

## **CROSSING JORDAN**

### **GOD'S SIXTH MOVE OF RESTORATION**

by  
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#### **PICTURES OF A SEVEN-FOLD CHURCH.**

In 1995, a lay pastor preached to the congregation that our local church was standing on the east bank of the Jordan River, spiritually speaking. The context of that remark was that our church was losing its founding pastor, after fifteen years, and the congregation faced something totally new. And, people were asking, "*Where do we go from here?*" That vision of our local church agreed with then current prophetic visions of the next major move of God, which was just beginning to affect Jesus' entire Church. The picture of our local church standing on the east bank of Jordan fit the frame of Jesus' entire Church, standing on the east bank of Jordan. That put our church squarely in the path of God's next major move.

What do I mean by "God's next major move?" What is His current major move? How many major moves have there been so far? How many more? What is the scriptural basis for talking about a sequence of major moves? And, what is this business about standing on Jordan's east bank?

Basically, there is a number of pictures of God's end-times moves in the Bible. One is the Book of Revelation, of course. But, there are others in the Old Testament. A very detailed picture is one I have written in an unpublished manuscript, entitled The Joshua Walk, from the books of Exodus through Joshua. Saint Paul referred to this picture in his set of warnings in the first twelve verses of the tenth chapter of First Corinthians. He referred to that sixty-year "walk" of the ancients from bondage in Egypt to victory in Canaan as a pattern for our notice. Paul said that everything that happened to the Israelites on that walk happened in order to provide a pattern for us.

The Joshua Walk is a type of the individual walk of the Christian. It breaks down into a sequence of seven major phases. The unique events of the Israelite phases correspond to unique events in the walk of the Christian. Each Old Testament scripture points to a New Testament scripture. As the Old Testament scriptures define a walk of increasing spiritual maturity for the Israelites, so the New Testament scriptures define a walk of increasing spiritual maturity for the Christian, and the context of each major phase is the same, from Old Testament to New Testament.

It later became obvious that the Joshua Walk also describes God's modern major historical moves in the Church. That is, the pattern of the walk of the individual believer also scales up to the corporate Church, and becomes a kind of detailed calendar. This is because the Joshua Walk corresponds to the seven Feasts of Israel. And the seven Feasts have long been thought to be a picture of God's major moves in the Church<sup>1,2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Last Great Revival, by Steve Meeks, Calvary Publications, Houston, TX. ISBN: 0-9630425-1-3, 1994, Chapter 5. <http://www.calvaryhouston.com/BookStore.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Rosh HaShanah and the Messianic Kingdom to Come, by Joseph Good, Hatikva Ministries, Port Arthur, TX. 1989, Chapter 3. <http://store.hatikva.org/catalog/>

Whether looking at the Joshua Walk, the Feasts, the order of the seven pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle, or the seven churches of Revelation, there are defined seven phases or seven churches whose major foci are Faith, Truth, Spirituality, Power, Ministry, Doctrine, and Maturity, in that order. See Figure-1, below.

<b>MATURITY (Mercy)</b> ----->
<b>DOCTRINE (Teaching)</b> ----->
<b>MINISTRY (Ministry)</b> ----->
<b>POWER (Leadership)</b> ----->
<b>SPIRITUALITY (Prophecy)</b> ----->
<b>TRUTH (Exhortation)</b> ----->
<b>FAITH (Sharing)</b> ----->

**Figure-1. Building Up the Church, Element by Element (Romans-12 Gifts).**

Looking back at the last four hundred years of church history, since the Reformation of The Church, we can see the first five phases of the corporate Church manifested. The Faith church was born again in the time of Luther and Calvin. The Truth church came with the invention of the printing press and the availability of bibles in the common languages. Spirituality was marked by the ministries of Whitefield and Wesley.

Then, between 1850-1910 came Power with Pentacostalism. In the 1960s came the Ministry church in the form of Charismatic Renewal. That phase emphasized the cleansing of the church, individual by individual. Praise and worship, deliverance ministries, healing of the soul became primary on the road to personal holiness.

The next to last phase, and God's sixth move of restoration, is the cleansing of the Church at the corporate level. It is the preparation of the spotless Bride, in preparation for the appearance of the Groom, the time when Jesus will be manifested in the Church in power and glory. This is the time when the ministries of the Church are shaken, a time of judgment in the Church. For, judgment begins in the Church [1 Pet. 4:17]. The focus of this phase is Teaching, in the context of preparation for all-out warfare.

**THE SIXTH MOVE OF RESTORATION.**

So, what does this have to do with the local church? What is the connection? The connection is this. The transition coming to the corporate Church will be manifested in the local churches. My local church seemed to be manifesting it in 1995, which is what prompted this article. The old leader who brought us that far was leaving. A new, untried leader was coming into authority. Few of our original generation were left. Our church was facing a great new unknown. We had not been that way before.

It was exactly the same for the people of Israel, when they got to the River Jordan ... when they began the sixth move. The Joshua Walk shows seventy events. And, seventy is God's number which points to "the overcomer" and "the remnant"<sup>3,4</sup>.

