

## When Kings Go Forth to Battle

April 1st, 2012

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle . . .

**2 Samuel 11:1**

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## Nisan (The First Month)

The Time when Kings Go Forth to Battle

This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

**Exodus 12:2**

## It is the Time of Creation

- Earth Created
- Earth Recreated (Noah exits ark onto dry land)

And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.

## **Genesis 8:13**

### **It is the Time of Birth**

- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all born and died in the first month

### **It is the Time of Sacrifice**

- Isaac Bound - Ram Provided
- Passover - Paschal Lamb offered

### **It is the Time of Intercession**

- The Ram Caught in the Thicket
- The Paschal Lamb intervening at Passover
- Esther interceding on behalf of the Jewish Nation

### **It is the Time of Freedom and Emancipation**

- Egyptian Slavery Annulled
- Haman's Plot Exposed and Foiled

### **It is the Time of Judgment upon the Firstborn (the Flesh)**

- The Death Angel in Egypt striking down the firstborn
- Haman Hung
- Saul Dies in Battle

### **It is the Time of Firstfruits (Harvest)**

- Barley Harvest (the food for animals)

### **It is the Time of Purity**

- Lamb without blemish or spot
- No leaven allowed for seven days

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

**Exodus 12:18**

## It is the Time of the Lamb

- Passover - As Sacrifice, As Food, and as Shelter

## It is the Time of the Gentiles

- Ruth's Arrival in Bethlehem at the inception of the Barley Harvest

## It is the Time of a Raised up Tabernacle

- The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting . . . And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up.

**Exodus 40:2,17**

## It is the Time of Coronation

- David anointed King over Judah

## It is the Time of War

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle . . .

**2 Samuel 11:1**

## A Strange Way to Build an Army

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead. And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

But the LORD said to Gideon, The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, This one shall go with you, the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, This one shall not go with you, the same shall not go. So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink. And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. Then the LORD said to Gideon, By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.

**Judges 7:2-7**

Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

**Zechariah 4:6**

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 . . . 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.

**1 Samuel 17:45,47**

## The Strange Battle Strategy

Make Yourself Weak?

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair . . .

**John 12:5**

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.

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

## The Strange Three-Day Journey

When all seems backwards, dark, and lost

## The Three-Day “Are You Willing?” Test

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then **on the third day** Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do

anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

**Genesis 22:1-14**

## The Three-Day “Will You Buckle?” Test

Now when the Egyptians had overtaken the Hebrews, they prepared to fight them, and by their multitude they drove them into a narrow place; for the number that pursued after them was six hundred chariots, with fifty thousand horsemen, and two hundred thousand foot-men, all armed. They also seized on the passages by which they imagined the Hebrews might fly, shutting them up between inaccessible precipices and the sea . . . The Hebrews . . . if they should have thought of fighting . . . had no weapons; they expected a universal destruction, unless they delivered themselves up to the Egyptians. So they laid the blame on Moses, and forgot all the signs that had been wrought by God for the recovery of their freedom; and this so far, that their incredulity prompted them to throw stones at the prophet, while he encouraged them and promised them deliverance . . . But Moses, though the multitude looked fiercely at him, did not, however, give over the care of them, but despised all dangers, out of his trust in God . . . he said, “. . . it is no better than madness, at this time to despair of the providence of God.”

**Flavius Josephus**

(Antiquities of the Jews, Book 2, Chapter 15, Para 3-4)

Thou art not ignorant, O Lord, that it is beyond human strength and human contrivance to avoid the difficulties we are now under; but it must be thy work altogether to procure deliverance to this army, which has left Egypt at thy appointment. We despair of any other assistance or contrivance, and have recourse only to that hope we have in thee; and if there be any

method that can promise us an escape by thy providence, we look up to thee for it. And let it come quickly, and manifest thy power to us; and do thou raise up this people unto good courage and hope of deliverance, who are deeply sunk into a disconsolate state of mind. We are in a helpless place, but still it is a place that thou possesses; still the sea is thine, the mountains also that enclose us are thine; so that these mountains will open themselves if thou commands them, and the sea also, if thou commands it, will become dry land. Nay, we might escape by a flight through the air, if thou should determine we should have that way of salvation.

**Flavius Josephus**

(Antiquities of the Jews, Book 2, Chapter 16, Para 1)

## The Three-Day “Bitter Waters” Test

So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and **they went three days** in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

**Exodus 15:22-26**

## The Three-Day “Are you Ready to Try the Impossible?” Test

Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within **three days** ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

**Joshua 1:11**

## The Three-Day “But, I Can’t Go Another Step” Test

Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, **on the third day**, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, and had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives . . . So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

**1 Samuel 30:1-3,9-10**

## The Three-Day “If I Perish, I Perish” Test

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink **three days, night or day**: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

**Esther 4:16**

## The Three-Day “In the Belly of the Earth” Test



Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish **three days and three nights**.

**Jonah 1:17**

## The Three-Day “Without Sight, Without Food” Test

And he (Paul) was **three days** without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

**Acts 9:9**

## The Three Days of Jesus

And it came to pass, that after **three days** they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

**Luke 2:46**

For as Jonah was **three days and three nights** in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.

