

SUBJECT: “Finally” - The Believer’s Preparation and Strength in Spiritual Warfare

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10 (and Joshua 11:1 – 12)
“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”

INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 6:10 is introduced to us by the singular introductory word: “Finally.” This indicates that:

- **Something else has already been accomplished.**
 - The Believer knows and has taken his proper place “in Christ” (Ephesians 1 – 3)
 - The Believer is “walking” properly with others (Ephesians 4 – 6:9)
- **The Believer is prepared to be clothed in the “whole armor of God” in Ephesians 6:10 – 20, after first meeting the qualifications of what has been previously stated (Ephesians 1:1 – 6:9)**

Before expounding on this actual armor of God, Paul reminds and commands the Believer to “be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.” There is good reason for this command. The enemies that will be encountered in the Believer’s spiritual warfare are strong and well-experienced. However, our God is stronger and wiser than all. Jesus Christ has all power and He has invested His power, by the Holy Spirit, within the Believer. Many scriptures support this.

- **Exodus 15:6.** Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power; thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.
- **Psalms 18:17.** He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me; for they were too strong for me.
- **Psalms 18:37 – 40.** I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them; neither did I turn again till they were consumed. I have wounded them that they were not able to rise; they are fallen under my feet. For thou hast subdued under me those who rose up against me. Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy those who hate me.
- **Isaiah 42:13.** The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up jealousy like a man of war; He shall cry, yea, roar; He shall prevail against His enemies.
- **Luke 10:19.** Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall be any means hurt you.
- **Ephesians 1:20, 21.** Christ ... Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.
- **1 John 4:4.** Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE OF THE BELIEVER as TYPIFIED from JOSHUA 11:1 – 12

And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor had heard those things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph,

² And to the kings that were on the north of the mountains, and of the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west,

³ And to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and to the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the mountains, and to the Hivite under Hermon in the land of Mizpeh.

⁴ And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand that is upon the sea shore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many.

⁵ And when all these kings were met together, they came and pitched together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.

⁶ And the LORD said unto Joshua, Be not afraid because of them: for to morrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel: thou shalt hough their horses, and burn their chariots with fire.

⁷ So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Merom suddenly; and they fell upon them.

⁸ And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them, and chased them unto great Zidon, and unto Misrephothmaim, and unto the valley of Mizpeh eastward; and they smote them, until they left them none remaining.

⁹ And Joshua did unto them as the LORD bade him: he houghed their horses, and burnt their chariots with fire.

¹⁰ And Joshua at that time turned back, and took Hazor, and smote the king thereof with the sword: for Hazor beforetime was the head of all those kingdoms.

¹¹ And they smote all the souls that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them: there was not any left to breathe: and he burnt Hazor with fire.

¹² And all the cities of those kings, and all the kings of them, did Joshua take, and smote them with the edge of the sword, and he utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded.

The following list reflects various aspects of the Believer's spiritual warfare as foreshadowed in the Joshua 11 passage:

The Enemy (Enemies)

- Jabin: A type of the devil - the strongman who heads the battle.
- Jabin seeks out others to help him in evil.
- The enemies are in every direction and on every level
- The enemy pursues God's people after they had been victorious in battle.
- Satan has many workers
- The enemy has weapons
- The enemies are united in purpose
- The enemies are ultimately defeated by God, through His servant, Joshua (a type of Christ), and His people (the saints).

The LORD

- Speaks to His people:
 - Encouragement
 - Peace
 - Assurance of victory
 - Direction
 - Through the Word that had been previously commanded through Moses
- God is with and for His people.
- Turns the enemies over to His people for execution.

God's People

- Were obedient
- Were in one accord
- Were people in battle
- Were in submission to their leader
- Were persistent in battle
- Completed the battle
- Bound the strongman and spoiled his goods.
- Were victorious

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