



## Spiritual Warfare Notes (June 2004)

The theme of this view of spiritual warfare is granting or withholding *legal* grounds for demonic powers have cannot maintain a stronghold in anyone unless he is giving them legal grounds through some form of disobedience. This began with the fall of man, giving Satan a legal right in us through the Tree of Knowledge. From there on the battle lines are always drawn along the lines of obedience. Obey—"submit to God"—*then* "resist the devil." Studying the Bible through this lens is a fascinating revelation of how *powerfully* God "jealously guards us" (Jas. 4:5 NIV?) when we walk and live under His covering,

that the battles are won or lost through demonic strongholds. In other words,

### How the Fall allowed Satan to take over

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will **be like God**, knowing good and evil."

At the heart of temptation is the *Tree of Knowledge*.

1. Eyes opened
2. Know good and evil

Adam's *soul* took over while his *spirit* lost contact with God; "For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together" (Mt. 24:28). Demons hover around carnality.

SW is removing the legal grounds of the enemy.

If you fight principalities and powers and don't know how they got in, you're fighting "hot air".

Illus: prayer meeting, binding devil. Vision of demon with banner, "religion". So they bound spirit of religion. Later, vision showed he was still there.

The process of SW must remove the grounds or 7 more spirits could come, worse than the first. (Matt 12:43-45)

Most demonic strongholds can be dealt with by reversing the fall, through:

2. Brokenness - removes pride that came from the tree of knowledge.
3. Focus - the spiritual senses

Since brokenness comes through hardships, trials & darkness, people panic and find relief. They lose focus, and thus fail to change.

### How God prepared Jesus for SW

Isaiah 50:2 "Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there non to answer? Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver?"

The Son became the Intercessor.

SW is not shotgunning the enemy. It is *hitting the mark* by **hearing**.

John 5:19 "...the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do."

v.4a "The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary."

God taught His Son

*Tongue of the learned:*

Matt 11:29 "Take My yoke...find rest for your souls." The soul (sense-driven) *rests* while the spirit-man tunes in to His Spirit and works (His work). So the *yoke* makes the heart hear because it brings discomfort to the senses. The Tree of knowledge activates the senses because it is living by the soul.

*Word in Season to him who is weary:*

Speak it to someone who is **ready** (weary).

v.4b "He awakens Me morning by morning."

What is in before the morning? **Night!**

v.5 "The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not **rebellious**, nor did I **turn away**."

If you take His yoke, you must take it **willingly**.

v.6-7 "I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help Me. Therefore I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have **set My face like a flint**, and I know that I will **not be ashamed**."

FOCUS - v.9 "Surely the Lord God will help Me."

"I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved" (Psalm 16:8).

➤ "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures evermore" (v.11)

Gen 3:5 You will *KNOW* good & evil = **sense** knowledge (wrong kind)

The CROSS dealt with the senses.

"...and I *KNOW* that I will **not be ashamed**" (spirit-knowledge)- said of the Son, through which He gained ground lost through Satan.

v.8 "He is near who justified Me; Who will contend with Me: Let us *stand* together.

Eph 6 - having done all, to stand (the "position" of spiritual warfare)

"Who is My *adversary*? Let him come near Me."

John 14:30 "The prince of this world comes and he has nothing in Me."

**Inner** knowledge of God makes you free from condemnation

**Our "learning" (hearing) likewise takes place in darkness:**

Isaiah 50:10-11

"Who among you **fears** the Lord?"

Living in obedience

"Who **obeys** the voice of His Servant?"

Focus so you can obey

(BUT) "Who walks in darkness and has no light?"

God sovereignly shuts off the light (knowledge) that caused the Fall

The Answer to SW:

"Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God."

Ex 20:21 "So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was."

Moses heard in the darkness (extinguishes the natural to tune us into God's voice)

· Psalm 103:7 "He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel."

v.11 "Look, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled - this you shall have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment."

Warning to those who don't WAIT

Isaiah 42:14-20 (compare with Is 50)

"I have held My peace a long time. I have been still and restrained Myself."

Darkness quiets our soulish nature so inner man can prepare for WAR."

ACTION - "Now I will cry like a woman in labor. I will pant and gasp at once."

This is the challenge to available intercessors in Is. 50:1-4, where God chides them for not moving Him to *act!*

v. 16 "I will bring the **blind** by a way they did **not know**: I will lead them in paths they have **not known**. I will make **darkness** light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them and **not forsake** them.

v.17 "**Hear**, you deaf; and **look**, your blind, that you may see. Who is blind but My servant, or deaf as My messenger whom I **send**? (Apostle = sent one/does what God says) Who is blind as he who is **perfect**, (shalom = at rest, peace) and blind as the Lord's servant? Seeing many things, but you do not observe; opening the ears, but he does not hear."

Smith Wigglesworth - blind to all contradictions of the flesh. Many miracles.

**Where does my Authority come from?**

Before we can become fit to be used, we have to know what to do with our brokenness.

Gen 4 Cain killed his brother. Why?

Jealous of Able's offering. Cain's offering was motivated by giving service to God, not by death of unblemished offering

as a substitute for *himself*. Rom. 12:1 Present your bodies a living sacrifice. Contribution vs. giving up a life. (Joke about the pig and chicken walking by a restaurant; giving them ham and eggs was for the chicken a contribution but for the pig total commitment.)

Like Esau—no heart for understanding God. His parents were grieved because of his marriage to two Canaanite women; when he tried to please them with a better wife, he married an Ishmaelite.

Jealousy crept in bc Cain saw Able getting the external praise from God (in Cain's eyes) If he knew WHY Able got the praise, he would have found out how Able got God's favor - relationship. Missed the point. Cain superficial. When we're jealous, we only want the outward praise. Success has to do with relationship, has nothing to do with recognition. Value in rel'p, not in praise, so it doesn't matter if you get praised or not.

