There is no crown without a cross.
Anonymous

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia USA
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JOSHUA

On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they revered him throughout his life, as they had revered Moses.
Joshua 4:14

INTRODUCTION

Joshua's name means *Jehovah is salvation*. Jesus, Jehoshua, Jeshua, Hoshea, and Oshea are other forms of his name. He enters the Biblical record in Exodus 17: *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses said to him and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword* (Exodus 17:8-13).

We believe the Word is inerrant, and this incident literally happened exactly as it is recorded in the Bible. But there are also symbolic meanings in what happens in scripture. Paul writes to

the Corinthians that the things that happened to the Israelites under Moses "*happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition…*(1st Corinthians 10:11).

This is the first time the children of Israel engaged in warfare, and I believe the Lord sets the pattern for all spiritual warfare in the future.

We can easily see in this passage that Amalek, a descendent of Esau, represents the flesh nature. Moses sits on a stone. Ephesians 2:20 tells us that "*Christ Himself*" is "*the chief cornerstone.*" Peter expounds on this, saying in 1st Peter 2:6-8: *Therefore it is also contained in Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense."*

The hand, as we noted in the study of Gideon, often represents the five-fold ministry. Also in this passage, I believe it represents prayer. Hur and Aaron represent intercession and perhaps prayer and praise or faith and works. Jewish tradition says that Hur was the husband of Miriam, Moses' older sister, and Moses' brother Aaron was the High Priest. To be successful spiritually we need intercessors holding us up. We also benefit greatly from the operation of the five-fold ministry offices anointed by the Holy Spirit.

The Israelites had no experience fighting and could not have won without Moses, who in this passage, types the Holy Spirit. It is important that we all realize that we cannot overcome the flesh without the help of the Holy Spirit. The rod that Moses

holds represents the authority of God. We are not going to be successful without submitting ourselves to His authority.

Now we turn our attention to Joshua who is being prepared by God to succeed Moses. He represents the soldier who fights the warfare that we are called to do against the flesh nature and the enemies of God. The Scriptures tell us that, "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the VIOLENT take it by force." To fight is not an option for spirit-baptized believers. Andrew Strom asks us, "So why is it that so many of us are passive and nullified by a kind of 'fatalism' that declares 'Whatever will be will be?' That is not true Christianity. True Christianity has always been WAR and battle for the souls of men."

Joshua was well-trained by his submission to Moses. He waited at the foot of the mountain for Moses to come down with the ten commandments, though he was gone for 40 days. He was not in the camp where the people were making the golden calf but camping on the side of the mountain waiting for Moses. Could you imagine patiently waiting on a man who had gone up the mountain? Forty days is a long time. Joshua could have speculated that Moses had slipped and fallen to his death or been eaten by wild beast or had a heart attack and died. His faith, however, was strong, and he knew his "pastor" would return, no matter how many days it took. Later Joshua stayed in the tabernacle which was placed outside the camp, even after Moses left the tabernacle and returned to the camp.

Moses Rose Up, And His Minister Joshua

(Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers)

"The close connection of Joshua with Moses is here, for the first time, indicated. His employment as a general against Amalek (Exodus 17:9-13) might have simply marked his military capacity; but from this point in the history it becomes apparent that he was Moses' most trusted friend and assistant in all matters where there was need of confidential relations between the leader and his subordinates, and thus that he was to be his successor (see Exodus 32:17; Exodus 33:11; Numbers 13:8; Numbers 13:16; Numbers 27:18-23; Deuteronomy 34:9), since no other person stood in any such close association."

For 40 years, Joshua had the opportunity to observe Moses' leadership style and to learn from Moses' successes and failures.

JOSHUA: A TYPE OF ENDTIME WARRIOR

As a Son: Joshua, whose name means *Jehovah is Salvation*, was the son of Nun, and of the tribe of Ephraim. There is no doubt that Joshua's parents feared God, that he was an obedient son, and that he continued in the godly ways of his parents.

