

Numbers 20:14-21:35 – 17 December 2020

“Victory Over Life’s Obstacles”

Introduction

Israel has been in the dessert for almost 40 years b/c of disobedience

Today they have the opportunity to take significant steps forward toward the promised victory of conquering the land of Canaan

So their objective is clear....just as our objective in life is clear (Live in the land of promise in gratitude for the God who brought it to you)

But what is the path to get there like?

It’s a path of overcoming every obstacle by trusting what God says to do about each challenge

Today, 4 keys to victory over life’s obstacles

1st key to victory: Dealing w/ Family – Go around the conflict (Chap 20:14-22)

Read Chap 20:14-17

1. Edom is the family of Esau SE of the Dead Sea
2. Israel reminds they're brothers & asks to pass
 - a. Not to take anything, just passage thru

Read Chap 20:18

1. No explanation of grievances against Israel
 - a. Just a general ungodliness
 - b. This is even how Esau was, earthly, fleshly

Read Chap 20:19

1. Israel reminds this is completely benign & goes

Read Chap 20:20-21

1. Edom comes against Israel & they turn away
2. Choose not to fight their brother
 - a. Turn to I Cor 6:6-8 – Just take the wrong
 - b. David withheld from Saul...let God judge
3. God did judge Edom (as Jer 49 & Oba), none left

2nd key to victory: Dealing w/ the Frailties of Life – Trust that God is unchanging & enduring (Chap 20:23-29)

Read Chap 20:23-24

1. Moses also rebelled at Meribah, knew his time was short
2. 40 yrs has just expired & they knew the people were entering Promised Land soon... but not them
3. Our health is only assured as long as God wills
 - a. Our physical health
 - b. Our economic health
 - c. Reminds us that our hope should be in the strength and vitality of our great God!
4. I just picture Aaron gasping for air & quoting (Read) Psm 102:11-12

Read Chap 20:25-29

1. Showing the continuity of the High Priesthood
2. The man is dead... but the picture of Jesus our intercessor will never die!

Let's look at Chap 21:1-3 – The Defeat of Arad

Read Chap 21:1-3

1. Israel turns to God for help in defeating Arad
2. There's a certain devotion to the Lord here.
 - a. Israel isn't looking for the spoils of war
 - b. Just deliverance from this oppression

3rd key to victory: Dealing w/ Sin Within = Look to the cross to crucify yourself (Chap 21: 4-20)

Read Chap 21:4-5

1. They had food...they wanted BETTER food
2. They complained AGAIN that God's provision wasn't good enough for them
 - a. We don't do that! (Sarcasm)
 - b. The flesh will NEVER be satisfied, no matter how much or how good it gets.

Read Chap 21:6

1. God sends serpents to judge them

Read Chap 21:7

1. The confession of the people
2. Forgiveness always begins with true confession

Read Chap 21:8-9

1. Didn't make scientific sense; it was a miracle
 - a. The cure for sin is a miracle
 - b. It can't be done naturally
2. The cure was to look and live
 - a. Looking takes faith to believe it will work
 - b. Living is the result of faith. True life
 - i. Many people are walking around dead!
3. The only way to deal w/ flesh is to execute it and allow God to grant you a different, new life
 - a. Why did God use a pic of a serpent of brass on a pole? It's Jesus (Read John 3:14-15)
 - b. Believing in Jesus will grant you true life
4. Don't misplace power of Jesus onto anything else, like the cross, a crucifix, Mary statue.
 - a. They did w/ this pole (Read II Kings 18:4)

Read Chap 21:10-15

1. They circle around Edom & then north

Read Chap 21:16-20

1. Singing for the well of water
2. God brings what they need it the right time
 - a. Turn Deut 8:2-3
 - b. It always been a question of “Will the look to God for salvation”?

**4th key to victory: Dealing w/ Enemies Outside –
Go thru them when they stand in the way of God’s
will (Chap 21:21-35)**

Read Chap 21:21

1. The Amorites are a Canaanite people that live on the East side of the Jordan
2. God’s going to have Israel wipe them out
 - a. You think that’s harsh?
 - b. Gen 15:16–God gave them 400 yr to repent

Read Chap 21:22-24

1. God hadn't told Israel to wipe them out so they intended just to pass thru
2. But when Sihon attacked, God delivered them
3. No enemy of God can stop you when you're fulfilling God's will
 - a. Unlike when Esau withstood them, they went around
 - b. When God has already declared His will, you go right thru the enemy if they confront u
 - i. How did David know God would deliver Goliath unto death?
 - ii. B/c Philistines were attacking a city of Judah

Read Chap 21:25-30

1. The Amorites were a strong people
2. Israel even reaps the spoils they never sought

Read Chap 21:31-35

1. Since Og also came against them, God had Israel eliminate them in war

2. Deut 3:11 tells us that Og was last of the giants
 - a. When you're in God's will, no weapon formed against you shall prosper.
 - b. Just sit back and watch the giants fall!

Conclusion

Israel is just trying to move forward into what they KNOW is God's will for them & they meet obstacles.

1. **Dealing w/ Family? Go around the conflict**
 - a. God will take care of it as he did King Saul
2. **Dealing w/ Frailties of life? Trust that God is unchanging and enduring**
 - a. Life is a vapor, but God will see u to last day
3. **Dealing w/ Sin within? Look to the cross to crucify yourself**
 - a. Reckon that you're dead & alive anew
4. **Dealing w/ Enemies Outside? Go thru those who would oppose God**
 - a. Don't be fearful, only believing that God will