

The Gospels in Harmony

King of the Mountain

July 15, 2018

Welcome to where we're learning how to really get God on our side!



Do you think the Lord is on your side?

If both sides pray in a football game, whose side does the Lord take? *Neither*. **He won't be reduced to a good luck charm.**



After Joshua built an altar, and copied the first six books of God's Word on a white stone monument on Mount Ebal (Job, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), He bumped into the Lord near Jericho and asked this very question.



Behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for **us** or for **our adversaries**?" So He said, "**No**, but **as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.**" **[There's another side!]**

And Joshua **fell on his face** to the earth **[in surrender and submission]** and **worshiped**, and said to Him, "**What does my Lord say to His servant?**" – Joshua 5:13-14 NKJ



And, a **better question** was **never asked!**

The Lord is with you.

The Lord is for you.

But, He's not about to take your side.¹ He's got His own side.

"As Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."

And, we're either on His side or we're His adversary.

When Peter proposed a much more gratifying plan than Jesus' ...

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of **God**, but the things of **men**." – Matthew 16:23 NIV

Whereas, just before that Peter had professed ...

¹ Some translations have: "God is on *my side*". More accurate translations have: "God is *for me*," or "God is *with me*". The former can leave an impression that God comes to us on *our terms* rather than the other way around.

... “You **are** the Christ, **the Son of the living God.**” [The polar opposite of the devil in the wilderness saying, “**If you are the Son of God**” do this, that, and the other – a sentiment that can sneak into our own proposals] Jesus replied, “**Blessed** are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by **man**, but by my **Father** in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, [Petros: a stone] and on **this rock** I will build **my church**, and the gates of **Hades** will **not** overcome it. [Two minutes later He calls him the devil] – Matthew 16:16-18 NIV



We’ve been looking at Jesus’ *four* temptations:

1. Sacrificing God’s Stone
2. The pagan nations at Mount Ebal
3. Striking the Stone
4. The godly nations at Mount Ebal



These four follow a pattern foreshadowed with Joshua in the wilderness at Mt Ebal at Shechem immediately after *Joshua* crossed the Jordan. Likewise, when Jesus was baptized here, He returned from the Jordan and was sent at once into the wilderness. (Lk 4:1; Mk 1:12)



But, Moses dishonored God and couldn’t cross the Jordan. So he directed Joshua to establish God’s Word at Shechem, where the Lord had met and blessed Abram (before he was Abraham); and where Jacob had bought land and dug a well. (Gen 12:6-7, 18-20)



[And] [The Lord] established a testimony in Jacob [on the white stone of God’s Word] ... – Psalm 78:5a NKJ

Of the people who wear a cross, what percent do you think regard it as a charm, or jewelry as opposed to a public testimony of surrender and allegiance as a servant of the Lord?



The question *isn’t*: **Do you think the Lord is on your side?**

The *real* question is: **Do you think you’re on the Lord’s side?**

Know how to *know*? *Our posture*. **In our heart we’re at His feet in humble, joyful, reverent, submission; every day asking afresh: “What does my Lord say to his servant?”** If you sincerely asked this, what would your Lord say to *you*?

Moses also directs the first priestly act of God’s chosen King.

When he takes the throne of his kingdom, **he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law**, [Not to perpetuate it, but to ensure the fulfillment of every last jot, dot, and dash. And, God’s chosen King-of-Kings must copy it, not from Joshua’s stone but, from one] **taken from that of the priests, who are Levites.** – Deuteronomy 17:18 NIV

Where's *that* one? Ready for this? We're told in chapter 31:

After Moses *finished writing* in a book *the words of this law* from *beginning to end*, he gave this command to the Levites ... ***"Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant ... There it will remain as a witness against you.*** – Deut 31:24-26 NIV



God's chosen King has to copy the one from the *Holy of Holies!* How in the world could Jesus get His hands on *that one!* Remember John-the-Baptist's dad, Zechariah? I suspect this is why Gabriel appeared to him *in* the Holy of Holies, while Zachariah was taking his turn as a stand-in High Priest.² It'd be his one opportunity to take it! I'm guessing he gave it to John, who gave it to Jesus to fulfill this command, when God transferred the kingdom and priesthood to His own Son, in the order of Melchizedek.

Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was [God] who said to Him: ***"You are My Son, [At Jesus' baptism (Mt 3:16-17; Mk 1:10-11)] today I have begotten You."*** As [God] also says in another place: ***"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"; [Melek (King) of Tsedeq (Righteousness)] ... called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek" ["His name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace" (Heb 7:2)] – Hebrews 5:5-11 NKJ***

This Melchizedek is God's eternal priest. He wasn't born. He doesn't die. He has no beginning or end. And He's a carbon copy of the Son of God who became flesh. (Heb 7:3)

Jesus said ... ***"Before Abraham was, I am."*** – John 8:58 KJV

Well, before *Abraham was Abraham*, this eternal-Priest and King-of-Righteousness blessed *Abram* (2,000 years before Jesus was born) when Melchizedek was King of Peace/Salem ... *at Shechem!* (Gen 33:18 KJV) And remember, the word "Shechem" means "between the shoulders".

So, Melchizedek is the King of "Peace" "between the shoulders". And that's where we need it most! Especially when things are falling apart and life is in chaos. And we feel deserted and distressed and rejected. And we can't understand why the Lord doesn't seem to be on our side.

The Lord is *with* you. The Lord is *for* you. But, He's got His *own side*. And, sometimes His side seems upside down. Just ask Peter. But it's ultimately the only side that offers peace.

But, when Joshua crosses the Jordan, he defeats a pagan king of the nations who is ruling here (at Moses' Gilgal). (Deut 11:30; Josh 12:23-24) Later, Gideon's self-serving son, Abimelech is unrighteously crowned as king over God's people here at Shechem. (Judges 9:6-15)

² This is detailed in the sermon John the "Elijah" Baptist; January 21, 2018

Much later, Solomon's oppressive son, Rehoboam is anointed king here at Shechem. (1 Kings 12:1)

Because of that, the rebellious Jeroboam declares himself as king, and rules his breakaway kingdom from Shechem. (1 Kings 12:25) And **the entire kingdom implodes under the stress of everyone trying to get God on their side to conquer their adversaries.**

And long after that, Jesus shows up and sits by Jacob's well.

And this is where He announces that He's the Redeemer. (Jn 4:25-26)

To a haggard woman at Jacob's well.

Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for **you have had five husbands**, [Sure enough: 1) the King of Righteousness and Peace, followed by 2) a pagan king of nations, followed by 3) a self-serving king, followed by 4) an oppressive king, followed by 5) a rebellious king] **and the one whom you now have [standing right in front of you] is not your husband**; in that you spoke truly." – John 4:17-18 NKJ

I wonder if she had any idea how truly she'd spoken ...

For your Maker is your husband ... the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of **all the earth**. [That goes for us *and* our adversaries] The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit — a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. – Isaiah 54:5-6 NIV

Jesus comes to claim what's been rightfully his all along.

Near the end of Joshua's life, *he* returns to Shechem and adds a seventh book. His own. And, says that this stone has heard every Word of God and will serve as an eyewitness. (Josh 24:25-27)

Actually, seven eyewitnesses if you're counting by books.

"Hear, O **Joshua, the high priest**, [Different Joshua; but, another foreshadow of Jesus; *this one is a high priest who is prophetically commanded to wear a king's crown, (Zech 6:11)]* you ... are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the Branch. For behold, **the stone that I have laid before Joshua** [That's Moses' Joshua]: **upon the stone are seven eyes** [Job, Moses' five books, and Joshua]. Behold, **I will engrave its inscription**," says the Lord of hosts, [As Jesus' first official act as King] "and **I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day**." [As Jesus' final official act as High Priest] – Zechariah 3:8-9 NKJ

He was.

He is.

And He is to come.

But, will you be on the same side?