

Capacity Building Series

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S



'For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, Nor from the south. But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another.' Psalm 75:6-7

"When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?" "Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the Lord's army..." Joshua 5:13-14

"Each year Elkanah would travel to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of Heaven's Armies at the Tabernacle..." 1 Samuel 1:3

"Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." 1 Samuel 17:47

The names of God reveal different aspects of His nature to us and this series the name we are focusing on is Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Heaven's armies. This name tells us two things about God. One is that He is not stranger to war. Being made in His image and likeness means that we also have a warrior nature inbuilt within us, so battles shouldn't scare us.

Two is that He has an entire heavenly army at His disposal which is always in operation on our behalf, even though we don't see them with our natural eyes. Our understanding of how to deploy them or not will be seen in the results of our lives.

This series as we dig deeper into exploring some of the Lord's battles, our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to see the resources available to us and give us understanding of how to navigate the natural knowing we are backed by Jehovah Sabaoth.



Day 1

Ancient Battles

“Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven...thrown down to the earth with all his angels.” Revelation 12:7-9

The spiritual battles we face did not start and will not end in our lifetime. Long before anyone living today was born, there was war in heaven because Satan tried staging a coup against God (Isa 14:12-15). When he failed, the devil and his angels were thrown down to earth and have been functioning in the affairs of the earth ever since.

“...God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:28

When Adam was created, his role was to rule the earth and have dominion over everything including the spiritual beings that functioned in this realm. This is why the devil had to take that authority away from him in order to reclaim authority of the earth.

“In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.” Colossians 2:15

“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.” Matthew 28:18

God already had a redemption plan to address Adam’s error through Jesus. By His death and resurrection, Jesus dispossessed the devil, took back all authority and gave it to us.

This background is important to help us understand we’re dealing with ancient beings who have studied and observed generations past and know how humans function. We’re dealing with highly intelligent beings who were disgraced out of their position in heaven and sent to earth. Not only that, we as believers have been given authority through Jesus, making the devil and his cohorts are very angry with the children of God because we have power over them. We also have more powerful ancient forces working on our behalf ensuring we always win.

Prayer: Lord thank You for showing me that regardless of what the enemy may try, in Jesus I already have victory.



Day 2

Taking Territory

“...Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land.” Exodus 1:9-10

God's system is very organised with angels assigned to every territory on the earth. The enemy copied the system of heaven also setting up a structure such that every territory on the earth has a presiding demonic entity. This is important to know because if we're not aware we can come under the influence of the demonic entity in an area. Have you ever wondered how come Israelites were slaves in Egypt even though they were mightier and outnumbered the Egyptians? Egypt's kings understood that they couldn't suppress Israel physically without doing so spiritually first.

“For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt... and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.” Exodus 12:12

When it was time for the Israelites to leave Egypt, the Lord knew that Moses had to address the demonic entities which were responsible for keeping His children oppressed. This is why every plague dealt with one of the gods of Egypt, until the final plague which forced pharaoh to release all of Israel. It wasn't Moses the man dealing with Egypt, it was the God of Israel executing judgement on the forces that had oppressed His children.

If like the Israelites we find ourselves in oppressive situations at work, in our neighbourhood, nations, etc, the key to deliverance isn't to focus on the physical but to first address the spiritual entities empowering the oppression. Like Moses we must spend time with the Lord to understand what we're dealing with and the weapons from heaven's arsenal to deploy to secure our liberty.

Prayer: Lord thank You for opening my eyes to the truth that there are spiritual forces in operation in territories sponsoring the activities and policies of that area. Let Your spirit of wisdom and revelation open my understanding to the strategy I need to deploy for freedom in these areas.



Day 3

Conquering Intimidation

“For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.” 1 Samuel 17:16

Israel's army had a problem called Goliath, a philistine warrior standing at almost 9 feet tall and looking for one-to-one combat with a soldier. While the entire army of Israel may have been able to defeat him, there was no soldier to take Goliath on single handedly until David showed up. There are challenges we'll face that will continue to taunt us daily like Goliath for a while, and will not move until we determine to face them head on.

“...And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.” 1 Samuel 17:43

“David replied...You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you...” 1 Samuel 17:45-46

When David showed up, Goliath saw that physical intimidation was no longer working so he changed the domain of the battle from the natural to the spiritual realm by cursing David by his gods. David understood how to respond and also took the battle to the spirit in the name of the Lord. From this point on it was no longer David and Goliath, but the kingdom of darkness combating the armies of heaven. And God never loses a battle. Had David tried to fight Goliath in his own strength he would have lost because apart from his size, Goliath was also a seasoned warrior.

“...Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.” Mark 11:22-23

There are situations that will keep intimidating us if we only respond in our own strength. But if like David we take the battle to the Lord, then it becomes His responsibility to ensure we have victory. The mountain may not move on day one, but it will surely move.

