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JOSHUA 5:13-15

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THEY HAVE MOVED FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM. FROM WILDERNESS TO CULTIVATION. THE BATTLE BEGINS.

¹³ When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”

Joshua 5:13 (ESV)

BY JERICO = LIT. IN JERICO = CONNECTION TO THE SPIES = POSSIBLE VISIONARY EXPERIENCE
LIFTED UP HIS EYES = CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE/SURPRISE = HE LOOKED AND BAM! A MAN...
BEFORE = OPPOSITE OR OVER AGAINST HIM: NOT HOSTILITY PER SE BUT INDEPENDENCE
WITH A DRAWN SWORD IN HIS HAND – ONLY 2X IN OT (Num 22 & 1 Chr 21)

¹⁴ And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”

Joshua 5:14 (ESV)

NO! = YHWH WILL NOT FIGHT FOR ISRAEL, ISRAEL WILL FIGHT FOR GOD
COMMANDER = PRINCE. THE CLOSEST PARALLEL IS DAN 8:1 WHERE IT CLEARLY REFERS TO YHWH
NOW I HAVE COME = NOW THAT CIRCUMCISION/PASSOVER = FULFILLMENT OF PROMISE

²⁰ “Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. ²¹ Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. ²² “But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

Exodus 23:20-22 (ESV)

WHEN HE RECOGNIZES HE’S IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SUPERNATURAL HE DOESN’T TREMBLE IN FEAR HE FALLS DOWN AND WORSHIPS = LIT. FELL DOWN UPON HIS FACE TO THE GROUND AND BOWED DOWN. WORSHIP CAN BE USED OF TRUE WORSHIP OF YHWH OR A MORE GENERAL GESTURE OF RESPECT. HE USES THE GENERIC TERM *’ādōnî* FOR LORD RATHER THAN YHWH LEAVING THINGS UNCLEAR.

⁹ And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

¹⁰ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.”

Revelation 19:9-10 (ESV)

¹⁵ And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:15 (ESV)

TAKE OFF YOUR SANDALS = THE COMMANDER HAS THE SWORD. JOSHUA IS BAREFOOT WITH NOTHING TO DO BUT TRUST YHWH. THERE WILL BE TWO BATTLES AND TWO ARMIES – ONE IN THE HEAVENS AND ONE IN THE EARTH.

THIS IS, OF COURSE, AN ECHO OF MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH. BOTH HAVE THEOPHANIES. BOTH BECOME SACRED GROUND BECAUSE YHWH IS PRESENT IN THE ANGEL.

¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Exodus 3:1-8 (ESV)

GOD HAS PROMISED TO BE WITH JOSHUA LIKE MOSES.

⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Joshua 1:5 (ESV)

**STOP ASKING GOD TO BE ON YOUR SIDE.
FALL DOWN ON YOUR FACE
(WORSHIP/SUBMIT)
AND MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE TO HIS WILL
(WHAT DOES MY LORD SAY TO HIS SERVANT?)**

³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Matthew 12:30 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do we use God's name or word to justify our own opinions or agendas, without carefully studying what he has revealed in the Scriptures and listening to his Spirit?
2. Do we pray for God to bless our plans or goals, without seeking his will and glory, and without being willing to change or surrender them if he leads us differently?
3. Do we assume that God is on our side because of our nationality, ethnicity, denomination, or political affiliation, without examining our hearts and actions in the light of his holiness and justice?
4. Do we judge or condemn others who disagree with us on secondary or debatable issues, without showing them love and respect, and without being humble and teachable ourselves?
5. Do we ignore or compromise on the essential truths of the gospel, such as the deity and humanity of Christ, his death and resurrection, his lordship and salvation, and his return and judgment, in order to fit in with the culture or avoid persecution?
6. Do we respond to Christ as Joshua did, by falling on our face in reverence and worship, and by asking him what message he has for us?
7. Do we follow Christ as Joshua did, by obeying his commands and trusting in his promises, even when we face formidable obstacles and enemies?