



THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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Unconventional Weaponry

By: M. L. Chancellor

I'd like to welcome you to the Museum of Ancient History's Ancient Hebrew Weaponry tour. My name is Zachary, and I'll be your tour guide today. Just a little bit of background before we get started.

The warfare of the ancient Hebrews is probably the some of the most well-known in history. This is primarily due to the documented accounts within their religious literature, which are also included in the Christian Bible.

On this tour you are going to see replicas of weaponry used by the Hebrews in four different battles. As we arrive at each exhibit, I ask that you gather as close to the exhibit as possible, so that other groups touring the facility can pass behind us. Alright, that takes care of the preliminaries; let's head off to the first exhibit.

Our first exhibit consists of a large stone. Now, I know you're probably wondering how this large stone was a weapon of warfare. How many of you remember the story of the battle against the Amalekites as the Israelites were journeying in the wilderness of Sin? Ok, a couple of you. Good. Let me recap it quickly for those who don't remember. As the Israelites fought against the Amalekites, Moses stood at the top of the hill with the rod of God in his hand. As he held up the rod, Israel prospered, but when his arm tired and lowered, the Amalekites prospered. Aaron and Hur were standing by and noticed this, and had Moses sit on a rock, then, they propped up his hands until Israel won the battle. So, you see, a rock became a weapon of warfare for the ancient Hebrews. Let's move on to our next exhibit.

Are we all here? Good deal. You'll notice that we've moved from one large stone, to a worn path beside what looks like a fallen wall and a trumpet. Can anyone guess where these weapons were used? You in the back, I didn't

quite catch what you said. Jericho? You're absolutely correct. At the battle of Jericho, the steps of the people of Israel walking silently around the walls caused a path to be worn in the earth around the city. When the trumpet blew on the seventh day, the people shouted, and the fallen wall was the result. I realize that some of you may have some questions about the weapons, but please hold onto your questions until the end of the tour. Let's continue on to our next exhibit.

Gather in close here, and take a look. We have some broken pottery, a lamp, and another trumpet. It appears that the trumpet was a favorite weapon among the ancient Hebrews. These weapons were used by Gideon and his men against the Mideanites. This is one of the most amazing battle stories of the ancient Hebrews. Gideon strategically placed his 300 men around the camp of the Mideanites and at the signal of the trumpet, the men broke their pitchers and the light of their lamps was revealed. What a rude awakening those Mideanites had! We're short on time, so let's move quickly onto the next exhibit.

This next exhibit requires a little more explanation. You'll notice that it contains only a few sheets of music. In the time of Jehoshaphat, Israel was under attack by the Ammonites and Moabites. Jehoshaphat wisely asked the man of God what to do. He was told not to fear, but to let the Lord fight for him. When facing the enemy, Jehoshaphat put the singers at the front of the army to sing praises to God. The singing confused the enemies of Israel, and they destroyed each other. The Israelites simply cleaned up behind them.

These are a few examples of the unconventional methods used by the ancient Hebrews to gain the victory over their enemies. You will notice, in each case, the victory brought glory to God by reminding the people of his power and their dependence on him.

This brings us to the end of our tour. Are there any questions?

If not, I invite you to visit our new Spiritual Warfare wing. As most of you probably realize, unconventional means of warfare aren't just for the ancient Hebrews. We have a self-guided tour exploring New Testament weaponry available in our Spiritual Warfare wing, beginning with the Ephesians exhibit. I'll think you'll find it worth your time. Thank you, again, for your time and attention. Have a blessed day.

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The Routing of Giant Doubt (Part 2)

Excerpt from *Adventures in the Land of Canaan* By: R. L. Berry

Old Giant Doubt attempted to run faster, as he also caught sight of them; but a periodic rheumatism attacked him, and he made little progress. The two pilgrims, who I found were Valiant and Faithful, rushed to my rescue.

“You wicked old Giant Doubt,” they shouted, “let go of Pilgrim Sincere.” And they attacked him with their swords.

“Sincere,” they cried, “take your sword and use it!”

By this time my arm was free enough to grasp the sword, and I gave the giant a close thrust. At this he dropped me and ran as fast as he could.

“Poor pilgrim,” said Valiant. “How fortunate for you that you shouted! We heard the call. Praise and honor to Immanuel.” And Valiant reverently lifted his hands and eyes heavenward.

