

THE WARRIOR'S BIBLE

A Military Community Application Bible

**The Holy Bible
New King James Version**



NEW
KING
JAMES
VERSION®



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Springfield, MO 65803

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JOSHUA

Author: Joshua • **Theme:** Conquering Canaan

Date of Writing: 14th century BC

OVERVIEW

Appropriately, the book is named after its principal character, Joshua, who predominates as God's leader throughout the book. His background as Moses' apprentice prepared him well to lead the conquest of the Promised Land. The book of Joshua is a continuation of the history described in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the OT). It was written as a record of God's faithfulness in fulfilling his covenant promises to Israel, particularly regarding the land of Canaan.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND

The book divides into three sections:

Section one (1:1–5:15) begins by describing God's marching orders to His chosen general, Joshua as Moses' successor and Israel's preparation to enter Canaan (1:1–3:13). It then describes their crossing of the Jordan River (3:14–5:15).

Section two (6:1–13:7) describes how Israel obeyed God and won decisive victories over the well-armed, protected and formidable city-states in Canaan. One of the most amazing stories tells how the Israelites conquered the city of Jericho by marching around it once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day (ch. 6). But Israel did not always win. Israel's defeat at Ai reveals the book's honesty and the serious consequences of disobeying God (ch. 7).

Section three (13:8–22:34) records how Joshua divided the land among Israel's twelve tribes. It also talks about Caleb's inheritance (because he and Joshua were the only two spies to give a good report about Canaan forty years before), the six cities of refuge, and the forty-eight Levite cities. The book closes with two farewell messages by Joshua (23:1–24:28) and final words of tribute to Joshua and Eleazar, the high priest (24:29–33).

FACTS ABOUT JOSHUA

This book is filled with true stories of amazing miracles and victories.

God's people had to fight to win the Promised Land and God gave them victories.

It highlights the importance of passing on the testimony and heritage of God's saving acts from one generation to the next.

KEY VERSE: Joshua 23:14

“Behold, this day I *am* going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.”

WARRIOR ESSENTIALS

One of the principles of war is having a clearly defined objective. Joshua, as Moses' chosen successor, had the God-given objective to capture the Promised Land. The trials and struggles he would face certainly put his leadership to the test, but he would prove faithful. The promise of God's presence was crucial to the success of Israel and remains so today as we follow God's chosen path.

JOSHUA

God's Commission to Joshua

Ne 4:13-23



**SPIRITUAL
BATTLE**

2Ch 16:7-12

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. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴From 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. ⁵No 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. ⁶Be 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.

⁷Only 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.

JOSHUA 1:1-2

NAVIGATING TIMES OF CHANGE

Experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places have taught us to be ready for anything, at any time. Our military has adapted well and is more resilient than ever. Just as asymmetric warfare is the "new normal" for our military, a constantly changing environment is normal for the Christian. As both Christians and warriors, we constantly face change from one direction or another. Are you willing to trust God to be your constant during change? Expect changes; be open to present realities. Trust that God is in control. Through our adversities and trials, God leads. He may even call you, like Joshua, to be an agent of change.

JOSHUA 1:9

GOD WILL BE WITH YOU

Does it ever seem like God isn't anywhere to be found? This passage assures us that He is always with us. Joshua and the Israelites battled with neighboring tribes and nations for over two decades. Sometimes, they tasted defeat and discouragement. But they never gave up. With the Lord's help, they prevailed. As He promised, God's mighty presence was always with them.

In the midst of your struggles, do you remember that God is present? You may not feel His presence or see much evidence that He's there, but our Lord is a God of His word. He's not only with you but also at work on your behalf—even when it doesn't seem like it. Never fear!

