

CHRISTIAN - ATTACK!

Joshua 10:1-26

Introduction: The life of a Christian is a mixed life, a life filled with blessings and a life of constant, intensive warfare. The warfare is a constant battle against Satan and his ways of distracting and drawing away from the proper Christian way of life. No doubt Satan is far wiser than any human being and he uses strategy, in finding the weak places in a person's life. He is very successful in what he does in keeping the Christian from living as he/she should. Something the Christian never thinks about in dealing with Satan is to launch an attack against Satan. The Christian seems to always be on the defensive, never on the offensive. With all that the Christian has for him/her, the Christian needs to ATTACK.

I. AS GOD IS TO BE RESPECTED, SO IS HIS FAMILY, HIS CHILDREN, HIS CHURCH

1. God's people are not just "ordinary" people.
2. God is God, not some figment of man's imagination as all other "gods" are.
3. God's Church is to be made up of people who live holy lives and the worship services should be filled with awe and reverence of the presence of almighty God.
4. Every child of God should be living a life that unbelievers would have a fearful respect of the child of God.
5. Israel was feared by all the pagan nations because of their God. So the Church should be feared by the pagan, unbelieving world of today, but it isn't.

II. HOW CAN GOD'S CHURCH HAVE THE DESERVED RESPECT FROM UNBELIEVERS?

1. Israel's "generals" never waited on the enemy, they always started the battle with the enemy.
2. The Church should never have to be on the defensive but should always be on the attack against Satan and his kind. Sadly, however, it is the Church that is on the defensive, even runs and hides from conflict with Satan and his attacks.
3. Joshua spent some time at a place called "Gilgal" before going into battle and Gilgal became
 - a place of remembrance
 - a place of resurrection
 - a place of renunciation
 - a place of restoration
 - a place of realization
 - a place of revelation
4. Christians have a "Gilgal" and it is called "Calvary." As Joshua spent time preparing for battle at Gilgal, so the Christian must spend time at Calvary preparing for battle with Satan.
 - Calvary is not a "once in a life time experience."
 - Calvary is a constant place, a constant attitude for the Christian.
 - The Christian must visit Calvary every day.

5. If the Church is to have respect from unbelievers, then it must be constantly victorious in its battles with Satan. The Church must give unbelievers something to think about.
6. The unbelieving world must know that it is GOD who is with the Church and it is God who wins the Churches battles, not the Church or some individual Christian. As the God of Israel was feared by the pagan, unbelieving nations, so must the God of the Church be seen by the pagan unbelievers of our world today. It must be GOD!

III. LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN IS FILLED WITH CONSTANT CONFLICT

1. There are almost countless things in the Christian's life that need defeating such as jealousy, pride, a critical spirit, a harsh tongue, anger, selfishness, lust, covetousness, etc..
2. The Christian must do as Israel did when time for battle, not wait, but attack the sins in his/her life. Always be on the offensive, never have to "defend."
3. As the pagan, unbelieving kings of Israel's day hid from Israel and their God, so does sin. As the wicked, evil, unbelieving kings, enemies of Israel were not permitted to live, neither must a single sin in the believer's life be allowed to survive.
4. Satan makes quick, sudden attacks before the Christian can even be aware he is near and damage is done. The Christian MUST put to death every single sin in his/her life by ATTACKING.

CONCLUSION:

1. For God to be seen by unbelievers in the Church and the Christian's life, there must be:
 - an attitude of keeping Calvary constantly fresh in mind.
 - an attitude of constant ATTACK.
 - an attitude of "no hostages," not allowing a single sin to remain.
 - an attitude of giving God all the credit, glory and honor for all the defeats.
2. As Israel was feared by it's enemies because of their God, so the Church and the Christian should be feared and respected in our world today by all the pagan and unbelieving.
 - It MUST happen
 - *"...the gates of Hell shall not prevail..."*
3. One Christian at a time, one Church at a time determined to be on the attack for God instead of the defensive, running, hiding, cowering, excusing and being useless, following God in daily battle against Satan will bring the respect and awe from the pagan unbelieving world.
4. Christian, what will you do? Go back to Calvary, put on the armor of God, then ATTACK!