



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
July/August, 2017

The Heavenly Warrior

In **Joshua 5**, God has prepared the people to begin their military campaign in Canaan. The men were circumcised, renewing the covenant with the Lord. The people ate of the fruit of the land, experiencing the promise and faithfulness of God. God proved He could handle the consequences of their obedience. They are ready for the battle! The campaign against Canaan is about to start.

For this reason, Joshua goes out and scouts Jericho. He does secret reconnaissance to see Jericho's state of affairs and to plan his strategy. I'm sure that Joshua had a great deal of concern. Jericho was a fortified city. Israel had not fought many battles. It wouldn't be easy to take. He must have sensed a huge sense of responsibility in light of what he was facing.

While he was on this reconnaissance mission, he encounters a heavenly Warrior. As he spies on Jericho, he meets a Man with His sword drawn. Who is this Man? It is none other than Jesus Christ. This is a Christophany – a preincarnate manifestation of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.

What can this text teach us today? How do we apply the truth about this heavenly Warrior to our lives today? In this text, we can see truths to help us in our

daily battles and struggles. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As He was, so He is today. In **Joshua 5:13-15**, we learn the following truths about our heavenly Warrior, Jesus Christ:

You are not alone in your battles; the heavenly Warrior is with you.

I believe that Joshua felt a heavy burden on him. He was about to lead Israel into battle against a powerful foe. Humanly speaking, it would be impossible for Israel to conquer. Yet, it was at this moment that Jesus came on the scene. Jesus, the heavenly Warrior, has come to direct the operation and to grant victory. At his moment of need, Jesus shows up to lead and fight in the battle.

This should comfort the child of God. You are not alone in your battles. You never wage war against the flesh, the forces of evil, or the world by yourself. Jesus, your heavenly Warrior, is with You. When temptations come your way, you don't have to face it alone. Your Warrior King is ready to fight with and for you. He will not fail you or forsake You. He stands ready to fight for you and to lead you in the battle. When you feel that you are alone in the battles of your life, remember

that Jesus, your heavenly Warrior, is with you.

The heavenly Warrior is ready to fight for you.

When Joshua encounters Jesus, it shows that He is ready for battle. The Word of God says, "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand" (5:13a). Jesus appears with His sword drawn. He is ready for battle!

What an encouragement to the believer! The Lord Jesus Christ is ready to go to battle. When you are in the struggles of life, remember that your Savior and Warrior is ready and willing to fight for you. He has His sword drawn ready to defend you and destroy the enemies that come against your soul. We have a King who is prepared to fight for us and with us in the battles of our lives.

You are to surrender yourself to the will of your heavenly Warrior.

Joshua immediately confronts this Man, not knowing who He is, "And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, 'Are You for us or for our adversaries?'" (5:13b). Joshua wants this Man to identify whose side He is on. Jesus leaves no doubt as to who He is, "So He said, 'No, but as the Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come'" (5:14a). Jesus didn't come to join the army

of Israel; He came to take over. He came to take control and lead the army of the Israel into all her battles.

On the one hand, this must have been a relief to Joshua. It must have brought him joy and peace. It must have given him hope. At the same time, it called for a response of total surrender, "And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and said to Him, 'What does my Lord say to His servant?'" (5:14b). His response to Jesus was total surrender. It was to yield himself totally to the heavenly Warrior. Only by surrendering to Him could Joshua and Israel experience victory.

We must have the same response today. We cannot win the battles of today in our own strength and wisdom. To have victory over sin, temptation, the devil, and the world, we must yield ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ. We must surrender to His wisdom that is found in His Word. We must confess our need of His power and trust Him to work in and for us. We must surrender our will to His will. This is the path of victory for every the child of God.

You are not to focus on your enemy but on your heavenly Warrior.

When Jesus revealed Himself to Joshua, Joshua responded by falling on his face to the ground and worshipping Jesus. His mind had been on Jericho. He had been consumed with the problems of attacking and taking Jericho. Now, His

focus is in on the Lord Jesus Christ. His eyes are fixed on his heavenly Warrior.

