

The Lord's Battles

Moses was rather comfortable being a shepherd for his father-in-law, Jethro, when God came to him in a burning bush to give him a task of his life time. Forty years he lived in a palace where he had the privilege of a son in the household of Pharaoh. He fled to the desert, and after having killed an Egyptian, married a daughter of a priest of that area. He was now eighty years young, a retirement age for us today, when God saw fit to send him on a mission for forty years more. After a time of testing for Pharaoh, Israelites were freed to leave Egypt. Not an easy task for them to leave their home of four hundred and some years. Under the mighty hand of God this vast multitude left Egypt for a Promised Land God had promised them many years ago. It was the land of Canaan. They had not left Egypt long, when they were faced with the first challenges: the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them. They became exceedingly frightened without a doubt. Moses, however, reminded them of one truth: the battle they were facing was not theirs to fight, but the Lord's. He said, **Fear not; stand still and see the salvation of the Lord**, which He will work for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace and remain at rest (Exodus 14:13-14). To overcome the Red Sea, the Lord told Moses to lift up his rod and stretch out his hand over the sea and divide it. The Israelites walked through the sea on dry land; but the Egyptian army was trapped in the middle of it when YAHWEH caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind, as Moses again stretched forth his hand over the sea and it returned to its normal flow. In our life time we must fight many battles; but we are not to fight them alone when we are a child of God, because they are spiritual battles; it is not against blood and flesh that we are fighting; we are fighting against Satan and his demons, reason why our heavenly Father has provided us with His full armor. No matter how powerful Satan and his army will come against us, the Lord will be the One Who will fight for us. We must let Him do it, as we learn to rest and trust in Him. No sea is too great; no army is too strong for Him.

Another battle the Lord fought for the Israelites was the battle of Jericho, after they crossed the Jordan River also on dry land, this time under the leadership of Joshua. When he was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua approached Him and asked, "Are You for us or for our enemies?" The commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so (Joshua 5:13-15). As Joshua surrendered to the Lord of hosts' command, He gave him instruction how to conquer the city of Jericho. This was YAHWEH'S battle; the Israelites were only instruments in His hands. They were to march around the city several times for several days and blow the trumpets at the right time. He had promised Joshua that He had handed Jericho, its king, and its fighting men over to him. All they had to do was to follow the directions for their victory. They did not have to knock down Jericho's fortified walls; the Lord did for them. The strength had to come from Him, not from Israel. They did the easy thing, and the Lord fought for them. The walls we face from time to time are hard and impossible to overcome them; these walls are set before us for purpose to develop trust and strengthen our faith in our Lord, believing that He is all powerful to do the impossible. Dressed in His strength we can overcome all things, big or small.

King Jehoshaphat was faced with three powerful armies coming against him: The Moabites, the Ammonites, together with the Meunites. Afraid of them, he resolved to seek the Lord (II Chronicles 20:3), and rightly so, because this battle was to be the Lord's. He was told not to be afraid or dismayed at that great multitude, for the battle was not his, but the Lord's. All he had to do was to position themselves and stand still, to see the deliverance of the Lord, for there was no need for him to fight. In the morning they got up early and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed". Then he consulted with the people and appointed some to sing for the Lord and some to praise the splendor of His holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing, Give thanks to the Lord, for His faithful love endures forever. The moment they began their shouts and praises, the Lord set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir, who came to fight against Judah and they were defeated (II Chronicles 20:20-2). The Psalmist says that the Lord inhabits the praises of His saints. The power of praise should not be overlooked neither ignored. If we praised Him more, we would not be so afraid and defeated when the enemy comes against us. Our hearts should always be filled with thanksgiving and praises to Him, as we bring to Him all the worries, all the pain in the manner of petition, believing that our battle is not ours to fight alone, but His. Proclaiming God's faithfulness, goodness, and His loving-kindness will confuse the enemy, and the Lord's victory will be experienced in our life. The Lord, Who sustained us from the **womb**, and carried us along since **birth**, will be the same until our **old age**, and He will bear us up when our hairs **turn gray**; He has made us, and He will carry us; He will bear us and save us (Isaiah 46:3-4). Cast your care upon Him, because He cares for you; be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being experienced by your brothers in the world (II Peter 5: 7-9).

There are many types of battles that come our way. Many of them we bring to ourselves; they are the results of sinful and disobedient life styles. I am sure the Lord our God will use the consequences to refine us and to bring us to Himself. I would not call these battles the Lord's battles. What I would call the Lord's battles that would be the unexpected circumstances which we have had no control over either by behavior or any action on our part, just in the cases mentioned above. When we decide to live for our Lord, we will be in the school of faith learning to conform to the understanding of being chosen to be molded to the image of our Lord YAHSHUA. We will also be discerning when the battle is not for us to fight alone. Our Savior is so loving and caring that in the midst of our consequential battles He still guides us and uses that experience for our spiritual good. As a father loves his children and apply discipline on them, so our heavenly Father does the same to us. The battlefield is a hard place to be without the Lord. Make sure He is on your side by your submission and surrender to His will. YAHSHUA, when in His battlefield prayed, "Not My will, but yours be done". Let this prayer be ours too.