

For Me, or Against Me, or ?

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those **online**.
- B. **Slide1 Murrieta Community Food Drive**: Let's help stock our local MURRIETA Community pantry. **We are collecting cereal, canned veggies, and soup**. Please do not bring expired items. You can bring the food to church this **Sun (22nd)**, or drop them off **in the office tomorrow**.
- C. **Slide2 Demo Day: Do you own a hard hat?** If so, join us on October 27th and 28th from 7am to 4pm. We will have two demolition days, you can come to one or both, as we continue to remodel the inside of the sanctuary. **If you can help, please go on our website and sign-up** so that we know how many people will be there.
- D. **Slide3 Prayer**:

II. Intro: For Me, or Against Me, or ?

- A. Last week we talked about raising up memorial stones in our lives. To **remember what God has done** (crossing of the Jordan river).

III. Slide4,5 THE PANIC OF THE HEATHEN (1) READ

- A. So **God's reputation** has preceded Him, once again.
- B. **Their hearts melted** - they're *afraid, petrified*, **but** have done nothing to surrender themselves to *the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*.
- C. But Praise God these gentile kings are *paralyzed with fear* because of what happens next. **Making them very vulnerable** (needing time to recover ... *let's read more*).

IV. Slide6,7 THE PURIFICATION OF THE PEOPLE (2-9) READ RECOMMITTING REMOVING

- A. (2-7) **God** is basically saying, *I want to see Consecration before Conquest*.
- B. This circumcision is **recommitting** their lives to the Lord. (pretty serious)

C. (3) **Gibeath-haaraloth** = Lit. *the hill of foreskins*. Cuz that's what you get with a 1.5 million guys. [I live on the hill of La Cresta, oh I live on *the hill of foreskins*]

D. To understand **circumcision**, you need to understand **covenant**.

1. 1 example is in Gen.17 w/Ab (**with a people from him** (Jews and a Messiah) **and a place, the land**) [also in 15:18]
2. **"A covenant is a unilateral - unconditional - promise that God makes."**
3. **God most often works this way.** We look at God's covenants as ...
 - a) **Conditional** – God will do His part, *when* the human requirements **are** met.
 - b) **Unconditional** – It may include certain human contingencies, **but** God **will** certainly do **His part, in His time & in His way.**
 - (1) **Of the 8 Biblical Covenants only 2 were conditional.** (Edenic & Mosaic)
 - (2) **So 6** out of the **8** were *unilateral* agreements.
4. And when **God** makes a promise, **He** never breaks His promise.

E. He seals it, or His signature is an oath. And the covenant often involve *the shedding of blood* as the signature of that oath God made.

1. Then, basically, God said to Abraham earlier your signature is going to be **to circumcise yourself** (at age 99, *and this hasn't been done before*), **and** circumcise Ishmael, **then later all the sons** born to the seed of Abraham.
 - a) **Why? 1st reason.** *Never rely on the flesh.* The cutting away of the flesh is the **reminder of that, and** the reminder to **rely on Me.**
 - b) **Why? 2nd reason.** Put a knife to *the place of reproduction.* Then **you will always remember** you are **My children.** **And** that you will produce children that also **belong to Me.**

F. This represents most covenants in OT, and 1 very important one in the NT.

1. When Jesus broke bread on that last passover with His disciples. ***This is my body, which is broken for you, and this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you. His unilateral unconditional promise.***

G. (8,9) Today I have *rolled away* the reproach of Egypt from you. Rolled away sounds like Gilgal in Hebrew.

H. There was obviously a **stigma** attached to being *a slave in Egypt*.

1. What was your **reputation**? Your **personal past**? The **sins** that you committed. The **stuff** you did in the past?

I. The beautiful thing about coming to Jesus is that He *rolls away* the reproach of our past. *“There is now, therefore, no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

V. Slide8,9 THE PASSOVER OF THE LAMB (10) READ REJOICING

A. Remember when they left Egypt it was the 1st Passover (Ex.12). And what's the **first** thing that they're *celebrating* in the land? **Passover**. 14th of Nissan.

VI. Slide10,11 THE PROVISIONS FROM THE LAND (11,12) READ RELYING

A. **Manna** - *what is it?* because they didn't know what it was. Mixture of Coriander seed, sweet substance made into a wafer (so basically a Krispy Cream).