This reveals that we are to fix our focus on Christ, our heavenly Warrior. In the battles and problems of life, it's easy to focus on these. We can become problem-focused, enemy-focused. Once there was a man who'd never seen a railroad train, back in the days when trains were just coming into their own. He went to a little county seat town, and there was his first railroad train, a steam locomotive—he saw it. The big iron engine and its string of freight cars—he looked at it; he surveyed it. He was a cynic; he was negative; he said, “It will never move; they’ll never get that thing going.”

However, finally, the engineer sitting there in the cab started to push the lever, and the steam went down into the cylinders. Then the cylinders began to move, they began to move the wheels and the wheels started to move, and they caught hold. That train started to move slowly at first, and then it gathered speed, clickety-clack, clickety-clack. The first thing you know, it was moving down the road, and those freight cars were shooting past him, and it disappeared into distance. All he could see was the tail light on the caboose. He stood there and looked at it. Finally, he said, “They’ll never get that blamed thing stopped.”

This text calls on us to focus not on what's wrong, not on the enemy, not on the problem, but on Jesus Christ. We are to keep fixing our focus on Christ. We are to

be consumed with our heavenly Warrior and His power to lead and fight for us.

You are to worship your heavenly Warrior.

The Word of God tells us in **Joshua 5:15**, “Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, ‘Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.’ And Joshua did so.” Because of Jesus, this place had become holy ground. The only right response was to honor the Lord Jesus. Joshua needed to acknowledge the holiness of his heavenly Warrior.

This text is a call to worship and honor our heavenly Warrior. He is holy. He is powerful. He has full authority. The way to surrender to Him is by worship. The way to focus on Him is by worship. Our personal experience of victory comes through our worship of the heavenly Warrior. This is why we are to praise and honor Christ in the midst of the battles. By worshipping in the battles, we stay focused on Him and surrendered to Him. Reverence your heavenly Warrior; worship Him with all your being. He is with you with His sword drawn. Worship Him so that you will stay focused on Him and surrendered to Him.

World Prayer Plan

September

- 1-Poland-The Lost
- 2-Portugal
- 3-Puerto Rico
- 4-Qatar
- 5-Reunion
- 6-Romania-The Church
- 7-Romania-The Lost
- 8-Russia-The Church
- 9-Russia-The Lost
- 10-Russia-Mission Efforts
- 11-Russia-Freedom and Peace
- 12-Russia-Spiritual Awakening
- 13-Rwanda
- 14-Western Sahara
- 15-Samoa
- 16-San Marino
- 17-Sao Tome
- 18-Principe
- 19-Saudi Arabia-The Church
- 20-Saudi Arabia-Open Doors
- 21-Saudi Arabia-Persecution
- 22-Senegal
- 23-Seychelles
- 24-Sierra Leone
- 25-Singapore
- 26-Slovenia
- 27-Solomon Islands
- 28-Somalia
- 29-South Africa-The Church
- 30-South Africa-The Lost

October

- 1-South Africa-Political Future
- 2-Spain-The Church
- 3-Spain-The Lost
- 4-Sri Lanka
- 5-St. Helena and Ascension Island
- 6-St. Kittis and Nevis
- 7-St. Lucia
- 8-St. Pierre and Miquelon
- 9-St. Vincent

- 10-Sudan-The Church
- 11-Sudan-Persecuted Believers
- 12-Suriname
- 13-Svalbard
- 14-Swaziland
- 15-Sweden
- 16-Switzerland
- 17-Syria
- 18-Tajikstan
- 19-Tanzania-The Church
- 20-Tanzania-The Lost
- 21-Thailand-The Church
- 22-Thailand-The Lost
- 23-Togo
- 24-Tokelau Island
- 25-Tonga
- 26-Trinidad and Tobago
- 27-Tunisia
- 28-Turkey-The Church
- 29-Turkey-The Lost
- 30-Turkey-Mission Efforts
- 31-Turkmenistan

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