations in attempting to explain God’s war strategy against the people of Jericho. Why would He have Israel march around Jericho for seven days? Some believe the process was solely for Israel. To teach them faith & obedience. It did take faith for these men to obey God’s instructions instead of following their natural tendency to engage in ordinary tactics of warfare.

There is another reason – it is related to God’s compassion for the un-saved. We must remember that God did not choose Israel to show favoritism or partiality, or to demonstrate a national & narrow concern for mankind. Rather, He chose Israel to be His means to convey to all nations His existence, his sovereignty, His righteousness & His holiness. He chose Israel to bear the message that He was willing ti save all those Jews or Gentiles who would truly call upon Him.

Through history Israel fails to keep up the message of God, so God raised up a new people call the CHURCH! It is now the job of the church to fulfill the calling to the un-saved.

GOD IS A GOD THAT WILL GIVE ONE MORE CHANCE

God was giving the Canaanite of Jericho one more chance to turn from their sins & their wicked ways. As Israel marched around the walls of Jericho, it seems that God was saying once more. Judgment is coming! Repent & turn from your sins!

There are numerous events in the Old Testament to indicate that if the people in Jericho had flung open the gates & begged for mercy, turning to God & asking for forgiveness, the Lord would have yielded, just like he did for the city of Nineveh.

Just like He would have for Sodom & Gomorrah. *3 – PRINCIPLES TO LOOK AT*

1) Scoffers have always existed no matter how much light they see.

2) God is still patient & long-suffering with people who reject Him.

3) God uses people to reach people.

In the whole of Scriptures, we see five dimensions to God’s missionary strategy:

1) Being – What we are, is a body of believers. We are Christ like.

Mat. 5:13,14 – We are the light of the world, & the salt of it also.

John 13,34 – have love one for another

John 15,8 – bearing the fruit of righteousness.

John 17,20 – Bearing the unity as Christians.

2) Going – Mat. 28:19,20 – Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

How much are you involved in going to those who need to hear the message of Jesus Christ.

3) Sending – Not all Christians are called upon to leave their homes & communities in order to get the gospel out. But how can we send, & be a blessing to those that have.

4) Giving – Financially supporting those who desire to serve Jesus.

2 Cor. 9:6,7 – But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.  Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

There is a difference in Tithing & Giving

TITHING – God will open the widow of Heaven & pour out blessings until there’s not any more room.

GIVING – God will give back until it’s full, press down, & runs over.

5) Praying – Phil 4,6 – in every thing by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

***CHRISTIANS ARE TO PRAY!***

Chapter 6

*A Terrible Tragedy*

Joshua 7:1-26

Joshua 7:2-5

There are occasions, when God administered severe punishment for sin*. This is particularly true when His people engaged in repulsive disobedience in the full light of His divine revelation*. For God to allow the sin to go unnoticed & unpunished in these instances would have caused the masses to lose respect for Him & His Word.

THE MIRACLE AT JERICHO

What a great victory for Joshua & the armies of Israel! From a human point of view, there was no way to explain the event of victory. It was another miracle equal in intensity, drama & divine significance to the Red Sea, & crossing over the Jordan River.

Jericho was the first city to fall under the judgment of God. The next would be Ai *(A-I)*, another Canaanite city that lay about ten miles west of Jericho.

THE DISOBEDIENCE

In spite of the great victory at Jericho, there was a serious problem. A problem of sin that would soon turn the Israelites’ spirit of confidence into internal anxiety, emotional confusion & doubt. A man name Achan *(A-ken)*violated some of God’s specific instructions regarding the spoils of Jericho. Israel was about to experience a humiliating defeat.

Joshua 6,19 – But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

When God initially gave Joshua instructions regarding the way Israel was to attack & capture Jericho, He had stated very specifically that the entire city was "under the ban." Everything & everyone in the city, except for Rahab & her family must be destroyed & burned with fire.

There was only one exception: all the silver & gold & articles of bronze & iron were to be dedicated to the Lord, therefore would be considered Holy to the Lord, & was to go into the treasure of the Lord.

Achan, *(A-kin)*an Israelite from the tribe of Judah, deliberately disregarded God’s command. Secretly, he took some of the things under the ban & hid them in his tent. Consequently, God’s anger Burned against the sons of Israel.

