

LESSONS THAT SHAPE OUR LIFE 2 - COURAGE (*Courageous moms!*)

Esth. 4:14 *For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. **Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?***

I. DEVELOPING THE COURAGE TO TRANSFORM HISTORY

A A LESSON IN COURAGE FROM SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABED-NEGO - *Even after their identity was snatched away!*

IDENTITY AND NAMES: *Hananiah* ("Yahweh is gracious") - *Shadrach, Mishael* ("Who is what God is?") - *Meshach, Azariah* ("Yahweh has helped") - *Abednego*. They were named for pagan Babylonian gods.

UNGODLY CULTURES TRY TO TAKE YOUR IDENTITY AWAY- Stand!

1. STANDING ALONE IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION

Dan. 3:16 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ **But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.**"*

2. FACING DEATH gets real **REAL** fast

Dan. 3:22 *Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and **the furnace exceedingly hot, (3 TIMES HOTTER THAN NORMAL - PROBABLY OVER 3,000 DEGREES)** the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, **fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.***

3. THE FOURTH MAN IN THE FIRE - GOD IS WITH US **ALWAYS**

Dan. 3:24 *Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "**Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?**" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king. ²⁵ "Look!" he answered, "**I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**"*

4. NOT EVEN THE SMELL OF SMOKE - A SUPERNATURAL RESCUE

Dan. 3:26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together, and **they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.**

5. A HISTORIC SHIFT - ROYAL DECREE

Dan. 3:28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! ²⁹ **Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.**”

COURAGE - IS HAVING THE WORLD-SHIFTING DETERMINATION TO STAND ALONE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

B. HISTORIC TIMES SHIFT TERRITORY, BOTH IN THE SPIRIT AND ON EARTH. THOSE OF COURAGEOUS HEART WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SHIFT

1. **WAR** - America has seen two World Wars, a Revolutionary War, a Civil War and several other conflicts and military actions.
 - **ECONOMIC OUTCOMES** - After the Revolutionary War America experienced a depression and economic collapse. We lost trading privileges with England and much of the world because of that.
 - **THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS** - American industrialization resulted from the need to produce our own goods. We moved from Debtor Nation status to Creditor Nation status. Germany, Russia and Europe receded as dominant global powers.
 - **LIVES LOST - DESTINY SHIFTED** - We lost **over 3 million lives** in all of our wars. Just think of the loss families experienced - the shift in future opportunities and hardship for the children of those lost in war.

2. **WAR IS HORRIFIC** - *Lives are lost, economies are destroyed, hardship is created for many generations. All this is the cost to see TERRITORIAL SHIFT in our world. But, even more importantly, **SPIRITUAL SHIFTS are taking place within these territories.***

- **FINANCE IS A TERRITORY**
- **THE VALUE OF LIFE OVER DEATH IS A TERRITORY**
- **MORAL INTEGRITY IN CULTURE IS A TERRITORY**
- **OUR HOPES AND DREAMS ARE A TERRITORY**
- **STRONG FAMILIES ARE A TERRITORY**
- **THE LAND IS A TERRITORY - SPILLED BLOOD HAS GENERATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL IMPACT IN A LAND. THE LAND NEEDS TO BE HEALED! (Numbers 35:33 - spilled blood defiles the land)**

3. **SPIRITUAL AWAKENING SHIFTS THE SPIRITUAL TERRITORY**

Matt. 11:12 *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. **CONFRONTATION***

- **PRAYER IS COURAGEOUS.** *It shifts territory*
- **THE GREAT AWAKENINGS - Moves of God make a mess**
1st- George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards, 2nd- Camp meetings, social reform, 3rd- the Businessman's Revival - Lunchtime prayer meeting - passengers on ships coming into the NY harbor fell to knees in repentance miles at sea. 4th- Jesus Movement- MORE
- **MORAL, SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS DARKNESS** *is a CALL to Prayer and Repentance which LEADS TO REVIVAL*
- **SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IS PRAYING SO THAT WE CAN EXPERIENCE ANOTHER SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

C. **IT TAKES COURAGE TO SEE A TERRITORY BECOME A REALM**

A TERRITORY IS A DEFINED PLACE OR AREA OF INFLUENCE. IT CAN BE A PLACE WHERE DEMONIC POWERS OPERATE AND CONTROL, OR IT CAN SIMPLY BE A NEW AREA (MTN.) WAITING to be INFLUENCED. IT BECOMES A REALM WHEN AN AUTHORITY GOVERNS IT against OTHER CLAIMS.