### **Brother's Keeper - SW**

Eph - theme is we are one another's keeper; strive to keep the unity of the faith.

SW purpose: praying always...for all saints. (No mention of demons after wrestling powers of darkness.) Motivation right, protected in doing SW

Noah got drunk on wine. Son Ham came in, exposed him to his brothers who covered father. Noah cursed Ham's son, Canaan, and his descendents. (Gen. 9:25)

Covering/uncovering becomes basis for the curse, the reversal of "my brother's keeper."

Abraham: Ministry of intercession. Before he intercedes for Lot, he makes a terrible mistake. After promise of blessing, goes to Egypt to escape famine, tells pharaoh his wife is his sister. Ab. Spared his life to give wife to Pharaoh. Bad example to Lot, Sarah, Pharaoh, the Egyptians, Isaac and all generations. Stumbling block. Also that's probably where he got Hagar, the mother of the Ishmaelites. (Gen. 12:16)

Abraham, upon returning "to the place of the altar which he had made there at first" (between Bethel and Ai), "called on the name of the Lord" (13:4). Cleansed from guilt, godly perspective (vision) restored, no doubt deeply humbled (if he has any conscience at all) he is now ready to show the same mercy to his nephew Lot. He gives Lot the choice of the Jordan valley. Lot pitches tent toward Sodom, moves there, taken prisoner against 4 kings. (ch. 14) Ab takes 318 armed men, invades them. SW - 1<sup>st</sup> act of war. Law of "first mention", key: Ab fighting enemy to deliver his Undeserving nephew, Lot.

Gen 15 Covenant with Ab. God assures Ab that He's going to give him the land. Cuts a cov't with Ab. Do nothing but believe. Very important picture of God's "unilateral" covenant with Abraham in which He puts Abraham to sleep, and "horror and great darkness" during which God passes between the halves of the sacrifices (as a smoking oven and burning torch), fulfilling Abraham part of the covenant as well as His own. All Abraham did was keep the vultures away from the sacrifices (Mt. 24:28), which meant he had to stay focused on the covenant long enough for it to make an "imprint" on his mind/heart, as the image makes an imprint on the photographic paper inside a camera (old fashioned camera). Another application of Is. 50:10—in darkness *rely on God!* The split animals have a parallel application, referring to the dividing of the soul and spirit and joints and marrow (Heb. 4:12) so Abraham can *rest* in the soul (sleep, darkness), while his *spirit* works. Rom 9:16—not our willing and running but His mercy.

Gen16 - Ab caves in to Sarah to have a child with Hagar, Ishmael. No awareness for the next 14 years that he's done wrong, yet his mistake has led to perhaps the greatest turmoil in earth, perhaps "the last giant," *Islam* (acc. to one author), which claims spiritual descent from Ishmael.

Gen 18 God is silent for 14 yrs, but in meantime, God says, "Shall I hide from Ab what I'm going to do?" Amos 3:7, "the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secrets to His servants, the prophets."

He tells Ab what He's going to do because He wants Ab to do something about it.

God wants Ab to be a co-heir with Him in process of redemption. God tells him He'll destroy S&G. Ab didn't succeed technically in bargaining with God, but God was moved by Ab's heart for his "brother." "God remembered Ab and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow!" (19:29)

Gen 22:16 Bottom line of intercession is yieldedness/surrender. Offers Isaac as sacrifice. When he lost everything God had promised, God said, "now I know you will not withhold anything. He swore His oath of covenant. "Blessing I will bless you...in your seed.."

Heb 6 - by 2 immutable things...impossible for God to lie - oath (putting His life behind the promise) and covenant...He swore by Himself. Patiently endured, obtained the promise. God says, "NOW I KNOW!!" (Themes of SW: brokenness, brother's keeper)

God wanted Ab to be as good as dead. Empty of self so you don't interfere with God. Let God be totally God. He could do more but we're afraid of letting go. So back to the Gen 15 covenant!

### Jacob and Judah

Jacob's turning point. Gen 32 // Luke 16 & Matt 11

Lu 16 - "...Every man is pressing into it "

Matt 11:12 "the violent take it by force"

What is violence? It is *standing*; refusing to budge from what you *know* in the spirit; fighting in faith, calling the things that be not as though they were (Rom. 4:17).

Gen 32 - Jacob is brought to the end of his own maneuverability. Laban dealt with, but now Esau and his army. Jacob a shepherd. Esau has 400 men (see \*\*Gen. 36:31\*\* key verse). No where to turn. **Takes responsibility instead of escaping** (key to everything). Focus redefined = respons'y.

"Face to face" with enemies, God and yourself; basis of being real.

Jacob sends family across brook and wrestles all night. Wants an answer from God. Intent of obeying God is hearing, seeing His face = focusing). "Kingdom suffers violence"

Jacob is desperate enough to stand until he sees his breakthrough. God accommodates him until he's broken.

Didn't have to break the powers of darkness. Just face God and allow Him to break him. Become totally transparent before God. Confessed his name Jacob, "heal grabber". Encounter of mega victory. God changes his name to Prince, Conqueror, "fight" - he fought long enough, persevered long enough to be **broken**, legal grounds removed. (Prince of this world is coming and he has nothing in me)

When Esau finally met Jacob, he was at peace with Jacob. Triumph.

Jacob's final statement, "I have seen God face to face."

Gen 15- God cut a covenant with Abraham, divided animals in half, not the birds. Some people need to be split in half, others are already simple and humble enough, don't need a major breaking and separation of soul and spirit. Ps 72:13-14 The blood of the poor is precious in His sight. God measures His mercy differently, according to the heart - brokenness, teachability, humility.

