Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 14 – Jesus - The Captain of the LORD's Host)

(Joshua 5:13-15 and Selected Scriptures)

12/1/2013

Introduction: **See: Joshua 5:13 - 6:2**

Joshua 5:13 – Here Jesus makes one of His many mysterious appearances in the O.T.
Why is Joshua confronted by a Christophany?
--To show Joshua that he was an "underling" and that Christ was the Holy Commander-in-Chief (cp. I Pet. 5:4).

v.15 – "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy." Why is Joshua told to remove his shoe? Because he was standing on holy ground. Why was it holy ground? It is because the LORD was there.

6:2 - The Captain of the Lord's Armies is now identified as "the LORD (Yahweh)."

Note: Joshua was justified in conquering the nations of Canaan for three reasons: See Deut. 9:4-5

1. Because it was God's battle; Joshua and Israel were simply God's instrument to do His will (Deut. 9:4, 5 - "The LORD doth drive them out")
2. Because of the wickedness of the nations (Deut. 9:4-5)
   --Sexual perversion of every type (Lev. 18:1-30; *v. 24-25, 27)
3. Because the land actually belonged to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Deut. 9:5b) Gen. 12:1; Gen. 13:15;

The Captain of the Lord's Host is the Messenger (Angel) of the LORD (Exod. 23:20-23) (Is. 63:9 - The Messenger "of His presence") ***He fought for Joshua**

1) The Lord would accompany Joshua and promote him
Joshua 6:27

2) Victory at Ai
Joshua 8:1

3) Victory over Adoni-zedek and the kings of the Amorite coalition of Southern Canaan *Joshua 10:8; Joshua 10:12-14*

4) Victory over the kings of Northern Canaan (Josh. 11:6, 8)

5) Joshua took the whole land *Joshua 11:23*

6) The LORD gave them rest *Joshua 21:44-45*

7) Joshua's final words of admonition (Josh. 23:8-11)
***He fought for the Judges** (Samson, Gideon, Jephthah)
***He fought for David & Jonathan** (1 Sam. 14:6)
***He fought for Jehosaphat** - "The battle is the Lord's" (2 Chron. 20:15)
***He fought for Paul** - "The Lord stood with me."
***The last battle will be fought and won by Jesus Christ!** Rev. 19:11-21; cp. Is. 63:5-6

*Let Jesus fight your battles!

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Introduction:

Did you ever face a task in life that you knew was God's will, yet the task was too great for you to handle?

Joshua was a man who faced big challenges, great responsibilities, and incredible tasks.

Imagine yourself in Joshua's sandals. You have wandered in a desert for over 40 years. And are somewhat wearied by the hardships along the way. You have seen 1.2 million of your own relations die in the wilderness. You have been under the command of the greatest leader who ever lived. And now you are asked to take his place (Moses' sandals were "tough to fill").

You are now the commander and chief of 2 million people. And you are about to enter a land where you are not wanted. A land filled with walled cities, large armies, settled forts, and military men of huge stature. You must cross a river that is at its highest point. Then you are commanded by God to conquer and take control of the entire land.

What a seemingly impossible task!

Such a task was given to a man named Joshua (whose name means: "Jehovah is salvation"). A man who would live up to his name by seeing the salvation (deliverance) of Jehovah. A man who would be the greatest military conqueror to ever live. If Moses was the greatest human leader to ever live, a case can be made that Joshua was the greatest human conqueror to ever live.

Interesting theological note; A Spiritual illustration:

> Moses (representing the Law) could not bring the people into the promised land. (due to his sin and breaking the Law)
> However, Joshua (Jesus) could!
> Just as the Law cannot bring a sinner into Heaven (since all have broken the Law), but Jesus (our Joshua) can!

Joshua was a conqueror for God. Not a quitter, not a loser, not a defeatist, not a "chicken" but a conqueror - a victor - a champion! And he would conquer by simply letting Christ conquer for him!

See: Joshua 1:1-5

For Joshua to succeed, he would have to humbly submit to God's authority and leadership.

The word "commission" means just what it says - "co-mission" - a mission that you do not do alone, independently, by yourself. But it is a mission that God does with (hence, "co") you.

The pathway to leadership is submission to authority. Before you can lead, you must be able to follow.

Because Joshua was willing to submit to the leadership of Moses (Ex. 17:9-14, 24:13, 33:11), he eventually would become a great leader himself for God!

A commission with a promise (1:1-5)

V. 5
"I will not fail (drop) thee, nor forsake (abandon) thee."

God promised to never let Joshua sink (He would keep a firm grip on him) and to never leave Joshua alone (Joshua would never be all by himself).

The same promise is given to us in the N.T. Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20).

And our Lord Jesus said: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Joshua 1:6, 7, 9

The word "courage" or "courageous" occurs seven times in this book (more than any other book in the Bible).

How could Joshua have courage?

Answer: He was not fighting the battle, but rather God was fighting the battles through him.

NOTE: Joshua's courage did not come from new battle techniques or new weaponry. God did not teach Joshua new strategies, etc., but simply told him to trust and obey!
Many times we can waste time thinking up new ways to reach the lost, new methods, new programs -- when all we need to do is obey God and trust Him for the results.
What God requires you to do, God enables you to do.

