

The Righteous Shall Be Stronger And Stronger

By Ronnie Scherffius

Some of the most amazing words of faith found anywhere in Scripture are from the book of Job. Destroyed though innocent, Job concluded that only one had the power to bring such swift destruction. Why did God count him as an enemy (13:24; 19:11)? Why was God persecuting him (16:9)? Why was God crushing him without a cause (9:17)?

Finite of mind and lacking all knowledge, Job was unaware that the adverse of God and man had swallowed him whole as a serpent of its prey. Fully convinced that God had “destroyed me on every side” (19:10), Job still maintained his faith and trust in the Almighty. Statements such as, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my salvation”* (13:15-16a); and *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”* (23:10), seem to be beyond comprehension. Such was Job’s faith in God.

Another statement that astounds the reader denotes Job’s faith as both strong **and** enduring.

Upright men shall be
astonied at this, and the
innocent shall stir up
himself against the
hypocrite. The righteous
also shall hold on his way,
and he that hath clean

hands shall be stronger and
stronger (Job 17:8-9).

Indeed, righteous men are appalled at the destruction of such a just man like Job. Moreover, the slanderous attacks and false accusations hurled at Job, stir our spirits against Eliphaz and his cohorts (4:7-8; 8:5-6; 11:5-6; et al). But Job’s attitude that “the righteous” will not only “hold his way” but also “be stronger and stronger” may be the monumental statement of the book!

Job, the righteous man of our text, knew he was innocent of all charges. He could not understand or explain his suffering, but he refused falsely to confess wrong (27:5). Job could say without fear of contradiction, *“My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined”* (23:11). And, though falsely charged with violence and oppression (22:5-9), he knew God could see all his ways and was counting all his steps (31:4). Therefore, Job would walk in his integrity. He would maintain the right ways of God. He would trust in his Redeemer (19:25).

Job did not understand why God was “destroying” him. Job was unaware that Satan was the persecutor. He could not explain his suffering. But Job knew that by trusting in God through such trials he would come forth “stronger and stronger.”

In this life, we also face trials that defy explanation. We cannot understand "Why God is doing this." In truth, man's sufferings originate with the adversary, not the Almighty and keep His way. In so doing, we will not only grow stronger and stronger but also glorify and magnify God.

Brothers and sisters, let us continue to walk in our integrity. Let us hold the steps of God

CONQUERING AI (Joshua 8)

By Neal Pollard

The lesson of Achan behind them, Joshua and the people of war are encouraged by the Lord to try taking Ai again. In fact, God exhorts his leader, Joshua, saying, "Do not fear or be dismayed...." With sin properly dealt with, God's people could focus on accomplishing the objective they started at Jericho. There is a simple, effective pattern revealed in the taking of Ai that will help us dare greatly in trying to accomplish God's will for us today. In fact, we will utterly fail if we do not follow the principles of this pattern. Notice.

GET YOUR ORDERS FROM GOD (1-2). While it appears that the Lord tells Joshua more than just this (see 8), here we find the specific commands to His leader--"take," "arise," "go," "do," "take," and "set." The commands are straightforward and unambiguous. When I think of God's orders for making and growing disciples, from the teaching to the worship, from the daily living and sharing, He has given us His will for us. We have no wheels to reinvent, only a will to follow!

PLAN YOUR WORK (3-9). Look at how they planned. The leadership was "with all the people" (3,9). Sufficient workers were chosen and sent (3; instead of 3,000, like the first time, he sends out 30,000!). Plans were specifically, thoroughly communicated (4-8). It was emphasized that while he was their earthly leader, this was God's work and His will being followed (8). Think about how God has organized His church, with shepherds overseeing our work. For that work to succeed, the leaders should be among the people. The work is of a magnitude that we need so many involved! We need to formulate a plan, a vision with goals and objectives. Then, we need to be reminded that our purpose is to carry out God's will, our very reason for existence (Eph. 3:20-21).

