

**200812-4 Nu 14, 26-45, The First & Second Generations Warriors-CThurman**

The children of God can never win spiritual conflicts by use of natural means. Only through the use of the weapons that God supplies can we hope to wage a successful warfare. This is what we can learn of the first and second generation warriors of Israel. The first could not possess the land but the second does.

**26 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,  
27 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.  
28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:  
29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness;**

*carcasses, פגרה, peh'-ger, masc. noun tss. carcass, dead body, corpse.*

**and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,  
30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.  
31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.  
32 But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.  
33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.  
34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.  
35 I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.  
36 ¶ And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land,  
37 Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.**

**38 But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.**

**39 And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.**

**40 And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned.**

**41 And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall not prosper.**

**42 Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.**

**43 For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.**

**44 But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.**

**45 Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.**

The warriors of Israel had been counted in the beginning of this book of Numbers (1.1-46). Because they believed the evil report of the spies that returned to them after they had searched the land for forty days they were rejected from coming into the land of promise. They would waste away in the wilderness, becoming weak, sickly and dying over the next forty years.

*Deu.2.14 And the space in which we came from Kadeshbarnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD sware unto them.*

*15 For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.*

*16 So it came to pass, when all the men of war were consumed and dead from among the people,*

*17 That the LORD spake unto me, saying,*

*18 Thou art to pass over through Ar, the coast of Moab, this day ...*

So, just about forty years later another census was taken to tally up the next, new generation of warriors, a second generation which would go up to possess the land of Canaan. (cf. Nu.26.4-51)

*Nu.26.63 ¶ These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho.*

*64 But among these [warriors] there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.*

*65 For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

Now, not only did the warriors of the first generation die in the wilderness, but it seems that all of that generation from 20 years old and upward, but for Joshua, Caleb and the families under their leadership.

*Deu.1.39 Moreover your little ones, which ye [the children of Israel] said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.*

*Nu.14.2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!*

*3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?*

*4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.*

This punishment also excluded Moses and Aaron. These two shall be punished later for their act of public disobedience. (Nu.20.7-12)

*De 1:37 Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither.*

As you might recall the spies that brought back an evil report died afterward by a plague from the Lord. The implication is that they died directly after the LORD made this judgment.

*Nu 14:37 Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.*

We see that there is a first and second generation of warriors, and these present a type that can be applied to Christians today. Remember what the apostle said of OT Israel.

*1Co.10.11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

*ensample, τύπος, a noun also tss. figure, pattern, print, example, form, manner and fashion.*

*admonition, νουθεσία; a noun of νοῦς + τίθημι, to put in mind and always tss. with the English admonition (3); the verb, νουθετέω, is tss. to warn, to admonish.*

In the previous lesson's closing remarks (pp.196, 197) I briefly touched on the type which the first generation and second generations represented. The first generation represented a the first birth, a natural birth, that birth which is after the flesh, and the second generation represented a second birth, a spiritual birth, the new birth. That which is born of the flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

*1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

But that which is born of the Spirit can perceive and enter into it.

*Jn.3.3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

...

*5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

Now consider the type of the warriors as it concerns entering into the land of promise. The warriors of the first generation are expressly denied access into the land of promise and it is the warriors of the second that shall come into it. All of Israel was in a warfare and all of the children of God are as well. Christians will either engage that warfare by use of natural means or spiritual means, by things which flesh and blood uses, or by means which God supplies for His elect. It is certain that by the use of natural means we cannot win, but by the use of spiritual means we cannot fail no matter how that might appear to the world. So let's consider this warfare. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian in the second epistle,

*2Co.10.3 For though we walk in the flesh (we walk in a body of flesh and blood), we do not war after the flesh (we do not wage a warfare by use of human instrumentation or affections):*

*do ... war, a verb στρατεύω, tss. to go to warfare, to war.*

*4 (For the weapons [ὄπλα, a noun also tss. the armour, the instruments] of our warfare are not carnal [fleshly, natural], but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

Some had accused Paul, and those of his brethren that had been faithfully ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ to others with him, of walking *after* the flesh (evil, selfish, hypocritical designs, etc.). Against this Paul objected by saying that though they, like all men (even these his accusers), must walk *in* the flesh [in a body of flesh and blood], they did not war *after* (κατά, according to the dictates of) human flesh, by using or resorting to carnal, fleshly means.

*1Ti 1:18 This charge [by love, to keep the brethren focused on teaching 'no other doctrine' than Christ's, 3b, 5] I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war ( verb, στρατεύομαι) a good warfare (noun, στρατεία, battle); [by ...]*  
*19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck ...*

*Eph.6.11 ... put on the whole armour (πανοπλία, every instrument, every weapon) of God, that ye may be able to stand [or, in order to be able to stand, to be set, to be established, to continue] against the wiles of the devil.*

*12 For we wrestle (πάλη, a noun, 'for the wrestling' or 'the struggle' is ...) not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [Flesh and blood cannot contest in this realm ...]*

*13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour (πανοπλία, every instrument, every weapon) of God, that ye may be able to withstand [to be able to stand against, to be set against, so to resist] in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*whole armour, πανοπλία, πᾶς + ὄπλον, see ὄπλα, a noun, a weapon, an instrument & ὀπλίζω, a verb, to be armed (weaponized); put on every instrument, every weapon of God (which God supplies for battle to stand against every device which Satan might use against you.)*

You take these weapons, these instruments in God's arsenal to stand and resist the principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places. And then in Eph.6.14-17 we are told what those weapons are. It is not by a united force of military powers, by guns and knives, bombs, battle ships, and fighter jets, though the Lord might have some of his people involved in physical battles of this sort. But even in that kind of warfare the Christian may

continue to fight his spiritual battle by living as he ought to live. But rather than by the use of these natural weapons, this warfare can only be fought by using the weapons that are in God's arsenal, which are *truth, righteousness, peace, and faith*; having the firm knowledge of *salvation*, and rightly handling *the word of God*.