JOHN

Author: John • **Theme:** Jesus: The Son of God • **Date of Writing:** c. AD 80–95

OVERVIEW

John's gospel is unique among the four gospels. It records much about Jesus' ministry in Judea and Jerusalem that the other three gospels leave out, and it gives deeper insight into the "mystery" of Jesus' personhood as both God and man. John stated that his purpose for writing was "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (20:31). The gospel continues to serve the church as a vital and authoritative statement about "the truth" as it was embodied in Jesus Christ.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND

The fourth gospel presents carefully selected evidence that Jesus was Israel's Messiah and God's Son from the beginning—the Creator in the flesh. The Gospel of John has two major divisions. (1) Chapters 1–12 describe how God came to earth as a human and about the public ministry of Jesus. The Gospel records that in spite of the signs and teachings of Jesus, His people rejected Him as their Messiah. (2) In chapters 13–21, after He was rejected, Jesus spent most of His time training His disciples. These teachings include Jesus' Last Supper with them (chapter 13), His last discourses to them (chapters 14–16), and His final prayer for them and for future followers (chapter 17). The book ends by showing how God's new agreement (covenant or testament) for all people was made by Jesus' death (chapters 18–19) and resurrection (chapters 20–21).

FACTS ABOUT JOHN

It emphasizes that Jesus was not just another man, but rather was God on earth.

It is a book about believing in Jesus as the word "believe" occurs ninety-eight times.

It is the only gospel to list the first recorded miracle of Jesus—turning water into wine.

The number seven is prominent in this book listing: seven signs that proved Jesus is the Savior (2:1–11; 4:46–54; 5:2–18; 6:1–15; 6:16–21; 9:1–41; 11:1–46); seven of His main teachings (3:1–21; 4:4–42; 5:19–47; 6:22–59; 7:37–44; 8:12–30; 10:1–21); and seven of Jesus' "I am" statements (6:35; 8:12; 10:7; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1).

It is a book about eternal life that refers not simply to living with God forever, but also to a completely changed quality of life in the present.

KEY VERSE: John 20:31

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

WARRIOR ESSENTIALS

The military operates with a unity of command so that all our forces pursue a single purpose. The chain of command clearly lays out the required structure and direction necessary for mission success. The Gospel of John makes every effort to highlight the unity between the Father and Son. Jesus' teaching and actions were not signs of insubordination; rather, they were proof of His ability to fulfill the Father's plan, bringing eternal life to those who believe.

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not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"

²⁰And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

²²So Samuel said:

"Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
He also has rejected you from *being* king."

Pr 25:12



OBEDIENCE

Jos 24:13-21

1 SAMUEL 15:22-23

TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE

Samuel's words strike at the heart of our misconception of religion. Isolated, "check the block" acts of charity cannot substitute for the unconditional surrender Christ demands of us. Jesus calls us to follow Him. He does not ask us to do a good deed now and then as we merrily march along our own selfish way. Sending a Christmas card once a year cannot meet the conditions of friendship, nor can token prayers and chapel attendance satisfy God's yearning for our undivided devotion. Saul tried to substitute sacrifices for obedience. God never accepted it!

Are you trying to play that game with God? It won't work. With God, it's all or nothing.

²⁴Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."

²⁶But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

²⁷And as Samuel turned around to go away, *Saul* seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, *who is* better than you. ²⁹And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He *is* not a man, that He should relent."

³⁰Then he said, "I have sinned; *yet* honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God." ³¹So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

³²Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously.

And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

³³But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul.

PSALM 4:1

THE KEY TO OVERCOMING

David had more than his share of anxiety and trouble. Read Psalm 4 and you'll hear David confess to experiencing distress, shame, worthlessness, falsehood, and anger. Do these describe you too? If you're in the same boat, you don't have to stay there. God's Word describes how His people overcame crises. They were set free from guilt and shame. Worthlessness was replaced with meaning and value. Lies turned to truth. And anger exchanged with peace. The key to overcoming is putting oneself in a place to receive from God. You do this by spending time in prayer, worship, reading the Holy Bible, and having fellowship with other believers. Are you ready to see God at work in your life?