Splits animals, God is gone! So Ab keeps his eyes on the sacrifice, keeps the birds away, staying focused on the sac., allowing the sac to be printed on the photographic film of his heart (right amount of time). Puts Ab in deep sleep, horror of great darkness, tells him his seed will go through same thing, captivity 400 yrs. God got Ab out of the way - God doesn't want our help, He wants our fellowship; heirs and joint-heirs. God has to put us through whatever it takes. Transparency, vulnerability = God reduces us to the end of ourselves till we're totally vulnerable. Ab is so vulnerable on Mt Moriah, he's willing to lose everything. Vulnerability is key to intimacy, which is the key to unconditional love. How do we know we're loved unconditionally unless we're totally transparent/vulnerable and God (or people) see us as we *really* are-no mask!

Now Jacob is split in half, admits he is a deceiver, supplanter, manipulator, but comes to God. Undone, but his eyes have seen the King (man of unclean lips...Is 6)

Name changed; new nature.

After the tremendous unilateral covenant (where God does it all) in ch 15, Ab blows it in ch 16. Does the opposite thing. Steps back into the flesh and has Ishmael, wrong son, wrong way. Jacob does the same thing! After incredible encounter with God, Gen 33, he pitches his tent before the city of Shechem Gen 34. (Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom, implied a permanent settlement. Jacob's pitching implies temporary. Lot moved into Sodom.)

Jacob gets into trouble with Shechem. 2 sons, Levi and Simeon kill all men because of raped (?) sister, Dinah. Theme thru Bible, Is 50:10, is turning to God ("Trust in the Lord and stay upon his God). Habit of every man of God is learning by trial and error, failure or success, go to God - in God's face, in God's face!! Violence! Stand! Hold your position.

Jacob reprimanded the two sons, but they justified themselves. 2 Cor 13 - Jacob is weak now as he faces his hard-hearted sons, incapable of being a nation before God.

Jacob, "arise, let us go...make an altar before God..." **"Put away the foreign gods among you" - they attract demons, giving grounds in lives (other key to SW)**

When we do our part, God does His, "and they journeyed and the terror of God was on the cities all around them and did not harm the sons of Jacob."

No confrontation with demons so far. Just being broken before God and He's taking care of their enemies one after another.

Hosea 12:3-6 "He took his brother by the heel in the womb and in his strength he struggled with God...(Gen 32, Penial), wept and sought favor, He found him at *Bethel (ch35)* and there He spoke to us...Return and observe justice and wait on your God continually." *Why does God change the location of Jacob's breakthrough from Penial to Bethel?* David had a breakthrough of God's mercy with Saul (I Sam 26) Never has to worry about Saul again. He passed the test. But not the end of David's schooling. Major part still up ahead. Flees to Ziklag and Achish, finds city burned...but David *encouraged himself in the Lord* - didn't worry about demons. Humbled himself, asked counsel of the priest. Ended up conquering the Amalikites, what Saul should have done. David's 400 against 1000's (?) David's brokenness, not his victory with Saul. It's how you handle your failures-resilience-that often is more important than your success.

Elijah's breakthrough was not calling fire down on prophets of Baal (part of it) but real key is when he is reduced to a fugitive running from Jezebel, in cave, thought he was "only one left". Elisha wasn't translated, Elijah was. Our weakness is valuable to God, BUT only when we focus on God, when we see Jesus!

Moses' failure in Num. 20 (provoked to anger) was a blessing; what a tragedy had he not come face to face with his problem before he died. His problem? Still too much *self*-confidence: opened the door for his outburst.

Why did Jacob find God at Bethel? When we have a major breakthrough, it's too close to absorb the benefits. Lev 12 if a woman had a baby, she was unclean 7/14 days. Bearing a child was tremendous success in those days. Spiritually, when we have a breakthrough with God, we're usually "unclean". The donkey, when he comes back from carrying Jesus, is puffed up, good for nothing. Normally, there is a period of SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS, that we have won a great victory.

(So, after the dust settles and our glory fades

I Cor 15 - what you sow is not made alive unless it dies) the husk comes off and the fruit stands on its own. God recognizes Bethel as Jacob's true breakthrough.

Times has to settle our excitement down, like the ashes of a burnt offering, by the altar for awhile until a man in plain clothes (not priestly) removed them to the side of the camp. Even our breakthru in humility is useless - can't even glory in our humility.

Woe is me, for I am undone...

Jacob found God in **Bethel**, "house of God"

Back to the place of obedience

· On his brokenness, God can build His house. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it."

Jacob can't even glory at having seen God face to face.

Rest is where we're not even elated over our own victories.

Tommy Hicks, greatest revival in Argentina. Incredible story! But he died defeated, discouraged, an alcoholic.

Is 30:19 "Blessed are all those who wait for Him" God waits to reduce us so we come to ZION, united with our brethren, flow in unity with them.

Ps 134 Which by NIGHT STAND in the sanctuary (SW) - Bethel (house of God)

Mt of Transfiguration, Jesus comes down from the glory and finds his disciples who can't even cast out the demons!!!!

Spiritual warfare notes, cont'd. June 14, 2004

Judah, the heart of SW. Gen - progressive revelation from Ab, father of many nations, to end of Gen, motivation behind a kingdom of which the seed of Ab is going to father the nations.

The conclusion is in Rev: God will establish the seed of Ab as father of the nations: 2:26-27, "He who overcomes...shall

shepherd the nations” (“rule” in Rev. 2:27 is *poimaino*, 4165, shepherd). We will see how God will “rule” and reign and how only the overcomers will be trusted with this rod of authority.

**1 Chronicles 5:1-2.** In these 2 verses we will see how Reuben, though firstborn, was disqualified as the one who would inherit the “scepter” of authority passed down from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Reuben defiled his father’s bed. Lev 18:8 “The nakedness of your father’s you shall not uncover. It is your father’s nakedness.” In having sex one time with his father’s concubine, Bilhah, and not repenting deeply, he showed disrespect for his father and could never be trusted with authority, which is covering (protecting, guarding). He uncovered his father like Ham uncovered Noah.