For God to place people & things under the ban was not a new phenomenon in Israel. It was written into the laws of Moses in Sinai.

Lev. 27,29 -- None devoted, which shall be devoted of men, shall be redeemed; but shall surely be put to death.

NKJV – 'No person under the ban, who may become doomed to destruction among men, shall be redeemed, but shall surely be put to death.

When Moses reviewed the law prior to their entrance into Canaan, he explained to Israel & warned them regarding the Ban.

Deut. 7:22,25,26 -- "And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. "You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.  "Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor *(ab-hor)*it, for it is an accursed thing.

Achan*(A-kin)*took some of the silver & gold & fine clothes from Jericho & concealed them in his tent. Achan *(A-kin)*repulsively, & in the full light of God’s revelation, violated His Holy Law! In God’s sight, it was an act of idolatry & wickedness that must be punished.

ISRAEL’S HUMILIATING DEFEAT

Following Israel’s victory in Jericho, Joshua took immediate steps to conquer the city of Ai. He sent some men to spy out the city. When they returned, their report to Joshua it was confidence & self-assurance.

Josh. 7,3 -- "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few."

Joshua took these men at their word! He sent a small band of men to capture this city. & To his amazement, the men of Ai struck back & defeated Israel. Ai only killed about 36 men, but that was enough for Israel, for none die at Jericho.

Joshua & all the children of Israel were baffled. They couldn’t believe their eyes. Verse 5 said –*therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water*.

This meant – They were utterly discouraged; and by this gave an ample proof that without the supernatural assistance of God they could never have conquered the land.

What happened? No one really knew except God & Achan *(A-kin)*! The root problem was the man’s sin.

But there were some other problems also:

Achan was primarily at fault, BUT

The leaders in Israel who were guilty of taking matters into their own hands.

Israel had come off of an unbelievable victory.

Resulting in feelings of pride & arrogance.

The men who were sent to spy on Ai were so sure of themselves they didn’t take time to get all the facts.

They misjudged the number of armed warriors in Ai!They failed to remember that it was God who had given them the victory in Jericho, not their great wisdom & human strategies.

How quickly we can stumble & fall! Often it happens when we feel the most successful in our Christian experience. In the midst of our failure, it’s sometimes difficult to understand the problem or to know how to approach the situation with spiritual perspective. This was Joshua’s problem, too!

JOSHUA’S PAINFUL DISCOURAGEMENT

Joshua was caught totally off guard when Israel was defeated by the men from Ai. His emotions quickly took over & he tore his clothes & fell to the earth.

**LOOK AT HIS PRAYER**

Josh. 7:7-9 -- And Joshua said, Alas *(a-les)*, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all; to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!  "O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?  "For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?"

I LOVE WHAT GOD SAID TO JOSHUA IN THE NEXT VERSE

*So the LORD said to Joshua: Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?*

Israel has sinned!

"THIS IS WHY YOU HAVE TO STAY PRAYED UP!"

Joshua had lost perspective. In the midst of defeat he forgot God’s promise He was going to give them the land. Would God so quickly forsake them?

Joshua’s reactions reveal that he was human, JUST LIKE US. There is a fine line between the feelings of success & failure. One moment we can be happy with our achievements, & ends a short time later we can be depressed over our failures. When depressed we often lose sight of God’s overall plan for our lives, & His Promises. His previous victories & His divine presence with us

GOD’S SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS FOR THIS MESS

Josh. 7,11,12 -- "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff.  "Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

The Lord follow this revelation with some very specific instructions for solving the problem. Rather than immediately identifying Achan *(A-kin)*& those involved with him, the Lord spelled out a step-by-step method for discovering the culprit.

**1st.** All the children of Israel were to consecrate themselves before the Lord. All of them were to search their hearts, for in reality they were all guilty of pride & having failed to trust God following their victory at Jericho.

**2nd**. God revealed the procedure for discovering Achan (A-kin)

Verse 13,14 – Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.  In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man.

2 things Hear

1) There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel

2) thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

ACHAN’S DISCOVERY

Think for a moment why God used this unfolding tactic!

Why didn’t he just identify Achan & the others involved?

Personally I believe there are 2 reasons.

