

THURSDAY

November 6

A Witness to God's Power

SHELLEY - GOD IS MORE CONCERNED W/INWARD CHARACTER THAN OUTWARD ACHIEVEMENTS.

JOHN L - THE CORPORATE IMPACT OF INDIVIDUAL SIN

JOHN D - ACHAN REPEATED THE SIN OF THE FALL AND OF LUCIFER OF TAKING TO HIMSELF WHAT BELONGED TO GOD.

JILL-GOD CAN TURN OUR FAILURES INTO STRENGTHS - BUT WE CANNOT RELY ON PAST ATTAINMENTS.

As we have learned (see lesson five), God had given the pagan nations an opportunity to know about Him and to turn from their evil ways. They, however, had refused and were ultimately facing the judgment of God.

Read Joshua 7:6-9, which deals with Joshua's initial reaction to the calamity that befell them. Focus especially on Joshua 7:9. What important theological principle is found in his words?

And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face
before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders
of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. And Joshua said, Alas,
O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over
Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy
us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other
side Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their
backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the
inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us
round, and cut off our name from the earth: AND WHAT WILT THOU
DO UNTO THY GREAT NAME?

DANIEL 9:19—

O LORD, HEAR; O LORD, FORGIVE; O LORD, HEARKEN AND DO; DEFER
NOT, FOR THINE OWN SAKE, O MY GOD: FOR THY CITY AND THY PEOPLE
ARE CALLED BY THY NAME.

EXODUS 32:11—

AND MOSES BESOUGHT THE LORD HIS GOD, AND SAID, LORD, WHY DOTH
THY WRATH WAX HOT AGAINST THY PEOPLE, WHICH THOU HAST BROUGHT
FORTH OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT WITH GREAT POWER, AND WITH A
MIGHTY HAND? WHEREFORE SHOULD THE EGYPTIANS SPEAK, AND SAY, FOR
MISCHIEF DID HE BRING THEM OUT, TO SLAY THEM IN THE MOUNTAINS,

**AND TO CONSUME THEM FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH? TURN FROM THY
FIERCE WRATH, AND REPENT OF THIS EVIL AGAINST THY PEOPLE.**

At first, Joshua sounds like the children of Israel did in
the midst of their hardships after leaving Egypt, such as:
" 'Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of
Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to
the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to
kill this whole assembly with hunger' " (Exod. 16:3, NKJV).

And here's Joshua: "Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought
this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand
of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content,
and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!" (Josh. 7:7, NKJV).

Soon after, however, he shows his great concern for the
damage that the name and reputation of God will take from this
defeat. "For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land
will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the
earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?" (Josh. 7:9,
NKJV).

This reveals a theme and principle that was central to
God's purposes with Israel. Though He wanted the pagan nations
around them to see what great things God would do for His people
who obeyed Him, they could also, as Rahab did, learn about

Israel's God by the power of His people's conquests. On the other hand, were things to go badly, as they did here, the nations would deem Israel's God weak and ineffective (see Num. 14:16, Deut. 9:28), which could embolden Canaanite resistance.

In other words, even in the context of the Hebrews taking the land, great issues and principles were involved, which included bringing honor and glory to God, who was also the only hope for the pagans, as well as for Israel.

Read Deuteronomy 4:5-9. In what ways can we see a parallel here between Israel and their witness to the world and our witness as Seventh-day Adventists today?

BUT YE THAT DID CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD YOUR GOD ARE ALIVE EVERY ONE OF YOU THIS DAY.

5 BEHOLD, I HAVE TAUGHT YOU STATUTES AND JUDGMENTS, EVEN AS THE LORD MY GOD COMMANDED ME, THAT YE SHOULD DO SO IN THE LAND WHITHER YE GO TO POSSESS IT.

6 KEEP THEREFORE AND DO THEM; FOR THIS IS YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS, WHICH SHALL HEAR ALL THESE STATUTES, AND SAY, SURELY THIS GREAT NATION IS A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE.

7 FOR WHAT NATION IS THERE SO GREAT, WHO HATH GOD SO NIGH UNTO THEM, AS THE LORD OUR GOD IS IN ALL THINGS THAT WE CALL UPON HIM FOR?

8 AND WHAT NATION IS THERE SO GREAT, THAT HATH STATUTES AND JUDGMENTS SO RIGHTEOUS AS ALL THIS LAW, WHICH I SET BEFORE YOU THIS DAY?

9 ONLY TAKE HEED TO THYSELF, AND KEEP THY SOUL DILIGENTLY, LEST THOU FORGET THE THINGS WHICH THINE EYES HAVE SEEN, AND LEST THEY DEPART FROM THY HEART ALL THE DAYS OF THY LIFE: BUT TEACH THEM THY SONS, AND THY SONS' SONS;