Prayer: Lord I bring (name the situation) before You which is trying to defy what You have said concerning me. Lord arise and grant me victory over this, that all will know that You are my God



Day 4

Activating Heaven's Armies

'Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.'" Daniel 10:12-13

One of the greatest things the enemy fears is believers growing in understanding – of who we are, who God is, the power and authority we carry and what's really going on in a situation so we can respond accurately. Daniel prayed and fasted, and the Bible tells us that God heard and answered on the same day. However, the answer was blocked by a spiritual entity who didn't want Daniel to receive his answer. Sometimes when the manifestation of an answer is delayed it could be due to a 'spiritual hold up' like what Daniel experienced.

'Praise the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands. Yes, praise the Lord, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will! ' Psalms 103:20-21

'Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth and said, "Look, I have put my words in your mouth!" Jeremiah 1:9

'And I have put my words in your mouth and hidden you safely in my hand...' Isaiah 51:16

Daniel didn't set out to pray and fast for 21 days, he was just praying until he got an answer. Unknown to him, there was significant warfare going on about his prayer. Imagine if he had stopped praying on day 20? When we pray using the word of God, the angels are empowered to work on our behalf because they were designed to do God's commands. As believers when we speak God's word it's as though God is speaking so the spiritual realm responds. Which means when we don't declare God's word then we immobilize an army that should be warring for us.

Prayer: Lord let the armies of heaven go into operation on my behalf. Remove every interference and bring illumination to every area I lack understanding so I can function as You designed me to here on earth.



Day 5

Breaking Barriers

“And the Lord said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.” Joshua 6:2

Jericho was a highly fortified city designed with thick walls to keep enemies out. But in spite of the human architecture, the Lord told Joshua He had given not only the land but also the inhabitants to Joshua. In life we will encounter many “walls of Jericho”, man made structures and barriers that seem to have been designed just to keep us from progressing. But Joshua’s experience shows us that regardless of the structures, policies, systems people put in place, the Lord is more than able to give us the land.

“You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.” Joshua 6:3-4

God’s methodology is that He gives us victory in the spirit, we follow His specific instructions without modification, then the realm of the spirit goes into operation to back up our obedience with victory in the natural. This may seem simple enough but often God’s instructions don’t seem to have any connection with the issue at hand. God had given Joshua and Israel the land, but their victory was dependent on their obedience to His instructions.

“So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat...” Joshua 6:20

Logically there’s no connection between Joshua’s instruction to Israel and winning the battle. But ans they obeyed, the spiritual armed forces went into operation on Israel’s behalf and flattened the wall making it easy for the soldiers to walk into Jericho. Likewise when we obey the Lord, He supernaturally flattens the walls that are keeping us away from what He’s given us so we can take possession.

Prayer: Lord open my ears to Your specific instructions so all the barriers keeping me from moving forward fall down flat



Day 6

Dealing With Enemies of Progress

'And Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.'" Exodus 5:2

When the time came for Israel to be delivered, the Lord sent Moses to pharaoh with a simple instruction: Let my people go that they may worship me. However, pharaoh showed complete disdain for God, refused to acknowledge Him or obeying the instruction. The fact that God Himself gives an instruction doesn't mean pharaoh will automatically respond.

We will certainly encounter ungodly people, systems, structures who are determined not to let us function in the fullness of all God created us to be. Like Mordecai we may experience Hamans, like Daniel our colleagues may conspire against us, like David it may even be leaders in the marketplace/government that have decided to come against us, their objective simply to keep the believer oppressed. But we know that everything that happens in the natural is first sponsored in the spiritual. So, this is the realm in which where we must respond.

'Arise, O Lord! Do not let mere mortals defy you! Judge the nations! Make them tremble in fear, O Lord. Let the nations know they are merely human' Psalms 9:19-20

'Therefore thus says the Lord...He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. 'For I will defend this city, to save it ...Then the angel of the Lord...killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.' Isaiah 37:33,35-36

When the king of Assyria came against Jerusalem, Hezekiah took the matter to God knowing that an attack on the child of God is an act of defiance to God. And the Lord responded to defend His children and His reputation. When the pharaohs and kings of the land come against us, the answer is to take the matter to the King of kings. He knows exactly what to do to bring victory our way in a manner we could never achieve on our own.

Prayer: Oh Lord arise and let Your enemies be scattered, let those who hate You and what You are doing in my life flee from You.



Day 7

Accelerating Restoration

“But I trust in you, Lord; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hands...” Psalms 31:14-15

As people we are bound by the construct of time as we measure our existence in turn of days, months, etc. But God is the creator of time, He has the capacity to control it to suit His agenda. This means that one of the ways He fights our battles for us is to use time as a tool in a way we don't have the capacity for. We will all experience setbacks at some point in our lives and often times when that happens we may feel that all is lost which is what the enemy would like us to think.

“Then Elisha said, “Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: ‘Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.’ II Kings 7:1

God has the capacity to not only turn things around, but also to do a quick work (Rom 9:28). Elijah shut up the heavens so no rain fell over Israel for 3 years and when it was time, the rain didn't return in trickles but a full rain storm. When Israel experienced a terrible famine in Elisha's time, he prophesied a complete turnaround in just 24 hours and that's exactly what happened.