1) God wanted Israel to observe the process & never forget. As each lot fell & as each tribe, family, & household was identified, all Israel would have a chance to think hard & long about the seriousness of violating God’s commandments.

2) In God’s divine love & mercy, was once again offering a way of escape to a man who had woefully disobeyed Him. Had Achan immediately confessed & truly repented of his sin, he & his household might have been spared!

God was giving Achan *(A-kin)*time, just as he had done for the people of Jericho.

His tribe was identified,

his family,

& Finally his household!

Still Achan did not confess!

It was only after the lot fell on him that he acknowledged his sin.

He waited until his back was against the wall.

He had no choice.

His confession was forced!

Yet It was too late.

Just as it will be for many some day hen every knee shall bow before God & acknowledges who He is.

GOD’S AWFUL JUDGMENT – DEATH

Verse 15 – And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.

The end of this story is tragic! Achan & his family & everything he owned, including what he had stolen, was completely destroyed & burned with fire. Because Achan identified himself with the ban God placed on Jericho, he & his while household were brought under the same judgment.

We have to remember that there is always a judgment, or consequence for our mis-obedience.

"Principles to live by"

***PRINCIPLE 1 – GOD IS A HOLY GOD***

This Old Testament passage is one of the most sobering in all the Bible. It teaches us that God indeed is a holy God. Though He is patient & long-suffering, He cannot persistently tolerate sin, especially when it is committed in the light of His full & direct revelation.

***PRINCIPLE 2 – THE MORE LIGHT WE HAVE, THE MORE WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE***

God revealed Himself again & again, not only through visible signs & miracles but by direct commands.

Years before, He warned Israel against this kind of sin, that to indulge in it would bring judgment on an entire household. Moses talks to them. & Gave the law.

& Then Moses reminded the people of the law.

Now Joshua makes sure they understood the seriousness of this law, God reviewed this matter for Israel before they entered Jericho.

It was the full light of God’s direct warning that Achan *(A-kin)*disobeyed God! In many respects, it would be as serious as walking into the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle & pushing the ark of the Covenant to the ground, replacing it with a pagan idol

***PRINCIPLE 3 – BEWARE OF FLAGRANT LYING***

*Notice* what happened to Ananias & Sapphira in the New Testament. Satan causes them to lie to the Holy Sprit. & The consequence was death.

*Notice* what happens to Adam & Eve in the Garden. They disobey & they die a spiritual death.

*Notice* what happens to Achan. He disobeys God, & God had to pass judgement on his entire family.

***GOD CANNOT, & WILL NOT GO AGAINST HIS WORD!***

***PRINCIPLE 4 – CAN THIS KIND OF JUDGMENT HAPPEN TODAY***

1 Cor. 3:16,17 -- Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?  If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

I know of times when God has severely judged Christians who have deliberately destroyed unity in the church because of their own selfish & carnal motives. Though this may not involve death, it has been serious & painful judgment.

***PRINCIPLE 5 – ALL HAVE SIN***

God is a holy & He hates sin, but the primary lesson is that in a very real sense we are all under the ban that Moses talked & warns Israel about.

Rom. 3,23 -- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom. 3,10 -- There is none righteous, no, not one:

This is why God instituted the sacrifice in the Old Testament.

This is why He sent His Son, Jesus to die once for all for the sins of the world.

When we receive Jesus, we believe that He died for us personally. He justifies us & makes us righteous in His sight. The blood of Christ keeps on cleansing us from all sin.

CONCLUSION

There is a question all of us as Christians must ask ourselves. "AM I a believer who is willingly & deliberately living in dis-obedience?" If I am, God is displeased. He wants us to live holy & righteous lives.

Remember that if you are knowingly living in mis-obedience, if you are willingly violating God’s laws, you will be disciplined. All you can do is Acknowledge your sins & claim His forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

God may not be deal with your disobedience immediately. It doesn’t mean He never will. Don’t forget that God is patient & long-suffering. If you are a Christian, & you know there are things in your life that are not proper for a Christian, take this moment to confess your sins to Him.

Receive the forgiveness He has promised.

1John 1,9 -- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Chapter 7

*Their VICTORY CAME*

Joshua 8:1-8,19-21

When you read these scriptures, it looks as if Joshua begins to pray. He wants God’s will & way. If he doesn’t get it, they still lose the battle.

