

Beware of the Giants

Luke 11:22

When growing up, some of the children's stories involved giants. But were there really any such creatures? Genesis 6:1-5 - Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Numbers 13:26-33 - Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. "The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. "There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

So are there any left now? Other than the N B A, I'm not aware of any?

When we face seemingly impossible tasks, what will we do? Because as we go through our Christian walk, it will be much like the Hebrews leaving Egypt. Remember how they got there in the first place? They went into Egypt to escape the famine. But when it was over, they liked the easy life so much that they stayed.

Exodus 1:6-22 - And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage--in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor. Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiprah and the name of the other Puah; and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?" And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them." Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

But it didn't take long for things to go from bad to worse.

Exodus 2:23-25 - Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

Before God could bring out His people in an orderly fashion, He had to prepare a leader. It took 40 years for Moses to learn in Egypt the basics of leadership. It then took him another 40 years in the wilderness, to learn it God's way. The hardships that the Hebrews were undergoing were instilling in them a desire to leave their bondage.

Exodus 4:29-31 - Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

There then followed an immense spiritual conflict.

Exodus 9:13-16 - Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, `Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me, "for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. "Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. "But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

It really was a lop-sided match, for Pharaoh never stood a chance.

Exodus 12:12 - For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

That was the easy part, as it was God that did all the work. Now His people, inspired by the overwhelming victories, would do their part.

But God is sensitive to their frailties.

Exodus 13:17-18 - Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

Are our burdens too heavy to bear? Try praying like Paul.

2 Corinthians 12:9 - And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

And God did not abandon them. Exodus 13:21 - And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

Shortly after, the Hebrews had their first major encounter with backlash.

Their faith weakened, and they cried out in despair.

Exodus 14:19-20 - And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the

Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one , and it gave light by night to the other , so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

And just when they thought that they had God's people.

Exodus 14:24-31 - Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.

Wasn't that a great miracle, that got them through the Red Sea? There were many other miracles along the way. When they were thirsty, the Lord gave them water. When they were hungry, the Lord abundantly gave them bread and meat.

In John 6, the Lord Jesus abundantly gave them bread and meat.

They soon had their first engagement, where the people had to do some fighting. Exodus 17:8 - Now Amalek came & fought with Israel in Rephidim. How did they do?

Exodus 17:9-13 - And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

This victory was entirely from the Lord. The people in obedience fought their best, but it was Divine Intervention that won the day.

Some say that Amalek was one of the tribes of giants, but there's not much evidence to prove it.

What happened when they came to the next major test, at the Jordan River? Numbers 13:17-20 - Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, "Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains, "and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; "whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds; "whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

The spies came back with their report.

Numbers 13:26-33 - Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. "Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. "The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. "There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

So there are two points of view about the land. Now any other nation, that did not have the Lord, would have turned and run. But Israel had been blessed with many miracles and deliverances. God had even destroyed the most powerful nation, to free His people.

Well what was their reaction to the report?

Numbers 14:1-4 - So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained

against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! "Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

Why is it for some people, that when on the brink of destiny, they snatch defeat from the jaws of victory?

Remember Elijah, after Carmel, fleeing from Jezebel.

Did all the people freak out?

Numbers 14:5-10 - Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. "If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, `a land which flows with milk and honey.' "Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them." And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

God is not impressed with them.

Numbers 14:11-35 - Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? "I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they." And Moses said to the LORD: "Then the Egyptians will hear it , for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, "and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people; that You, LORD, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. "Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, `Because the LORD was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.' "And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying, `The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty , visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation .' "Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the

greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." Then the LORD said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; "but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD-- "because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, "they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. "But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. "Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea." And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. "Say to them, `As I live,' says the LORD, `just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: `The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. `Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. `But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. `But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. `And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. `According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection. `I the LORD have spoken this; I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.'"

What else could God have done for them? Against Him, they rebelled, they rejected, they murmured, they complained etc.

They were like the Pharisees.

Matthew 15:8 - These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

That crowd has still not died out.

Even though thankfully, we are under the New Covenant, and covered in Our Lord's Blood, many Christians are failing to possess the land. The giants were their nemesis. What are yours? Fears are always a major area to deal with. 1 Samuel 17:11 - When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Luke 10:19 - Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Two major areas were identified in the early Church.

Acts 15:19-20 - Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, "but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.

Our Lord revealed a few more items.

Mark 16:14 - Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

People to-day, don't seem to be able to withstand ungodly forces, mainly peer pressure.

Matthew 27:20 - But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

The control spirits neutralize many.

Revelation 17:13 - These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

The spirit of Eli is taking a heavy toll too.

1 Samuel 2:29-30 - Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?' "Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

There are many who have given up deliverance, because their children were straying away.

There are those who let their backsliding spouses get them out of deliverance.

Everyone has demons and giants to deal with; especially if you have played, "dungeons and dragons".

We need an attitude like David's.

1 Samuel 17:33-37 - And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its

mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!

1 Samuel 17:43-51 - So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands." So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

So with the authority Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us, we can vanquish the giants.

Luke 11:22 - But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

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Church of Salvation, Healing, and Deliverance

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