

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

One Man shall chase a Thousand

Josh. 23:8 "But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day. 9 For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but as for you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day. 10 One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you. 11 Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God."

Joshua, by the inspiration of God, declared a wonderful conditional promise to the children of Israel. First, the children of Israel were commanded to cleave unto the LORD their God as they had done that day. In order for the children of Israel to realize the benefits of this promised they had to cleave unto the Lord. Failure to cleave unto the Lord would negate the promise.

Second, Joshua reminded them of the great deliverances with which the Lord had already delivered them in driving out from before them great nations and strong. No man was able to stand before Israel unto that day.

Third, the promise was that "One man of you shall chase a thousand." The reason this would be possible and this would happen is because the LORD their God, would fight for them as he had promised. When Gideon and the three hundred defeated the huge multitudes of the children of the east, it was because the Lord fought for them. When David defeated the giant Goliath, it was because the Lord fought for him. When Abraham and a few trained servants in his house defeated the armies of four nations at the valley of salt, it was because the Lord fought for him. In all the victories of the children of Israel over numbers and weaponry far greater than which they possessed, it was because the Lord fought for them.

One man with the Lord by his side is far superior in battle to a thousand of the enemy. When we cleave unto the Lord and put our trust in him, the Lord is certainly able to defeat any enemy that comes against us. A thousand is used in this text as an indefinitely large number. This should encourage us as we do battle against principalities, against powers, and against the rulers of the darkness of this world. All the combined forces of Satan, the flesh, and the world are not strong enough to withstand that servant who puts his trust in the Lord and cleaves unto the Lord because he has the Lord by his side to fight for him.