“Were did the old, evil giant overcome you?” asked Faithful.

“Back at a place where there is a sign warning pilgrims against Giant Doubt. But I did not see the sign till he started off with me.”

“I wonder if we cannot mark that spot more plainly, so that no pilgrim will ever allow Giant Doubt to hold his false examination there?” asked Valiant.

“No,” said Faithful. “It has been tried over and over. No sign except the one that is there ever remains even if it is put up.”

“What kind of garment is that you are wearing around your waist?” asked Faithful.

“This is a jacket that Mr. Legality gave me to wear.” I answered.

“The crafty villain,” exclaimed Faithful. “Put it away from you!”

But I was afraid to do this, and told them so. They related how that same jacket had caused them much trouble. They further said that no one could unbuckle it but me, as there was a secret lock on each jacket that no one but the wearer could work.

After this I got back to the main highway again. But the first thing I knew was that old Giant Doubt was with me again. (Matt. 14:28-31) And he began to talk to me just as if he had never said anything to me before. I wondered what I should do if he attempted to carry me away. And then I remembered what I read on a monument just after crossing the Jordan: “Every pilgrim must overcome the giants for himself.” But just how to do this I did not know. So I had another encounter with him.

“Do you still think you are a pilgrim in Canaan?” he said. “More than likely you will never find rest. I doubt it very much. See how bad you feel. And you are always saying or doing something that hurts you. Pilgrims should live better than you do.” And with that he grabbed me in his big, burly arms and nearly squeezed the life out of me. I couldn’t fight at all. The jacket held me so rigid that I could not even use the sword or hold up the shield. In fact, Mr. Legality told me his straight-jacket was a better protection than any sword or shield; and I had gradually grown into dependency on it.

Next day Giant Doubt assailed me again. This time he unmercifully beat me with his wormwood club. And after cuffing

me about until I was nearly dead, he again left me. Then he came every day. It is rather peculiar how long he kept my company. Or, rather, it is strange how long I allowed him to be with me. And every day I found myself weaker; and when the old giant threatened to throw me into the sea of the dead, I had very little resistance in me—just enough to keep him from his purpose.

I found that every time I used the sword ever so little it scared the old giant; and when he shot hot darts, I found that the shield would stop them if I held it up. But that old jacket was very much in my way.

At last I said to myself, “I believe this jacket is a nuisance. Off with it!” and I pulled it off and threw it as far as I could down into the crevasse of Worn Out Laws. (James 1:25)

After this, I met Giant Doubt again. But my wounds had become well, and I determined to fight for my life and my liberty. I told the giant that, Immanuel helping me, I should not let him travel with me another step of the way.

“Oh, yes I will!” he said. “You cannot travel without me. I’m your friend.”

“You are no friend,” I cried, “but an enemy. You have made my journey miserable. You have driven away my peace; you have killed my joy; you have beaten me, deceived me, and threatened me with death, and have indeed nearly killed me. Go! Get behind me! You enemy of my soul.” (Matt. 4:1-11)

And at this I smote him with the sword of truth. He ran away and got out his arrows to shoot at me as before; but I simply held up the shield, and not one hurt me. (Rom. 16:20) Then I ran after him with all my might and chased him away—and I haven’t had a real encounter with him since.

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The cure for doubts is faith; not prayer, nor fasting, nor working—just faith. Faith is believing God, believing just what God says. God has said many things and made many promises. Faith expects God to fulfil his word. Trust is faith holding on and waiting.

We are sanctified by faith; we enter into complete soul rest by faith. There is no other way. We must come to God and simply ask him to work out his complete redemption in our hearts and fill us with the Spirit. After we give ourselves wholly to him, after we lay all on the altar, there is nothing more that we can do except trust and obey. It is God’s part to complete in us the work for salvation; our business is to trust him to do it. We trust carpenters and builders to build our houses, we trust bankers with our money, we trust men every day and hour of our lives; shall we not trust God?