*7 – Things To Look At*:

***1) Fear not, neither be thou dismayed:***

In verse one, it says a hole lot. It is a verse to build up confidence in a group of discouraging people.

8,1 – And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: at the end of the verse "I have given."

3 - things in this verse

***1) Fear not***– to revere; cause to be frighten, made afraid, dreadful, put in fear. But God put a three letter word behind Fear. It’s not.

***2) neither be thou dismayed*** – so don’t be discouraged, go down scare nor terrify. Don’t be confusion by fear

***3) I have given*** – bestow, bring forth. Remember this. You can’t give it away if you don’t own it. The battle hasn’t started yet, & God is saying, I’m going to bestow this on you. I’ll bring this forth.

***2) Take all the people of war***

8,1 – take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai:

Remember in Joshua 7, when the spies say don’t worry the people on take 3 or 4,000 men. That wasn’t God’s plan. At the end of the day in verse 25 12,000 were killed that day.

***3) I’ve given you the king of Ai, his people, his city, & his land***

8,1 – I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:

Victory you had yesterday, you can have today, or defeat you had yesterday, you can have today.

***4) You see obedience, in the battle***

Joshua put the men in place. Had a spear in his hand to rise up at the right time. They burnt the city.

***5) You see Victory***

8:19,21,22 – they entered into the city, and took it,

And slew the men of Ai.

So that they let none of them remain or escape.

But you don’t read of any of the men of Israel dying that day. The ANOINTING WAS BACK!

***6) You see blessings***

8:2,27 – And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves:

Only the cattle and the spoil of that city Israel took for a prey unto themselves,

Why was it that God didn’t allow Israel to keep anything for themselves at Jericho, but can at Ai?

***7) the most important – YOU SEE FORGIVENESS***

Chapter 8

CAUGHT OFF GUARD

Joshua 9:3-27

Joshua 9:1-3 -- And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof; That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord.  And when the inhabitants of Gibeon *(gib-e-n)*heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai,

If you’re like I am, the times when you are most vulnerable to making errors in judgment come at moments when you least expect them to happen. But we have to know, if we let our guard down at all, Satan will surely find the rattle in our armor, & he will rattle us.

Satan is a subtle enemy. If he cannot reach his alluring goals by causing us to disobey the Word of God, on occasions he will appear as an *"angel of light"*& actually use God’s truth to trip us. That is why we need to know the WORD!

He did it to Adam & Eve & it was irreversible.

He did this to Joshua & this decision was irreversible.

Joshua had faced the defeat at Ai with unusual courage.

He had dealt with Achan’s sin.

He had built an altar to the Lord & offered burnt offerings,

& Peace offerings to the Lord.

All Israel had acknowledged God & worshiped Him as their protector & provider.

After listening to God & having Victory at Ai, Joshua took time to reviewed the law of God for all Israel. He took them back to the basics. He carefully copied on stones everything God had revealed to Moses. He then read the law in the presence of all Israel.

Everything seemed to be in order for Joshua & Israel to move forward victoriously. They learned their lesson; *"if they obeyed God in all things, they would never repeat their Ai Experience."*

MEANWHILE, THROUGHOUT CANAAN

While Israel was worshiping the Lord & reviewing God’s laws, the kings of Canaan rallied to form an alliance against God’s people.*{while you worship Jesus, the devil will not stop plaining an attack on you}*Knowing that Ai had at first succeeded in beating Israel once may have given them a ray of hope. They just didn’t understand the supernatural factors at work in both Israel’s defeat nor their victory.

From a human perspective, their thinking-made sense, since Ai had defeated Israel once when Joshua had initially sent a small band of men. BUT from God’s perspective, it made no sense at all.

Not Everyone Agreed

Among those represented in this summit meeting were men from Gibeon *(gib-e-n)*who were called Hivites. Gibeon was one of the largest cities in Canaan. The people of Gibeon didn’t have a king, but their city was just as respected as any other city in Canaan. It was a great city, like one of the royal cities. It was greater than Ai, & all its men were mighty.

