

Joshua Generation, Part 1

Canaan (the “promised land”) – we must make the proper analogy. This is NOT a type of Heaven – there are giants, walls, enemies, battles to fight!

Israel is in the same place that we stand today – on the threshold of a new experience, on the way to a new level of living. They are a new generation, holding an old promise that has never yet been possessed!

Joshua 1:2-3 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

DARAK (“tread”) – “Take up your weapons and fight!” – command still used with Israeli army today – “every place that you FIGHT FOR, I will give you”

THEY ARE ABOUT TO TRANSITION INTO A BRAND NEW EXPERIENCE!

Joshua 3:3-5 And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore. And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

TRANSITIONS are difficult, but transitions are necessary if we are to be all that God has called us to be. The people of Israel have been landless for nearly five hundred years, and now God says – “Take the land.” It is YOUR Promised Land. And it is at this point in their history that God begins to transition His people from a nomadic culture and a slavery complex to a nation of conquering warriors. Wandering and bondage have been in their DNA for five centuries – that is all they have ever known.

But you can't act like wanderers and think like slaves and function like conquerors at the same time!

God is not transitioning them (or us!) to a place where there are no more battles, but to a place where the battles are more STRATEGIC – and therefore the results are more SIGNIFICANT, influential and eternal.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

GOD WANTS TO DO A NEW THING IN OUR MIDST!

Luke 5:37-39 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

If you put new wine into an old wineskin, it will burst because it's too dry to stretch as the wine matures. New wine must be put into FRESH wineskins. That's what salvation does for us – but that's also what needs to happen when God wants to do a NEW THING in His church. We need to have our wineskins renewed.

We can experience RE-vival, RE-newal, RE-storation, when God brings us back to something we had before. That's wonderful. But there are seasons when God wants to not only restore us, but transform us. When He is finished, we won't feel or look the same. We'll be radically different and ready for more Holy Ghost wine! We'll experience a new level in God that we've never experienced before.

Some people don't want new wine because it makes their old wineskin uncomfortable. They say, “Why push? I'm content with the old wine.” But they don't realize that their old wineskins are dry and empty. God is ready to do a new thing – are we ready to receive it?

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

WE CAN LEARN AN IMPORTANT LESSON ABOUT “SPIRITUAL TRANSITION” FROM EVERY CONQUEST IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

Joshua 6:15-16 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

JERICHO:

- They have been here before (last six days)
- They have done this before (marched around the walls)
- Today (the seventh day) they do the same thing in the same place, but they increase their INTENSITY – that seems ridiculous!
- And they add a conqueror's SHOUT – before the conquest!

QUESTION: Are you going to believe what you SEE, or what God SAYS?

Joshua was ready to believe what God SAID. He had been one of the original twelve spies sent into the Promised Land forty years earlier, when only he and Caleb were ready and willing to possess God's promise. And he had seen God's people wander in the wilderness for almost a half century while they should have been living in Canaan!

Joshua 6:5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

The Jews used two different kinds of trumpets, those made of silver and those made of RAM'S HORNS. The silver trumpets were used especially by the priests to signal the camp when something important was happening (such as declaring war), but the ram's horns were used primarily for CELEBRATIONS. The common Hebrew word for "trumpet" is SHOFAR; for "ram's horn," it is JOBEL, which is the root of the word jubilee. The "Year of Jubilee" was the 50th year, and it was a special time of celebration in Israel.

Leviticus 25:9-10 Then shalt thou cause the **trumpet of the jubile** to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and **proclaim liberty throughout all the land** unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and **ye shall return every man unto his possession**, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

The priests didn't use the silver trumpets at the conquest of Jericho. Why? Because Israel was not declaring war on Jericho, for there was no war! The Jews were announcing the arrival of the "Year of Jubilee" for Israel in their new land. They celebrated BEFORE there was something to celebrate!

Romans 8:37-39 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's people don't simply fight **FOR victory** but **FROM victory**, because the Lord has already won the battle! We are VICTORS, not VICTIMS!

EVERYTHING HAS BEEN DONE! THE BATTLE IS ALREADY WON!
Jesus Christ has already risen into the place of spiritual authority, and He has shared that spiritual authority with us!

Ephesians 1:17-22 ¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰ **Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,** ²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²² **And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,** ²³ **Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

And just in case you didn't get it there ...

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, **and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST'S BODY, THE DEVIL IS UNDER YOUR FEET!

In 2 Corinthians, Paul draws a parallel to Moses' experience in talking to God on Mount Sinai. When he came down from the mountain and faced the people, he put a veil over his face – but he removed the veil when he turned to face the Lord. Paul says that happens to us – when we turn away from the opinions of men and look at the Lord, everything becomes clear!

2 Corinthians 3:16-17 Nevertheless when it shall **turn** to the Lord, the **veil** shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty**.

TURN your attitude around! You are not fighting and praying FOR victory, you are fighting and praying FROM victory.

LET THE VAIL DOWN – LET THE PRAISE GO UP!

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