

## Strong Men Made Weak and the Power of God

Corrupt nations are brought to their knees by strong men made weak and the power of God. Every war won by Israel in the Old Testament was fought by the power of God. When they started losing their wars, their respect, was when they went to war and God was not with them. President Roosevelt was in his cocoon or prison days with polio making him weak to lead our nation in World War II.

After World War II, God has not been with us. When we went into the Korean War, the Vietnam War, He spoke to me and said, "If they go to war in Vietnam, I am not with them."

It was the beginning of the might of men failing as they try to win wars without God. God has put America in her prison days to topple Washington with all of its might.

In our prison days, that greedy little worm that devours all in its way with its bulk, its greed, its bullying, changes with much pain, suffering and humiliation and then emerges a beautiful butterfly, fragile and harmless. Then the joy of the Lord is our strength and if bullying nations need to be brought down by war, it is not with missiles and guns but by the mighty power and wisdom of God.

When we started Piecemakers, we tried to make a name for ourselves lest we have no customers. We advertised, we tried all of man's little means of being well known. How many of us try to make a name for ourselves? Well, it took us awhile before we finally got it. Daaaaaaa.

Gideon's army is a good example. God calls Gideon — "Hello Gideon, My mighty man of valor." And Gideon turns around to see who He is talking to. "Me Lord? I am just a slave, grinding out this grain." Well, Gideon, you are just about as dumb as I need for you to lead My people. I am with you." What did he have?? 3000 men, and God says, "Send half of them home, I

am going with you." Gideon freaked, but he was tuned into God to hear His still small voice saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

1 Corinthians 10 is a detailed warning of how we miss our visitation and our becoming whole or complete. It does not say they were addicts or thieves, or even child molesters. It says we should not lust after the things or the people of the world. Lusting gives us that strength that loses wars and loses our salvation. For we are not only in the Iraqi-losing war, we are in a war between light and darkness.

Idolatry is the number one wash-out. Is your church or family or pet or job or self an idol dictating your life? Good question.

The next warning is fornication. It does not say the sexual act. Fornication is more subtle. It is a familiarity we have where our inner man unites and cannot grow out of itself. Connecting with people through talking is fornicating. I liken it to the grapes on the vine that become one with each other without the winepress.

1 Corinthians 6:18 — "All of these things were given for our example upon whom the end of the age has come."

Well, we are at the end of the age as we are leaving one age and entering another.

Two things to notice. The Rock referred to in the Old Testament was Christ and when the Spirit was moving preparing them to leave their old life, they called it being baptized into the Cloud. America has been baptized into the Cloud. it is up to us to follow that Cloud. The cloud will lead you out of your old strong "man eat man" life, into the gentle blameless life of our Cloud.

Well, in the sixties the Cloud was very evident and so was the Rock. The Spirit was moving and preparing us to leave all to come to a new land.

However, with many God was not pleased because they lusted after evil things. And this is what He calls evil things. They sat down. Instead of moving with the Cloud, they sat down and did eat and drink and played.

We will either follow the Cloud and lose our strength or He will give us other means to take our strength. Like polio for instance, or Orange County Jail.

God will make us so miserable so we hate our old life and writhe to be birthed out of our old environment. Exodus 3:7 — “And the Lord said, ‘I have surely seen the affliction of My people and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows.’” And I will rescue them from themselves.

The voice of Moses is the same Spirit speaking today to the pharaoh over our country. “Let my people go”.

Now, let us discuss some of the examples in the Old Testament and how the people were tested and tried and refined to become the vessels fit for the Master’s use. Or as today, Paul calls it being transformed into a new creation called the son of God or the full stature of Christ.

Now remember, like Joseph (and Moses, and Jesus, and Job and Ruth and Naomi), all started by being faithful in the little things. Each person had to leave his family ties.

1. He was in a sense the black sheep of the family. Christ says, “Leave your nets and follow Me.”
2. His brothers disowned him to the place where he no longer was in their conscience.
3. He took the place of a man servant in Pharaoh’s palace.

4. Was tempted by Potiphar’s wife. And because of his resistance to her, he was put in prison and there he began to show his faithfulness to wherever God had him even in his innocence. And with that trustworthiness, God gave him the gift of interpretation of dreams and wisdom.

5. And of course, the rest is history. He had the wisdom to store up in the years of plenty and fed Egypt in the years of famine. And then the restoration with his family as they all had to bow their knee to the Rock of Ages.

Shall we take another one?

How about Moses? Again the first thing that happened was he left all to gain all. He was separated from his mother as a little child.

Moses made choices. He chose to suffer with the children of Israel. He chose to leave his wife and family, he submitted to the rough dealings of God. All of this to prove him trustworthy with God’s sweetsie babies whom he led out of their old comfort zone to a land flowing with milk and honey. Can you imagine all flowing together as one. Or all becoming the one loaf??? Well, my dear prisoner of hope. This is what is happening today and even more. We could take David, Jacob, Job and on and on, examples of what to do and what not to do.

How about Naomi??? And then Ruth???

Job and his daughters and his wife?????

Jonah, in the belly of the earth. Like the ones in prison. The only sign given of the resurrection.



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