PSALM 4

The Safety of the Faithful

To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have relieved me in *my* distress;
Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

² How long, O you sons of men,
Will you turn my glory to shame?
How long will you love worthlessness
And seek falsehood?

³ But know that the LORD has set apart^a for Himself him who is godly;
The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

⁴ Be angry, and do not sin.
Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
And put your trust in the LORD.

⁶ *There are* many who say,
"Who will show us *any* good?"
LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us.

⁷ You have put gladness in my heart,
More than in the season that their grain and wine increased.

⁸ I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;
For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Selah

Selah

Dt 4:7



PRAYER

Ps 6:8-10

Zec 8:16-19

WORDS/
THOUGHTS

Dt 9:4

Ps 3:5



FEAR

Ps 23:4-5

PSALM 5

A Prayer for Guidance

To the Chief Musician. With flutes.^b A Psalm of David.

Give ear to my words, O LORD,
Consider my meditation.

² Give heed to the voice of my cry,

^{4:3} Many Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Targum, and Vulgate read *made wonderful*. ^{5:title} Hebrew *nehiloth*

²¹Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son of Zebedee*, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Jesus Heals a Great Multitude

²³And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. ²⁵Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and *from Decapolis*, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

MATTHEW 4:24

A CELEBRITY WORTH FOLLOWING

In our culture, we love to put people up on a pedestal. We easily become obsessed with celebrities: athletes, movie stars, fashion designers, and musicians. We watch them, track them, and follow them on social media. We want to know what they're up to almost every waking minute. Many of these are decent folks, but what they are giving back to society in many cases is only fleeting at best. They're simply human, just like we are.

Not so with Jesus. As His fame grew and people followed Him, He gave back in real ways—bringing healing, wholeness, and hope for this world and the next. Oddly enough, millions still ignore Him.

Does that describe you? Are you following Jesus? If not, would you consider doing more investigation to learn who Jesus is? Scripture promises that if you seek Him with all of your heart and all of your soul, you will find Him (Deuteronomy 4:29).

The Beatitudes

5 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ²Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

- ³ “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.
- ⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 7:1-5



GODLINESS

Pr 27:21

Mk 4:16-17



SUFFERING

JOHN 3:1-18

ETERNAL LIFE—TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE

John 3:16 turns up a lot in popular culture. It can serve as a bridge between Bible-believing Christians and a Western society that still practices some biblical values. But there is a lot more meaning in this small verse than most people realize when they plaster it on a banner or sign.

Reading John 3:16, you are reminded that God exists and is One. He is a Person, capable of love, who desires to interact with us on this earth. God the Son is uniquely divine and human, sent to pave the way for us to return to our Heavenly Father. God's desire for a relationship includes "whoever believes in Him," in other words, every human being in history, from every place and time, who responds positively to God's invitation. John 3:16 shows the consequences of sin, even as one views the promise of eternal life made available through God's grace.

This verse nestles within a chapter of powerful teaching on salvation. Jesus described the need to be born again in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. He warned strongly that we must believe in Him, or condemnation will follow. The choice is ours: to believe and have eternal life, or not to believe and face eternal consequences.

Jesus' message is clear—God, our loving Heavenly Father, does not want anyone to be condemned and separated from Him. But we must accept mercy on His terms, not demand or negotiate our own. God Almighty offers you everlasting life in heaven with Him. Have you accepted His invitation? If you have, are you communicating that truth to fellow warriors?

Lk 19:1-10



SALVATION

Jn 3:16-21

³Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven." ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him should not perish but^b have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds

Jn 3:1-8



SALVATION

Eph 2:8-10

they^a were gathered together. ⁹And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.” ¹¹Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. ¹²And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

From Troas to Miletus

¹³Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. ¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. ¹⁵We sailed from there, and the next *day* came opposite Chios. The following *day* we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next *day* we came to Miletus. ¹⁶For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

The Ephesian Elders Exhorted

¹⁷From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, ¹⁹servicing the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ²⁰how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself,^b so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

ACTS 20:17-24

FINISH WELL

How many farewell speeches have you made in your career? In Acts 20, Paul knew that chains and tribulations awaited him. He also knew that little time was left. Yet, at that point, even his life wasn't as valuable to him as the chance to finish the race that God had set before him.

