

1 routing 1,000

“One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as he promised. So be very careful to love the LORD your God.” (Joshua 23:10-11, NIV)

The first six words of Joshua’s statement to the Israelite leaders sound like the inspiration for Superman and a multitude of other action movies made in Hollywood, where the hero single-handedly disposes of an overwhelming enemy force. But Joshua was very clear that making the impossible possible (V 10a) was God’s doing (V 10b) and depended on Israel’s relationship with the Lord (V 11), something you’ll never be told in blockbuster movies. The Hebrew word translated as “to love” in V 11 is *’ahav* and refers to a covenant loyalty in this context. So the secret of or condition for being able to conquer sheer insurmountable enemies actually rested on Israel’s faithfulness and obedience to their covenant with God.

- Nothing has changed for us today in that regard except that we have God’s governor, the Holy Spirit, now living resident in us to lead us directly and personally on the King-of-king’s behalf. So we too are able to experiencing God making the impossible possible through us, as long as we stick close in obedience to His guidance, no matter what. The gigantic enemies of today, though no physical troops, still look impossible to conquer, and the world’s monstrous monetary system causing global chaos and destruction is a case in point. Despite all assertions from economic experts and bankers to the contrary, I see the financial crisis far from being over or under control and the looming destructive potential will be disastrous for any individual’s and community’s future.
- Governments, banks and financial institutions all over the world are still frantically trying to ward off the imminent collapse of our economic system that has cut God, mankind’s Provider, out of the equation (Jer 2:13) and is thus doomed to fail (Rev 18). Averting a collapse by heaping an even heavier burden on the structures that are about to cave in, is illogic, but that’s exactly happening all over the world with progressively enslaving individuals and nations through unchecked debt increases. Getting free from the clutches of economic slavery (debt) by increasing the slave driver (debt) is an antagonism, leading to economical suicide. So in a way, real giants have to be conquered.
- As ordinary, government-electing, law-abiding, expert-trusting citizens, we might fail to envision how we will ever be able to overcome this growing threat since we usually have no access to, even less real influence on the worldly powers in charge. And, depending on where we live, prevailing over indecisive, evasive, lying, misleading, self-centered, power-hungry and corrupt governments, a destructive economic setup, selfish, exploitative institutions, corporations and organizations that disguise as serving agents, and a servitude to a system, setup to control our lives through fear and debt, therefore appears to be utterly hopeless. Yet its not! At least not for devout Christians.
- The question is: When do we finally acknowledge that God is smarter than we are (Prov 21:30), that His ways are not ours (Isa 42:24, Dan 4:37) and that we therefore need to allow Him to a change our framework of thinking (Rom 12:2) so that we can truly cooperate with Him in establishing His Kingdom on earth (Matt 6:9-10)?
- It’s a given for any believer that he can’t serve both God and money (Matt 6:24), so we’ve got to get free from the world’s oppressive and enslaving monetary system that allegedly solves all our problems. Serving wholeheartedly God’s Kingdom (being motivated in all we do by what is on His heart, not ours, and going about it the way He says, not the world’s) will guarantee His provision for our daily needs (Matt 6:33). Yet, it might require

our cooperation in awkward, weird looking tasks that defy human logic and any worldly economic textbook teaching. Are we ready for this? Fact is God never needed our economic wisdom and capabilities to overcome obstacles and establish anything, did He? Israel's whole story is a case in point, showing how 1 can rise to rout 1,000! But we could also look to Isaac planting and reaping during a drought (Gen 26), Israel being fed for 40 years in the desert (Exod), Elijah saving the widow woman and her son from certain starvation (1Kgs 17), Jesus turning water into wine (John 2), feeding the 5,000 (Mark 6) and the 4,000 (Mark 8), releasing tax money from a fishes mouth (Matt 17), Peter and his early morning fishing (John 21), and many others.

- So why don't we scrap our limited human smartness, look to Him, embrace His wisdom, trust Him fully, and obediently apply his principles to see massive giants routed and overcome? Why don't we stop playing God and allow God to be God again?