

JUDGES 1:1-2 *"Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, 'Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?'" [2] And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand."*

3/10/18 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL – Shurtleff, Smart – Festival Choir

1. Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come; henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home. Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong; and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

2. Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace. For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums; with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

3. Lead on, O King eternal, we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears. Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light; the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

The Biblical Setting: - The Promised Land has been conquered. Joshua has died. *Jos 24:29-31* Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old. [30] And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. [31] Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. The children of Israel consult the oracle of God for direction which of all the tribes should first attempt to clear their country of the Canaanites, and to encourage the rest. While Joshua lived he directed them, and all the tribes were obedient to him, but when he died he left no successor in the same authority that he had; but the people must consult the breast-plate of judgment, and thereby receive the word of command; for God Himself, as He was their King, so He was the Lord of their hosts.

Num 27:21 *He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation."*

JUDGES 1:1-2 *"Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, 'Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?'"*

- The question they ask is, *Who shall go up first?*
- By this time, the Israelites may have begun to feel crowded in the places of their possessions. Or more likely,
- the Canaanites gathered together fight back, now that their leader, Joshua is no longer.
- They now they inquire, *"Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?"*
- Whether each tribe was ambitious of being first, and were **striving for the honor** of it, or whether each tribe was **afraid of being first** and wanted to decline it, the Scripture doesn't tell us.
- It was decided by the children of Israel to refer this matter to God Himself, who is always the best choice both to give direct work and give honors.

[2] And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand."

God appointed that Judah should go up first, and promised him success: *"Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand*, to be possessed, and therefore will deliver the enemy into his hand, that keeps him out of possession, to be destroyed." And why Judah be first in this undertaking?

- Judah was the **most numerous and powerful** tribe, and therefore let Judah venture first.
- God appoints service according to the strength He has given. Those **that are most able, from them most work is expected**. **Luk 12:48b** *For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.*
- Judah was **first in dignity, and therefore must be first in duty**. He it is whom his brethren must praise, and therefore he it is who must lead in perilous services. Let the **burden of honor and the burden of work go together**.

- Judah was first served; the lot came up for Judah first, and therefore Judah must fight first.
- Judah was the **tribe out of which our Lord was to spring: so that in Judah, Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, went before them.** Christ engaged the powers of darkness first, and foiled them, which animates us for our conflicts; and it is in Him that we are more than conquerors.
- **The service and the success are put together:** “Judah shall go up; let him do his part, and then he shall find that I have delivered the land into his hand.” His service will not avail unless God give the success; but God will not give the success unless he vigorously applies himself to the service.

Jdg 1:3 So Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory." And Simeon went with him.

- ***Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me”:*** Judah is walking wisely; by partnering with another tribe, the work is much easier. Here, the tribes are functioning like God wants the church to function - as a body, with each part of the body helping out other parts of the body.
- ***Eph 2:20-21 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,***

Jdg 1:4 Then Judah went up, and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek.

- ***The LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand:*** Seeking the LORD, obeying His guidance, and working together as a body always produces great results: ***the LORD delivered*** all their enemies into their hands.
- ***They killed ten thousand men at Bezek:*** This place where the conquered was called *Bezek*; and the leader of this city was *Adoni-Bezek*, which means “Lord of Lightning” - a fearful name, but Judah and Simeon defeated him none the less.

Jdg 1:5 And they found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

- ***And they found Adoni-bezek in Bezek,....*** Who was king of, the place, and whose name signifies lord of Bezek; not that they took him there, for later it is said to make his escape from there, but here he was when they came against that city, and into which they rushed upon him, and fell upon him as follows:
- ***and they fought against him;*** entering the city with their forces:
- ***and they defeated the*** ten thousand ***Canaanites and the Perizzites,*** who were in it.

SUMMARY:

- Always ask the LORD for His choice in leading, direction and to give honors.
- God appoints service according to the strength He has given. Those that are most able, from them most work is expected.
- ***Luk 12:48b For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.***
- We cannot achieve or prevail unless God give the success; but God will not give the success unless we show up for the battle and vigorously apply ourselves to the service.
- Judah wisely asked Simeon, “Come up with me”.
- By partnering with another tribe, the work is much easier, functioning like God wants the church to function - as a body, with each part of the body helping out other parts of the body.

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct.

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