

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*

5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**Joshua - Lesson 15
Multiplying the troops**

return pages 6 & 7

By now you are beginning to understand that the goals of the book of Joshua are to show us the spiritual mind versus the carnal mind and that the promises of God are inherited by faith, keeping in mind that faith without works is dead. Declarations that you believe in God are empty without the proof to yourself and others of that belief. And no, we are not saying that you need works to be saved or to stay saved, but by doing the works, you are showing to yourself, others and God that your belief is real.

Look at Abram. God told him that he was going to have a child even though he was old, 99 in fact, and his wife, 90. What did Abram do? He laughed at what God said. Put yourself in the camp of Abram along with all his servants. Can you hear the conversations around the dinner table and among the men and women working during the day? *"Did you hear what happen to Abram? Come on, Sarai is going to have a child at the age of 90?"*

What were Abram and Sarai's thoughts? Sarai was more than likely chatting with her girlfriends and went back to Abram reporting about all the murmuring in camp regarding what God had said...then Abram came up with his own idea, thinking that God needed his intervention to accomplish God's promise. While Abram impatiently waited on God, Why? Abram did not really believe God, nor did Sarai or the people that lived around Abram. Abram did history's stupidest act that has ended in the death of millions over the years (Genesis 16:3-4). When Abram fell on his face and believed God (Genesis 17:3) that is when God changed his name to Abraham. Isaac was eventually born, exactly how God how said, from Sarah his wife (Genesis 21:3-8).

Later in Abraham's life, God told him to sacrifice Isaac up on a mountain. In obedience to God, Abraham travelled up the mountain with Isaac, two of his servants, and all the materials necessary to build and altar with fire. His intent was to kill and burn his only son. (Genesis 22)

Prior to this commission, Abraham had believed God in his head, but not really in his heart. This time, however, he took God at His word and followed through on what God told him to do. The servants that went with Abraham saw his faith through his willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God. At this point Abraham really did believe God. God saw that Abraham's heart had changed to trust in Him. (Romans 4:3)

Genesis 12:1-8. Strangely enough, we are in the place where God's dealing with a nation began. *Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I*

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will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So Abram departed... Verse 6. And Abram passed through the land... Verse 7. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him. 8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

Do you know where Joshua built the altar in Joshua chapter 8? In the same spot where Abram built his altar in the Promised Land. God told Abram, "I am going to give you this land and your children after you." (Genesis 12) Abram built an altar there and worshipped the Lord. Then hundreds of years later, the children of Israel are in the land, claiming victories over their enemies, occupying and possessing that land; and Joshua builds an altar on that same spot.

Now on that altar, he's going to write the law that God gave to Moses. Do you know what the book of Galatians says? It says the law that came four hundred and thirty years after the promise did not disannul the promise, and it did not supersede the promise (Galatians 3:17). The land was theirs by the grace of God. Obedience to the law allowed them the blessing of enjoying the land.

Let us look at the construction of the altar. Joshua 8:31 and Deuteronomy 27:1-3 tell us that he is building this altar according to word of God. Joshua is building an altar in accordance with the guidelines in Deuteronomy, and – he's writing the scripture upon that altar, just as God had told him to do.

The children of Israel are in the land, worshipping God, offering sacrifices, rejoicing in the Lord according to the word of the Lord. They are doing in Joshua **exactly** what they were told to do in Deuteronomy 27:4-8, in the very place God first received worship from Abram in the land of promise!

Deuteronomy 27:9-10. There is a pattern here and it is to be followed in the things of God. You first become the people of God, and **then** you keep the commandments of God. You never become the people of God by keeping the commandments of God

In this New Testament age, I do not become a child of God by keeping His commandments, only by God's grace through Jesus' faith (Galatians 3:22). Therefore I now seek to keep the commandments of God, not because it is required, but because He has made me His child, and I want to. He instructs me and commands me to live according to those commands so that

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I can enjoy the Christian life. Israel had the land; they couldn't enjoy the land unless they obeyed the law! I'm part of the body of Christ, but I will not enjoy it unless I **obey** the word of the Lord!