In Moses' day the possessing the land was a real thing and lost opportunity for that first generation. They thought, even after the LORD had rejected them from entering into the land, that it was something that they could obtain through their own natural, human means.

*Nu 14:44 But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.*

*45 Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.*

Paul wrote of these Israelites that the LORD rejected them from entering into the land because of their unbelief and apostasy. (cf. He.3.9-12) And we are warned against the same. We are taught by the word of God to ...

*Fight* (ἀγωνίζω, a verb tss. also, *to strive, to labor fervently, [contest]*) *the good fight* (ἀγών, a noun, also tss. *conflict, contention, race, [contest]*) *of faith, lay hold on eternal life ....* (cf. 1Ti.6.12)

Only as we wage a proper warfare, armed with God's spiritual weaponry do we live in this present time and place as we should. Otherwise we are not living by faith of Jesus Christ. The warfare we fight is not only against our own carnal desires, but it is also against the unseen forces about us. As long as we are in this present body of flesh and blood this will be our *fight*. One day the battle will cease. And one day, like this type for Israel and the second generation that will go up to possess the land, we shall inherit the earth.

*Mt 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

Until then Christians are to walk by faith; they are to live upright in the earth; they are to live above the world, its abuses, its sins, its lusts, and its darkness. They are to live in this present world with a heart that is homesick for the day of the coming glory of Christ on this earth; they are to live with a mind that is fixated on Him and those things that shall come to pass when He finally comes to earth.

*Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

*1Jo 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

*17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

A soldier of Christ must not be distracted. Being distracted he cannot fight as he should. He must be focused on the warfare.

*2Ti 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

*Mt.6.22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

*23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

We must not take our eyes off the Lord.

Because Israel didn't believe the Lord they were not only unfit for the land but unable to wage a successful warfare in order to possess it. This was proved by their failed attempt to go into the land after the Lord had rejected them.

*Nu.14.44 But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.*

*45 Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.*

The report of the spies was true, they were as grasshoppers, little and weak compared to their enemies. The enemies were giants, tall and strong. (cf. Nu.13.33) To conquer them would have required more than the mere force of natural arms to drive out the inhabitants of the land.

*De 7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou ...*

*Due.9.1 ¶ Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,*

*2 A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak!*

*3 Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee ...*

But Israel was looking at this as if the battle was up to them, their strength, and their means. Even for us today it is true that this world is naturally suited to this life better than we are. Naturally speaking we are fewer, smaller, and of less power than they.

*Lu 16:8 ... for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.*

*Ps.17.9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about.*

*10 They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.*

*11 They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;*

*12 Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.*

*13 Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:*

*14 From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.*

But our warfare isn't dependent on mere natural force of arms.

*1Co.10.4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

*5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ ...*

*1Pe 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us [in our behalf] in the flesh, arm (weaponize) yourselves likewise with the same mind [to suffer in the flesh]: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased (παύω, left, been refrained) from sin ...*

Who are the enemies that the Christian faces day after day? While it is true that there are enemies *out there*, outside of us, that Satan uses for His wicked purposes (Ac.13.8; Eph.6.12; 2Ti.4.14), the most harmful, destructive, deceitful and dangerous enemy that I have, that causes me so much trouble is my old, original, sinful nature, which still has effect upon my heart and mind. (cf. Jer.17.9; Ro.8.7) It is true that when my *mind's eye* is fastened only upon Christ all opposition and every contradiction becomes as nothing. (cf. Mt.14.28-31, Peter walking upon the water.) But as soon as I am distracted from following after Christ is as soon as I begin to lose the fight. (cf. Ex.17.9-13, Joshua & Hur holding up the hands of Moses in the battle against Amalek.)

Most of us are not surprised to hear that the mind is the major battlefield for the Christian. It is here where the conflict is essentially won or lost. There are weapons which the Lord provides, an armor which suites us perfectly against all of the wiles of the devil and the self-deceptions of the heart if we will don it all.

*Eph.6.14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;  
15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;  
16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.  
17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ...*

*1Pe.5.8 ¶ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:  
9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

Israel's first generation warriors became weaker and weaker, but the new, second generation warrior became stronger and stronger until they could withstand the enemy in order to possess the land which the Lord would give to them.

*2Co.4.16 ... though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

*Eph.4.22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;  
23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;  
24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

There is no question that the first army of Israel was patterned after the flesh and could never have pleased God in the way that they would have possessed the land. It is the second generation warrior which goes up by

faith and lives in the land as the LORD commands. Believe the Lord. Apply His word. Put on the whole armour of God, every weapon and every instrument and live to the glory of God.