How about you? Is finishing well a priority for your life? As we look at what remains of our careers and lives, perhaps we have many decades to go—or maybe only a few years. Either way, it's never too early to think about the end game. Plan now, work hard, and ask God's help to finish well.

²⁵“And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

²⁸Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God^c which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰Also from among

Jn 8:31-36



TRUTH/
WISDOM

1Pe 1:20-23

^{20:8}NU-Text and M-Text read *we*. ^{20:24}bNU-Text reads *But I do not count my life of any value or dear to myself*.
^{20:28}cM-Text reads *of the Lord and God*.

HEBREWS 2:10-18

JESUS, MAY I SEE YOUR ID?

In the military, you can't do anything without a picture ID (Identification Card). Access to a military base, commissary, base exchange, or hospital hinges on being able to show that card. And identity is also important in spiritual matters. For instance, people often question the identity of Jesus. Was He God or was He human? The writer of Hebrews tells us Jesus was both. As God, He is the one for whom and by whom everything is created. But He shared our humanity so that He could suffer, defeat death, and show us the way to God. How would Jesus' ID read? "Jesus Christ: Fully God, Fully Human." Mind boggling, for sure, but none-the-less true!

Bringing Many Sons to Glory

¹⁰For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹²saying:

*"I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."*^a

¹³And again:

"I will put My trust in Him."^b

And again:

"Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."^c

¹⁴Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

The Son Was Faithful

3 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ²who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. ³For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. ⁵And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, ⁶but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.^d

2:12 *Psalm 22:22 **2:13** *2 Samuel 22:3; Isaiah 8:17 ^aIsaiah 8:18 **3:6** *NU-Text omits *firm to the end*.

Php 1:29-30



SUFFERING

Jas 1:2-4

He laid His right hand on me, saying to me,^a “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. ¹⁹Write^b the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. ²⁰The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw^c are the seven churches.

REVELATION 1:12-18

THE RISEN CHRIST INSPIRES HOPE

The Jesus of the gospels is the same Jesus we read about in Revelation. However, in Revelation the message is directed to Christians who were facing daily persecution and desperately needed encouragement. Understandably, John portrays the risen and victorious Christ to remind readers of the all-powerful and eternal God they serve.

So what can we take from this passage that will help us now? Jesus wants us to know Him in a new way—a way that inspires hope when everything around us seems hopeless. The risen Christ defeated death, which is the final enemy, and stands as victor over all who would intimidate His church. The risen Jesus stands as a tower of strength and power to all who face overwhelming odds. And though He is presented as an awesome figure to be feared, Jesus says to John, “Do not be afraid.” Christians have no reason to fear because the conquering, risen Lord is on our side. On the other hand, anyone who opposes Him must cower.

The Loveless Church

2 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, “These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ²“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. ⁴Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. ⁶But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

REVELATION 2:4-5

NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST LOVE

Jesus calls the Ephesian church to return to their “first love.” In Matthew 22, Jesus declares that the greatest commandment is to love God and the second is to love people.

This church in Revelation 2 had stopped loving the way they had loved when they were new believers. Had they become too rules-oriented? Had they become prideful and exclusive? We don’t know for sure, but we do know they needed to change. They had been on the right track, but somehow got sidetracked. This is true for all of us. Many times in our Christian walk we will get off course and need God to redirect us to loving Him and others.

Off track with your priorities? Seek the Lord. He will help you.

1:17^aNU-Text and M-Text omit to me. **1:19**^bNU-Text and M-Text read *Therefore, write*. **1:20**^cNU-Text and M-Text omit *which you saw*.