All of the kings who gathered to form this military alliance agreed that they would stick together in their fight against Joshua & Israel. The Gibeonites decided on another course of action. They listened the kings discuss Israel’s victory over Jericho & Ai, they came to a different conclusion. Rather than join in the military alliance against Israel, they decided they would come up with a strategy to make peace, & not war.

THE SHREWD STRATEGY

The Gibeonites were smart, & shrewd. They knew they could never defeat Israel in war, no matter how many men the alliance could muster up. They understood that Israel’s military resources were supernatural.

They knew they couldn’t beat Israel, so the set a strategy to deceive them. Yet if they had forsaken their gods & follow the True God, the Lord would have withdrawn His hand of judgment, even if they were Canaanites, God did for Rahab & her household, & He would have for the Gibeonites.

A Brilliant Maneuver

Verse 4-6 -- They did work wilily, *(wil-ly)*and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy.  And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us. Or a covenant with us.

The Gibeonites deceived Israel by giving the impression that they had come from a far country, outside the land of Canaan.

They put on shabby clothes & sandals that appeared to be worn out from a long journey.

They took wore out sacks & put them on their donkeys, & Wineskins, wore out & torn & mended. & All the bread of their provision was dry & had become crumbled. & They came from afar, BUT only travel about 10 - 20 miles.

From a human point of view, this was a brilliant strategy. It reveals that the Gibeonite leaders had a thorough knowledge of God’s instructions to Israel long before they ever entered the land of Canaan. They actually used this knowledge to deceive Israel.

What was the Knowledge? All Canaanites were to be destroyed or driven out according to what Moses said in Exodus 23:31-33

PROVISION FOR PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF CANAAN

Deut. 20:10-12 -- "When you go near a city to fight against it, then proclaim an offer of peace to it. "And it shall be that if they accept your offer of peace, and open to you, then all the people who are found in it shall be placed under tribute to you, and serve you.  "Now if the city will not make peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

The Gibeonites knew what God has said to Israel. That no city in Canaan was to be spared. But they also know that God had made provisions to spare cities outside to Canaan. Moses made this clear. & Joshua reviewed it with Israel.

This is why they wanted to appear as if they had come from a "far country." They also knew they had to make the first move. They didn’t have the option to wait for Israel to approach them since they where Canaanite’s & had already come under God’s judgment. Their solution was to try to convince Israel that they had come from a distant place outside the land of Canaan.

They had a perfect plan.

They volunteered to be servants.

They avoided any reference to Canaanite cities.

They gave know impressions they knew the land.

Their clothes & their provisions were wore out.

Their wineskins were worn out.

Their food was old from traveling.

& The most impressive & deceptive, they acknowledged the God of Israel, & knew what He said.

CAUGHT OFF GUARD

Verse 14,15 – But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.  Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations.

The Strategy worked. Joshua was caught off guard. Impressed with all the evidence, he made peace with them & made a covenant with them.

C.S.I. IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT. They will tell you to get back to the evidence. The evidence will always be truthful. BUT YOU CANNOT ALWAYS BELIEVE THE EVIDENCE! *My step Dad said – Never believe what you hear, & only half of what you see*. THE EVIDENCE MAY BE WRONG.

But Joshua made his decision without seeking the counsel of the Lord. ANOTHER MESS! He responded too quickly. He was convinced that these people were telling him the truth. He was deceived.

A Great Strength – A Great Weakness

How could this happen? The facts are it can happen to anyone, especially to a man like Joshua. Though he was a great leader, his greatest strength became a great weakness. He found it easy to trust people. Because he was an honest man with pure motives, he viewed others as with pure motives.

Joshua was even acting as God had said he should in circumstances such as this seemed to be. The problem was that he was lied to. The circumstances were not as Joshua thought. He misapplied the Scriptures. Yet he didn’t have all the facts.

Does, this mean God doesn’t want us to trust others? Not at all! But Joshua’s experience teaches us to be cautious, since things are not always as they appear.

TWO WRONGS DON’T MAKE A RIGHT

It took only three days for Joshua to discover his mistake.

Verse 16 – And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them.

In order to make sure what they had heard was not a rumor, & to save face, so a group made the three-day journey to Gibeon, & they discovered something embarrassing.