As a Slave: Joshua was born during the years that the Pharaoh of Egypt held God's people in bondage. He knew what it was to suffer and to be given almost impossible tasks to complete. He completely gave himself over to be used by the Lord. Are you willing to be a bond slave for Jesus Christ? If not, you will never be part of the Remnant Company of the Last Days. The Book of Revelation was written to the bond-slaves of Jesus Christ. Paul and Timothy (Philippines 1:1), James, the Lord's half brother

(Matt 13:55; Mark 6:3, Gal 1:19) (James 1:1), Jude, also a half-brother of Jesus (Jude 1:1), John the Apostle (Revelation 1:1, and Simon Peter (2nd Peter 1:1) identified themselves as bond-slaves to Christ. [The old King James translates bond-slave as servant, but the New King James usually gets the translation right and uses the term *bond servant*.] The term used in the Greek is *doulos*. This is the most servile term in the New Testament. A bond-slave was one that had been freed but chose to stay with their master. These men surrendered all their rights and loved their Master so much that they were devoted to Him to the total disregard of their own interests. They had no rights and were bond to the Master unto death.

Bond-slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eye- service, as men-pleasers, but as bond-slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.
Ephesians 6:5-6

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life, which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.
1st Timothy 6:1

As a Soldier: Joshua was gifted as a military strategist. In fact generals throughout the ages have studies his military strategies. Yet through his leadership in 3 major military campaigns involving over 30 enemy armies, Joshua taught the Israelites a simple lesson: "*Victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word*, *rather through military might or numerical superiority!*"

Paul writes to Timothy during a major crisis in the early church, when members were dropping off like flies because of the fear of persecution by the Romans for being a Christian: *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules* (2nd Timothy 2:1-5.*)*. These words penned by the Apostle Paul hundreds of years after Joshua, reflect the philosophy of Joshua as the military leader of the earliest Israeli army.

Joshua fought many battles, but I will highlight only two: Jericho and Ai. First, we all know of the battle of Jericho. For many years scientists said that the Bible account of how Jericho fell was impossible. In more recent years, however, archaeologists have proven that the walls fell just like the Bible says.

God sent the commander of the heavenly army to meet Joshua outside the walls of Jericho to tell Joshua specific directions of how to fight this battle. Although the directions were very unusual, Joshua made sure the Israelites followed these directions precisely. Once a day for six days the Israelites were

to march around the walls of Jericho in complete silence. On the seventh day, they were to march around the walls seven times and on the seventh time around, seven priests were to blow trumpets, and all the people were to shout. When this happened, the walls fell down , and the Israelites won the victory.

God has specifically told the Israelites to take no spoils from Jericho. However, one soldier, named Achan couldn't resist and pocketed some souvenirs before he left Jericho.

The next battle was against the small town of Ai. This was considered an easy win for the Israelities. However, they were defeated at Ai, and 36 of their soldiers were killed. Joshua was embarrassed and humiliated by this loss and sought the Lord for the reason. The Lord told him that one person had taken spoils from Jericho, thus violating the Lord's instructions. Joshua investigated every family from every clan and found Achan guilty. He ordered that Achan and his entire family be executed, because Joshua took the Lord's commands so seriously. Returning to Ai, the Israelites had an ambush strategy that was laid out by God Himself, and they had a great victory.

Randy Southern in *31 Men of the Bible* says this about Joshua, "When a problem arose, Joshua addressed it immediately. When a victory was won, he gave praise to God and moved forward. He kept fighting the battles that needed to be fought until he had accomplished everything the Lord had set before him. In so doing, he set an example for all Christian leaders."

2nd Timothy 2:3-5

As One Submitted to Authority: Joshua defeated the Amalekites and was a great war hero. Yet he kept himself as a man under authority and gave unswerving loyalty and devotion to Moses and was even called the *servant of Moses* (Numbers 11:28 and Joshua 1:1).

Authority is one of the most unpopular words of our times. Everyone wants to do his own thing. I am convinced, however, that most of the problems we have are directly related to disobedience to authority. Authority is like an umbrella of protection. When we are not under authority (the umbrella), we expose ourselves to unnecessary temptations (the rain) which are too strong for us to overcome. This is why Scripture compares rebellion to witchcraft (1st Samuel 15:23).