Then why did Joseph miss it, who was a top role model in the Bible (with Daniel), virtually without blemish? Hebrews 2:17 “Therefore in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful High Priest...”

5:2 “must have compassion on those who are ignorant...since He Himself also is subject to weakness.”

Gen 49:26b “The blessings of your father...shall be on the head of Joseph and on the crown of him who was *separate from his brothers.*”

Heb 2:17 In all things, like His brethren

Joseph excelled in wisdom and taught Pharaoh’s elders (Ps. 105:22); he is the epitome of royalty, like Solomon. But this shepherding rod must be given it to someone who understands deeply the deceitfulness, rebellion, and stubbornness of the human heart. I Peter 2:9, we are a royal *priesthood*. It is one thing to persevere through slavery and prison and forgive those who sold you into it. But it’s even more difficult when that wickedness is in your *own* heart and you’ve got to battle through to a place of freedom from guilt, understanding the love and mercy of God in a deeper level than merely forgiving others for *their* wrongs. Jesus could have endured the suffering of the cross and died as a martyr, forever becoming our role model, like Joseph. But when He became our sin offering, he became a curse, separated from God, which is death. Only at that point did He deal with the root of sin and become more than a role model: He became our *representative*, truly representing us before the throne as not only our advocate, our defense attorney, but the one who paid our penalty–death.

“Inasmuch 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, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb. 2:14-15).

Thus “Judah prevailed over his brothers...became the chief ruler” (1 Chr. 5:2) because he would become Benjamin’s “representative,” even taking his place to be a slave forever in Egypt.

### **The motivation behind fatherhood**

**Deut 25:9-10** The Law of the Levirate Marriage: If a man died and left his widow childless, it was expected that his brother would marry her to raise up a seed in the name of his brother who would receive his inheritance. If he didn’t want to marry her (didn’t have to), the widow would go to the elders at the gate, tell them the brother would not “perform the duty of [her] husband’s brother.” If he still refused, she removed his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and said, “so shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother’s house. Called in Israel, “The house of him who had his sandal removed””.

God is very serious about the “Golden Rule” of the NT: He wants us to be as or more concerned for others than ourselves. (Phil 2:3-4 “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition of conceit...let each esteem others *better than himself*.)

### **Judah**

The epitome of Deut 25:5-10, but his beginning was the extreme opposite, in regards to the Levirate marriage.

1. He left not only his brothers, but his father
2. Married a forbidden Canaanite (another slap in his father’s face)
3. His two oldest sons were so wicked, God killed them both.
4. God killed the second son because he didn’t raise up seed to his brother.
5. Judah failed to give the second brother (third son) to Tamar, the widow. So Tamar, disguised as a prostitute, tricked Judah into impregnating her, so she could have the long-awaited child. (Twins)
6. When Judah found she was pregnant, he began the process of having her burned to death (alive)–until she

exposed him as the father.

At this point, we have the turning point in Judah's life. Instead of denying his sin, which he could have easily done as an elder in the city, no doubt, he acknowledged his sin and credited her with more righteousness than himself.

**Gen 49:11-12** At some point in Judah's life, it says "he bound his donkey to the vine", representing his old nature, as when Jacob confessed his name before the Angel. "And he washed his garments in wine" which speaks of repenting and cleansing. "His eyes are darker than wine" speaks of transformed vision. "His teeth white with milk" speaks of the cleansing of his inner man by the word which he had apparently come back to as his family heritage.

Parallel to Jacob at Peniel, Judah too sees God face to face at the point of deep travail and repentance. The most probable place to occur, would be Gen 38 when Tamar exposed him as the perpetrator of his cowardly crime.

Meanwhile Joseph, having been sold into slavery by his brothers, was spending the next 13 years as a captive in Egypt until he completely forgave his brothers. In Gen 40:15 we see Joseph still fretting somewhat over being unjustly treated. Has to wait 2 more years before his release, indicating the work of grace completed in Joseph) Next time we hear from Judah is when Joseph tests his brothers by commanding them to bring their kid brother Benjamin. Testing them to see if they've changed from when they sold him. For this test Joseph "framed" Benjamin, ordering him to be kept as a slave in Egypt, and the other brothers could go free. At this point Judah spoke up, pleading to be Benjamin's surety, his guarantor, offering to take his place as a slave in Egypt so Benj could go back to his father. Not because Judah loved Benjamin, but because he truly understood the hopeless condition of the human heart, for he had been "forgiven much," and now deeply understood and forgave his father Jacob.

Now the book of Genesis is complete. An overcoming "priest-king" is ready to take the leading role of the family. From there on, Judah is the one "whom [his] brothers shall praise" (49:8). Judah becomes the leading tribe because he alone understands the motivation behind shepherding with a rod of iron. In the NT church we see this characterized by Paul's fatherly concern and love and authority in the churches. In Revelation, we see our coming King as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David (another parallel story to Judah).

### **Summary of Judah**

We see the fulfillment of 2 themes: Loving submission to the father; Love and concern for his brother. Now we're set for the spiritual and military conquests that lie ahead.

### **Moses**

Israelites in Egypt for 400 yrs. Multiplied to 2 to 4 million people (600,000 men plus women and children). Need a deliverer. Pharaoh is a dictator, oppressing the Jews, as slaves. But God is using him to draw His people to Himself: Romans 9:15f, to reveal His mercy through the hardness of Pharaoh (Is. 30:18). (Study this passage-Rom 9:15-and see the connection between God's sovereignty/mercy, and our yielding to and trusting it.

Question: What does it take to get me in a position where You'll have mercy on me??

Answer: Faith; Romans 9: last few verses. God has to reduce us to faith. He wants to be our Alpha and Omega, Sufficient for us, I AM THAT I AM.