“...And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.” Psalms 139:16

“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust...” Joel 2:25

God doesn't need more than 24 hours to do what needs to in our lives. The danger arises when we feel all is lost and start doubting God by placing Him on the same levels of our issues/mistakes. When God brings restoration, He doesn't take us back to the point where things went wrong. Rather He brings us to the point where we should have been according to His agenda.

Prayer: Lord I ask that You show me mercy and bring acceleration and restoration my way. Restore me and all that concerns me to where we should be in this season according to Your agenda



Day 8

Breaking Through

'So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim. ' 2 Samuel 5:20

One of the ways the Lord wins battles on our behalf is through what we call breakthroughs. Break throughs have been taken to mean the coming into something that was previously deemed difficult or impossible, but it is also a military term meaning going past the enemy line. This means we must go past the enemy line to arrive at where we are supposed to be. Sometimes the enemy lines are conquered easily, other times they appear dense and formidable and need to be broken through with force.

"I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.' Isaiah 45:2

Regardless of how seemingly impossible the situation may appear, the Bible tells us that the Lord can make a way. Regardless of how crooked a situation may be, God can straighten it out. Regardless of the resistance we may be facing spiritually God shatters the gates of bronze, breaking the bars of iron holding the gate in place. There is nothing that can resist His power.

'You will see neither wind nor rain, says the Lord, but this valley will be filled with water. You will have plenty for yourselves and your cattle and other animals.' 2 Kings 3:17

There are so many things we can never achieve in our own strength, but the God of breakthroughs in His infinite love, mercy and power goes ahead and we and all around us see the miraculous results that defy human conception.

Prayer: Lord go ahead of me in Your might and breakthrough all the gates and bars withholding all You have released to me. Let every crooked path be made straight and my eyes see the miraculous results only You can make possible.



Day 9

Generational Victories

'But the Lord says, "...For I will fight those who fight you, and I will save your children.' Isaiah 49:25

No matter how strong we may be there will come a time when we all must exit this side of eternity and leave everything remaining here behind, including our loved ones. However, there is one who never exits and has promised not only to fight on our behalf while we are here but also fight on behalf of our children. Our confidence therefore isn't in the material things we may leave our children, but in the faithfulness of God Almighty who is able to care for, protect and defend them even when we're no longer in the picture physically.

'Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.' Deuteronomy 7:9

'For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.' Isaiah 37:35

History estimates that there are about 300 years between when David and Isaiah lived, yet the Lord stayed true to His promise to David long after he was gone. Even when people forget, God never forgets and never goes back on a promise. Provided we do our part, we have the assurance that He will always do His.

'Turn my eyes away from vanity [all those worldly, meaningless things that distract—let Your priorities be mine], And restore me [with renewed energy] in Your ways.' Psalms 119:37

As we journey through life, our most important priority should be our walk with God because the benefits of our relationship with Him will be felt by our descendants, most of whom we will not meet in our lifetime.

Prayer: Father thank You for the confidence I have in Your faithfulness. You have promised not only to contend with all that contends with me, but also to save my children. Today Lord I dedicate all the children You have given and will give me back to You. Protect, encourage, defend and promote them as only You can. Let the lives of my descendants always be a platform to showcase Your faithfulness and Your glory.



Day 10

Divine Positioning

“...The fastest runner doesn’t always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn’t always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy... It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time.” Ecclesiastes 9:11

What we call coincidences are often divine orchestrations by our Father in heaven. He’s so vast that only He has the capacity to plan for everyone who has ever been born, are currently living and will be born. He also has the capacity to intertwine all our existences such that He can orchestrate divine appointments. One of the reasons He does this to ensure that time and chance favour us because some battles are won just by being at the right place at the right time.

To get Joseph to Egypt, the Lord ensured that traders headed there were passing by at the time Joseph’s brothers decided to get rid of him (Gen 37). When Ruth moved back to Israel with Naomi, she happened to work in a field that belonged to Boaz and was there the day he returned from a trip. In the end, she became part of the lineage of Jesus. When it was time for Saul to be made king, the Lord orchestrated events so that Saul’s father’s donkeys went missing just so he could connect with Samuel and be anointed king (1 Sam 10). Similarly in our lives there are many encounters God has orchestrated to ensure we are divinely positioned.

“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13

We may not always be conscious of it but God is always at work fighting battles on our behalf by orchestrating our steps and making even things the enemy meant for evil work out for our good. The same way God has a plan for us so does the enemy, but as we submit to God’s authority we have the confidence that He will always position us for victory.

Prayer: Lord I thank You for being a master orchestrator who is always seeking to do me well. Lord take control of every decision I make and every decision made concerning me so that I and all that concerns me will always be at the right place at the right time, getting the right results



Thank you for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

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