**Matthew 12:40**

Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and **in three days** I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will **You raise it up in three days?**" But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

**John 2:19-21**

After two days He will revive us; **On the third day He will raise us up**, That we may live in His sight.

**Hosea 6:2**

## When Things Go Dark

Jesus Showed us How to Walk it

The Three-Day “Are You Willing?” Test

The Three-Day “If I Perish, I Perish” Test

The Three-Day “Are you Ready to Try the Impossible?” Test

The Three-Day “Will You Buckle?” Test

The Three-Day “Bitter Waters” Test

The Three-Day “But, I Can’t Go Another Step” Test

The Three-Day “In the Belly of the Earth” Test

## The Three Days That Changed Everything

*Nisan 14-17, 33AD*

## But first, check out these Three Days . . .

*Nisan 14-17, 357 BC*

- Nisan 13, 357 BC - Haman casts lots to choose date for Jews' annihilation; Royal decree ordering killing of all Jews

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- Nisan 14, 357 BC - Mordecai calls on Jews to repent; 3-day fast ordered by Queen Esther

- Nisan 16, 357 BC - Queen Esther risks her life in standing before King Ahasuerus unbidden; hosts 1st wine party with Ahasuerus and evil Haman

- Nisan 17, 357 BC - Queen Esther's 2nd wine party; evil Haman's downfall and hanging

Okay, Now Back to the Three Days that Changed Everything

*Nisan 14-17, 33AD*

It was the Time of a New Creation

- Earth Created
- Earth Recreated (Noah exits ark onto dry land)
- **Jesus made all things new, He made a New Creation**

It was the Time of a New Birth

- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all born and died in the first month
- **The Time of the Death and the New Birth of the Patriarch of Patriarchs**

It was the Time of Final Sacrifice

- Isaac Bound - Ram Provided
- Passover - Paschal Lamb offered
- **Jesus - the Passover Lamb - Dying on the 14th of Nisan**

It was the Time of Divine Intercession

- The Ram Caught in the Thicket
- The Paschal Lamb intervening at Passover
- Esther interceding on behalf of the Jewish Nation
- **Jesus gave up His Life that we might live, He was the intervening Ram caught in the thicket**

It was the Time of Freedom from the Shackles of Sin and Death

- Egyptian Slavery Annulled
- Haman's Plot Exposed and Foiled
- **Freedom from the Law of Sin and Death, Justification from the looming penalty**

It was the Time of Judgment upon the Firstborn (the Flesh)

- The Death Angel in Egypt striking down the firstborn
- Haman Hung
- Saul Dies in Battle
- **The Old Man is Crucified**

It was the Time of Firstfruits (Harvest)

- Barley Harvest (the food for animals)
- **Jesus is the Firstfruits of those that have fallen asleep**
- **He is the Food of God laid in a Jewish feeding trough**

It was the Time of Unprecedented Purity

- Lamb without blemish or spot
- No leaven allowed for seven days
- **Jesus is the unleavened, unblemished, unspotted Paschal Lamb**

It was the Time of the Lamb of God taking away the Sin of the World

- Passover - As Sacrifice, As Food, and as Shelter
- **Jesus, the Lamb of God, a sacrifice for Sin, God become Food, and God become the clothing of righteousness for the Dead in Sin.**

It was the Time of the Gentiles being grafted in

- Ruth's Arrival in Bethlehem at the inception of the Barley Harvest
- **The Door to the Gentiles opened up through the great Cross Work of Jesus**

It was the Time of a Raised up Tabernacle

- The Tabernacle in the Wilderness
- **The Temple of God rebuilt in three days - the resurrection of the perfect tabernacle, Jesus Christ**

It was the Time of the Coronation of the King of all kings

- David anointed King over Judah
- **Jesus exalted to the highest place, given the Name above all names, crowned as King of all kings**

It was the Time when Heaven went to War

And it came to pass, **after the year was expired**, at the time  
when kings go forth to battle . . .

**2 Samuel 11:1**

## The Time when the King of kings went forth to Battle

He went to War all by His Lonesome

## Why?

# To Get For Himself an Army

## The Building of the King's War Machine

Out of Adam's Dead Bones

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

**Genesis 2:7**

In Adam all die . . .

**1 Corinthians 15:22**

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**1 Corinthians 15:22**

The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, Son of man, can these bones live? So I answered, O Lord GOD, You know. Again He said to me, Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, **an exceedingly great army.**

**Ezekiel 37:1-10**

. . . Through one man (Adam) sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

**Romans 5:12**

. . . If by the one man's (Adam's) offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

**Romans 5:15**

## Dry, Dead Men's Bones

- The symbol of life forsaken long-ago
- The symbol of sin - the wages of which are death
- The symbol of that which is wholly incapable of life
- The symbol of that which is wholly unable and unfit to rightly serve the King and General

## Our King Went Forth to Battle

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

**Ezekiel 37:5-6**

## And He Awakened His Army, He has brought about a New Creation

. . . and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

**Ezekiel 37:10**