

America and Our Time of Visitation

Ex. 12:51 “And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt **according to their armies.**”

Armies = “Hosts” = God refers to His people as His armies.

What are armies supposed to do?

FIGHT!

- **Take territory, not concede territory to the enemy.**
- **Supposed to be on the move forward – advancing.**

George S. Patton – one of America’s great generals:

- Said what he meant and meant what he said.
- Patton’s idea of war was: “We win, they lose.” “We are not holding anything; we are taking ground- advancing.”
- This is what armies-military is supposed to do.
- **We are called God’s army.**
- **It is our function to be on the move, taking ground, not conceding ground to the enemy- the kingdom of darkness.**
- **The kingdom of Heaven is designed to advance:**
- Matt 11:3 John sent messengers to Jesus asking Him if He was the One they should look for as Messiah or should they look for someone else?
Jesus’ answer was v.4 –6 “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see.”
Meaning – the Kingdom of Heaven is on the ground and the kingdom of darkness is losing ground.
- **V. 12** “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”
- **“The Kingdom of Heaven is breaking out of the stagnant state it was in for 400 years.”**
- **Both John and Jesus’ message was Repent – for the Kingdom of Heaven is on the move – breaking out against the kingdom of darkness.**

So how is it going in this nation?

Is the Kingdom of God advancing, taking ground, fighting the good fight to take back from the kingdom of darkness?

The answer to that question tells us whether God’s army is functioning as God’s army.

Ex. 13:17-18 “When it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.

So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.”

1. When God brings them out of Egypt, He doesn't bring them through the closest - direct route.
 - When they would get to the land and see that they are going to have to fight for the land; they are not going to want to fight for the land.
 - They would be more inclined to turn back to Egypt and be slaves again.
 - That was their mentality – slaves. None of them were born in the land of Canaan, but in Egypt as slaves.
 - They were accustomed to the sights and sounds of Egypt.
 - As they lived in Egypt, Egypt began to live in them.
 - When faced with the fact they would have to fight for God's purposes, they would rather turn around and be slaves again.

The irony of this is that when they came out of Egypt, they marched in **orderly ranks** – The Hebrew term means “**Armed & in fighting formation.**” They were not in a fleeing and panic mode, but one prepared for battle.

They appeared as an army, yet they weren't really an army!

- **They had a sword in their hand, but the will to fight was not in their heart!**
- A lot of God's army has the sword of God's Word, but the will to fight is not in their heart.

They had another problem:

- Num. 11: 4 -says there also went out with the children of Israel a mixed multitude. “Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel **also** wept again and said; who will give us meat to eat?”
- The mixed multitude were those in Egypt who saw the plagues, saw God's hand on Israel and were among those who left Egypt with Israel.
- Some believe they were “plants among the Israelites to cause trouble.” As the tares are sown among the wheat to disrupt and undermine.”
- Israel was influenced by this mixed multitude.

So the wandering through the wilderness was God's time of teaching His people that what they needed and could depend on was what He said they needed and He would be their supply, not what others said or their flesh craved.

The wilderness experience was for the purpose of taking what appeared to be an army on the outside, but was not prepared to fight, and making them into a conquering force.

Those who came out of Egypt came to the land and saw the giants and fortified cities and backed away and would not believe nor fight for the land God was giving to them.

- Their declaration over themselves was “God has brought us into this wilderness to let us die.”
- That is exactly what happened to them. Not because it was God’s will, but because of their unwillingness to believe Him and fight for what He was giving to them.
- That generation would not and could not enter in.

But there arose a generation prepared in the wilderness that would rise up and follow Gods’ leading and promise and conquer the land.

We know that the Lord went before His army and would defeat the enemies, but His army had to go and FIGHT!

- Even though God had fought for them and decided the outcome of the battle; He still expected them to fight.
- **It boils down to who is going to follow God and His purposes?**

This is how it is supposed to be with God’s people/His army; but look at how its been today with even us!

