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## *Joshua At The Tent*

One day each of us will find ourselves in a very difficult situation where we will need to trust God completely to get through: but we might fail! It needn't be this way though. Let me share the inspiring story of a man who did not fail when faced with such a situation.

In the first 20 verses of Numbers 13 we see the mission to Canaan that Moses sent Joshua and others on. Moses instructed:

*"... see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds; whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes. (v18-20)*

Joshua is mentioned in verse eight and 16. He is just one of the men sent to spy out Canaan. He's not mentioned

first. Verse two says that every man who was sent on the mission were leaders in Israel. In verse 27-29 we see the report of these spies:

*"We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the*



*descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."*

In verse 31-33 we see the conclusion of most of the spies:

*"We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." And they*

*gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."*

So the people were scared and they wanted to get rid of Moses and get a new leader to take them back to Egypt. However, Joshua and Caleb were of a different spirit:

*But Joshua ... and Caleb ... tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them,*

*A magazine dedicated to uplifting and transforming peoples lives through the uncompromised word of God.*

*and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.*"Numbers 14:6-9

Now the consequences for Israel of doubting that God could take them into the Promised Land and conquer it were terrible. All those over the age of 20 would never enter Canaan except for Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:29).

So Joshua did not fail God in this difficult situation. My only question is why didn't he? What was special about him compared with the other leaders who failed and did not enter the Promised Land?

Exodus 33:7-11 gives us a very good clue about what was so special about Joshua:

*Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.*

What was happening at Moses tent?

Wow! There was a pillar of cloud at the door of Moses' tent and Moses talked with God there 'face to face'! Who stayed there when everyone went home? Of course it was Joshua. Why do you think he stayed there, and what benefits do you think he got from staying there? How did this help him to stand tall when faced with the difficult situation of the giants and the might of Canaan?



In answering these questions, consider the following two scenarios. Firstly, there's a diving instructor with five students who all like him very much. Four of the students go to all the classes and listen to everything he says. They come to know him very well and come to love and respect him, and learn much from him. They also spend time with him on social occasions. But one student misses most of the classes and all of the social events with the teacher because he wants to impress him by finding new students for the class and raising money so his instructor can have better resources. Which of these students after the course is finished will go on to be most like their teacher? Of course it's the four who attended all of the classes, sitting at his feet, so to speak.

Secondly, two couples are to be married in arranged marriages in 30 days. The first time they meet

is 30 days before the wedding. The first couple spend 30 days together getting to know each other and falling in love. However, in the case of the other couple, the man thinks it's more important to earn money so that their future together will be blessed, so they can live in a nice house. Just before the weddings the two couples are faced with a very difficult situation. A man threatens them, saying he will burn down their houses if they get married. Which couple do you think is more likely to go through with their wedding? Probably the first couple who bonded, don't you think?

Maybe we are a bit like the student who wanted to do things for his teacher, but wouldn't spend quality time with their teacher. Are we busy doing things for God or just busy with our own lives thinking that God's okay with that, but not spending much special time with Him?

My message from Joshua's example is simply this. Be like Joshua who lingered at the tent of Moses. Be like Joshua who lingered where God's presence was. It was only because he had a close relationship with God that he did not fail like the others when difficulties came. By being close to God, God developed his character. By being close to God, he knew God well enough to know that he could trust God no matter what came his way. Because he really was close to God, he knew all things were possible with God.

*Continued on page four*

## THE MAN WHO DIDN'T WAIT



By David Kidd

Are you a person who sometimes loses patience? Maybe even now you are losing patience with something or someone. Perhaps the story in 1 Samuel 13 about a man who didn't wait is just for you.

1 Samuel 13:1-2 says:

*Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in the mountains of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent away, every man to his tent.*

Saul was King, but he didn't have much experience at being king. We read on:

*And Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!" Now all Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel had also become an abomination*

*to the Philistines. And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal (v. 3-4).*

Saul's son, Jonathan, started a war with the Philistines, who were as the 'sand of the sea' in number. 1 Samuel 13:6 says: *When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits (v. 5-6).*

Israel was really in trouble. King Saul's people were scared and hid from their enemies. Verse seven says that some of the Hebrews were even running away to the mountainous areas of Gilead. As for King Saul, verse seven says he was still in Gilgal and all the people were trembling as they followed him.

Saul waited seven days according to the time set by Samuel the Prophet (v. 8). But there was no sign of Samuel, and Saul was losing patience. What was he to do? Samuel wasn't usually late. Previously, just before Saul was made king, Samuel had given Saul the same instructions to wait. On that occasion, Samuel had instructed Saul:

*... You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do. (1 Kings 10:8)*

On this occasion Saul waited and Samuel came on time. Samuel wasn't usually late!

