

BATTLES STRATEGIES UNDER THE NEW COVENANT

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We've been studying Biblical covenants. We know that covenant is the means and ways that GOD establishes a relationship. It is the way He defines a relationship. It is through covenant that the participants know what obligations bind them to one another.

When we understand what GOD expects from us, and we understand what GOD is obligated to do for us in our covenant relationship, then we will have entered into great faith. , Nothing will be impossible for us, because we believe GOD...

In this lesson, we will be focusing on one aspect of our New Covenant relationship-- battle strategies. We understand that the moment we entered covenant with the God of the Universe that His enemies became our enemies. His battle strategies must become our battle strategies. His ways must become our ways.

THE OLD COVENANT BATTLE STRATEGIES

Exodus 17:8-13

8 Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. **9** 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." **10** 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. **11** And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. **12** 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. **13** So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

The Amalekites were marauding nomads living in the Negev and Sinai at this time. In later times they periodically raided into Israel and also joined with other enemies in threatening to wipe Israel out.

According to Deuteronomy 25:18 as the Israelites were on their journey from Egypt, at a place called Rephidim, the Amalekites executed a sneak attack against the defenseless, weak stragglers who were lagging behind in the march from Egypt. This kind of behavior shows a heart attitude of not fearing GOD and no conscience, as murder brings divine retribution from GOD. This indicates that the Amalekites were enemies of GOD and because of covenant, they became the enemies of Israel, too. When that happened, Moses told Joshua to pick some men to execute a counter-attack on the Amalekites. These men would do the physical fighting and Moses, as GOD's representative, would do the spiritual fighting. As long as Moses had the symbol of GOD's power held high above the men in battle, they would prevail, but if he got weary and lowered the rod of GOD, the Amalekites would prevail. So, two others came along side of Moses to help him hold the rod of GOD

up over the men in battle. The rod held steady and the Amalekites were soundly defeated.

2 Kings 13:1-7; 14-19

13:1-7: In the twenty-third year of Joash^[a] the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king

over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* seventeen years. **2** And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat,

who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them.

3 Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-Hadad

the son of Hazael, all *their* days. **4** So Jehoahaz pleaded with the Lord, and the Lord listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, because the

king of Syria oppressed them. **5** Then the Lord gave Israel a deliverer, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of

Israel dwelt in their tents as before. **6** Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin, *but* walked in

them; and the wooden image^[b] also remained in Samaria. **7** For He left of the army of Jehoahaz only fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand

foot soldiers; for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing.

13:14-19 14 Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face,

and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

15 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows. **16** Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your

hand on the bow." So he put his hand *on it*, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. **17** And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened *it*. **T**

hen Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the Lord's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike

the Syrians at *Aphek* till you have destroyed *them*." **18** Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took *them*. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the

ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped. **19** And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then

you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed *it!* But now you will strike Syria *only* three times."

At this time Israel was split into Judah in the south and Israel in the north. Judah's king reigned from Jerusalem. Israel's king ruled from Samaria. This story is about Northern Israel. They had fallen into sin under King Jeroboam and were being invaded and attacked by a foreign king from the kingdom of Aram. Notice, even though the people were in sin, the king still called upon GOD to fulfill His obligation of protection for the covenant people. In verses 4, the king pleaded with the Lord. Verses 14-19 explains verse 4. Israel's king, Joash came to Elisha for a word from GOD. GOD listened and through Elisha gave the verdict of victory.

SUMMARY OF OLD COVENANT STRATEGIES

GOD's enemies were Israel's enemies. Israel's enemies were GOD's enemies. Both had the obligation to fight each other's battles. Humans fought the physical battle in hand to hand combat. GOD, through His representative, fought the spiritual battles. The battle is always won first in the spiritual realm, then it shows up in this physical world.

Do you recognize the role of faith in this? Don't fail to think BIG. Don't stop short of what GOD wants to do. Believe GOD for complete victory! Believe GOD for the utter destruction of your enemies! What is the difference between the Old Covenant battle strategies and the New Covenant battle strategies?

Isaiah 9:1-6

Nevertheless the gloom *will not be* upon her who *is* distressed,

As when at first He lightly esteemed

The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

And afterward more heavily oppressed *her*,

By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,

In Galilee of the Gentiles.

2 The people who walked in darkness

Have seen a great light;

Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,

Upon them a light has shined.

3 You have multiplied the nation

And increased its joy;^[a]

They rejoice before You

According to the joy of harvest,

As *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For You have broken the yoke of his burden

And the staff of his shoulder,

The rod of his oppressor,

As in the day of Midian.

5 For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle,

And garments rolled in blood,

Will be used for burning *and* fuel of fire.

6 For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Times are changing! The enemies have already been defeated! We, under the New Covenant, have been liberated! It's time to burn the old warfare garments! The rules of engagement have changed. The level of weapons have been upgraded! We are not doing hand to hand combat anymore! The New Covenant doesn't have any valleys, only kings and priests sitting on thrones!

GOD IS TAKING THE OLD SWORD AND GIVING US A SEAT -- A THRONE!

