



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 3, 2017

FOLLOW THE VICTOR

I WAS STUDYING WITH THE TEENS LAST NIGHT IN YOUTH GROUP FROM JOSHUA CHAPTER 10. NOW, MOST KNOW THIS STORY BECAUSE OF THESE VERSES:

10:12-14 - “¹² THEN JOSHUA SPOKE TO THE LORD IN THE DAY WHEN THE LORD DELIVERED UP THE AMORITES BEFORE THE SONS OF ISRAEL, AND HE SAID IN THE SIGHT OF ISRAEL, “O SUN, STAND STILL AT GIBEON, AND O MOON IN THE VALLEY OF AJJALON.” ¹³ SO THE SUN STOOD STILL, AND THE MOON STOPPED, UNTIL THE NATION AVENGED THEMSELVES OF THEIR ENEMIES. IS IT NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF JASHAR? AND THE SUN STOPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SKY AND DID NOT HASTEN TO GO DOWN FOR ABOUT A WHOLE DAY. ¹⁴ THERE WAS NO DAY LIKE THAT BEFORE IT OR AFTER IT, WHEN THE LORD LISTENED TO THE VOICE OF A MAN; FOR THE LORD FOUGHT FOR ISRAEL.” (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION)

THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT VERSES TO THIS PASSAGE (AND TO SOME OF OUR THEOLOGY), BUT ALL THESE ARE, ARE VERSES THAT EXPLAIN THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE WITH THE AMORITES – WHICH IS WHAT WE LOVE. WHAT MOST TEND TO READ RIGHT OVER IN THIS PASSAGE HAPPENS A FEW VERSES BEFORE:

10:8-10 - “⁸ THE LORD SAID TO JOSHUA, “DO NOT FEAR THEM, FOR I HAVE GIVEN THEM INTO YOUR HANDS; NOT ONE OF THEM SHALL STAND BEFORE YOU.” ⁹ SO JOSHUA CAME UPON THEM SUDDENLY BY MARCHING ALL NIGHT FROM GILGAL. ¹⁰ AND THE LORD CONFOUNDED THEM BEFORE ISRAEL, AND HE SLEW THEM WITH A GREAT SLAUGHTER AT GIBEON, AND PURSUED THEM BY THE WAY OF THE ASCENT OF BETH-HORON AND STRUCK THEM AS FAR AS AZEKAH AND MAKKEDAH.”

IN THESE FEW VERSES WE SEE ONE COMMAND FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF VERBS.

THE COMMAND – DO NOT FEAR THEM. GOD IS BRINGING COMFORT TO JOSHUA AND THE PEOPLE, NOT THROUGH NEW REVELATION, BUT BY REAFFIRMING PROMISES ALREADY GIVEN (JOSHUA 1:5). AND THAT IS WHAT WE STILL NEED TO THIS DAY; OLD TRUTH APPLIED FRESHLY TO OUR CURRENT NEED. AND WHAT WE STILL NEED TODAY IS THAT THIS TRUTH SHOULD NOT CAUSE US TO BE COMPLACENT, BUT ENERGIZE US TO HAVE A RIGHT RESPONSE TO OUR SOVEREIGN GOD.

I HAVE “GIVEN” THEM INTO YOUR HANDS – THE WORK IS ALREADY DONE. ALL JOSHUA AND THE PEOPLE NEED TO DO IS GO TO VICTORY - BUT BY WAY OF A LONG MARCH ALL NIGHT (25 MILES UP HILL) AND AN ATTACK AT NIGHT. THIS VICTORY WASN'T DONE BY BEING STAGNATE.

THE LORD “CONFOUNDED” (ROUTED) THEM & THE LORD “SLEW” THEM - THE LORD IS THE ONE WHO TAKES CREDIT FOR DEFEATING THE AMORITES.

THE LORD “PURSUED” THEM – THE AMORITES ARE NOT FLEEING FROM JOSHUA BUT FROM THE LORD.

THE LORD “STRUCK” THEM – VERSE 11 SAYS IT WAS THE LORD WHO THREW LARGE HAIL STONES UPON THEM; THERE WERE MORE WHO DIED FROM THE STONES THAT DAY THAN BY JOSHUA'S SWORD. IT IS GOD WHO IS THE WARRIOR, NOT US. IT IS GOD WHO IS THE EL GIBBOR (GOD THE MIGHTY WARRIOR), AND IT WOULD DO THE CHURCH WELL TO REMEMBER THIS. WE DO NOT HAVE TO FIGHT THE WORLD ALONE. THE VICTORY IS ALREADY WON.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57 - . . . THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO GIVES US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

WE MAY HAVE TO MARCH UPHILL FOR 25 MILES. WE MAY HAVE TO WEAR HEAVY GEAR. WE MAY HAVE TO FIGHT AT NIGHT WHEN WE ARE TIRED. WE MAY HAVE TO GET OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE. WE MAY HAVE TO GET OVER OUR NERVES. WE MAY HAVE TO STUDY HARDER AND THEN PUT THAT STUDY INTO PRACTICE. WE MAY HAVE TO START OBEYING.

EASTER IS UPON US. LET US PRAY THAT WE WILL BE ACTIVE AND FOLLOW THE VICTOR INTO BATTLE TO SEE PEOPLE SAVED!

PASTOR ANDY