### **He uses Pharaohs to reduce us to the limit of our human strength so we will not trust in ourselves but in the God who raises the dead. (2 Cor 1:9)**

So then, not, "what's the use of trying if God is sovereign and has mercy on whomever HE will?" but, "Ok, God, I wait for Your mercy, hope, look for, expect, trusting You'll bring me to the point of being able to receive it as a little child." Our willing and running makes us independent of one another, but God's make us dependent on one another through Him to become one family.

80 yrs before their deliverer would be ready. Indicates the hardness of the hearts of God's people (at the point of their desperation, they had to wait 80 more yrs.)

Moses has been 40 yrs in the desert, had to learn emptiness and brokenness. Taking care of his father-in-law's sheep, living with a woman who didn't understand...

Many times God tries to get our attention and we don't respond.

**Exodus 3:3-4** The burning bush; significant that Moses *turned aside* to see the great sight. ("When the Lord saw that

he *turned aside* to look, God called to him from the burning bush...”) So is every man called when He responds to the gentle wooing and dealings of the Lord.

God sends Moses back to Egypt with great authority. Egyptians destroyed. Israelites in great wilderness. Deut 8:2-3 Purpose: The Lord your God led you...to test you and humble you...if you would keep His commandments.” What did He want them to know? That they could NOT keep His commandments. Rom 3:19, “Whatever the law says...that every mouth stopped, that all the world may become guilty, for by the law is knowledge of sin.” v.3 He wanted the law to break their self-confidence so they would know that man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

(Have to live by the “proceeding word” from God’s mouth). Purpose of wilderness: reduce them to dependence on God and a hearing heart.

**Exodus 24** The Law is given on Mount Sinai, in great terror to produce the fear of God in them to humble them. God brings Moses up the mountain alone.

Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu (Aaron’s oldest sons) and 70 elders go up the mountain, (not all the way). They see God (representation) and a paved work of Sapphire stone, “like the heavens in it’s clarity”. Then, 6 days they see the consuming fire of God on top of the mountain (Moses went up alone), Joshua accompanying him, but not to the top. During the 40 days, while Moses was in the cloud, the people apostasized. 70 elders, Aaron,... all saw the Sapphire streets, and fire for 6 days...Yet, they didn’t have enough patience to last the 40 days. How quickly they turned aside.

When the Tabernacle was completed, Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire and were slain by the “consuming fire” of God (Lev. 10).

**Exodus 32** God says to Moses, “I have seen these people...I will consume them and make of you a great nation.” First of three times God threatens to consume His own people (Num 14 & 16)

God has been teaching Moses the pattern of the Tabernacle and the Priesthood, the pattern and being of reduced to dependence on God (a revelation of His mercy) so we can be our brother’s keeper. Moses learned this lesson well during his 80 days in the Mount and refused to allow God to destroy His people. Moses offered his own life in the place of Israel as he bargained with God over them as Abraham did concerning Lot and Judah for Benjamin.

**Ex 34:6-7** reveals His ways: “merciful and gracious, longsuffering, abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty . . . .” There’s no point to the mercy of God if God is all good. If He doesn’t hold the guilty accountable, then anyone can do anything. (In fact there would be no need for Jesus to have died.) He has mercy on those who repent, long for and wait for His mercy (Is 30:18, Ps. 33:18; 147:11, etc).

All we have to do is long for, expect it. Then we see that God is “merciful, compassionate, gracious....” But those who refuse to come into fellowship with God through the sacrificial blood of mercy, God “visits” judgment, “by no means clearing the guilty.”

### **A Parallel to the fall of Lucifer (What SW comes down to)**

Numbers 11-25 One of the most dramatic sections of the Bible

Ch. 11 The people complain. It displeased the Lord. His anger was aroused....

· (Duet 8:2-3 God brings us into the wilderness to break us, teach us how to live by the words of His mouth)

...The fire of the Lord consumed them. (Heb 12 - our God is a consuming fire) The multitude craves meat, complaining about the manna. At the this point, Moses breaks down, “Why have you afflicted your servant with these people?” Moses even wants God to kill him (complaining to that point)

The difference between Moses and the people is that the people are not complaining as needy children to a loving Father but to one another stirring up discontent and rebellion. So God sends them quail and they gorge themselves until it comes out of their noses. God strikes them with a great plague because of their lust for meat.

· Miriam and Aaron complain over Moses wife (?). Miriam smitten with leprosy. Moses pleads for her, she’s set outside the camp 7 days.

Final blow: spies comes back with a bad report. God wants to wipe them out, Moses intercedes. God sentences them all under 20 (19 and under, 14:29) to death in the wilderness.

· SW - Caleb and Joshua, how they *perceive* the enemy, as bread for them, to give them strength. The doubting



spies saw themselves as grasshoppers in the sight of the giants.  
(Smith Wigglesworth saw things from God's perspective - key to his victory)

### **Num 15 - Test of the heart of man**

- Sin of ignorance - atoned by sacrifice
- Sin of presumption - sin of a "high hand", willful sin; 1 John 5:17 - "the sin unto death"

The application of this law immediately follows: A man is gathering sticks on the Sabbath Day. Moses has him put under guard until God tells him what to do. The Lord tells Moses, "the man must surely be put to death...by stoning". This is why God took the kingdom from Saul (1 Sam 15 "for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and iniquity as idolatry.") But the sin of the stick-gathering man is only a token of what comes next.

### **Num 16 - The sin of a leader (to whom much is given, much is required)**

Duties in the Temple:

- Kohathites carried the furniture
- Gershonites carried the coverings, hangings, and curtains ("doors") of the tabernacle
- Merarites carried the boards and pillars of the tabernacle

In Num 4, the Kohathites are warned not to look at the naked furniture, before it's covered, lest they die. *Korah, Dathan and Abia - saw Moses uncovered, as a natural man instead of the spiritual leader in the office God had given them. The earth opened up and they are swallowed alive!*

- The "consuming fire" of God killed the 250 leaders with Korah. Then, would you believe, the people blamed Moses and Aaron for killing "the people of the Lord" (16:41)! So God for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time threatened to destroy the people and sent a plague that began killing them. It was too late for Moses to bargain with God, for "already the plague had begun among the people" (16:47). (Some people just don't learn! Yet who can "know" his own heart? Jer. 17:9)

**Num 17** God settled the question of spiritual leadership (priesthood) once and for by telling the leader of each tribe to place their rods in the sanctuary. "And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the complaints of the children of Israel, which they make against you" (17:5). Aaron's rod "sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms, and yielded ripe almonds." Rom. 9:16, "So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy."

