

## Passages to Ponder

Joshua 5:13-15

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

The Apostle Paul shows us in 1 Corinthians 10 that the Old Testament scriptures could be used as illustrations and examples for our Christian life.

As we look at the history of the children of Israel we can see an illustration of how we were saved. The children of Israel were in bondage as slaves of Pharaoh and Egypt, like us before we were saved, we were slaves of sin, Satan and the world. God in His power and sovereignty used Moses to lead the Jews out of Egypt to the border of the land of Canaan. The same as God in His sovereignty brought us to the place where we were confronted with our sin through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Moses could only lead the Jews to the border of Canaan then God raised up Joshua to lead them by faith into the Promised Land. The same as the Law can only show us our sin, it is by faith in Jesus that we are saved.

Also, as we look at the history of the children of Israel we can see examples of how to live a victorious Christian life. Just as the children of Israel were faced with battles when they entered the land, you and I are faced with battles in our Christian life. We're told in the Bible that we have enemies who desire to destroy us, they are our flesh, the world and Satan. In this passage we can see an example of how Joshua was a conqueror before he went to battle. It happened when he went to survey Jericho to make a strategy and a plan, instead of formulating one he was confronted by Jesus, who is described as having a drawn sword. Joshua asked which side He was on, but Jesus refused to answer, Joshua realizing he was out ranked, humbled himself and solutes his Superior by worshiping and submitting to His will. Joshua left the camp that night a schemer but returned a conqueror. He wasn't a conqueror because of who he was, but who he saw and surrendered to.

We see in this passage an example, that in order for you and I to be conquerors in our battles we must first be conquered by Jesus and His Word. When we do so we will then live a victorious Christian life.