According to Bill Gothard, the only discussion between Jesus and his parents that is recorded and happened in his childhood is a discussion, which involved authority. This discussion occurred when he was twelve. Should He follow His spiritual calling and be about His Father's business (Luke 2:49), or should He become subject to His parents and leave His ministry at the temple? He did the latter, submitting to the authority of his parents, and the following verse reports, "*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man*" (Luke 2:52).

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
Hebrews 13:17

As a Man of Faith: Joshua, along with eleven others, was selected to spy out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:1-6). It was at this time that Moses changed Joshua's name from Oshea, meaning *help*, to Joshua, meaning *God's help* or *salvation*. All the other spies, except Joshua and Caleb, came back with a negative report. They were looking at circumstances. Joshua and Caleb were believing God. All the people sided with the ten spies. The Lord was so offended by this lack of faith that He caused the 10 other spies to die of the plague, and He made the Israelites wonder in the wilderness for 40 years until all the Israelites who were 20 years old and older had died except for Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 14).

For we walk by faith, not by sight.
2nd Corinthians 5:7
For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith.
1st John 5:4
Fight the good fight of faith…
1st Timothy 6:12

As a Leader: Joshua was *called out* by the Lord Himself and named by Moses (Deuteronomy 31:14-23) to take over at the death of Moses and, Joshua, at around 85 years of age, lead the Israelites across the Jordan into the Promised Land, Canaan, where the Israelites were to go in and possess the land and slay the giants. Joshua was a strong leader. We see in Scripture what happens when there is no strong leader:

Lack of Leadership

In those days there was no king [leader] *in Israel: everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*
Judges 21:25

As One who loved the Lord: The Bible tells us that Joshua was filled with the Spirit of God (Deuteronomy 34:9), that he enjoyed the presence of God (Joshua 1:5 & 6:27), that he was indwelt by the word of God (Joshua 1:8), and that he was ever obedient to the will of God (Numbers 32:12; Joshua 5:14). Herbert Lockyer says of this saint, "*No wonder his death at 110 years of age was universally acknowledged! The brief but noble epitaph of the historian is eloquent with meaning, 'before Joshua, the servant of the Lord.' Dead, he could yet speak, for the nation continued to serve the Lord all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua.*"

If you love Me, keep My commandments.
John 14:15

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28

Nevertheless I have this against you that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place-unless you repent.
Revelation 2:4

THE JOSHUA GENERATION

There is something very significant about the generation of believers on the earth today. The last generation (which I believe ranges from young adults to those being birthed on the earth during this period we live, and the generation that is referred to in the secular media as *Millennials*) is called *the Benjamin Generation*. Herbert Lockyer tells us, "Benjamin was the last, the bravest and the best-beloved tribe of all the tribes of Israel," and reminds us that his tribe was given the Holy City, Jerusalem (Joshua 18:28). The Benjamin generation will walk in a 5-fold blessing and anointing and will be the generation that does the greater works. If this is all true about Benjamin, then I think it reasonable to think that the present generation from young adults passed college age to older believers is the Joshua Generation. This generation will come out of Egypt (the materialistic and sensuous world system, emphasizing wealth and sex); cross the Jordan, which types dying to self; slay the giants (i.e. anything such as religion, abortion, sex-trafficking, illegal drugs, pornography, sexual perversions of all kinds, and governmental systems such as communism, to name a few), and this *Benjamin* generation will enter into the promises and blessings of God, typed by Canaan, *the promised land*. Of course we will not walk in the fullness of all this until Jesus comes to set-up His millennial Kingdom on the earth. But, it is extremely important that we engage in warfare NOW, and make His enemies His footstool (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Acts 2:35, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13), and that we older

people, the Joshua generation or *baby-boomers*, sow into these younger men and women of destiny, the Benjamin Generation. I feel an urgency sometimes because I know we have a small window in which to disciple them and equip them for the epic battles of the Last Days. We will see many sons and daughters enter the Kingdom because of the evangelical work of the Benjamin Generation. Then we will understand the words of Jesus, when He says:

Then He said to them, ***"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest"*** (Luke 10:2).