In all battles with doubt, go back to basic facts. Allow no confusion of mind, no agitation of spirit; calm every fear and find out just where and how you are. First, ask yourself I you are all the Lord’s. Do you now lay on his altar your all? Do you now choose his will? Do you intend to serve him? Do you answer, ‘Yes’? Put that down then as a settled fact. Never allow yourself to doubt a point that has been settled. Let it stay settled. Next ask yourself if you believe God is true to his word, if you believe he will do what he promised. If you say, “Yes,” let that point be settled also. Stand by it. If you have met the conditions upon which God promised to cleanse and

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### The Routing of Giant Doubt (Part 2) (cont'd)

Excerpt from *Adventures in the Land of Canaan* By: R. L. Berry

fill you, you must believe that God does these things for you.

Doubts have a way of coming in early in the morning. They are like bad neighbors, they come when they are not wanted. Doubts may arise because you do not “feel” as you should like to, or because you have made mistakes; or simply because you have been sorely tempted. You must learn that feeling is no true gauge of your spiritual experience.

An encounter with doubts may be something like this: You awake in the morning and are possessed of a feeling that is utterly non-religious. You do not feel one whit as though you are fully saved and trusting, but just the opposite. Not having learned to pay no attention to this, but instead to jump up and praise and thank God for all his goodness, you begin to question, “Am I really and truly consecrated? Where are all my joyful feelings? Why do I feel this way? Surely something is wrong.”

The longer you think, the more doubtful you become, and at last discouragement takes charge of your whole soul.

There is no harm, but good, in examining ourselves; it is all right to put hard and searching questions to our hearts as to our standing with God. But when doubts lead to such an examination, the result is usually disastrous.

Doubting gets to be a bad habit; one very hard to break. It is a sort of self-depreciating, self-deprecating, self-condemning habit. Doubting becomes easy and natural after the habit is formed. A chronic state of discouragement follows. You are as miserable as you can be. And yet the idea of abruptly cutting off the whole bad thing fills you with dismay. You are afraid to do it. A sort of up-and-down life seems preferable to a bold, upstanding victorious life. A sort of weakness or spiritual cowardice follows, too; and one habitually doubting prefers to be a pigmy, a dwarf for Christ, rather than a real man, a warrior in him.

Doubt has a dreadful reaction on the soul and mind. Its influence is deadening and damning. It shrivels and dries up the joy and spontaneity of service. It makes one feel inferior and weak. Instead of causing one to fight, doubts lead one to give up the fight; instead of prompting resistance, doubts make one lie down and get wounded and bruised. Doubts make us failures. They blight, mar, and drag down. They are the devil’s own poison to kill off God’s people.

There is only one thing to do to overcome doubts: have faith in God. Kill the doubts, or they will kill you. “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4)

### Lessons in a Storm

By: M. L. Chancellor

#### Day 9:

There’s absolutely nothing worse than being on a boat on the open sea in the middle of a hurricane. I’ve given up on eating. The motion prevents me from keeping anything down.

There is some concern about whether or not the boat will make it through the storm. During the first week, the sailors had us help throw tackle overboard. They’d already dumped the cargo. We’ve seen nothing but waves and dark clouds for days and days.

The hold of the ship reeks of vomit, and resonates with the fearful cries of the prisoners confined there. I find it difficult to face their horrified, wide-eyed stares. I’ve tried to help where I can, but my own sickness makes treating patients a bit of a challenge. My limited supplies aren’t helping either.

#### Day 10:

Paul amazes me. Although he’s a favorite of the captain and is allowed to go up on the deck from time to time, he’s chosen to spend most of his time down among his fellow-prisoners. They seem quieter when he’s with them. Of course, that could have something to do with the songs he sings and his prayers. He always seems to find a way to rise above the trial. He finds a way to be content in whatever circumstances he finds himself. His happiness, joy, and contentment are found someplace other than in the things he’s going through. I marvel at the calm that seems to surround him in this situation. I’ve found that compared to his, my faith is weak. But, I’m learning from his example.

#### Day 11:

Paul gave us all hope today that we will live through this storm. An angel came and spoke to him last night and told him that we’ll make it, but the ship won’t. Paul has an appointment with Caesar, and God wants him to keep that appointment. I’m not sure how it will all work out, but I know that it will.

#### Day 14:

It’s amazing what a little hope and the sight of land can do to restore a person’s outlook. Paul advised that we all eat a bit. The sailors are talking and laughing and they believe we can actually make it to shore. The prisoners have even perked up a bit. Of course, fresh air and food are most helpful in that regard.