God would never tell us to do something that we are unable to do.

"What must be done, can be done!"

One's courage is linked to his faith. No faith = no courage
Little faith = little courage
Strong faith = strong courage!

See: Joshua 5:13 - 6:2

Joshua 5:13 – Here Jesus makes one of His many mysterious appearances in the O.T.

Why is Joshua confronted by a Christophany?

--To show Joshua that he was an "underling" and that Christ was the Holy Commander-in-Chief (cp. I Pet. 5:4).

He appears precisely on time when Joshua is about to go into battle. The Israelites have crossed over the Jordan River; They have surveyed the first city in their path (Jericho). They obey the law by having their males circumcised, and they celebrate the Passover (5:10); The manna ceases on the first full day they are in the Land (they will now live off of the land). So now it's time to take the Land that God had given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. How would they take each city? How would they take back what was given to them by God? The Lord would fight the battle for them!

"He lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man…" – God would often appear in human form as "The Messenger of Yahweh" (or "The Angel of the LORD").

- Abraham would also lift up his eyes and see Christ in preincarnate form. (Gen. 18:1-2), who would be called YAHWEH (Gen. 18:13, 20-21, 26; 19:24).

- Jacob would wrestle with one who took on the appearance of a man (Gen. 32:24) who would be identified as "God" (Gen.32:29-30).

Remember, that no one had ever seen God the Father. Therefore every reference to someone seeing God in the Bible, can only be an appearance of Jesus Christ.

John 1:18 - No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared (revealed or exegeted) him.

Here we have another self-revelation of God by means of Jesus Christ.

"This individual is described as a "man" (*ish*, v. 13). There is a significance in the particular Hebrew word for man used here and also in Genesis 32:24 and Judges 13:6, 8, 10, and 11. Robert Girdlestone notes that Joshua 'does not use the word *Adam*, but *ish*, which both here and elsewhere can be rendered Person or Being.' *Ish* is used in this manner in Daniel 9:21, 10:5, 12:6-7; and Zechariah 1:8, where the word is applied to beings who appear to be human, yet who are not necessarily partakers of *human nature*. On the contrary, the word *Adam* signifies one who is a member of the race or partakes of human nature. This divine visitor partook of human characteristics and features without being at that time an actual member of the human race." (Borland, p. 70).

"with his sword drawn in his hand" – He is pictured as armed and ready for battle.

"art thou for us, or for our adversaries?" – Somehow Joshua sensed that this personage was supernatural and that He had the power to fight for one side or the other. Whose side are you on? he asked.

v.14 – "And he said, Nay" – I'm on neither side. I represent God! I stand on the side of righteousness and holiness. God does not stand with anyone in the sense of taking sides just to take sides. He shows no partiality or favoritism. He does not receive the face of any. He shows no preferential treatment toward mortals who do not know Him as Lord and Savior.

"but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come" -
I live in the supernatural realm and I am in authority over all armies (whether angelic or human)! I have come to earth as commander and chief.

"Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship" – Joshua's response shows that this personage was not a mere human nor an angel because both are unworthy of worship. The Law stated that such reverence (fear) and worship belongs only to the LORD (Deut.6:13; 10:20). The Lord Jesus quoted the Law to Satan when he said: "…Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Luke 4:8).

"What saith my lord unto his servant?" – Very similar to Paul's response after his confrontation with Christ. "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6)
The word "lord" is Adonai, meaning sovereign one or master. He recognized the sovereignty of the one who spoke to him.

v.15 – "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy." – The same statement, the LORD Jesus Christ (the Great I AM) said to Moses at the burning bush! (Exod. 3:5); A mere Angel would never speak with such authority. He speaks as Deity because He is God! He is identified as "Jehovah" in 6:2 as He gives a battle plan to Joshua.

Why is Joshua told to remove his shoe? Because he was standing on holy ground. Why was it holy ground? It is because the LORD was there.

6:1-5 - The city of Jericho was tightly secured; all gates were shut; there was no breach by which to enter (v. 1).

v. 2 - The Captain of the Lord's Armies is now identified as "the LORD (Yahweh)."

"I have given into thine hand Jericho" - with the LORD leading the way, the city would fall right into Joshua's hand. It would be "fruit for the picking," an easy victory, because it wasn't merely Joshua fighting. It was the Captain of the LORD's Host, Jesus Christ!

v. 3-5 - the battle plan of marching around the city once for six days and seven times on the seven day may seem quite foolish, but this is most often how God works to demonstrate that He wrought the victory and not man.

Note:

Joshua was justified in conquering the nations of Canaan for three reasons: See Deut. 9:4-5

1. Because it was God's battle; Joshua and Israel were simply God's instrument to do His will
(Deut. 9:4, 5 - "The LORD doth drive them out")

2. Because of the wickedness of the nations (Deut. 9:4-5)

--Sexual perversion of every type (Lev. 18:1-30; *v. 24-25, 27)
- --incest (v. 6-17)
- --polygamy (v. 18)
- --adultery (v. 20)
- --homosexuality (v. 22)
- --bestiality (v. 23)
- --Child sacrifice (Lev. 18:21)

Deut. 12:31 - "Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods."