Joshua 9:1 *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.* What do you mean "heard thereof?" The Children of Israel have just crossed over Jordan, a million people shouting and rejoicing in response to hearing the law of the Lord! Their voices are echoing all through the land, "Amen... Hallelujah... Praise the Lord!" The Bible says that the kings of that region were a bit shaken because they had heard about what happened in Jericho when this bunch began shouting.

When they heard thereof. 2 *That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord.* We have viewed the progression of the nation of Israel as people traveling from the carnal mind to the wilderness and the spiritual mind to the Promised Land. They have begun to enjoy the word of the Lord. They are seeing victories in their life, as they worship God. They are receiving fulfillment of God's promises, seeing enemies and obstacles fall before them. And look what happens - All their enemies begin to unite to try and stop their progress and destroy them right where they stand. Correct?

This is what could happen in our own spiritual life, if we are not careful. Battling the carnal mind is a minute by minute battle; we are at war with our flesh always. It is important that we stay committed and diligent, or we will get discouraged. God has identified some sin, habit, vice or some practice in your life through the course of these last two or three months; and you have sincerely gone to God in prayer and dealt with that thing and are rejoicing that God has begun to give you victory. It may be over smoking, your temper, unforgiveness, lack of witnessing, or whatever it might be.

Your flesh does not want to lose control. The carnal mind is enmity against the law of God. It is not subject to God's word (Romans 8:7). Do you know what that means? That means that all the other sin problems in your life are going to start rallying together and say, "*We can't allow this! "Why if he/she keeps this up"*" Then the devil turns up the heat by increasing temptations and plotting more pits for you to fall into. He does this because he certainly cannot allow you to start possessing, claiming and enjoying the promises of God in your life. One victory is not going to give you the whole land. One victory may just raise up a united opposition like you haven't met yet. This is why people get discouraged in their Christian life; they whip one sin and think the rest of is going to be easy. Not so. In fact, if you are just

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coasting along in your walk with God, you may think all is well, but actually the flesh is in control. It is important that we stay committed and diligent, or we will get discouraged.

Ask God to put His finger on a sin in your life, and then deal with it. As long as the spirit is not fighting, the flesh is resting because it has a foothold in you. But once you say, "We're going to take Jericho (lying) or Ai (bad temper).... *Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Let's build an altar! Let's worship God! Let's rejoice! Let's shout!*" all those other sins in your life hear about that. Then the devil says, "Come on, guys, we got a fight. We've got to stop this desire of righteous living. They're about to replace TV with Bible study, and going to the lake with going to church. The day or time you say, "I am going to do something spiritual," is the day your flesh will make war with you to distract you from doing Godly things.

Joshua 9: Verse 3. *And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, 4 They did work wilily* (Say that word about 5-6 times, and they will label you as charismatic.) *They did work wilily*, God warns us against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11). We all know that killing, raping, lying, and stealing are not of God. The devil is too smart to try and tempt you with those sins. Instead he's going to try and get you involved in some carnal thought, activity or the sin that so easily besets you (Hebrews 12:1) so you will take your mind off the Lord, His Bible, and souls going to hell. The devil will try anything to get you off track (Read Joshua 9:4-15). In this section Israel is deceived into making an alliance with the Hivites. The Hivites are a people that God had condemned to extinction. (Exodus 23:28, 32-33) *And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.* Verse 32. *Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. 33 They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.* They are Canaanites who were cursed by God all the way back in Genesis 9:20-27. They are Hivites in particular. God said, "If you make a covenant with them, instead of destroying them or if you try to co-exist with them, they will cause you to sin." As a young Christian, my desire was to serve to the Lord earnestly, but I still enjoyed going to the football games and watching basketball on TV. Here's what I found out about myself - those entertaining activities were drawing my mind away from the things of God with the cheerleaders, beer vendors the smell of cigarettes, the sometimes vulgar sounds from the fans and the commercials on TV. Sports are not sin, but the devil will use anything to distract your heart away from the things of God. I must look at those things that have occupied my life as natural man (unsaved) and see if I am occupied with those same things as a saved man.