We are seated in Christ in heavenly places! It's time to realize that and take your place in Him! We are moving from hand to hand combat into air strikes!

Why?

Isaiah 59:1-16

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened,

That it cannot save;

Nor His ear heavy,

That it cannot hear.

2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God;

And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,

So that He will not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood,

And your fingers with iniquity;

Your lips have spoken lies,

Your tongue has muttered perversity.

4 No one calls for justice,

Nor does *any* plead for truth.

They trust in empty words and speak lies;

They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.

5 They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web;

He who eats of their eggs dies,

And *from* that which is crushed a viper breaks out.

6 Their webs will not become garments,

Nor will they cover themselves with their works;

Their works *are* works of iniquity,

And the act of violence *is* in their hands.

7 Their feet run to evil,

And they make haste to shed innocent blood;

Their thoughts *are* thoughts of iniquity;

Wasting and destruction *are* in their paths.

8 The way of peace they have not known,

And *there is* no justice in their ways;

They have made themselves crooked paths;

Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.

9 Therefore justice is far from us,

Nor does righteousness overtake us;

We look for light, but there is darkness!

For brightness, *but* we walk in blackness!

10 We grope for the wall like the blind,

And we grope as if *we had* no eyes;

We stumble at noonday as at twilight;

We are as dead *men* in desolate places.

11 We all growl like bears,

And moan sadly like doves;

We look for justice, but *there is* none;

For salvation, *but* it is far from us.

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You,

And our sins testify against us;

For our transgressions *are* with us,

And *as for* our iniquities, we know them:

13 In transgressing and lying against the Lord,

And departing from our God,

Speaking oppression and revolt,

Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

14 Justice is turned back,

And righteousness stands afar off;

For truth is fallen in the street,

And equity cannot enter.

15 So truth fails,

And he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey.

Then the Lord saw *it*, and it displeased Him

That *there was* no justice.

16 He saw that *there was* no man,

And wondered that *there was* no intercessor;

Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;

And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

This is the condition of the world without GOD. GOD is not pleased. He is looking for someone to intercede for those trapped in the darkness of a world without GOD. He made a way where there seemed to be no way--Jesus! With the New Covenant terms, Holy Spirit will engrave upon the human heart/spirit the very Word of GOD by actually making His home in our spirits. The Old Covenant, the Spirit only came upon certain people--kings, priests, and prophets. Now, the Spirit lives in the individual heart and will lead and guide that person in all the truth. The Spirit-filled believer is obligated to intercede for those souls still trapped in a world without GOD.

Revelation 8:3-5

³ Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunders, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Intercession moves the hand of GOD! Intercede literally means 'to strike the mark'! We're talking about air strikes! We are seated in Messiah in heavenly places! GOD is waiting on us to sit with Him! He's waiting on someone to paint a mark, so He can strike that mark with the lightening from His palms! He's waiting on us to send His angels to carry out the Word of GOD that was spoken! Keep striking the mark until the enemy is totally, utterly defeated! This is not the time to focus on the problem! This is the time to focus on the power of GOD! This is the time to operate in your position of authority!

THIS IS THE PLACE OF OUR WARFARE! THIS IS THE PLACE WE CHOOSE TO DO BATTLE!

We are that new generation called Eagles Rising!

Follow the eagle's example:

Eagles don't do hand to hand combat. Eagles reach a height where they don't move their wings. They just soar on the currents of the wind (spirit). 'Take up' that old serpent with a firm grip of your talons and soar to heights where he can't survive. He can't fight in the air. He's been cast down to the earth. We've been exalted to thrones in heavenly places where victory is always ours. He's already defeated there. Don't get down on his level and try to fight him. The victory is not there. It's in Messiah in heavenly places! Take your problems to a place higher, a place where they can't survive, which is the throne of GOD!

THE SEAT CALLED 'BELOVED'!

We are kings and priests to GOD Most High. Kings have armies to do carry out the battle strategies. Let the Angel Armies fight the battle! Put the angels to work in your life! Speak the Word and the angels will do it! Angels are activated by the SOUND of your voice speaking the Word of GOD from a heart of faith! We are talking about going to the Court of Heaven. Make your case based upon the Word of God. Get the good verdict from GOD. With the words of your mouth, begin to make declarations and decrees concerning the injustices in your life and in the lives of those around you. Then ask the Lord to release the Angel Armies to carry out your battle strategies.

A PROPHETIC WORD FROM THE LORD FOR THOSE WHO WILL RECEIVE IT:

I will alter your circumstances.

A WORD OF WISDOM FROM MARK CASTO:

"America's greatness comes from the pulpits of her churches where righteousness is preached. America's greatness comes from her goodness. Her goodness comes from her righteousness. Our calling is to set the standard of righteousness for all other countries according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Revelations 3:1-6

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,

'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven

stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you

are dead. ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ^[a] ³ Remember

therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a

thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. 4 You^[b] have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He

who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

It will take intercession. Will GOD find a human willing to intercede for justice?

[All Scripture is from the New King James version.]