

Liberation versus Conquest

On June 6, 1984 President Ronald Reagan addressed World War II veterans and world leaders gathered at the site of the US Ranger Monument at Pointe du Hoc, France, one of the most memorable places on D-Day. Who can forget those words, "These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. These are the men who took the cliffs...These are the heroes...." President Reagan went on to say, "The Americans who fought here that morning knew word of the invasion was spreading through the darkness back home. They fought - or felt in their hearts, though they couldn't know in fact - that in Georgia they were filling the churches at 4 a.m., in Kansas they were kneeling on their porches and praying, and in Philadelphia, they were ringing the Liberty Bell.

"Something else helped the men of D-Day: their rock-hard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And so, the night before the invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads, but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we're about to do. Also that night, General Matthew Ridgway on his cot, listening in the darkness for the promise God made to Joshua: 'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.'"

President Reagan made this great point, "The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next. It was the deep knowledge - and pray God we have not lost it - that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause. And you were right not to doubt."

I. THE MORBIDITY OF A CONQUERED PEOPLE

Ex. 1:13, 14: "And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour."

Egypt is a picture of the world. The world always considers her occupants a conquered people. As time goes by, the world will intensify its bondage hold on its citizenry as seen in Exodus 5:9a: "Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein...."

II. THE METHODS OF THE CONQUEROR

Ephesians 6:11: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." The Greek word from which we translate "wiles" is the word *methodeia* from where we get our word "methods." The Greek word incorporates a compound word which would make the meaning, "methods of trickery."

A. The Bondage of Self-Righteousness

Galatians 5:4: "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Romans 10:3: "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

B. The Bondage of Worldly Security

Matt. 6:24: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 13:22: "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

I Timothy 6:17: "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

Revelation 3:17: "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

For contrast, observe what Jesus said to the church at Smyrna in Revelation 2:9a: "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)...." II Corinthians 6:10: "As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

C. The Bondage of the Wrong Friends

Galatians 5:7, 8: "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion *cometh* not of Him that calleth you."

I Corinthians 15:33: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

We find in this simple phrase, a world of iniquity, "But Amnon had a friend..." (II Samuel 13:3a).

D. The Bondage of a Cross-less Christianity

Galatians 5:11: "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased."

II Timothy 2:4: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

Isaac Watts wrote, "Must I be carried to the skies - On flowery beds of ease- While others fought to win the prize - And sailed through bloody seas?"

II Peter 2:19: "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

III. THE MAJESTY OF THE LIBERATOR

Exodus 14:13, 14: "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the

Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”

The power to be set free came from God. The power was not in and of themselves. Exodus 15:6: “Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.”

John 8:36: “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” Psalm 118:15: “The voice of rejoicing and salvation *is* in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.”

And Who is at the Father’s right hand? Hebrew 1:3 tells us, “Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Like the parting of the Red Sea, salvation is instantaneous. Salvation is also appreciated by the ever sanctifying work of God, the Holy Spirit within us. And this sanctifying work is activated by the prayers of Jesus for His own. John 17:9: “I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.” Romans 8:34: “Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Luke 22:31, 32: “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” Hebrews 7:25, “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

CONCLUSION:

Romans 8:37: “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

-Pastor Pope-