Duet. 8:1-3 “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers.

And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years’ in the wilderness, **to humble you and test you,** to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know **that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.**”

- Their wilderness experience was to test what was in their hearts.
- They said a lot of things: “We will serve You and follow You and make You our God’ but they didn’t keep their word to Him.”
- God leads you and I through wilderness to see what is in our hearts to keep His ways or are we just mouth/lip service and when its tough; we doubt Him and bail on Him!

Luke 12:22-29 “He said to His disciples, therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.

Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?
And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?
If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest?
Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
If God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, o you of little faith?

Point:

And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.”

Eating and drinking are pretty important things, aren't they?
Priority/Vital to life!

- **How many of you today are **not** that concerned about those things?**

We are not to have an anxious mind!

- If I'm not to have an anxious mind about what I going to eat today, drink or clothing, then maybe I shouldn't have an anxious mind about if we are going to repeal Obama Care, or build Borders, or conflict with North Korea, or terrorist attacks and senseless mass killings taking place.

v.30 - “For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

All these things we are consumed about fall under the category of those things that our Father knows we need.

- He knows we need these things, YET the Messiah tells us not to have an anxious mind and not to seek the same things the nations are seeking.

Why? We are to be a called out – separated people not acting like everybody else, we are not supposed to think like everybody else, to speak like everybody else, - we are supposed to be a set apart people.

There are two exceptional nations that God has created: Not that He doesn't love all people:

1. **Israel** was called out to be His peculiar people in Covenant with God and to follow Him so the nations would see His glory and also receive Him as Lord.
“They were brought out on eagle's wings to a land where He would be glorified among the nations.” **GOD SOUGHT THEM OUT TO BE HIS PEOPLE!**

2. The **United States of America** was also raised up to be an exceptional nation.
- Not for the same reasons as Israel, but because the early fathers of America **asked God to enter into Covenant with them and this nation.**
 - The founding fathers were convinced that God heard their prayers and petitions that He make a covenant with this nation because of His protection, favor and victory He gave and has given over those who oppose Him.

Because we are in covenant with God as a nation, He expects certain things of us as HE did with Israel:

- **We can't talk, act like everybody else.**
- **He expects us to be true and faithful to this covenant/relationship.**
- **When we are not faithful to the relationship there are consequences.**
- **"We shall become a parable and a byword among the nations as Israel did when they refused to keep the covenant.**

The Point is: We as the United States of America are an exceptional nation with God because we have asked Him to be in covenant with us.

As long as we are here [believers] doing what we are supposed to be doing, then God is not finished with this nation.

What we are not supposed to be doing is:

"Seeking after the things the Gentiles are seeking after."

We need to come to the place that we are not fighting as much for America as we are fighting to represent the Kingdom of God.

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

We need to stand up and for and be about the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

- **His Kingdom is the only Kingdom that will be standing when it all comes to an end.**
- **If we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first – then our nation can't' help but benefit because we are keeping the covenant that was originally made with Him.**

If we don't turn back to Him and seek His Kingdom and righteous first – there won't be a nation to save.

As His people – that is what we are here to contend for: His purposes and His agenda, not our own or the worlds.

If we feel that fighting for the nation is more important than standing for the Kingdom of God; then:

- It might call you to align yourself with person, a party, a philosophy that at some point in time, you will have to defend things/beliefs that cannot be defended Biblically.
- You may have to wink or compromise on things that as a believer, you should not compromise on.
- You may have to ignore Godly issues that you shouldn't be ignoring or compromising with.

But if we align ourselves with the Messiah and His Kingdom:

- If we commit to following the Author and Finisher of our faith, if we follow what is in His heart –
- Then we will never have to be ashamed –
- We will never have to make excuses,
- We will never have to try to defend something that can't be defended Biblically,
- We will always be in the right place at the right time doing what we are supposed to do.
- If we are all doing that, the Nation will benefit.