#### Day 16:

The angel was right. We all made it to shore. Not one person was lost; though the boat didn’t fare so well. Paul needs my help so I must go, but before I do, I must record something that I’ve learned that is quite profound: Our happiness, contentment, and joy are not dependent on the circumstances in which we find ourselves. There is peace in the midst of the storm, and joy and happiness can be found in the middle of even the darkest trial. Take heart and keep pressing on. Victory lies ahead.

*Author's Note: This is a story based on the account of Paul's shipwreck in Acts 27, and told from Luke's perspective.*

## Parables by the Way

From *Picture Story—Life of Christ—Story 44—Luke 15*

Many publicans and sinners followed Jesus, to hear his words. And the Pharisees and scribes found fault, saying, "This man receives sinners and even eats with them." Jesus knew how they were complaining about him, and he spoke to the people by parables. First he told them the Parable about the Lost Sheep. Because the Jews kept many sheep he knew they would understand the story.

"What man of you," he asked, "having a hundred sheep would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and seek for the one that was lost? And when he finds it he will bring it back and rejoice more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine which did not wander away. So it is in heaven when a sinner repents and forsakes his sins; there is more rejoicing over him than over ninety-nine just persons who have no sin."

There were women in the crowd listening to Jesus' words. And Jesus saw them there, so he told a story which they might understand. "What woman," he asked, "having ten pieces of silver and losing one of them will not search carefully through the house until she finds the missing piece? And when she finds it she tells her neighbors and friends, and asks them to rejoice with her because she has found the piece that was lost. So also there is rejoicing in heaven when one lost sinner comes to God."

Both the men and the women were listening very carefully now, and Jesus told the parable about the unthankful son who left his father's house and went to live among strangers. This is the story:

"A certain man had two sons, and the younger son was not contented to remain at home with his father and his brother. HE asked that his father divide the money which would some day be given to him and to his brother, and give to him at once the part that would be his. The father divided the money, and the younger son took his part and went away. He thought he was very rich, and he spent his money freely. He enjoyed every pleasure that he knew, and he seemed to have many friends. But after a while he spent all his money and he had nothing left. Then he grew hungry; but his friends left him and refused to help.

"In his trouble the young man offered to care for a farmer's hogs, but he could scarcely keep from starving. And no man pitied him, or gave him any decent food to eat.

"Then the young man remembered his father and the hired servants who worked in his father's house. He knew those servants were well cared for. He decided to return to his father's house and ask to be made a servant there. So he returned to his home country to beg his father's forgiveness and to ask permission to be only a servant in the old home.

"That father loved his wandering boy, and his heart was sad when the boy left him to live among strangers. Every day he longed for the boy to come back. And when at last he saw his son coming, clothed in rags, he ran out to meet him and wept for joy. The boy began to speak. He said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you -'; but he had no opportunity to tell the father how he wished to become a servant in the old home. The father commanded a servant to go quickly and bring the best clothes and dress the young man in them, and to prepare a feast of gladness, for the lost had been found."

## Bible Study—Walking With God

By: H M Riggle

### I. Every saint must walk with God

Gen 5:24, Gen 6:9, Micah 6:8

### II. Walking with God implies

1. Walking as he walked—1 John 2:6
2. Walking in the light—1 John 1:7
3. Walking in the truth—3 John 3
4. Walking in the Spirit—Gal. 5:25
5. Walking by the same rule—Phil. 3:16
6. Walking in his ways—Josh. 22:5
7. Walking in the old paths—Jer. 6:16
8. Walking in newness of life—Rom. 6:4
9. Walking honestly.—Rom. 13:13
10. Walking by faith—2 Cor. 5:7
11. Walking in agreement—Amos 3:3

### III. Promises to those who walk with God

1. They shall not faint.—Isa. 40:31
2. They shall have all good things—Psa. 84:11

"But should the surges rise,  
and rest delay to come,  
Blest be the sorrow, kind the storm,  
which drives us nearer home.

Teach us in every state  
to make thy will our own;  
And when the joys of sense depart,  
to live by faith alone."



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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

#### Service Times:

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Wednesday Prayer Meeting        | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Sunday School                   | 9:30 a.m.  |
| Sunday Morning Worship          | 10:30 a.m. |
| Young People's Service (Sunday) | 4:45 p.m.  |
| Children's Service (Sunday)     | 5:00 p.m.  |
| Sunday Evening Service          | 6:00 p.m.  |

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.