Now, however, Saul could wait no longer. So he asked for the offering and peace offerings to be brought to him and he offered them himself! But *as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, ... Samuel came (v. 10).*

Whoops! - he could have waited. Samuel was not all that late after all. How long do we wait? I hope longer than Saul. How long do we wait for things we should wait for? I hope longer than Saul. How patient are we with people? I hope longer than Saul was with Samuel.

Now consider verses 11-12:

*And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."*

Don't you think that these sound like pretty good excuses for not waiting? Given Saul was an inexperienced King, and in light of Samuel's apparent lateness, the grave danger from the Philistines and the fact his people were frightened and running away, don't you think God would have showed more understanding to Saul?

Not so! Saul by failing to wait had made a great mistake.

*And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of*

*the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you (v. 13-14).*

It's very important we wait on the Lord and be patient. King David, the man after God's own heart who replaced Saul as king, instructs us several times in Psalms to wait patiently on the Lord. For example Psalms 27:14 says:

*Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord.*

If we are like Saul, the man who didn't wait, the consequences for us could be just as serious. There are many situations in life where it is very important to wait, but we are tempted not to. Can you think of any facing you?

If we are young, how about not waiting until we are old enough? Young people, you will be an adult for most of your life. Don't try to grow up too fast. Enjoy being a child while you can. Wait until you are an adult and mature enough to handle adult things.

How about not waiting until we can afford something before buying it and putting ourselves under financial pressure? Don't covet and break God's law!

How about not waiting in a relationship until the right time to get physically close to another person? Many Christians today do not wait until they are married before enjoying the ultimate in physical intimacy with another. Many break God's laws about physical intimacy and bring upon themselves all kinds of problems, stresses, diseases and heartaches of the soul. Wait! Again, the Lord says 'wait!'

How about not waiting on God to vindicate or defend us when we have been wronged, but rather taking vengeance ourselves? Wait on God to vindicate and exalt – don't exalt yourself!



How about not waiting for God's leading before committing to a project or something important in our lives? How about not waiting for permission from someone in authority such as the government, a parent, or pastor, or not waiting on the approval of the church committee? How about not waiting on people who we rely on and trying to do things ourselves, just as Saul didn't wait on Samuel whom he relied on? How about not being patient with the weak?

1 Thessalonians 5:14 says *"uphold the weak and be patient with all"*.

Saul, the man who didn't wait. Just think about what he missed out on because he didn't wait. He lost his kingship. Personally, his relationship with God was destroyed and his life just fell apart gradually from there. Often our relationship with God is harmed when we don't wait on Him.

## Conclusion

There are many wonderful promises in scripture for those who wait and who are patient:

*Do not say, "I will recompense evil," Wait for the Lord, and He will save you. (Proverbs 20:22)*

*... evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth. (Psalms 37:9)*

*[God will give] eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality ... (Romans 2:7)*

Let's be men, women, boys and girls of God who patiently wait. Let's not break God's commandments through impatience. God will bless those who wait.

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*Continued from page two*

Brethren, don't neglect your quiet times with God in prayer, in meditating upon His word and in studying His word. Talk to God throughout the day. You will not fail when difficulty or pressure comes your way if God is your best friend and you know He is walking with you.

*By David Kidd*



## *Why Jesus Was Baptized*

People often question the necessity of Jesus' baptism, recorded in Matthew 4:13-17. Even John the Baptist asked why Jesus should be baptized. Wasn't He already a perfect and obedient servant, the true Word of God made flesh?

Several explanations have been given to this fact of Christ's life:

- Jesus' baptism fulfilled ritual cleanings in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Jesus was an example for all who would believe the gospel and become His followers.
- Christ's baptism marked the start of His public ministry and fulfilled prophecy that John the Baptist prepared the way for that ministry.
- The baptism of Jesus pre-figured His own death and resurrection, as the unblemished paschal lamb. Jesus' baptism identified Him with sinners; He was taking our sins upon Himself.

These may be valid, but the reasons for Jesus' baptism go deeper still. The primary earthly mission of Jesus Christ was to complete the plan of salvation and fulfill divine righteousness.

Despite the Messiah's sinlessness, He carried upon Him the iniquity of all humanity. Indeed, when Jesus entered the water to be immersed by John, He symbolically took also the sins of every human being, including all who before and after Him would turn to Yahweh: "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (Isaiah 53:4a; see also vv 6b, 11b).

By coming to earth, carrying our iniquity, being baptized, and taking on the cross, Jesus magnified a symbolic act that went beyond the simple ritual of purification washing. Through His baptism, He confirmed the baptism of every Christian who would publicly affirm faith in Christ the Savior.