It Was Know Rumor

Joshua had been deceived, along with a number of other men in Israel. & It was a decision they could not reverse. They had made a covenant with them in the name of *"The Lord, the God of Israel."*Even though Joshua’s mistake was based on false information, it was a decision that involved God.

HIS NAME & HIS REPUTATION WAS AT STAKE, NOT JOSHUAS!

If the Children of Israel had broken their oath with the Gibeonites, they would have brought the name of the God of Israel into contempt among the Canaanites.

What Was Joshua To Do?

He had violated the will of God by making a covenant with the Gibeonites. When he discovered his mistake, he took action. He immediately demanded an explanation! BUT THEY HAD ONE! THE DEVIL ALWAYS HAS ONE.

When Joshua discovered what had happened, he knew he couldn’t reverse his decision. He could do only one thing – honor what Moses said: So he did.

verse 23 – "Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves; woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

Now Look At the Answer To His Decision

verse 25 – And now, behold, we are in thine hand: as it seemeth good and right unto thee to do unto us, do.

The Gibeonites were actually pleased with Joshua’s decision. They would rather serve Israel & live than fight Israel & die.

CHECK THIS OUT

According to Joshua 10:3,4 – Israel was called upon to honor the covenant with the Gibeonites soon after the agreement had been made. Five kings of the Amorites, angered & threatened by the Gibeonite strategy, decided to attack the Gibeonite cities.

The Gibeonites quickly sent word to Joshua asking for help. & Israel, because these people were now their servants, acted immediately & with God’s blessings.

YET THIS TIME Joshua sought the Lord’s direction.

Joshua 10,8 – And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

*IN CLOSING*:

ALWAYS REMEMBER NUMBERS 32,23 – and be sure your sin will find you out.

Chapter 9

GOD WILL NOT FORGET YOU

Joshua 14:6-15

I want to start off by reading 3 verses.

Joshua 14:6,9,12 -- 6 Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.  9 "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'  12 "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day;

A difficult thing for many people is to be faithful when we’re not in a prominent position. Somehow we function better when others know how well we’re doing. This is a natural tendency for men. But the true test of our commitment to Jesus is how well we function when we have to operate behind the scenes, even making it possible for someone else to be in the limelight.

Caleb illustrates this kind of commitment as no other Bible characters. The Bible says little about Caleb with the comparing of Joshua, what is written reflects a man who was Joshua’s spiritual equal. In fact, at some respects he excelled Joshua as a leader. But once God appointed Joshua as Moses’ successor, Caleb stood quietly beside Joshua, often behind the scenes doing God’s will in supporting the Lord’s chosen leader of Israel.

GOD’S FUTURE PLAN

Once the land was divided among the tribes, each individual tribe was responsible for completing the task. With a few exceptions, Israel had been faithful to God & they were now entitled to their inheritance. If they continued to obey the Lord, little by little they would be able to possess all the land God had promised them.

*Caleb walks on the Stage*

At this point in the history of Israel, we once again encounter Caleb. He was 85 years old, & though he had faithfully & patiently served God in Joshua’s shadow, his memory had not faded nor had his physical abilities diminished. He remembered a promise God had made to him 45 years earlier & he knew this was the day to refresh Joshua’s memory.

verse 6 – "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.

45 years earlier, long before Israel entered Canaan, God issued an order to Moses to send 12 spies into the land, a man for each tribe. Caleb was one of those men, representing the tribe of Judah.

When the spies completed their task & returned to the camp of Israel, 10 spies brought back a negative report. They did acknowledge that the land flowed "with milk & honey," they also reported it was a land filled with fortified cities & strong warriors.

*HERE IS WHAT THEY REPORTED*– *"we are not able to go up against the people. They are too strong for us."*With this report, fear begot fear & this negative report scared the children of Israel.

CALEB MADE A STAND

Caleb disagrees with the majority report. With great boldness & confidence in God’s promises he quieted the people before Moses, & shouted for all to hear.

Num. 13:30 – And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

At this moment, Joshua was silent. He agreed with Caleb, but remained in the background. Caleb was the spokesman! At this point Caleb was courageous, bolder & more willing to face threatening situations head-on.

I WONDER HOW CALEB FELT, AS JOSHUA LEAD THE PEOPLE?

