

## Learning From Prosperity:

May 29, 2011

GOD PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE  
JOSHUA 2:2-9, 15-16, 22-24

Volume 1 Number 3

### This Week's Core Competency:

**Biblical Community** - I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world. (Acts 2:44-47)

### Using This Study

#### 1 EXPERIENCE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. Ask God to help you focus on the passage and hear from Him as you read His word.

#### 2 EXAMINE His Word

The words God uses to communicate matters. Go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### 3 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface both the Divine and human author's point in the passage.

#### 4 EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT? Studying cross references can expand your understanding of a passage and discover the unity in God's word.

#### 5 EMBRACE His Word

We study God's word to hear from Him. Embracing God's word is when we personally RESPOND to Him in obedience.

### Introduction

How has God used providence in your life? On July 9, 1755 during the French and Indian War, a famous battle occurred near the Monongahela River. The British soldiers in red uniforms were easy targets for the French and the Indians from their places in trees, behind rocks, or other safe cover. As the battle progressed, the chief ordered his men to concentrate their fire on Washington, the only officer who was still on horseback. His horse was shot from under him twice, and both times he changed to horses from fallen officers. These were good marksmen, and they could not understand why the officer was not even wounded. An Indian chief then did something strange: he ordered his men to stop firing, for he concluded that this man was under a "special protection of the Great Spirit."

After the battle, Washington examined a strange tear in a sleeve of his coat, discovering that it had been made by a bullet. He found three other holes in his coat. Bullets had gone through his coat, but the force of the bullets was spent, and they did not reach his body. Washington wrote that it was by the "all-powerful dispensations of Providence" that he had been protected.

This account is thrilling, but it also raises questions. First, what is providence in such situations? In this case, it may be defined as "ordinary happenings over a period of time in which the total impact is to fulfill God's purpose in a remarkable way." Miracles are not necessarily involved in acts of providence, for natural laws are not always set aside by the supernatural.

### This Week

In Joshua 2, we read how God protects His people. In the account we see how God providentially brings His people together in order to further His Divine purposes. In response to faith in Him, all of God's people are saved, brought together and used to glorify Himself to a watching world. Look around; where do you see God's providence working in your life now?

## ① EXPERIENCE His Word

---

Read the passage and experience God's word personally.

### Joshua 2:2-9, 15-16, 22-24

1 Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men as spies from the Acacia Grove, saying, "Go and scout the land, especially Jericho." So they left, and they came to the house of a woman, a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there.

2 The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelite men have come here tonight to investigate the land."

3 Then the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab and said, "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, for they came to investigate the entire land."

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. So she said, "Yes, the men did come to me, but I didn't know where they were from."

5 At nightfall, when the gate was about to close, the men went out, and I don't know where they were going. Chase after them quickly, and you can catch up with them!"

6 But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them among the stalks of flax that she had arranged on the roof.

7 The men pursued them along the road to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as they left to pursue them, the gate was shut.

8 Before the men fell asleep, she went up on the roof

9 and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you."

### Joshua 2:15-16

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, since she lived in a house that was built into the wall of the city.

16 "Go to the hill country so that the men pursuing you won't find you," she said to them. "Hide yourselves there for three days until they return; afterward, go on your way."

### Joshua 2:22-24

22 So the two men went into the hill country and stayed there three days until the pursuers had returned. They searched all along the way, but did not find them.

23 Then the men returned, came down from the hill country, and crossed the Jordan. They went to Joshua son of Nun and reported everything that had happened to them.

24 They told Joshua, "The LORD has handed over the entire land to us. Everyone who lives in the land is also panicking because of us."

### What are your first impressions?

## ② EXAMINE His Word

---

- ✎ Underline every occurrence of the words "secretly," "hide," and "hidden."
- ✎ Bracket each occurrence of the phrase "the LORD has given" or "has handed."
- ✎ Enumerate the number of times in this passage that the spies were in a specific danger.
- ✎ Place a star next to each instance in which you feel the spies would have experienced a sense of relief from worry, or fear.
- ✎ Place an arrow next to each incidence of what may be understood as providence in the passage..

### **③ EXPLORE His Word**

---

1. Describe the events that unfolded when Joshua sent two spies to “look over the land.”
2. Given that God had sworn to give Israel the Promised Land, do you think that sending out spies represented a lack of faith? Explain.
3. Why do you suppose that a great fear had fallen on those who lived in Jericho and the surrounding country?
4. Considering that the spies were seen and identified, list all the different ways God protected the spies until they safely returned to Israel’s camp.
5. The spies learned some information on their mission (2:9-11, 23-24). Why was it important for Joshua to hear this? (Recall 1:9.)

### **④ EXPAND His Word**

---

6. Read Ex. 23:37 and Dt. 2:25; 11:25 and explain how the Israelites should have responded to the spies report about the Canaanites.
7. Read the New Testament passages below and compare it with our Joshua passage. What truths about God’s protection and providence do you see paralleled in these passages of the New Testament?
  - a. Matt. 10:37-42
  - b. Eph. 1:4, 11-12
  - c. Rom. 8:28-30

## **⑥ EMBRACE His Word**

---

The Bible reveals God's word and the Holy Spirit uses it to instruct, correct, encourage, and mature people into fully-devoted followers of Christ. Responding to Him means living in light of His Word (obedience).

8. Describe several of the ways that God has protected you (either spiritually and/or physically) that have had the greatest impact on your life. Take a few minutes to thank God.

### **Journal your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

### **Sermon Notes:**

# 30 CORE Competencies

---

## 10 Core Beliefs

**Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Salvation By Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

**Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

**Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

**Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

**Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

**Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

## 10 Core Practices

**Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

**Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

**Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

**Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

**Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

**Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Money**

*2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 Core Virtues

**Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

**Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

**Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

**Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

**Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

**Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

**Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

**Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

**Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.