The apostle Paul says we are "buried with Him in baptism" (Colossians 2:12a). When one is baptized, this is usually understood as present tense. Since God is timeless, though, consider that everyone who has ever been baptized into Christ was also baptized with Jesus about two thousand years ago.

Imagine traveling back in time to the day of Jesus' baptism and

hearing the same words of the Father: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). When Jesus was baptized, we were there. We also heard the voice of the Father!

Jesus was baptized because God planned it so. All the force of universal redemption is pictured in this symbolic act. Let us enter the most Holy Place of communion with God through the power of the blood that Jesus shed in His eternal sacrifice. Let us have our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed by the "pure water" that once baptized Christ. Since He washed us in Himself in that one eternal act of redemption, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering (Hebrews 10:19-23).

The sacrificial life and death of Christ, including His baptism, fulfilled all the righteousness of God. The land of Israel lived the experience of several "Baptist" movements similar to John's (Matthew 21:25), but only he could have the privilege to baptize the Son of God, an act that pre-figured the salvation of all God's people.

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*Written by Paulo Jorge Coelho, who serves the Church in Lisbon, Portugal.*

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## *Christian Baptism*



## *In His Hands*

Baptism is an important part of the believer's response to God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

A number of questions come to mind: It is necessary to be baptized? Should there be any spiritual preparation for baptism? Does baptism wash away our sins? Does it matter which method is used: sprinkling, pouring or burial? May infants be baptized?

For the answers to these questions and more, please send for the **free booklet**, "Christian Baptism"

Sometimes problems come,  
changing all our plans . . .  
making it ever clearer  
all things are in His hands.

Hands that long to hold,  
to comfort and to console  
hands that want to heal  
the ache within the soul.

Hands that desire to reach,  
far into the heart and mind  
hands that hold perfect peace  
for anxious ones to find.

Hands that crave to embrace,  
grieving hearts in the night  
hands that hunger to lead  
the lost into His saving light.

Hands that are capable,  
hands confident and sure  
hands that calm the storms  
hands that holds life's cure.

Sometimes problems come,  
and we must change our plans  
so that we may come to rest  
in His almighty hands!

by *Deborah Ann Belka*

***Go and make disciples***



## YOUTH VIBE

Hello to all the youth out there who have access to this magazine. I think it is time for a revamp of the 'Youth Section', with the aim of sharing information about being Christ-like. Even if you haven't accepted Jesus Christ as your Personal Saviour, this is still for you. I hope that you will find this section of the 'Edifier', interesting and edifying. I would like to look at the meaning of some fundamental words that are used quite often in Christian circles.

**Grace** – The unmerited favour of God to mankind in providing salvation for all deserving condemnation.



**Salvation** – The rescue from sin and death and the restoration of a right relationship with God. Sin separates mankind from God, but while we were sinners God send His son to die for us (Rom 5:8-10). For by grace are ye saved through faith... it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

**Gospel** – The good news of the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:3,4).

**Justification** – Being made right with God through the blood of Jesus Christ and by faith in him.

**Sanctification** – Firstly, this refers to God setting us apart through the blood of Christ as his own special people (Heb. 10:10). Secondly, it also refers to the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in making us holy/righteous as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15).

**Glorification** - When Jesus Christ returns , we shall be made like him. We shall see him as he is, so we will be changed from mortal to immortality (1Corin 15:53) and will be honoured with Christ.

*By Angella Kidd*

## Did You Know That?



II John has the fewest number of verses of any book in the Bible - it is the shortest book in the Bible.

III John has the fewest number of words of any book in the Bible.

Malachi, written about 400 BC, is the youngest book in the Old Testament.

St Paul wrote 14 ( of the 27 ) books of the New Testament.

The word "Lord" appears 1855 times in the Bible.

The word "God" appears in every book except Esther and Song of Solomon.

In Old Testament times the Mediterranean Sea was called the Great Sea.

There are 7 different Jeremiahs in the Bible: 1 Chronicles 5:24; 12:4, 10, 13; 2 Kings 23:30; Jeremiah 1:1; 35:3.

The raven is the first bird mention in the Bible. It appears in Genesis 8:7, when it is sent out from the ark by Noah to see if the flood waters have abated. The second bird was a dove, in verse 8.

Almonds and pistachios are the only nuts mentioned in the Bible.



## The New Birth

*Born again* may be familiar words to modern culture, but the term is not new. Jesus Christ used it nearly two thousand years ago in a conversation with Nicodemus, a member of the Jews' ruling council in Jerusalem.

Since Jesus first spoke these words, multitudes have experience the change that the new birth brings, one person at a time. You too can experience it for yourself.

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