

Why Do We Win?

Purpose: to show that the reason why we are assured victory over our enemies is not because of our own righteousness, but because the LORD will go before us.

There are a lot of problems in the world today. Here are just a few of the questions that are being asked:

- Is there a conspiracy by the rich and powerful to take over the world?
- Is global warming threatening our existence?
- Is the world headed toward an economic crisis?

We are living in very difficult times. This is what Paul says about the last days:

2Ti 2:23 - But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

2Ti 2:24 - And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

2Ti 2:25 - in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

2Ti 2:26 - and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

2Ti 3:1 - But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2Ti 3:2 - For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 - unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

2Ti 3:4 - traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2Ti 3:5 - having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2Ti 3:6 - For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,

2Ti 3:7 - always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2Ti 3:8 - Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;

2Ti 3:9 - but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

But even though we may suffer many trials, as long as we stay close to the Lord, we are promised success:

1Jn 5:4- For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

But why do we win? Once again we have a great lesson to learn from the children of Israel just before they left the wilderness and entered into what was promised to them:

Deu 9:1 - "Hear, O Israel: You *are* to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven,

Deu 9:2 - a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and *of whom* you heard *it said*, 'Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?'

Deu 9:3 - Therefore understand today that the LORD your God *is* He who goes over before you *as* a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you.

God reminded them that the reason that they would be able to stand against enemies mightier than themselves was because the LORD was going before them as a consuming fire! In the same way, the reason that we will be able to overcome our enemies is because the LORD is also with us.

But there was something else that He wanted them to understand:

Deu 9:4 - "Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'; but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the LORD is driving them out from before you.

Deu 9:5 - *It is* not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart *that* you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

It wasn't because of their righteousness, but:

- Because of the wickedness of the nations around them
- Because of the promise that He made to Abraham

Is this not true of us?

- The nations around us are ungodly
- God promised to look after us as His children

But there is one more thing that God reminds them of. He reminds them that they were stiff-necked and rebelled against Him, and that He was merciful to them:

Deu 9:6 - Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you *are* a stiff-necked people.

Deu 9:7 - "Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

Deu 9:8 - Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry *enough* with you to have destroyed you.

Deu 9:9 - When I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

Deu 9:10 - Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them *were* all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

Deu 9:11 - And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, *that* the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

Deu 9:12 - "Then the LORD said to me, 'Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly; they have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made themselves a molded image.'

Deu 9:13 - "Furthermore the LORD spoke to me, saying, 'I have seen this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people.

Deu 9:14 - Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.'

Deu 9:15 - "So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets of the covenant *were* in my two hands.

Deu 9:16 - And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God—had made for yourselves a molded calf! You had turned aside quickly from the way which the LORD had commanded you.

Deu 9:17 - Then I took the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes.

Deu 9:18 - And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

Deu 9:19 - For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me at that time also.

Deu 9:20 - And the LORD was very angry with Aaron *and* would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

Deu 9:21 - Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it *and* ground *it* very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

Deu 9:22 - "Also at Taberah and Massah and Kibroth Hattaavah you provoked the LORD to wrath.

Deu 9:23 - Likewise, when the LORD sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, 'Go up and possess the land which I have given you,' then you rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and you did not believe Him nor obey His voice.

Deu 9:24 - You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

Deu 9:25 - "Thus I prostrated myself before the LORD; forty days and forty nights I kept prostrating myself, because the LORD had said He would destroy you.

Deu 9:26 - Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said: 'O Lord GOD, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.'

Remember, as we move from the wilderness to God's promise for us:

- Our success will come, because God will go before us and fight for us
- He will deal with those who oppose us and fight against the truth
- He made a promise and will keep it
- Don't become arrogant, because we deserve the same, but God has been merciful to us