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GROWING SPIRITUALLY DURING DEPLOYMENTS

Main Text: James 1:1-2

Deployments are prime time opportunities to grow spiritually. Heading downrange presents a rucksack full of trials for you and your family. Loneliness, austere conditions, experiences that break our hearts and bruise our souls, these trials provide fertile soil for growth. These are trials that the book of James talks about. Unbelievably, we are called to,

"count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." Jas 1:2-4

But why is it that many just go *through* deployments rather than *grow* through them? Even worse, some don't merely go through them but they shrink, stagnate and drift away from Jesus. What is it that causes a drift effect when there is so much potential for a deployment to be maximum growth opportunity? I hope to answer that question and provide you with spiritual growth Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for you and your family while you are downrange.

TTP #1—Embrace Your Deployment as God's Call on Your Life: When the recently delivered nation of Israel crossed the Red Sea, God provided them with an incredible navigation tool.

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night." Ex 13:21

They were told when the pillar stops, you stop. When the pillar moves, you move. Never could an Israelite doubt the eight digit grid coordinate will of God!

You may be jealous that Israel had such an advantage. But guess what? You have a similar reality check of God's geographic will for your life. They are called deployment orders. They are your 8½ x 11 pillar that reminds you that you're exactly where God wants you to be. During hard times, I've actually taken mine out of my wallet, unfolded them and stared at them as my reality check that God placed me exactly where He wants me.

Further in the Israelite's foot movement through the wilderness, the Lord revealed Himself as,

"the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place." Dt 1:31

And furthermore,

"He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed." Dt 31:8

What a beautiful promise. The Lord is the advance party on your deployment. As Christ's followers on deployment, we don't have a point man, we have a point God.

Know that when you follow God's call, God follows through. Hudson

CONCORDANCE

The Concordance includes proper names and significant topics, defined by phrases and scripture references. Occasionally, a keyword applies to more than one Bible person, place, or topic. This is the case with “Abijah,” for whom the Concordance lists four different persons by that name. The second, third, and following occurrences are distinguished by the dash (“——”).

AARON

Ancestry and family of, Ex 6:16–20, 23
 Helper and prophet to Moses,
 Ex 4:13–31; 7:1, 2
 Appears before Pharaoh, Ex 5:1–4
 Performs miracles, Ex 7:9, 10, 19, 20
 Supports Moses' hands, Ex 17:10–12
 Ascends Mt. Sinai; sees God's glory,
 Ex 19:24; 24:1, 9, 10
 Judges Israel in Moses' absence,
 Ex 24:14
 Chosen by God as priest, Ex 28:1
 Consecrated, Ex 29; Lev 8
 Duties prescribed, Ex 30:7–10
 Tolerates Israel's idolatry, Ex 32
 Priestly ministry begins, Lev 9
 Sons offer profane fire; Aaron's humble
 response, Lev 10
 Conspires against Moses, Nu 12:1–16
 Rebelled against by Korah, Nu 16
 Intercedes to stop plague, Nu 16:45–48
 Rod buds to confirm his authority,
 Nu 17:1–10
 With Moses, fails at Meribah,
 Nu 20:1–13
 Dies; son succeeds him as priest,
 Nu 20:23–29
 His priesthood compared:
 with Melchizedek's, Heb 7:11–19
 with Christ's, Heb 9:6–15, 23–28

ABADDON

Angel of the bottomless pit, Rev 9:11

ABASED

I know how to be a Php 4:12

ABBA

And He said, “A Mk 14:36
 by whom we cry out, “A Ro 8:15
 crying out, “A Gal 4:6

ABED-NEGO

Name given to Azariah, a Hebrew
 captive, Da 1:7
 Appointed by Nebuchadnezzar,
 Da 2:49
 Refuses to serve idols; cast into furnace
 but delivered, Da 3:12–30

ABEL

Adam's second son, Ge 4:2
 His offering accepted, Ge 4:4
 Murdered by Cain, Ge 4:8
 His sacrifice offered by faith, Heb 11:4