- **TERRITORIES SHIFT IN THE AFTERMATH of WAR, ECONOMIC**

CONDITIONS, NEW TECHNOLOGY (like AI), ALL BORDERS,
CHANGES IN CULTURE (THE 60's), and SPIRITUAL CONDITIONS

- **COURAGE WILL ENTER a NEW TERRITORY**
- **COURAGE SHIFTS A TERRITORY TO A REALM - KINGDOM**
All Holy Spirit Activity is partnered with by Courageous Believers
- **GOD RECEIVES the GLORY**

II. HOW JOSHUA DEVELOPED COURAGE FOR HIS HISTORIC TIME

Josh. 1:1 *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:*² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel."³ **Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.**⁴ *From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.*⁵ **No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.**⁶ *Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.*⁷ **Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.**⁸ *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*⁹ **HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.** (a command makes it about obedience)

A. JOSHUA RECEIVED HIS COMMISSION - *But, it would take **incredible amounts of courage to actually fulfill his calling.** (ADMONISHED 3 TIMES!) You would think if God were in it, it would be easy! But, the only way to succeed was to be **STRONG AND COURAGEOUS**, believing the promise confidently that God would never leave or forsake him.*

- **WE NEED A WORD TO EMPOWER US**
- **OUR TERRITORY IS WHERE the sole of OUR FEET STEP**

- **FEAR MUST BE SUBDUED** - *Fear is a natural reaction, it can also be a spirit and, over time, it is a Dominion that controls behavior. It controls territory by suppressing hope and faith. ONLY SPIRIT-INSPIRED COURAGE CAN BREAK IT.*

B. COURAGE IS THE KEY TO POSSESSING TERRITORY

- **THE EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD TO DO IS NOTHING AND NEVER ENTER THE LAND WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN.** *The first generation Israelites died in the wilderness, except for Joshua and Caleb, because they feared giants more than they believed God.*
- **THE LORD NEVER SENDS US INTO FOREIGN TERRITORY WITHOUT GOING IN WITH US. HE IS OUR SECRET WEAPON**
- **TERRITORIES BECOME REALMS WHEN WE DECIDE TO POSSESS THE LAND**

ILLUSTRATION - *KIM POSSESSING THE TERRITORY OF ART*

- **JOSHUA WAS ADMONISHED TO KEEP AND MEDITATE ON THE LAW IN ORDER TO HAVE GREAT SUCCESS AND TO PROSPER**

C. COURAGE IS ONLY THE BEGINNING - STRENGTH MUST FOLLOW *(Everyone knows that strength only comes by resistance training)*

- **THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS ARE TERRITORIES THAT CAN BECOME REALMS - Family, Religion, Education, Government, Media, Arts and Entertainment, Business. THEY ARE NOT A MANDATE, THEY ARE DEFINED AREAS OF INFLUENCE IN OUR CULTURE. **CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO INFLUENCE CULTURE WITH THE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.****

ILLUSTRATION - *CHRISTOPHER IN BIOLOGY CLASS. STANDING FOR CREATION VS EVOLUTION. ONLY "B" IN ALL OF HIGH SCHOOL. He didn't let the culture lock him out of the influence God was giving to him on the mountain of Medicine.*

III. THE COURAGEOUS CHANGE HISTORY

When we stand courageously in our culture and pray, we can affect economies, governments, culture, families and future generations.
LET'S DO IT!