

GOD'S WORKING - Jehovah Conquering/ Acknowledging Jehovah Always

By
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Pt. 1 - Jehovah Conquering

Some of the recent dealings of the Lord in my heart have been through the book of Joshua that relates the history of Israel “possessing the land”, and the battles and victories that took place. But the Lord has brought me to understand that this was not just about Israel acquiring real estate and blessings as we so often preach concerning this book. During this time, and especially through these battles and victories that we read about, the real issue was **The Lord possessing Israel**. It was the Lord – their Jehovah God (The Covenant God that they were in relationship with) who desired to fully conquer them! And I want us to see that God’s Work regarding His people is not primarily an external work – fighting enemies and situations outside of them. It is primarily an internal Work – in their hearts and minds, bringing them to a total submission and obedience to Him in all things. Now this “internal Work” of God will affect external things: but as the Lord has at times painfully caused me to understand: we cannot expect to “conquer the world” until the Lord totally conquers US! So when we read in the Old

Testament of these battles, I want us to always be aware of The Lord's Working IN His people: it is His working in us so that we would continually walk in this Great Salvation and experience the fulness of our Covenant Agreement with Him.

The Apostle Paul came to understand this. And he allowed The Lord (we can either let The Lord do His Work in us, or not) to work in him. **Colossians 1:29:** *"Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which **worketh in me mightily**."* Kenneth Wuest translates this scripture as: "Engaging in a contest in which I am controlled by His energy which operates in me with power." God's Working is powerful: subduing and conquering, but this must first be recognized to be IN US – controlling US, and not outside of us, in the world. **Philippians 2:13:** *"For it is God which **worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure**."* Wuest translates this as "for God is The One who is constantly putting forth His energy in you, both in the form of your being desirous of and of your doing His good pleasure." And this is how we have to understand His Work IN US. He is working in our souls so that firstly we desire HIM and what is of Him, and allow Him to rule in us. And then it is His Working in us, once He has established His control in us that enables us to do His Will and what pleases Him. It is so important that we understand that this is not our religious, fleshly attempts to do things FOR Him. But it is HIS mighty Power working in us, subduing our will, thoughts and desires: that His Will and Purpose be done in us.

And we know from the Scriptures that God was working in Israel to bring them to a total obedience to their Jehovah God in all things. **Exodus 19:5:** *"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall*

be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation..." This was required in order for them to face the enemy and be victorious "in the land". And as you read the book of Joshua and God's dealings with them Israel had to destroy strongholds, break down idols, keep themselves from the accursed things, punish disobedience, acknowledge Jehovah in all things, and allow Him to control "their lives". In other words, they had to totally submit to God's Rule in everything for them. Now if seen from a purely carnal perspective, this appears to be very restrictive and disturbing. But when we look at this from God's Viewpoint (as we must): God was requiring all of this for "their good". This was so that they could walk in this Covenant Agreement with their God – as One. And we know when they did, God fought their battles, and they enjoyed His victory. But I want to admonish us: don't just look for the enemy "without". Look for the enemy "within": in our hearts and fleshly desires; the "me" who still wants to have "my own" life and things, and is refusing The Lord's total Rule in me. That's the "enemy" who the Lord must conquer first!

We can see this vividly with Achan (Joshua Chapter 7), who took a Babylonian garment and silver and gold from the enemy and hid it – for himself: totally against God's Will. And because of that disobedience Achan and all of his possessions and family were utterly destroyed. They had to be in order for the rest of the nation of Israel to remain in Covenant Agreement with God. Now throughout the Scriptures there are many other examples of disobedience under the Old Covenant, but I want us to consider just some admonitions regarding this to us today. But I want to stress this will be God's working in us: conquering our very souls;

and not simply our fleshly religious attempts to make ourselves “good Christians”.

- **II Corinthians 10:5:** *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6: And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”* These are our thoughts and desires that take His rightful place in us. They must be totally destroyed and not allowed to remain.
- **James 4:7:** *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8: Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”* Notice here an order. You must submit yourself first to God (and His Lordship) in order to resist the devil, and as we draw near to Him - HE will cleanse our hands and hearts, which affects what we do. But this is the condition of our heart towards HIM. **James 4:10:** *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”*
- **I John 5:21:** *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”* This is speaking of exalting anything or anyone above the Lord – and that includes ourselves! He only is to be honored and glorified in His People. Remember He is a jealous God and He will not share His Glory with another.

This to me is giving God His Rightful place – as your God, and that means acknowledging Him and obeying Him in all

things. And I just want to remind us: we say we love The Lord, and in our minds we do. But in the Reality of Who He is, we cannot truly “love Him” if we are not continually acknowledging Him and obeying Him in all things. And when there is obedience unto The Lord and His Rule in all things, there is “a victory”. But remember this is first inwardly. Our obedience allows The One who is victorious (He is King of Kings, and Lord of lords. His Name is above all other names) to rule victoriously over all things in us, and we enjoy the benefits of His victory. And even though there are many in the Christian community who teach and preach on “spiritual warfare and conquering”, we must remember it is **HIS** victory – over sin, Hell, death, the devil, the world, the flesh - into which we have been brought. And in ourselves, outside of that victory that He has won for us at The Cross, there is no victory that we can win by ourselves.