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If so, I am carnal and not living for the Lord, and I should not be making a covenant with those things. I have to mortify them (Colossians 3:5). If we try to try to peacefully coexist with those old carnal things, they will cause us to sin. A person who calls him/herself a Christian, and has the same activities or entertainment they did before they were a Christian is either NOT a Christian, or a very carnal Christian who will eventually be taken out by God, because they are an embarrassment to Him. (Romans 6:16).

Let's look at a few verses that clarify what we are talking about - (Colossians 3:5-10; Romans 7:23; Romans 6:13-19; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:22. Crucify the old man (Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20.) Reckon yourselves dead indeed unto sin (Romans 6:11). The spiritual man and the carnal man cannot peaceably co-exist, If you try, you will be a miserable, complaining and grumbling Christian who lacks joy. Eventually you will become the person you really want to be (Romans 6:16).

A good starting place is to do a little house cleaning and throw all that old life stuff away. Throw away those old books, music, games, entertainment, beverages, relationships, and everything that could remind you of the "good ole days." And no, you cannot keep it around so you can sell it, or give it away, because if you do, it will stick you right back into to its devilment. The devil has a whole lot of experience in doing what he does best; he will deceive you. Something I tell the inmates who are about to be released is this: *"You need to take a stand or you will fall. Tell people you see that you are getting right with the Lord. Take off the excessive jewelry, cover up the tattoos, get a haircut (if you need one), and start dressing like a Christian, and you might start acting like one."*

We are at war with ourselves, so we must put some pressure on ourselves. How? Attach some Bible verses to your car. Wear a "Jesus Saves" shirt when you go to the store. Keep your feet going in the right direction, and do not be surprised when someone says, *"What are you – some kind of fanatic?"* I'm no more fanatical than Budweiser – they think they are the "King of Beers." Well I want people to know Jesus the King of Kings" (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:16).!

We need to get serious about serving God. We hope this Bible study in the book of Joshua is helping you. We are not yet sitting at the feet of Jesus, so there is still a lot of land to conquer. Some of our enemies are sneaking around our defenses, trying to pretend that they are our friends. Our flesh means us harm, (Galatians 5:16-17).

Notes

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Name _____

(*) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with an answer in your own words.

1. What happens with your flesh when you think that you have conquered a sin in your life?*

2. Why doesn't being born again make you a righteous person instantly?*

3. When will the devil give you a break?

4. Why should a born again person separate themselves from the activities that the unsaved world participate in?

5. How did Abraham know how to worship the Lord?

6. How do works show that your belief is authentic?*

7. Where did Joshua build an altar when they crossed over the Jordan River?

8. Explain these two terms (use the back of page 7 if necessary)
 - a. Kingdom of Heaven*

 - b. Kingdom of God*

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9. Which Kingdom was Joshua a part of?*

10. Define wilily.*

11. How did Joshua know how to build the altar in Joshua 8:30?

12. There are two misinformed statements that are used by unlearned Christians, tell us why they are false.
 - a. In the Old Testament people were saved by keeping the Law.*

 - b. After the rapture of the Church, people get saved by keeping the Law.*

True/false

- Once you become a mature Christian, your walk with the Lord is a breeze.
- If you are born again and live according to the flesh, God may bring you to heaven because you are an embarrassment to Him.*
- Our greatest enemy is not the devil, it is us.*
- As a born again child of God, we need to be different from the world.



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet,
Colossians 3:5; Romans 6:13; Romans 8:6-7
Must be in KJV)

any questions?