--Demonic worship of false gods (Deut. 12:30-31)

3. Because the land actually belonged to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Deut. 9:5b)

God originally gave the land to Abraham 690 years prior to the conquest.

Gen. 12:1 - the land given to Abraham

Gen. 13:15 - the land is promised to Israel forever!

Gen. 15:13-16 -Israel would not conquer it then because God was merciful to the Amorites. God patiently waited until the wickedness of the Canaanites came to a climactic head.

Genesis 15:13-16 - And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

The Captain of the Lord's Host is the Messenger (Angel) of the LORD (Exod. 23:20-23) (Is. 63:9 - The Messenger "of His presence")

SEE: Exod. 23:20-23

V. 20 - "Angel" - messenger; the same "Messenger of the LORD" who was identified as God and Lord to Abraham (Gen. 18) etc.

V. 21 - A serious warning: "Obey His voice" - He will speak to you; only the Lord is heard from in every conquest (never a mere angel).

"He will not pardon your transgressions" - He will not lift it off without holding you accountable (cp. Exod. 32:34)0. (God does not overlook sin or pretend it never happened)

Why is this "Messenger" of the LORD so serious about sin?

"For My Name is in Him" - Yahweh's very name resides in this conqueror! His name represents all that He is. It stands for His glory! And He does not share His glory with anyone.

I *am* the Lord: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.
Isaiah 42:8

For mine own sake, *even* for mine own sake, will I do *it*: for how should *my name* be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.
Isaiah 48:11

***He fought for Joshua**

Yahweh fought for Joshua!

1) The Lord would <u>accompany</u> Joshua and <u>promote</u> him

So the Lord was with Joshua; and his fame was *noised* throughout all the country.
Joshua 6:27

Note: the only defect mentioned in Joshua's 7 year conquest of the land was at Ai (and this was due to the sin of Achan - Josh. 7:6)

2) Victory at Ai

And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:
Joshua 8:1

Note: After this victory Joshua would make a treaty with the Gibeonites, who deceived him because he did not seek God's direction (Josh. 9:14)

3) Victory over Adoni-zedek and the kings of the Amorite coalition of Southern Canaan

And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.
Joshua 10:8

Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.
And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. *Is* not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.
And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.
Joshua 10:12-14

Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, unto Libnah, and fought against Libnah:
And the Lord delivered it also, and the king thereof, into the hand of Israel; and he smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that *were* therein; he let none remain in it; but did unto the king thereof as he did unto the king of Jericho.
Joshua 10:29-30

And the Lord delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, which took it on the second day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that *were* therein, according to all that he had done to Libnah.
Joshua 10:32

4) Victory over the kings of Northern Canaan (Josh. 11:6, 8)

5) Joshua took the whole land

So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.
Joshua 11:23

Note the 31 kings who were conquered by the Lord (12:9-24)

6) The LORD gave them rest

And the Lord gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand.
There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.
Joshua 21:44-45

7) Joshua's final words of admonition (Josh. 23:8-11)

***He fought for the Judges** (Samson, Gideon, Jephthah)

***He fought for David & Jonathan** (1 Sam. 14:6)

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.
This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.
And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.
1 Samuel 17:45-47

***He fought for Jehosaphat** - "The battle is the Lord's" (2 Chron. 20:15)

***He fought for Paul** - "The Lord stood with me."

At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge.
Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.
And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.
2 Timothy 4:16-18

***The last battle will be fought and won by Jesus Christ!** Rev. 19:11-21; cp. Is. 63:5-6

*Let Jesus fight your battles!

--We often take matters into our own hands

--We plan without seeking His wisdom

--We proceed without seeking His guidance

--We fight/struggle to go nowhere ("Ye have not because ye ask not" - Ja. 4:2)

Your battles with the <u>flesh</u> ("through the Spirit do mortify. . .")

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.
Romans 8:13

"Power of Christ may rest upon me"

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
2 Corinthians 12:9

Your battles with the <u>world system</u> ("in the world ye shall have tribulation. . . I have overcome")

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
John 16:33

Your battles with <u>Satan</u>

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
Ephesians 6:10

Trust Him in your <u>private</u> battles with self

Trust Him in your <u>personal</u> battles with others

Trust Him in your <u>public</u> battles with many

Make sure you get your marching orders from the Lord!

Beware of self-dependence or self-trust.
(pride and feelings of independence are satanic and lead to our downfall)

If I trust Him, He will help me do what I am incapable of doing:

He will write my sermons

He will preach them through me

He will win the soul I can't win (EX: my dad)

He will conquer the temptation and battle I struggle with

He will defeat my foes

We need the Lord when battling --

--To see someone saved

--To see a loved one restored

--When struggling to make our marriage work

--To see a wayward teen made right

--When persecuted or treated unfairly in the workplace

"If God be for us, who can be against us"

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. . ."

This old world is no friend of grace; "I need Thee every hour!"