

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GOD

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PART 9: OBEDIENCE & FAITH

In the previous message we learned that the generations born to Noah and his three sons after the flood did not retain knowledge of God. There were a few people that attempted to serve God. Terah was born 209 years after the flood and his son Abram was born 279 years after the flood and was a contemporary with Job.

In order to bring forth a Redeemer for the human race, God selected a man, a specific piece of land, and a city.

- ❖ The man: Abraham
- ❖ The land: Canaan
- ❖ The city: Salem (later renamed to Jerusalem)

CLEARING THE LAND

The land of Canaan consisted of a number of sovereign city states, each with their own king. God told Abraham that his offspring would not come back to the land of Canaan until the sins of the inhabitants had reached a level that could no longer be tolerated.

Genesis 15:15-16

Moses was born in Egypt some 460 years after the death of Abraham. When Moses was called by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land (Canaan), they were told not to mix with the people living there and learn their wicked ways. They were commanded to utterly destroy the Canaanites, tear down their altars and burn their cities. **Deuteronomy 7:1-6**

What the Israelites did in killing the Canaanites would be called genocide today. God is a God of love, but He is also a God of judgment and drowned the world's population with a flood. **Genesis 6:1-13**

God had no mercy upon Sodom and Gomorrah. **Genesis 19:12-29**

There will be a great confrontation between Jesus and the Antichrist at the second coming. Jesus won't show any mercy to the Antichrist, the False Prophet and the people who have received the Mark of the Beast. It will be the greatest genocide this earth has seen since the flood. **Revelation 19:11-21**

At the Great White Throne Judgment, God will show no mercy on the people who died without making Jesus their Lord and Saviour. **Revelation 20:10-15**

JERICHO

Joshua was ordered by the Lord to conquer Jericho even though the city was fortified with extensive walls around it. The walls were so wide that houses were built on top of them. Joshua did not have catapults or siege towers to attack the walls nor did he have the time or resources to engage in a long siege and starve the population since the other kings in Canaan would come to Jericho's defense. The logical thing would have



been to leave Jericho alone and attack the weaker city states and return later on to deal with Jericho. God wanted to show Joshua, the people of Israel and the kings of Canaan that they were dealing with a God that controlled the supernatural. He was God of the entire creation and not like the “local gods” that the people of Canaan worshiped; nothing was impossible or too difficult for Him.

MOVING INTO THE SUPERNATURAL

The Lord’s battle plan seemed insane in ordering the Israeli soldiers to march around Jericho once a day for six days. **Joshua 6:1-3**

The military officers and soldiers of Jericho must have scornfully laughed when they saw the Israelites not utter a word but walk in complete silence for six straight days. They must have thought they were fools. The defenders must have thought that the Israelites had lost their sanity on the seventh day when they marched around the city led by seven priests with trumpets of ram’s horn, followed by a group of priests carrying a wooden box (the ark). This was the final day in which they were to march around the city seven times while the priests blew their trumpets. **verse 4**

Once the seventh lap had been completed, the priests were to blow long blasts with their trumpets and the soldiers of Israel were to shout at the top of their lungs, at which time the walls would fall down flat. **verse 5**

OBEDIENCE + FAITH = VICTORY

Joshua had faith in God and so did the soldiers of Israel. The trusted Joshua even though it appeared like they were embarking on some type of insane warfare; nevertheless, they obeyed and did as they had been instructed. **verses 6-21**

The interesting thing is that archeology has shown that the walls did not fall on their sides; instead, they were pushed flat into the ground, thus the defense of the city simply ceased to exist. Liberal theologians have tried to explain it away by stating that water from the Jordan River flowed around the city walls when the Israelites crossed over and made the dirt so soft that the walls sank in the mud. If that is the case, they still cannot explain how the Jordan River stopped flowing; the water turned into a solid dam and held back the rest of the river’s water.

DEFEAT AFTER A GREAT VICTORY

Not all the people of Israel had learned the lesson of not breaking the laws and commandments of the Lord. Achan was one such man from the tribe of Judah. When he had entered Jericho with the rest of the soldiers, he could not resist taking some loot and hiding it under his tent. God did not take this act lightly and 36 Israeli soldiers died at the battle of Ai because of his disobedience. **Joshua 7:1-5**

Joshua was beside himself and could not understand why God had given them such a mighty miracle at Jericho only to see defeat by the small army of Ai. **verses 6-9**

Doubt crept into Joshua and he complained to the Lord, who rebuked him and sternly replied why the supernatural power had been turned off. **verses 10-12**

God intended to put fear into the people of Israel and demanded the guilty man be found and publicly punished. God supernaturally pointed out Achan. **verses 13-18**

Not only was Achan punished, but so were his children as they were all executed without mercy. **verses 19-26**

SUMMARY

God did not reveal His master plan for the nation of Israel to Joshua; instead, Joshua was told from day to day what to do next. He was not aware that God had a master plan since the creation of the world. Not even Satan knew what will happen next. The Devil could only react to the moves of God.

God has already revealed Satan's master plan during the end times when the Antichrist arrives on the scene. God has already announced the judgments that He will pour out on the kingdom of Satan and his followers, but God has not revealed His day-to-day battle plans involving holy angels and Christians who are on the earth at this time.

I believe that God will raise up strong Christian leadership with supernatural power to confront the antichrist system and harm it. The Bible mentions two men that will fill this role but I believe that there will be more. **Revelation 11:3-12**

Don't expect the power of God to work through you if you choose to be disobedient to the Lord!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?