1. And God sustained them for **40 years** with **this, oh, and some quail**.

2. So *Krispy Cream and Chick-fil-A* I guess. Now God is going to provide for them in the land.

VII. Slide12,13 THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD (13-15) READ RESIGNING

A. **Angel of Yahweh** - *“OT figure who acts as a direct representative of **Yahweh**, and may be an embodiment of Yahweh Himself in human or angelic form.”*

1. Ex.15:3 *the Lord is a man of war; the LORD is his name.*

2. Many believe *all Theophanies are Christophanies*.

B. He said the same to **Moses**, *take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.*

C. How many times have we asked that to God? (*whose side are You on?*)

1. Shouldn't we be asking, *Lord am I on Your side?*

2. How are You leading and *how can I get on your team?*
3. When Joshua realized this he *immediately resigns himself* to **His Lordship**.
4. **Not**, Lord will you bless my endeavors, **but** Lord what are You up to?
5. **It's not** what side are You on? It's Lord am I following You?
6. Because **You** are *the Commander of Israel*. You are **the Holy One**. You are **God Almighty**. You are **the Lord, Omnipotent**, You are **King**. You are **Majestic** in all Your ways. **Help me to follow You**.

D. **Slide 14a** How do **you** prepare to meet your “*enemy*”?

E. Joshua's probably doing *recon work* while the guys heal.

1. He's seems to be preparing to meet his enemy at Jericho. **But** behind it, **it's really a story about God** meeting **Joshua**, to prepare him for the battle at Jericho.

- a) Sometimes we come to church to learn about God, **but** that doesn't necessitate being *in the presence of God*.

- b) May I speak to most all of us here tonight, **we are all so busy and often have no real time to spend in the presence of God**. [**but** this is how **He** prepares us!]

F. Seems that he just appears, which is startling alone. **Friend or foe?**

1. **This is the same man** in Gen.16 speaking to **Hagar**.

2. **This is the same man** in Gen.18 outside **Abrahams** tent.

3. **This is the same man** in Gen.32 that wrestled with **Jacob** at night.

4. **This is the same man** in Numb.22 that confronted **Balaam**.

5. **This is the same man** in 1 Chron.21:16 whom **David** called, **God/Elohim**.

G. **Let's not look at this** from the perspective of **Joshua** as the main character of the story, walking towards the battle, walking towards Jericho. **But instead**, Joshua, walking towards Jericho and **God decided to show up and meet - him - there**.

H. **Why is God showing up now as Joshua approaches Jericho?** (*Read* 1:9)

a) Joshua, as you go to face your enemy, it's going to be tough. **But I am w/you.**

2. **Slide14b** Listen, it's when you and I spend time *in the presence of God* **then** we will know, **then** we will be reminded, **then** we will know **He is with us.** Have that assurance.

I. **Many versions of this story** (African tribe, Cherokee Indian Tribe, others but all similar) **Where a Boy passes into manhood.** Blindfolded and brought to a location to spend the night alone and he cannot remove the blindfold. The elders will know if it's tampered with. **They lead him there, and then leave him there, all by himself, with all of those dangerous Animals lurking around.** He is fearful & frightened hearing all the howls and noises. **All with the mask on.** 1 hour passes, 2 hours, 3 hours, **then pretty soon, he has made it through the night.** In the morning, when he feels the sun on his face, then he can takeoff the blindfold. But what he 1st say was His Father was only 5 feet behind him the whole time. (He had spent the whole night there, he never left him alone).

1. **Slide14c** **When we face life's battles, we are reminded God is always there with us.**

J. In the presence of God, He humbles us. What a great reminder, *Brian, it's not about you. You're not gonna to figure out this battle, or win this battle on your own.*

K. When we face life's battles humbly ... we are reminded it's **God** who gives us **strength**, it is **God** who gives us the **victory**, it is **God** who gives us the **fortitude**.

L. (15) **take off your sandals** – *sound familiar?* Moses w/burning bush.

M. **Slide14d** **Last words, and Joshua did so** – He uses our **battles & trials** to make us *more Holy.*

N. **Where is holy Ground?** Even a sinful place like *Jericho* can be **holy Ground**.

1. I've **felt** some very dark places in my travels. **But**, I've also felt **the peace of God, the presence of God, the nearness of God** - in the darkest of places.

2. (1:9) **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**

O. Keywords: provision

P. **Kinds of Theophanies.**

Q. There are **thunderstorm** theophanies, such as Mount Sinai.

R. There are **court** theophanies, in which God appears on his throne in the midst of angelic servants (Dan. 7:9–10).

S. There are **man** theophanies, where God appears in human form (for example, to Manoah and his wife).

T. There are **warrior** theophanies, where God is described as resembling a human warrior (Exod. 15:3; Isa. 49:17).

U. There are **chariot** theophanies, where God is described as riding on a chariot (Ps. 18:10; sometimes with mention of wheels, Ezek. 1:15–21).

V. There are **glory** and **cloud** theophanies, when God appears in a bright “glory” cloud, or sometimes in a dark cloud.

W. **Jesus Christ**, is the *climactic* theophany.