& I WONDER HOW JOSHUA WHEN LEADING THE LEADING THE PEOPLE?

Joshua apparently drew strength from Caleb’s courageous behavior. When the fear generated by the spies evolved into anger & rebellion against Moses, Joshua took a stand with Caleb & challenged Israel to claim God’s promises & then to act on those promises.

Joshua, & Caleb tore their clothes, & cried out:

Num. 14:8,9 -- If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.  Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

DELIGHT – to be pleased with, have pleasure with.

***A QUESTION***: If the LORD delight in us, then. How do you know if the Lord delights in us as a church?

In this verse it says – *If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.*

***A QUESTION***: if the Lord is pleased with us as a church, what will He give unto us?

***A THIRD QUESTION***: why did these two men say – and the LORD is with us: fear them not. HOW DOES THAT APPLY WITH US TODAY?

GOD GAVE A PROMISE TO A MAN

Num. 14:22-24 -- Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

God was honoring Caleb for his initial courage & boldness. Joshua’s time would come, but at this moment, God wanted all to know He would not forget Caleb. He was going to give him a special inheritance because he had followed the Lord fully.

When God instructed Joshua to divide the land among the tribes, Caleb stepped out of the shadows & walked onto God’s blessings. He had waited 45 years for this moment. He remembered God’s promise. & CALEB REMINDED JOSHUA!

CALEB’S REQUEST

At the age of 85 & after supporting Joshua for 7 war-filled years, he boldly asked for the "Hill Country about which the Lord spoke on that day. This specific request confirms the Lord had spelled out clearly He would give Caleb a special place in Canaan because of his faithfulness.

Why was this piece of land so important to Caleb? This was the exact area Caleb spied out years before. Though it was strongly fortified & heavily populated by men of great size, God promised Caleb he would be able to defeat his enemies, even in his old age. Caleb was as confident with God’s promises.

Principles to Live by

*Five very significant principles regarding Caleb’s life*

**Principle 1) God honors men who walks in His will!**

How many of us has missed God at different times.

***Principle 2) God honors men who take a stand against the majority when the majority is wrong.***

***Principle 3) God honors men who take a stand for Him even though it means rejection by a group.***

This may come in the near future.

***Principle 4) God honors men who faithfully follow Him.***

Even though your promise has not been fulfilled, you still have to follow God, for you don’t know if that promise will be fulfill to today or tomorrow.

***Principle 5) God will not forget men who serve Him faithfully & consistently.***

It may take 45 years for God to lined up everything. But if He gives you a promise, then wait on Him to line it up.

CONCLUSION:

Josh. 23:1,2 -- And it came to pass a long time after that the LORD had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old and stricken in age.  And Joshua called for all Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old and stricken in age:

Joshua was old in years. He gathered Israel’s leaders together to share with them the burden that lay on his heart. He had completed his earthly task. He had led Israel into the Promised Land. In seven exciting years, they had defeated the Canaanite’s to the place of not worrying about any other military threat & resistance.

*Joshua has some final words for his people.*

3a. ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto all these nations because of you;

3b. for the LORD your God is he that hath fought for you.

5a. And the LORD your God, he shall expel *(drive out)*them from before you,

5b. ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you.

8 cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.

9 For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong:

10 for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

11 Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

A SERIOUS WARNING

Following this series of reminders, it was no one but the Lord God of Israel who had given them the land of Canaan, Joshua made his final point with equal clarity:

Josh. 1:12,13 -- Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

Joshua’s first perspective reminded Israel that it was the Lord Their God who brought them into the land & gave them victory after victory. It was because of their love for Him & their obedience to His laws that the Lord kept His promises to them. He had been faithful to them because of their faithfulness to Him.

But should they forsake the Lord & begin to worship false gods, they would suffer the consequences, losing all they had gained.

In Verse 16 – then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

ONE MORE THING

Josh. 24:

3. I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

5. I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out.

6. I brought your fathers out of Egypt:

8. I brought you into the land of the Amorites, and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you.

10. I would not hearken unto Balaam; so I delivered you out of his hand.

11. I delivered them *{The Canaanite’s}*into your hand.

12. I sent the hornet before you, which drave them out from before you,

13. I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

***IF GOD DID THIS FOR THEM, WHAT WILL GOD DO FOR US.***