But as Israel learned at Ai (and hopefully we are learning as well), we cannot experience His victory over the enemies without while we are still hiding and entertaining enemies “within”. And let me just clarify that these “enemies” means anything that takes His place, and refuses to come into total submission to His rule. And friends, that starts in us. And so we read in the Scriptures that when Israel came into obedience to Jehovah’s Rule by stoning and burning Achan and his family and belongings, they were able to go against the city of Ai. Then following the Lord’s directions they laid an ambush for Ai, and were totally victorious over that stronghold. (Joshua Chapter 8) They utterly destroyed it! And not only was the city and the people destroyed, but the King of Ai (the head) was hanged on a tree – the symbol of being cursed of God. This was God’s total conquest of Ai: a total defeat of the enemy because God’s people submitted

themselves to His Rule and were obedient unto Him. HE was conquering them!

Pt . 2 – ACKNOWLEDGING JEHOVAH ALWAYS

As we continue to consider the issue of “obedience to The Lord” I want us to understand this comes out from God’s Heart. He desires to bring His people into an “experiential knowing” of who their Jehovah God is. So He desired not only to bring them into a new physical land, but to bring them to live daily in all that He has prepared for them: A New Life, in Covenant Agreement with their God. He wants His people to experience The One that they are in Covenant with: acknowledging Him always, trusting and relying upon Him always – The One who is actively in their midst as their God. He wanted them to know He was not far off: but right there with them, involved in every part of their existence.

So let me read part of Daniel 11:32, “... *But the people that **do know their God** shall be strong, and do (exploits).*” “Exploits” means take action. “Know” here means to acknowledge, consider, be aware of, and have confidence in. As I continue to say this is not an intellectual or theological understanding: but an experiencing of The Person. And this is not just that “God is God”, but that He is **their** God. And they are knowing (learning) Him personally, and knowing with confidence that He is personally involved

in and with them. He is present in the midst of them. He set this forth in type for them as a pillar of a cloud and a pillar of fire: but it was speaking of His Continual Presence with them. **Exodus 13:21:** *“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: 22: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.”* And God desired that His people live constantly in this realization: that HIS PRESENCE was with them. And this “knowing” – of Him causes them to be strong, and to do. But this is not focusing on special activities (“great” things that “they do”): but this is to be their constant state of being – knowing their God. And everything they “do” should be acknowledging Him and who He is to them: and that He is present with them continually.

And this is something we see clearly in the Old Covenant with Israel. God wanted them to “know Him” as their Jehovah God, and to acknowledge Him in every thing, trust Him and honor Him always. And their “disobedience” was not simply against a set of rules written on stone or parchment. When they lived their own lives, depended on themselves and refused to acknowledge Him always and for everything, they were disobeying **HIM** – not a religion or an imagination, but their ever present God who was actively present and at work in their midst! And God was saddened because in this way they profaned HIS NAME and refused Him His Right as their God! **Ezekiel 36:17:** *“Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman.”* Israel suffered terrible consequences because of this, and we do too. But I want us to understand God wants to make Himself known to His people so that we

can experience His fulness and truly live as One with Him.

He wants His people to always acknowledge HIM – as who He is – where He is – in their midst! And I pray that these scriptures would really speak to our hearts. These are NOT just “true” Biblical words, but THE TRUTH of our Relationship with our Jehovah God!

- **Proverbs 3:5:** *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7: Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”*
- **Proverbs 14:12:** *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

And “death” here doesn’t necessarily mean not breathing: but being separated from God. If we are going to try to function by our own intelligence and what seems right “to us”, refusing God’s Knowledge and not even considering Him in all things – we will be separated from Him. And that is a very precarious place to be because in this “disobedience” to Him, to His Presence, to His Rule in us, we don’t have his Victory and Strength to protect us and we struggle on our own. This is something that Israel still struggled with as they began to “possess the land” of Canaan, and sadly we do also. It is not nearly enough to come into “the land”: but now that we are in the land, “in Christ”; we must acknowledge and honor the Lord’s Lordship - continually. And that must begin with Him subduing us first: the enemies still within us, before we can see “our victory” over the enemies without. But as we have said that Victory is really His, and we will

experience that as He exercises His authority over us in all things.

But when we refuse to acknowledge Him and His Rule – in us – in all things: and when we function according to ourselves and our carnal understanding we get into a lot of trouble! And when “we” try to be in charge, that gives the enemy (those forces that are opposed to the Lord’s absolute authority) ground to work in. And we need to be aware of this. **2 Corinthians 2:11** says (here specifically speaking of unforgiveness, but there is a principle here): “*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*” We must know that the enemy deceives. He does not tell the truth, and he can make himself appear to be something else, and generally it is something that we in the flesh desire for our own selves. The enemy does lie in wait to deceive us – the people of God. And he is able to do that if we do not acknowledge our God always – in everything. But God wants us to walk in The Truth – of Him and all that He has done for us. So we must always Acknowledge HIM.

To end this sharing I just want to point you to an interesting but sad “story” in Joshua 9 regarding the enemies in the land who were gathered together against God’s people. And because Israel was functioning in the flesh, concerned about their own wellbeing and not Jehovah’s Witness that they were to be in the earth, they made Covenant with the Gibeonites. This was something God told Israel they were NOT to do! They were to destroy the enemy – not make Covenant with them! But the Gibeonites were able to deceive Israel to make peace with them because of one very important thing. **Joshua 9:14:** “*And the men ... asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.*” And at any time and for

any reason we do not ask counsel at the mouth of The Lord, we can easily be deceived by the enemy! But this is not what the Lord desires for us. He desires that we acknowledge Him always, and that we allow Him to take full possession of us - totally conquering our hearts, minds and wills! May we let Him do that! Then we can truly REST in Him, fully confident and satisfied in GOD'S WORKING IN US – all for HIS Honor and Glory.

Amen