ABHOR

My soul shall not a Lev 26:11
 Therefore I a myself Job 42:6
 nations will a him Pr 24:24

a the pride of Jacob Am 6:8
 A what is evil Ro 12:9

ABHORRED

a His own inheritance Ps 106:40
 he who is a by the Pr 22:14
 and their soul also a Zec 11:8

ABHORRENCE

They shall be an a Isa 66:24

ABHORRENT

you have made us a Ex 5:21

ABIATHAR

A priest who escapes Saul at Nob,
 1Sa 22:20–23,
 Becomes high priest under David,
 1Sa 23:6, 9–12
 Remains faithful to David, 2Sa 15:24–29
 Informs David about Ahithophel,
 2Sa 15:34–36
 Supports Adonijah's usurpation,
 1Ki 1:7, 9, 25
 Deposed by Solomon, 1Ki 2:26, 27, 35

ABIDE

nor a in its paths Job 24:13
 LORD, who may a Ps 15:1
 He shall a before God Ps 61:7
 the Most High shall a Ps 91:1
 “If you a in My word Jn 8:31
 And a slave does not a Jn 8:35
 Helper, that He may a Jn 14:16
 a in Me and I in you Jn 15:4
 If you a in Me Jn 15:7
 a in My love Jn 15:9
 And now a faith 1Co 13:13
 does the love of God a 1Jn 3:17
 by this we know that we a 1Jn 4:13

ABIDES

even He who a from of old Ps 55:19
 He who a in Me Jn 15:5
 lives and a forever 1Pe 1:23
 will of God a forever 1Jn 2:17

ABIDING

not have His word a Jn 5:38
 has eternal life a 1Jn 3:15

ABIGAIL

Wise wife of foolish Nabal, 1Sa 25:3
 Appeases David and becomes his wife,
 1Sa 25:14–42
 Mother of Chileab, 2Sa 3:3

ABIHU

Second son of Aaron, Ex 6:23
 Offers profane fire and dies, Lev 10:1–7

ABIJAH

Samuel's second son; follows corrupt
 ways, 1Sa 8:2, 3
 —— Descendant of Aaron; head of an
 office of priests, 1Ch 24:3, 10
 Zacharias belongs to division of, Lk 1:5
 —— Son of Jeroboam I, 1Ki 14:1–18
 —— Another name for King Abijam,
 2Ch 11:20

ABIJAM (or Abijah)

King of Judah, 1Ki 14:31
 Follows the sins of his father, 1Ki 15:1–7
 Defeats Jeroboam and takes cities,
 2Ch 13:13–20

ABIJAH

who had a to serve Da 1:4
 according to his own a Mt 25:15
 and beyond their a 2Co 8:3
 a which God supplies 1Pe 4:11

ABIMELECH

King of Gerar; takes Sarah in ignorance,
 Ge 20:1–18
 Makes treaty with Abraham,
 Ge 21:22–34
 —— A second king of Gerar; sent Isaac
 away, Ge 26:1–16
 Makes treaty with Isaac, Ge 26:17–33
 —— Gideon's son by a concubine,
 Jdg 8:31
 Conspires to become king, Jdg 9

ABINADAB

A man of Kirjath Jearim in whose house
 the ark was kept, 1Sa 7:1, 2
 —— The second of Jesse's eight sons,
 1Sa 16:8
 Serves in Saul's army, 1Sa 17:13
 —— A son of Saul slain at Mt. Gilboa,
 1Sa 31:1–8
 Bones of, buried by men of Jabesh,
 1Ch 10:1–12

ABIRAM

Reubenite who conspired against
 Moses, Nu 16:1–50

ABISHAG

A Shunammite employed as David's
 nurse, 1Ki 1:1–4, 15
 Witnessed David's choice of Solomon as
 successor, 1Ki 1:15–31
 Adonijah slain for desiring to marry
 her, 1Ki 2:13–25

ABISHAI

David's nephew; joins Joab in blood
 revenge against Abner, 2Sa 2:18–24