

6 Adar 2, 5774 (8/3/14) **Exploring our Potential in the Messiah** J. M. Terrett

It's Time to Renew Our Confidence: More Than Conquerors

Vayikrah And He Called Making It Right When You Get It Wrong

Torah: Lev. 1:1-5:26 (6:7* different versification, same content)

(1) **1:9:** . . . **it is a burnt offering, a sacrifice consumed by fire for a pleasing odour to the L-rd.** Forgiveness (atonement) smells good to the L-rd and covers the odour of sin. What do you smell like to G-d?

(2) **2:13:** **salt is the sign of the covenant with your G-d, You shall put salt on all your offerings.** Salt is a preservative and it is a symbol that the L-rd wants to remember our forgiveness and not our sins.

(3) **3:17:** **This is a perpetual law for your descendents in all the places where you shall live: you shall eat neither fat nor blood.** There was a part of the offerings which were eaten, but the people were not to eat of the blood (the life of the sacrifice) or of the fat (where the fuel for life was stored). The sacrifice had to be offered with the blood and the fat so that the sacrifice might be effective – no cheating.

(4) **5:26 (6:7)** **And the priest shall make atonement for him before the L-RD and he shall be forgiven for whatever fault he has committed and made himself guilty of.** It is all about forgiveness, about not only saying sorry when you break the plate, but also fixing what was broken. Forgiveness is saying sorry, atonement is fixing what was broken, G-d wants to forgive us and cleanse us (fix us- I John 1:9).

Haftarah: Is. 43:21-44:23

(5) **44:9:** **All those who make idols are nothing, and the things which they delight in do not profit; their witnesses neither see nor know. And so they will be put to shame.** Israel began to mess with idols which were gods whom you could control (milk) and who could give you what you want, instead of learning to do what G-d wants. You either come to G-d His way and deal with your sin or you are stuck with it, no matter how fancy you get with your idols.

(6) **44:22:** **I erase your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like a mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you.** He redeemed us before He called to us. The job is done, He has fixed it eternally and wants to fix it in our lives. We got it wrong, He wants to make it right

Brit Chadashah: Heb. 10:1-18

(7) **10:14:** **For by a single offering, He has brought to perfection forever those who are sanctified.** The ceremonies were repeated until the reality came. In the L-rd's table we remember what was done – we do not repeat the sacrifice. As we come to the L-rd's table, we have another opportunity to make it right when we get it wrong.

(John p. 155) **Ps. 50** Jewish Hero: Sydney Speakman **L-rd's Table**

“But in all these things, we are more than conquerors through the One who has loved us” Romans 8:37

Paul lived at a time when there was considerable resistance to the Gospel, both from government authorities and from the pagan cultures of the Ancient Middle East. Some of his fiercest opposition came from the large Jewish community, so he was quite isolated and he had to be constantly on guard against relentless attacks from all these sources. And yet he is able to make a remarkable statement about his ability to handle whatever was going to be thrown his way.

This morning as we prepare to observe the L-rd's Table, I want to deal with this verse in three sections as we explore our potential in the Messiah and as we renew our confidence in Him. Here are the sections: (1) ***in all these things***. (2) ***more than conquerors***. (3) ***Through the One Who loved us***.

First of all Paul, did not say that our victory lay in being exempt from even one category of resistance which he has so far outlined in this chapter and he has at least ten more categories of spiritual opposition to go before the end of the chapter. He says, amazingly, that our victory lies in these things which want to destroy us, stall us and shut us down.

Too often believers become convinced that deliverance from trials is the key to victory, when the L-rd wants us to see that our faith and obedience form an ***unstoppable steamroller*** which plows through all and any opposition on our way home to our Father's House in glory. He wants us to be encouraged, not because of any guarantee of deliverance from trials, but because our trials are merely little bumps on the road to Glory.

Now, Paul was not unacquainted with trials and in one place he said that he and his companions despaired of even saving their lives because they did not see any way out of their predicament (2 Cor. 1:8) – I have been there frequently as well (and I am not talking about my wife's good driving [:-])). He never knew precisely which predicament would be the one to finish him off, but instead of cowering in fear or shrieking in frustration, he knew that he was unstoppable and indestructible until he had finished the work which the L-rd had given him to do. He knew who was in control and did not fret the details.

He also knew that G-d would never allow him to be tempted beyond his ability to resist without also providing a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13) and that the L-rd would never leave him nor forsake him (Heb. 13:5). He was also firmly convinced that the feeble trials of this life were not even worthy of being compared to the eternal weight of glory which is waiting for all faithful believers (Rom. 8:18).