WORK YOUR PLAN (10-29). The heart of this chapter is devoted to the riveting account of the battle. Read through the masterful plan they enact. They lay a trap for Ai and ambush them. Then, the Lord has Joshua do what he had Moses to do in Exodus 17:9 against the Amalekites. As on that day, Joshua holds up his javelin (18) until the battle was

won (26). They kill the 12,000 inhabitants of the city (25), burn the city (28) and executed their king (29). They strictly followed God's orders, taking only the plunder He permitted them to take (27). What happened when they followed the divine orders and plan? Complete success! May I suggest that it can still be that way today! God has promised to be with us (Mat. 28:20; Heb. 13:5-6). As we strive to help the needy (Gal. 6:10; Jas 1:27), build up the saints (1 Th. 5:11; Eph. 4:29), and reach the lost (Acts 8:4; Mat. 28:19), devoting time, mental energy, money, and other resources, we will achieve great success! It's the law of the harvest, of sowing and reaping!

GIVE THE GLORY TO GOD (30-35). This follow up is so impressive. So often, in the throes of victory, we forget whose will and work it is. What does Israel do after this resounding success? They worship wholeheartedly (30), gave prominence and emphasis to the Law (with Joshua even copying the Law of Moses onto uncut stones)(31-33), and read the Word (34-35). This had to etch into the people's minds how this work was God's work and their success was enabled by Him. Today, every success--measured in baptisms, attendance, giving, spiritual maturity, greater involvement, successful event, etc.--should elicit the same response from us. Our hearts should be driven to acknowledge God, worship Him, learn His Word, and remind ourselves that He gives the victory! As Paul said in ending the "doctrinal" section of Romans, so it is today: "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen" (Rom. 11:36)!

Upcoming Events

TODAY!—Monthly potluck luncheon with a 1pm service.

Oct. 4—Teens Bible Basics meeting @ 6:30pm at the building.

Oct. 7—Teens: Take Away Thursday @6:30pm at the Scherffius home.

Oct. 10—Youth Devo at the Jobes’ home after evening service. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Oct. 17-20 Midtown will be hosting our Fall Gospel meeting with Mike Bonner. Please make plans to attend and bring a friend. Flyers are in the foyer. There will be a potluck luncheon on Oct. 17 after the morning worship and we will have a 1 pm service in lieu of the 5pm.

Area Events

Oct. 9, 2021-Mathis church of Christ Ladies’ Day. Speakers include Emily Cammock and Athena Scherffius. More information is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Baptism

Larry McLaughlin was baptized last Wednesday night. May his walk with Christ bear much fruit.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

Phoebe O’Donnell—she recently had her 15th birthday and has begun chemotherapy. She is starting to lose her hair and it has been difficult for the family. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Scott DeDear, Ken and Sandra Marie, Mike McVey, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson, Charlie Mabe, Sandy Malone.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Service Roster

Week of October 3, 2021

Sunday Morning

Announcements..... Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Jesse Moser
Cup..... Leon Morales
Offering..... Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Assist..... Steve Randle

Sunday Evening

Announcements..... Bryant Siegel
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Jesse Moser
Closing Prayer..... Ron White

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Jesse Moser & Leon Morales

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Ronnie Scherffius
Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons
Devotional Jesse Moser

Other

Usher..... Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion Bass Family

Congregational News

Birthdays

Tamyra Carroll Oct. 1
Joyce Faires Oct. 2
Willie Cannady..... Oct. 7
Sandra Mericle..... Oct. 7
Janet Morales..... Oct. 7
Ashley Price..... Oct. 8
Sally Law..... Oct. 8

Anniversaries

Tom & Gayla Pitchford..... Oct.5
Scott & Mickey DeDear Oct.7

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

“The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?” Luke 20:4

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of September 26, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....60
A.M. Worship.....83
P.M. Worship.....52
Wednesday Bible Class.....58

Offering week of September 26, 2021.....\$ 3,070

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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