**A Life Lived for God [The Book of Joshua] 01.01.23**

**82-Trusting God Over Chariots Part 1, Joshua 11:6**

**Joshua 11:6-9** *6And the LORD said unto Joshua, Be not afraid because of them: for to morrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel: thou shalt hough their horses, and burn their chariots with fire. 7So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Merom suddenly; and they fell upon them. 8And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them, and chased them unto great Zidon, and unto Misrephoth–maim, and unto the valley of Mizpeh eastward; and they smote them, until they left them none remaining. 9And Joshua did unto them as the LORD bade him: he houghed their horses, and burnt their chariots with fire.*

1. **God Gives Instructions for Victory** - Reference Joshua 11:6

In this personal moment, God:

1. Reassures Joshua
2. Establishes the Timeline
3. Promises the Victory
4. Removes Distractions

**A. God Reassures Joshua** *“…Be not afraid because of them:…”*

Fear has crept in. Joshua’s fear is founded in what *“could happen”.*

**Proverbs 6:18 describes these as “wicked imaginations”.**

We sometimes get caught in the …. “What if\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?” cycle, imagining the worst-case scenarios.

Remember that God wants what’s best for us and He is sovereign over all things!

**Jeremiah 29:11-13** *11For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

In the “church age” this is modeled for us in Hebrews 12:6-11

**Hebrews 12:11-13** *11Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. 12Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

**Joshua 1:5** *5There 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.*

**Hebrews 13:5-6** *5Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

**1 John 4:4** 4Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

**The victory is already assured!**

**Joshua 1:9** *9Have 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.*

**Joshua 8:1** *1And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:*

“Neither be thou dismayed” - Dismayed means shaken or distressed.

**Joshua 10:8** *8And 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.*

**B. God Establishes the Timeline** *“…for to morrow about this time…”*

God had a plan for the outcome and for the timing of that outcome.

**Will you say YES to God’s will and way?**

**Romans 8:25** *25But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.* God is longsuffering (patient) with humanity and God’s timing is always perfect. *“…thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”*

**Romans 15:4-5** *4For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. 5Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*

**Will we trust God’s timing like Joshua?**

**C. God Promises the Victory** *“…I deliver them up all slain before Israel:…”*

With God…time doesn’t function like it does for us.

**Revelation 1:8** *8I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

*John says “I saw” 36 times in the Book of Revelation.*

**God is in the past, present, and future… all at the same time.**

God has power over: Space, Matter and Time

**Isaiah 55:8-9** *8For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

**1 Corinthians 15:53-57** *53For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**D. God Removes Distractions** *“…thou shalt hough their horses, and burn their chariots with fire.”*

“Chariots” came from Egypt (the world). [First Mention - Genesis 50:9]

**Psalms 20:7** *7Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.*

**Isaiah 31:1** *1Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!*

**Will we follow God’s instructions as the Israelites will and put our trust in Him?**

**Will we trust in “Chariots” (the things of the world)?**

One will lead to victory…

the other to certain defeat…

which will we choose?

Bible Study Questions for Wednesday Night at 7PM **“Trusting God Over Chariots” (Part 1)**

Reference Text - **Joshua 11:6-9**

As the Israelites prepared to confront their most formidable opponents yet, the Lord gave Joshua important instructions, that if followed would ensure their success over the kingdoms of the North.

1. As God started His instructions to Joshua, the first thing He did was reassure him by telling him not to fear their opponents. Give four verses where God gave similar instructions about fear. Please provide two from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament.

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2. When considering the impact that fear has in your own life. Please describe the effect fear has on your faith.

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Bonus: In your personal walk with God, how do you regulate the negative impact fear can have on your faith and personal testimony?

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3. Please give a Biblical example of someone overcoming fear with faith and describe the outcome.

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4. When God told Joshua that they would be in Merom in twenty-four hours, Joshua responded by trusted God’s timeline without question. When considering God’s timing in our lives, be it immediate or delayed, why is it so difficult for some of us to trust the Lord’s timing over our own?

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5. Please give a Biblical, as well as a personal example of God’s timing being superior to our own.

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6. Please explain how God can speak of future events with absolute certainty and include at least one verse to support your argument.

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Bonus: How should your answer to question 6 impact your faith?

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7. The last thing God did in His instructions was order them to destroy the chariots they captured. Why did the Lord do this and what lesson should we learn from this part of the Lord’s instructions?

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Introspection: When considering the four elements of God’s instructions to Joshua, in which area do you struggle the most and why?