

Abundant Life: Let My People Go

Be quick to search your heart when you don't see God's promises!

This Isn't It!

Joshua 7:10 New Living Translation

10 But the Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this?"

- Joshua was lying face down on the ground, in despair.
- Have you ever been in despair?
- Have you ever seen, or are you now seeing aspects of your life that look nothing like what God promised?
- "This isn't it!"
- When we're not seeing the promises of God in our L.I.F.E.
- Where there's a contradiction to the promise, there's a problem!

The Promise & The Problem

God you said this, but this is what I'm seeing.

Joshua 1:1-7 New Living Translation

1 After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. 3 I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— 4 from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea[a] in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' 5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not

deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do.

- The Promise = (verse 5) No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live, I will be with you, I will not fail you or abandon you!
- Then why is Joshua lying on the ground in despair? Joshua saw something he never thought he'd see.
- How about you believers (God's chosen people), are you seeing some bad things you never thought you'd see that contradict the promise?
- What did Joshua see?

Joshua 7:2-9 New Living Translation

2 Joshua sent some of his men from Jericho to spy out the town of Ai, east of Bethel, near Beth-aven. 3 When they returned, they told Joshua, "There's no need for all of us to go up there; it won't take more than two or three thousand men to attack Ai. Since there are so few of them, don't make all our people struggle to go up there." 4 So approximately 3,000 warriors were sent, but they were soundly defeated. The men of Ai 5 chased the Israelites from the town gate as far as the quarries,[a] and they killed about thirty-six who were retreating down the slope. The Israelites were paralyzed with fear at this turn of events, and their courage melted away. 6 Joshua and the elders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed face down to the ground before the Ark of the Lord until evening. 7 Then Joshua cried out, "Oh, Sovereign Lord, why did you bring us across the Jordan River if you are going to let the Amorites kill us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side! 8 Lord, what can I say now that Israel has fled from its enemies? 9 For when the Canaanites and all the other people living in the land hear about it, they will surround us and wipe our name off the face of the earth. And then what will happen to the honor of your great name?"

- What was Joshua promised?
- The Promise = (verse 5) No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live, I will be with you, I will not fail you or abandon you!
- But what did Joshua see?
- He saw the Israelite army running from their enemies and killed.
- What have we been seeing lately that doesn't line up with what He promised?

- Are we running from the enemy?

When God is Against Us

- When we're not seeing the promises of God right here, something must have happened back there!
- Have you obeyed God?

Joshua 6:15-19 New Living Translation

15 On the seventh day the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around the town as they had done before. But this time they went around the town seven times. 16 The seventh time around, as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the town! 17 Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed[a] as an offering to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and the others in her house will be spared, for she protected our spies. 18 "Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. 19 Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the Lord and must be brought into his treasury."

Joshua 7:1 New Living Translation

7 But Israel violated the instructions about the things set apart for the Lord.[a] A man named Achan had stolen some of these dedicated things, so the Lord was very angry with the Israelites. Achan was the son of Carmi, a descendant of Zimri[b] son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah.

- No matter who we are, and at any point in history, we're not permitted to violate the commands of the Lord.

Joshua 7:11-12 New Living Translation

11 Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen some of the things that I commanded must be set apart for me. And they have not only stolen them but have lied about it and hidden the things among their own belongings. 12 That is why the Israelites are running from their enemies in defeat. For now Israel itself has been set apart for destruction. I will not remain with you any

longer unless you destroy the things among you that were set apart for destruction.

- Here's what you did, and here's why you aren't seeing the promise.
- God, please reveal our sin to us, set us free, restore the promise.
- What sins have we committed against God or others, and are we hiding them within?
- What are the roots of these fruits?

Get Up & Fix It!

Joshua 7:10 New Living Translation

10 But the Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this?"

Joshua 7:13-15 New Living Translation

13 "Get up! Command the people to purify themselves in preparation for tomorrow. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Hidden among you, O Israel, are things set apart for the Lord. You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things from among you. 14 "In the morning you must present yourselves by tribes, and the Lord will point out the tribe to which the guilty man belongs. That tribe must come forward with its clans, and the Lord will point out the guilty clan. That clan will then come forward, and the Lord will point out the guilty family. Finally, each member of the guilty family must come forward one by one. 15 The one who has stolen what was set apart for destruction will himself be burned with fire, along with everything he has, for he has broken the covenant of the Lord and has done a horrible thing in Israel."

- Whatever is buried can become a foothold for the devil.
- Disobedience opens the door for both demonic oppression, and the hand of God being against you.
- When you're in sin, you're outside of the will of God and no match for the devil.
- Dig it up and dispose of it!
- For those things we cannot reach there is an anointed one!

Jesus Christ, the Anointed One

Isaiah 61:1-3 New Living Translation

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me,
for the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted
and to proclaim that captives will be released
and prisoners will be freed.[a]

2 He has sent me to tell those who mourn
that the time of the Lord's favor has come,[b]
and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.

3 To all who mourn in Israel,[c]
he will give a crown of beauty for ashes,
a joyous blessing instead of mourning,
festive praise instead of despair.
In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks
that the Lord has planted for his own glory.

There's an anointing that rests upon Jesus to break off what's buried.

Spirit & Truth

Exodus 3:9-12 New Living Translation

9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt." 11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

Exodus 9:1 New Living Translation

9 "Go back to Pharaoh," the Lord commanded Moses. "Tell him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so they can worship me.

- God wants us free so we can worship Him!
- How does He want to be worshipped/served?
- To whom will He give abundant life?

John 4:15-29 New Living Translation

15 “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.” 16 “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. 17 “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— 18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!” 19 “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. 20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim,[a] where our ancestors worshiped?” 21 Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. 23 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” 25 The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus told her, “I am the Messiah!”[b] 27 Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” 28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?”

- The Messiah will bring up everything that is buried, not to condemn you, but to give you life. Secret sins, hidden agendas, unforgiveness.
- Don’t abuse the grace!
- Spirit and truth are the standard!
- Flesh/carnality and lies/darkness/evil are the opposite.
- What will help us stay far from what God hates?
- Wisdom!

- Proverbs 9:10 New King James Version
10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

The Fear of the Lord

Acts 5:1-11 New Living Translation

5 But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife’s consent, he kept the rest. 3 Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God!” 5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. 6 Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him. 7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, “Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?” “Yes,” she replied, “that was the price.” 9 And Peter said, “How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too.” 10 Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

- God’s wrath is real and waiting.

Repent and Be Baptized!

Colossians 2:10-15 New Living Translation

10 So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. 11 When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.[a] 12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed[b] the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Acts 2:37-38 New Living Translation

37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 51:1-12 New Living Translation

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion,
blot out the stain of my sins.
2 Wash me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.
3 For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.
4 Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.[a]
5 For I was born a sinner—
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.
6 But you desire honesty from the womb,[b]
teaching me wisdom even there.

7 Purify me from my sins,[c] and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
8 Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me—
now let me rejoice.
9 Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a loyal spirit within me.

11 Do not banish me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit[d] from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.

- I prayed and asked what was the Lord's "Let my people go" statement.

John 19:30 New King James Version

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.