

基督耶穌的精兵

GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST JESUS

當神拯救以色列百姓出埃及的時候，在出埃及記第十二章四十一節記載著，「正滿了四百三十年的那一天，耶和華的軍隊都從埃及地出來了。」以色列人寄居在埃及地作奴僕，被苦待了四百年之久〈徒七6〉，他們沒有接受過軍事的訓練，也沒有任何的武器，但在神眼中，這一大群蒙救贖的子民，無論男女老幼都是祂的軍隊。

出了埃及後，神子民因著不信的惡心不願意進入迦南，反而埋怨神將他們領到那地使他們倒在刀下，結果神使他們在曠野飄流了四十年之久。但是摩西在申命記第八章回述這一切時說，「你也要記念耶和華—你的神在曠野引導你這四十年，是要苦煉你，試驗你，要知道你心內如何，肯守他的誡命不肯。」每一個飄流的日子都是神在引導他們，是神在訓練他們。至終他們成為一支信而順從的耶和華軍隊，進入了迦南爭戰而且得勝，征服了迦南並得那美地為業。

迦南美地指著全有、全足、全豐的基督，得產業說到我們得著豐滿的基督成為產業。當日以色列百姓如何蒙救贖、如何被神製作、如何成為耶和華得勝的軍隊、如何得著產業，同樣地，神也呼召所有蒙贖的兒女接受主的訓練和製作，經過爭戰而為神的家得著屬靈的產業。

提摩太後書是保羅在離世前寫給提摩太最後的書信，他知道教會所要面對的爭戰將是何等地猛烈，神的家何等需要精兵和戰士來抵擋仇敵的攻擊。在第

When God delivered Israelites out of Egypt, as recorded in the book of Exodus, "At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt." (12:41) Prior to that point, Israelites had been enslaved and mistreated for 400 years in Egypt. Therefore, they had never gone through military training, nor had they any weapon. However, in the eyes of God, they were His army (divisions).

After leaving Egypt, people of God could not enter into Canaan due to their complaint and disbelief. They ended up with wondering in the wilderness for 40 years. When Moses recalled what had happened, he said: "Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these 40 years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands." (Deut.8:2) Therefore, even in the days of wondering away, each day was a training session. God was training them to become His army of faith and obedience so that they could enter into Canaan, defeat their foes and finally obtain the land as their inheritance.

Canaan is the land of abundance that symbolizes the fullness of Christ. The receipt of inheritance speaks of how we Christians can obtain Christ's fullness as our own. How in the old days God delivered Israelites, and trained them to be His army as well as finally obtained Canaan as their properties, in the same way He is training us and to fight battles to received all the spiritual inheritances.

II Timothy is the letter Paul wrote to Timothy shortly before he was martyred. He knew the severity of battles that church had to go through and the great need for good

二章他說，「我兒啊！你要在基督耶穌的恩典上剛強起來，你在許多見證人面前聽見我所教訓的，也要交託那忠心能教導別人的人，你要和我同受苦難，好像基督耶穌的精兵。」這是一場屬靈的爭戰，我們不是與屬血氣的爭戰，乃是與神的對頭撒但魔鬼爭戰，所以保羅告訴我們如何才能成為基督耶穌的精兵。

首先他要提摩太剛強起來，如摩西曾對約書亞說：「你當剛強壯膽！因為，你要和這百姓一同進入耶和華向他們列祖起誓應許所賜之地；你也要使他們承受那地為業。」〈申三十一7〉又如大衛曾對他兒子所羅門說：「你當剛強壯膽去行！不要懼怕，也不要驚惶。因為耶和華神就是我的神，與你同在。」〈代上二十八20〉我們是在基督耶穌的恩典上剛強起來，不是倚靠自己，也不是倚靠勢力。惟有將己生命置於死地，不用肉體的力量，乃是一直站在恩典的地位上，如此裡面的人才會剛強起來。

第二要有一顆受教的心，接受神的話、接受神的製作，並且順服神的旨意。當約書亞靠近耶利哥城的時候遇見一個人對面站立。約書亞到他那裏，問他說：「你是幫助我們呢，是幫助我們敵人呢？」他回答說：「不是的，我來是要作耶和華軍隊的元帥。」約書亞就俯伏在地下拜，說：「我主有甚麼話吩咐僕人。」（書五14）主不只是要來幫助我們，祂乃是耶和華軍隊的元帥，祂必須站在掌權的地位率領我們爭戰。每一個精兵絕不是單獨的面對仇敵，也不會單獨的照自己的意思行動，因為這是一隻耶和華的軍隊。

最後保羅要提摩太和他同受苦難，好像基督耶穌的精兵。彼得也曾告訴我

soldiers to defend for His house. Therefore, he encouraged Timothy by saying: "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."

First, Paul wanted Timothy to be strong, just as how Moses encouraged Joshua: "be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance." (Deut. 31:7) It was also like how David encouraged Solomon by saying: "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you." (II Chr. 28:20) We are strengthened by the grace of Christ, not by our own might. Only when we put our self life to death without using our natural life, but continuously stand in the position of His grace, can our inner man be really strong.

Secondly, we must have a teachable heart, a heart that is willing to receive God's words and work, and a heart that submits to God's purpose. When Joshua approached the city of Jericho, he saw a man standing in the opposite direction. He asked him: "Are you here to help us or our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" (Joshua 5:14) Therefore, we know the Lord does not come to be our helper, but to be the commander of each circumstance. He must stand in a position to rule. No soldier will fight enemies alone, or act on his own behalf, because he belongs to the Lord of the army.

Lastly, Paul wanted Timothy to suffer with him as a true soldier of Christ. Peter also

們「基督既在肉身受苦，你們也當將這樣的心志作為兵器。」(彼前四 1)受苦的心志是我們爭戰的兵器，我們若是存這樣的心，就可以不從人的情慾，只從神的旨意。我們若真看見神要為我們成就的是極重無比、永遠的榮耀，我們就會像保羅一樣，看今日所受的不過是至暫至輕的苦楚，而說，「我想，現在的苦楚若比起將來要顯於我們的榮耀就不足介意了。」(羅八 18)

在末後的時代，願主得著我們每一個蒙贖的兒女都成為基督耶穌的精兵，一路忠心地跟隨羔羊的腳蹤行。蒙贖的人當事奉，面對無數仇敵，「他們與羔羊爭戰，羔羊必勝過他們，因為羔羊是萬主之主、萬王之王。同着羔羊的，就是蒙召、被選、有忠心的，也必得勝。」(啟十七 14)

起來，起來為耶穌，
戰爭必不會長；
今日殺聲雖高呼，
明日凱歌響亮。
凡是靠主得勝者，
必得生命冠冕，
必與基督同快樂，
同王直到永遠。

摘自梁弟兄主日信息

encouraged us: "Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude,..."(1 Peter 4:1) The attitude to be willing to suffer is a weapon which enables us not to follow men's fleshly desires, but God's purpose. If we truly see what God wants to achieve for us is eternal weight of glory, we will be able to say what Paul did: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."(Rom 8:18)

In this final age, may the Lord obtain each of us to be His good soldiers. May we all faithfully follow the footsteps of the Lamb all the way. Redeemed ones should serve, facing many foes, "They(enemies) will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."(Rev. 17:14)

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus!
The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle,
The next the victor's song;
To him that overcometh
A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory
Shall reign eternally.*

Sunday Message of brother Liang