

BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED by DR. AYODEJI AWE

QUESTION 74 – IN JOSHUA 10, FOLLOWING THE CONQUEST OF JERICHO AND AI, WE FOUND THE LORD RAINING HAILSTONES UPON THOSE WHO GANGED UP AGAINST ISRAEL BECAUSE OF HER ALLIANCE WITH THE GIBEONITES. MANY IN THEIR CAMPS (ENEMY) WERE KILLED BUT WE ALSO FOUND THAT THE FIVE KINGS THAT LED THEM ESCAPED AND HID IN A CAVE. PASTOR, WHAT IS IT ABOUT LEADERS THAT THEY COULD ESCAPE DEATHS AND DISASTERS EASILY WHERE THEIR FOLLOWERS COULD NOT, EVEN THOUGH THE LEADERS MIGHT BE THE FOMENTER OF THE WHOLE TROUBLE?

ANSWER: Have you ever wondered why in battles, wars and insurrections the top leaders and commanders rarely die? It is not common place. By the time a top commander is killed, many of his troops probably have been decimated. The power going for leaders in battle is what I call 'invincibility aura'. It is a kind of an unseen force that surrounds typical leaders. The playing out of this special force ensures that leaders rarely go down in battles or tough challenges. There are two powerful bases for the practicability of this aura:

1. 'Smite the Shepherd' anointing

The wisdom of God reveals that when you want to finish a group or a band or a force or a people, get their leader (Zechariah 13:7). If the head is gone, the rest of the body has no rallying focus. This particular text was a prophecy, which came to pass when Christ on his way to Calvary got hit by the gang up of the Scribes and religious powers who masterminded and executed his death. While he was whisked away to be tried, the band of the disciples scattered because the head focus was no more (cf: Mark 14:27). Here in the passage, it would seem like the 'little ones': the people who have opportunities to be blessed by the chosen leader's high price of sacrificial tender are the targets of the Lord. But to have this executed, the removal of the leader (shepherd) will have to be a vital precursory. With that accomplished, they become easy preys of the wrath of God by their

refusal to accept the free grace fully paid for, by the sacrifice of the leader (the Savior).

The account here is not an everyday occurrence. In very many bad instances, leaders are most culpable. The Lord's vengeance factor may not be fully ripe. Therefore, when some followers go down, the leaders more often survive. When this happens, it shows there may still be survival hope for the group. In the main passage of Joshua 10, the fact of the matter is that the aura played out existentially and under the most furious strike of God in the hailstones, the 5 potent kings survived, though their survival would be temporary. Because they were under 'obliteration order', Joshua brought them out and finished the task. This 'obliteration order' from above overrode the hitherto 'invincibility aura'.

2. Leaders are built to last.

This theory posits that leaders don't just emerge. No one just becomes a leader. Leaders are made. In the course of their making, prices are paid. Whether on the positive or negative platforms, a person who emerges a leader passes through process of preparation. To survive the process, sacrifices are made that eventually buys experience. With the prices paid, come the wisdom, wit, grits and modules of survival tactics that come with the territory of overall sacrifice offered to become a leader.

The practical truth is that those at the lower part of the ladder may not be able to access the incredible staying power required in the process of being molded for leadership.

Two lessons we must take home from your observation:

1. Being selected or elevated on the platform of the kingdom is usually based on being found faithful. It is behooving that standing the ground is rested on special grace that we as God's people must pray for, that we may be found worthy of elevation. Packaged in the elevation is the grace of survival even under impossible situations. Ensuring that, is a grace of the sorts, "Touch not my anointed, do my prophets no harm" (Ps 105:15); "The people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits" (Dan. 11:32). When you carefully dissect these kinds of grace, it would come to light that those who survive the process of coming atop are likely to withstand the

wiles of every category of opposition reminiscent of the declaration in (Eph: 6:10ff):"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil..". This was the case with Joshua. He was found faithful over the long years of following and serving Moses. By the time he was chosen to replace Moses, he had already amassed the raw energy needed as a base power to function in such a high level capacity.

2. The second lesson here playing out antithetically is that when we actually are playing defense in the face of enemy attack, we must also come to grasp with the fact that the in the volume of our repelling, the opposition in some circumstances may not be easily rebuffed because some of them atop also have strong staying power, which now implies that for us to have a chance in ultimately overcoming them, we must also exercise our own staying power which we know that it is superior to theirs. The basis is that greater is He that is with us than the one that is with our opposition. Their chief commander is subject to God the creator of all. He has his doom spelt by God (Rev.12:12), who truly is on our side but he charges us to stand up strong in his power and might. Those of us embracing this stance He further assured most certainly that we are more than conqueror through Christ our Lord who loves us (Rom. 8:37).

In faith, in prayers, in the exercising of works of righteousness through obedience to his leading and instructions, we stand strong until he had subdued all of the foes that are against us (2Tim.2:1; Phil.3:21b). He assures us most certainly, those of us embracing this stance, that we are more than conquerors through Christ our Lord who loves us (Romans 8:37).

These two lessons can be extracted from the life of Joshua in the original text. By the time of his elevation he had seen it all and was a partaker of the grace of 'survival in the face of continuous oppositions along the way' which Moses enjoyed, to the extent that when he was called upon, God his caller 'doesn't have to scramble' to equip him. Such a stance is most desirable for many of us that not only want to excel in God but also desire to last for God.

For prayers, counseling, and to have your questions answered or opportunities for fellowship, contact us at:

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