**Num 18** Purpose of the priesthood. V5, "you shall attend to the duties of the priesthood, that *there may be no more wrath on the children of the people.*"

- SW - Calling of the priest is just to keep wrath off the people!
- Love covers a multitude of sin. 1 Peter 4:8
- If you see your brother sin a sin "not unto death," ask God to give him life. 1 Jn 5:16
- These are "sins of ignorance" or "inadvertence," as in Num. 15, not presumptuous sins like Korah and the pick-up-stix man.

**Num 19** A cleansing offering for uncleanness caused by touching a dead body. God's remedy for cleanness with all the death and dying of the people. A red heifer was *burned outside the camp* like the bull of the sin offering in Lev. 4. While burning, cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet were added to the sacrifice. The ashes were kept "outside the camp in a clean place" to be added to water for sprinkling on anyone contaminated by touching a dead body.

- When God gives us a symbolic study, He sometimes follows it with a living illustration:

### **Sad fate of Moses**

- What is 'touching a dead body?' Lev 21 The Lord told Moses to speak to the priests (sons of the high priest), they shall not defile themselves by touching a dead body, except for immediate family, mother, father, sister, brother, daughter. (Those living with him)
- 21:10 He who is high priest, on whose head the anointing is poured (indicates separation to God), shall not go near *any dead body*- not even father or mother. For the anointing oil of God is upon him. And he shall not even *mourn* for his father and mother!

➤ *What does that have to do with modern living??*

**Num 20** Wilderness of Zin, Miriam dies and is buried. No water. People gather together against Moses and Aaron,

contending, “If only we had died in wilderness...” Moses gets upset, goes to the Lord, glory appears, people fall on faces. God said, “speak to the rock..” This would have indicated Moses’ complete trust in God, knowing and standing in His mercy (“His glory” revealed in Ex. 34) even in the face of Israel’s *continued* stubbornness! But Moses and Aaron lost their cool and spoke, instead, to the people in anger, they smote the rock instead of speaking to it.

The Bible doesn’t say that Moses mourned Miriam’s death, for the law says he was not permitted to; but what if he *did*? This extreme separation from contamination is reminiscent of the Nazirite vow (Num. 6), during which the volunteer’s separation was “on his head” (uncut hair) and he was also not permitted to drink or eat the fruit of the vine or touch a dead body. By this means he was “sanctified” or separated to God for His use. God’s judgement on Moses is that he did not “sanctify the Lord before the people.” Something had happened that caused Moses to lose his complete separation to God so he could show the people God’s view of things, *sanctifying Him* before them. It is quite probable that when his beloved sister Miriam died, the one who had watched baby Moses drift into the Nile in a basket and led Pharaoh’s daughter to her (Moses) mother, Moses “mourned” just enough to lose the edge he needed with God to cope with the rebellion of the people. God wanted them to show the people His ways, “gracious and slow to anger” but Moses failed. The revelation of the atonement broke down with Moses’ failure to sanctify the Lord. Didn’t show them His mercy. So judgement came *on Moses* and God still blessed the people with the water from the Rock.

Now what about the Ashes of the Red Heifer? When God refused to let Moses enter the Promise Land, it no doubt had the effect of cleansing him from his “contamination,” his loss of that separated and anointed head. Like the red heifer, he “suffered outside the camp, bearing His reproach” (Heb. 13:13). By yielding to this punishment, it had the cleansing effect and though Moses died, his body did not see corruption (Ps 16) and he appeared with Elijah in his “glorified body” (Mt. 17). (Grace, read Ps. 49 when you have time. But keep it to yourself! It’s not for everybody. Then see if you can connect it with Job 33. Only when you have *plenty* of time to meditate and soak.)

**Num 21** The people spoke against God and Moses, no food, water, manna. God sent serpents among the people, they were dying. God tells Moses to construct serpent of brass. People look and are healed. God again sanctifies Himself and demonstrates His mercy. (*God can do a better job at correction that we can!!*)

**Num 22-24** The grand finale of God sanctifying His people comes from, all people, not Moses, who failed, but through a “false prophet.” What a lesson in the sovereignty of God. “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy” (Rom. 9:15). Not only that but it is one of the most powerful prophecies to Israel in the Bible. However, after this climactic revelation of His mercy, God must finally deal with “the guilty” (Ex. 34).

Two-fold sword:

- Balaam’s prophecy cuts away doubt and fear, and disobedience. God gave them a chance to repent, in His mercy.
- Other edge cuts away the dross. Balaam talks Balak into sending Midianite women into the camp to seduce them in order that they will incur God’s punishment. The plan works!. The plague of judgment kills 24,000. Then Phineas, a priest, thrusts a javelin through an Israelite man and a Midianite woman having sex in a tent. And the plague stops.

**Joshua** - literal warfare, possession of Canaan parallel with Ephesians, spiritual conquering of the land/ spiritual warfare;

SW occurs in 3 steps: (must be in this order, like building a house with foundation)

1. Obedience/surrender to God - Josh 1-8
2. Be my brother’s keeper
3. Conquering the strongholds

STAGE 1 - Obedience

**Josh 1**

- Start with a mindset that the land is already yours. Eph 1 “seated with Him in heavenly places.” First half of Eph 1 is God telling us what we already have in Christ. Like Josh 1, wherever his foot treads God will give him.
- God exhorts Joshua to *be strong, meditate on Word* and let it “*not depart from his mouth*” (Mark 11:23-24) Eph 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> half, “the eyes of your understanding be opened that they may *know* what is the hope of your calling”
- Eph 1 - already seated in heavenly places, far above all principalities...  
Eph 6 - told to stand against them, which is SW, concluding Eph. Everything between Eph 1 and 6 is the strategy (battle planning/theoretical), which is understanding who we are in Christ and our relationship with our brothers in Christ; and logistics (actual equipment and ground maneuvering/practical), which is walking in practical obedience—overcoming sin & selfishness.