This did not make him a hopeless optimist either and while he was always willing to extol the wonders of the coming Kingdom he never minimized the pain and suffering of this present age – he just wanted believers to keep things in perspective and not lose sight of either the coming kingdom, nor of the provision and protection of G-d no matter what was going on their lives.

Some of us will have a long peaceful journey home (sigh), some of us will have a short, difficult journey home, with any combination or variety in between. It is not the nature of the journey which should be our primary focus or even our major concern. Let me quote an old saying I heard as a younger believer, because it is very true: you have to be heavenly minded to be of any earthly good.

In all these things, our spirituality and joy will be victorious and have more real and true substance than the scenery which the flesh, the world or the enemy can try and distract us with. Our prayer should not be for us to be delivered from all these things – it should be that we would always be conscious of the power and provision of G-d in and through all of these things. How is your spiritual vision doing? How is your spiritual perspective doing?

Lets move on to the second phrase – ***more than conquerors***. This is one of my favourite phrases in the Bible and I even coined a new word for it in French. A conqueror in French is a “vainquer” and to say more than, I added a “sur” to “vainquer” and came up with “survainquer” – pun intended.

If you put survive and conquer, you have a conquering survivor and a surviving conqueror because in the L-rd both terms work in tandem because we will always do more than either survive or conqueror – we shall always do both together and then some.

A conqueror is someone who overcomes and crushes an adversary – we shall do more than that in all the things which we encounter. It does not mean that we shall leap tall buildings at a single bound or that we will succeed in protecting our planet from the scum of the universe with our special super powers which will always get us out of trouble in just a nick of time.

It means that we possess an eternal inheritance which nothing can destroy, diminish or even damage and nothing in this life will ever be able to do us any real eternal damage. We are not only already on the winning team, we have already won and all the rest is icing on the cake of our lives with an amazing dividend of glory which will only keep on growing bigger the more troubled we encounter. In a very real sense, the worse it gets for us in this life, the better it is for us in the next life and yet I do not wish troubles on any of you (cause they will come on their own).

But our best preparation to face all that this life can throw at us is to realize that in all of them, He will see to it that we are more than conquerors - “survainquers”, which leads me to my last point – how does this work practically in the alligator filled swamps of our lives?

We will be able to see this become a reality in our lives through the One who loved us. There are three key words in this phrase: ***through, One*** and ***loved***. Our more than conquering does not come from our own ability but comes from the One who owns us. He has faced every category of temptation and opposition which is humanly possible (Heb. 4:15) without blowing it once and He is the best spiritual coach to help us utterly defeat sin in our lives.

He has been there and done that and His presence in our hearts and lives can help us become more than conquerors in our personal battle with sin and with all and any trials which come our way in our generational pilgrimage home to glory. ***He is truly never through with us, but He will always work through us.*** How connected are you to the sin crushing champion who wants to train you for both a glorious victory over sin, again and again, and for the wonderful weight of glory waiting for us to collect once our journey through this life is done?

He is the only One who has conquered sin and death and He does not need anyone's help and He is never short of the necessary resources for the things which matter the most and there are only really two of them: the power of everlasting life and the power of His invincible victory – He is all we need and will bring all and any resources our way, not to make the way easier or even more exciting, but to make us more than conquerors.

You do not need the power of angels or of mighty TV or internet personalities with their formulas and methods – all you need is the resurrected One who is crushing all opposition under his footstool until the last one of His elect is safely part of the eternal flock, which brings me to the last word: loved.

It is in the past tense on purpose, because in Him we can face the uncertainty of the present and the terror of the future with the absolute certainty of the past. His blood shall never lose its power and on the cross all enemies, past, present and future were defeated forever. He made a monkey out of evolution and of the relativity, humanism and materialism which our fading society is being more and more duped by. He has smashed the foolishness of politically correct immorality and every other competing religious system or ideology has already been defeated, disproven and demolished by the power of the cross.

People may wail and howl and roar and mock and threaten to eat us up (and may even eat some of us up as well), but we are already in possession of the final victory because He loved us enough to die for us and He arose victorious and will never be defeated again by anyone or anything, anywhere at any time!

Do you get it? In all of these things we are survainquers (more than conquerors) through the One who loved us – it doesn't get better than that and it should give us an entirely different perspective of our measly, temporary problems in this foolish, fading world as we stride through everything on our unstoppable way home. We are members of the winning team and nothing and no one can ever take that victory away from us, so bring it on and see how He will cause us to overcome and overpower, again and again, in everything, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile and from the youngest to the oldest and from the weakest to the strongest.

Lets pray and get ready for the L-rd's Table.