Josh 1-5; preparation for obedience with the crossing of the Jordan

- Watchman Nee, “To the extent that we have anything in our lives uncommitted to God, to that extent Satan will have advantage over us.”
- The crossing of the Jordan was the exalting of Joshua (God said He would exalt him like Moses).
- Jordan signifies *death* (to self) and/or *tribulation*
- Jeremiah 12 “If you can’t make it in the land of peace, what will you do in the swelling of the Jordan?”

Crossing of the Jordan, the Passover, and Circumcision all symbolize leaving the old behind.

- Crossing Jordan - death process to self
- Passover - atonement, cleansing by the blood, renewing our minds in Christ
- Circumcised at Gilgal - Col 2:11ff [this section of Josh 1-5 is deeply interlinked with Gal, Eph, Phil & Col in regard to putting off the old man and walking in the new]

## Joshua 6

Destruction of Jericho where their obedience is put to the test. March around it in silence 6 days with the priests blowing the ram’s horns, 7 times in 7<sup>th</sup> day. Never say a word (while marching) until the end. Chance to soak in, in silence everything God had spoken to them (“meditate in word”) - *focus*

God brings the walls down. The enemy was already living in fear. SW - the enemy knows he’s already defeated. He fears you unless he can bluff you through deception and accusation.

- The test of obedience: not to touch anything/all dedicated to God. Foundation stone in conquering Canaan. “Can do nothing of ourselves but what we see the Father do” - that regains the position Adam lost through trying to operate of himself.
- The battle is the Lord’s: not theirs; it all depends on simple obedience, in following the Lamb wherever He goes. John 12-14 “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me...”

## Joshua 7

No sooner had they won victory than Josh makes his 1<sup>st</sup> mistake, thinking they can defeat Ai with 3,000 men - thinking in terms of man’s ability instead of simple obedience (God’s ability). Joshua tore his clothes and fell on his face before God, with his elders, until evening, until they heard a word from God.

*Difference between men of God and failures is staying/getting in the face of God.*

He says the something similar to what the 10 spies and people in rebellion says “why didn’t we die in the wilderness”, but what’s the difference? The people *complained to one another*, stirring up the sin like cancer. But Joshua (and Moses) complained directly to God, the One who they knew had the answer. His complaint was filled with *hope* and *anticipation*. “Then what will You do for Your great name?” When you complain to God with expectancy, you’re “challenging God” (in a sense), building your own confidence that God has an answer!

## Joshua 8

God responds and says, “Get up! Why do you lie on your face? Israel has sinned!”

Casting lots to find the sin...Achan. Find tribe, family, households. Found Judah, Zarhites, Achan. Rev 2:21 - “I gave

her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.” Achan had lot of time to repent while they searched the people. He might have been spared the death of his family, but had to be confronted face to face by Joshua. Took Babylonian garment, 2 wedges of gold, “I coveted them and took them...” Love of the world & love of money.

SW - “You cannot stand until you take away the accursed thing from among you” 7:13.  
(Search your heart for links/connection with occult, secret sins.)

STAGE 2 - “I am my brother’s keeper”

### Joshua 9

Next mistake - Covenant with Gibeonites; didn’t consult God. Deceived. True character of Joshua comes out:

- Integrity of Joshua to keep cov. - Psalm 24 “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord...clean hands, pure heart, not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully”
- Deep understanding of the nature of covenant. Explains his faith in a covenant-keeping God. And the great miracle that follows. It’s often under the greatest testing of our faith that we see the greatest examples of God’s faithfulness. When Canaanites hear of Gibeon’s covenant w/Israel, 5 kings of south Canaan attack Gibeon and Joshua defends them and in the battle, God fights for Joshua, killing more with hailstones than they kill in battle. When Joshua needed more time, he commanded sun and moon to stop, “so the sun stood still and the moon stopped til the people had revenge on their enemies...and there has been no day like that...that the Lord heeded the voice of man, for the Lord fought for Israel” Josh 10:12,14. This is what God will do when we are surrendered to God, understand the depths of His commitment to us, and are willing to be our brother’s keeper, especially when our brother is weak and disobedient. Gibeon (1391) comes from *gibah* (1389) meaning “hill” and may symbolize baby Christians (dad thinks). = “the mountains skipped like rams and the *little hills (gibah)* like lambs” Ps 114:4. Our motive should be to protect the little lambs so they can grow up out of their weakness, to bear the infirmities of the weak. Gal 6:1 “considering yourself lest you also be tempted”.

STAGE 3 - Conquering the Strongholds.

**Josh 11** After victory with 5 kings, 32 northern kings from the north (the rest of the Canaanites) gathered against him and they know what to do - conquer! And that’s it! You can’t deal with the strongholds without first getting in right relationship with people.

If you fight from a defensive position, it’s much easier because you know that the battle/land is already yours. God has already given it to you. What right does the enemy have to think he can mess with God’s property.

Eph 1-2 = Joshua 1-8

Eph 3-4:15 = Josh 9-10 (relationship; Joshua’s defending the Gibeonites is like the leaders taking responsibility for the lambs in the church, in ministry/oversight. The lambs are ministering to one another and growing spiritually. Only in that context are the strongholds of our life conquered, i.e. anger, bad habits, lying, stealing, immorality)

Eph 4:16-ch 6 = Josh 11 practical: overcoming sin, putting off old man, putting on the new

6:12 - end - instead of facing P&P directly, SW seems to be taking the sword of the Spirit and praying for the saints.

Because when the saints have the strongholds of their minds brought down, and every thought captive to the obedience of Christ as in 2 Cor 10:5, then Satan has no more “handle” in them (Jn. 14:30) and God takes vengeance on their enemies as in 2 cor 10:6, “He will avenge all disobedience when your own obedience is fulfilled”)

As final ending note to book of Joshua, in ch.14, Caleb gets his inheritance by defeating the giants on Mt. Hebron which had put fear into the 10 spies 40 years earlier and caused Israel to lose their inheritance. The reason Caleb defeated these giants is that, 14:8-9, “he wholly followed the Lord.” - What the book of Joshua is all about is when we wholly follow the Lord and get our priorities right, 1) obedience to God and 2) becoming our brother’s keeper, then 3) God will give us strength to bring down the strongholds. And we’ll see the battle truly is the Lord’s.

June 22, 2004. Notes cont’d

The kingdom of God is about the authority of God. So everything is about authority.

### **Judges 1**

completely drive them out.”

Partial victory - virtually all the tribes, “...but did not

Neither good nor bad, just human nature.

Eisenhower, quote from Carl Von Clausewitz: Motivation has to be right for war, can only be waged in right time.

· Must pursue the enemy until it's totally destroyed. Pray through.

Theme of Judges: [Everyone did that which is right in his own eyes]

SW: God left the enemy to test Israel by them, and to obey the Lord.

3:1 “all that...so that they would be taught war”, how to fight.

Cycle of Israelites in book of Judges: 3:8ff

They fall into the hands of Canaanite,

· God sells them into their hands

· God raises up a deliverer (judge) when they've had enuf. Is 30:19 When He hears the voice of your cry, He will answer! (Cry from the depths of our heart, not whining.)

Most famous judges:

### **Deborah**

God uses a woman when He can't use a man, Barak

God wants us to take a step of faith. If we're fearful, He will use someone else. God will still have His way.

There were some tribes that did not respond at the call to battle

5:15 “the divisions of Reuben...

· They had searchings of heart but didn't do it; convicted but didn't act.

Opposite of Judah, who took responsibility.

Most common theme: God uses those weak enough to depend totally on God.

Abimelech: God purges the Israelites through Abim. When God's finished with him, he's killed

**Jephthah:** rejected but remained faithful, though illegitimate, through faithfulness, developed skills of war, so sharp, that when Ammonites called, he won. Understood motivation for war (Clauswitz)

**Samson:** Heart issue, refused to listen to mom and dad. At beginning of 20 yr reign, a Woman lured him away from parents. At end of 20 yr reign, a woman lured him into hands of his own destruction.

A Nazarite and Priest are both holy. But Nazarrites' dedication is in their head. The priests were motivated by heart.

Nazarites - law of spiritual focus. Priests - demonstrate law of brokenness and focus.

Samson, when he told Delilah all his *heart*, he lost his secret of power-vulnerable to the enemy-wrong kind of vuln.

Where your heart is, there is your treasure. If your eye is single, your whole body is full of light. (Mt. 6:21-22) Pr 4:23 “Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the springs of life.”

Power was in his mental focus (from Nazarite vow); because heart not change, heart given to women (downfall). Did it from beginning, fellowshiping with world. Violated physically with world (lion's carcass, wedding feast-wine, no doubt), and spiritually (women). “Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings” (Pr 31:3).

At end of life, no morals left. Slept with prostitute, yet still had his strength: carried gates of city away with its pillars.

Naz's illustrate holiness; priests illustrate compassion. John the Baptist was a holiness fundamentalist, but missed the kingdom of God because he couldn't grasp the new nature of the kingdom. NT concept of holiness - heart issue. OT concept - focused mind. (David introduced the new concept-Thy law is within my heart. Ps 40)

When Philistines gouged out his eyes, he finally starts keeping his Nazarite vow (1<sup>st</sup> time) all he can do now is focus on God; let his “hair grow” (spiritually)

Idolatry of tribe of Dan in their distorted worship is a forerunner of Jeroboam's golden calf worship.

Last, most *tragic story* of Bible:

Judges 19-21

The Benjamites were the most skilled in military conquest. [I Chron 12:1-2 ]

Benjamites defend city of Gibeon in their perversion. Judges 20:18 Send Judah first.

20:16 First day, 22,000 slain by Benjamites. (Shoot left hand, at hair's breadth)

Why would God say, "send Judah first and let Benjamin slay them? So Judah wept before the Lord; God tells them "go" again. Again defeated, 18,000. Third time, much deeper humbling. Now the Lord said, "go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand." Why would God allow 40,000 Israelites to be slain? He used it to purge them spiritually, reducing them to point of true, deep humiliation and repentance. When finally repented enough, God could defend them.

Parable of widow, Luke 18, Jesus compares God to an unjust judge, "though He bare long with them" - because our hearts aren't ready for an answer. We need more brokenness, desperation, seriousness. Luke 11 of man begging for bread from neighbor. Same lesson - persevering prayer till our desire gets from head to heart.

Is 30:18 "And therefore will the Lord wait that His may be gracious...who wait. For the people will dwell in Zion at Jerusalem...*when He hears it, He will answer.*" When we're broken enuf to love our brothers (Zion, Ps 133, Heb. 12:22-23)

### **Ruth**

Deut 25:5-10., Levirate marriage, widow takes shoe and throws it. Spits in his face, "so shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house..." like the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace.

#### Illustrates:

- . How God redeems our mistakes when we allow our mistakes to break us and turn us back to God
- Levirate marriage when Boaz is willing to marry Ruth and give her a son in the name of her x-husband. His brother's keeper. Boaz marred his inheritance to raise up an inheritance for Naomi's deceased husband, "He that loves his life will lose it"