The sixth move has fifteen events, seven on the east side of the river and eight on the west. Seven is God's number for spiritual sufficiency, while eight denotes new beginnings,

<sup>3</sup> Biblical Mathematics, by Ed Vallowe Evangelistic Association, Forest Park, GA, 1984.

<sup>4</sup> Number in Scripture, by E.W. Bullinger, Kregel Pubs., Grand Rapids, ISBN 0-8254-2238-8, 1991.

restoration. Taken together, they make fifteen, which denotes soul rest, that is, peace of mind. And, it was the old Israelite generation in the desert about which God said that, "... *They shall not enter into my rest*" [Heb. 3:11]. But, for the new generation, "... *it remains that some must enter in*" [Heb. 4:6].

The first chapter of Joshua starts the sixth move. Moses, the servant of God, has died, and Joshua has replaced him. Moses could not go across the river because of a seemingly small mistake. In the second encounter with the rock which provided water for Israel, Moses had not followed God's instructions, exactly. The first time, God had said to strike the rock, which Moses did, and water was yielded [Ex. 17:6]. The second time, God said to speak to the rock.

But Moses struck it a second time, just as before. And, apparently in God's eyes, that was a big mistake. Why? Because it broke the pattern God was trying to communicate to us. But, God made up for that breach by the action he then took concerning Moses.

Paul said that the Rock was Jesus, the Christ [1 Cor. 10:4]. And, the symbolism of water in the New Testament is The Holy Spirit. The picture at the first Rock encounter was that of God standing on the Rock and the leaders of Israel smiting it in the presence of the elders. Just as Jesus was smitten of God and afflicted on the cross [Isa. 53:4]. And, Jesus says, "... *I am meek and lowly of heart ...*," and to take up His yoke and find rest for the soul [Mat. 11:29]. And His yoke is easy ... [Mat. 11:30]. And, the Greek word for "*easy*" is the same word which is the root for "*Christ*" and for "*anointing*," which is "*chraomai*."

So, the believer's anointing comes as a result of taking up the yoke of the crucified Jesus. And that anointing breaks every other yoke the believer may be carrying [Isa. 10:27]. Therefore, the symbolism of the first encounter is the Holy Spirit bringing the believer's anointing, as a result of the meek Jesus being smitten on the Cross.

Moses probably didn't deliberately disobey God. Maybe he was thinking of something else, like how glorious it would be, doing God's will on the other side of Jordan. Or maybe he just wasn't paying attention to the details. For whatever reason, he treated the second Rock encounter, just the same as the first, routinely.

At the second encounter, Moses smote the Rock. But, Jesus was smitten once, that we might all be sanctified [Heb. 10:10]. He will not be struck down, twice. The second time, Moses had only to speak to the Rock, to get water [Num. 20:8]. Just as we have only to speak to Jesus to be refilled with the Holy Spirit [Eph. 5:18]. Because we are chosen vessels, just as was Paul [Acts 9:15]. We are vessels of ministry, sprinkled with Jesus' Blood [Heb. 9:21]. We are chosen to be a royal priesthood, to show forth God's praises [1 Pet. 2:9].

So, the context of the first Rock encounter was spirituality, first anointing, and the prophetic ministry. The context of the second Rock encounter was holiness, the priesthood of the believer, and anointed pastoral ministry. And Moses, who treated the second the same as the first, was not allowed to take the church on to completion.

### **THE JORDAN - BOUNDARY BETWEEN PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL**

"*For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle,*" Paul asks [1 Cor. 14:8]. And, again, "*Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church*" [1 Cor. 14:12]. Paul is saying that in the context of warfare, it is not enough to just be spiritual, you've got to use it to build up the church.

Perhaps it seems odd that spiritual warfare should be associated with teaching in the church. But, Satan does not want the believer to go beyond the basic principles of the doctrine of Jesus Christ [Heb. 6:1-3]. Satan does not want a mature church opposing him. Remember that Jesus said that His Church would do greater works than He [John 14:12]. And maturity in Christ means going on to stronger food [Heb. 5:12-14]. It means leaving the manna behind, and going across Jordan to eat the food of the promised land. We shall be taking the enemy's food. It is the same food Jesus had, to do the will of Him who sends us, and to complete His work. [John 4:32-34].

The first thing God commanded after Joshua took leadership was to cross Jordan, to the land God was giving Israel. God was giving it, but Israel was going to have to take it by force. And that brings to mind what must be the strangest verse in the New Testament. It is Jesus' words: *"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force"* [Mat. 11:12]. To those raised on children's stories about how nice heaven is, that verse just doesn't make any sense.

Paul's idea of "levels of heaven" can help out, here. He had a vision of a paradise-like third heaven [2 Cor. 12:2-4]. But, the "kingdom of heaven" is something else. It is, rather, a heaven of kingdoms. Spiritual kingdoms. Jesus described it in eleven parables in Matthew 13, 18, 20, 22, and 25. From His description, we see that the "wicked one" is there, stealing [Mat. 13:19]. Leaven (sin) is there [Mat. 13:33]. The "devil" is there, sowing [Mat. 13:39]. And, the "tormentors" are there [Mat. 18:34]. This kingdom of heaven is the land of the enemy. It has an emperor (Satan), kings, dukes, counts, and barons [Eph. 6:12], just like the Holy Roman Empire (also known as the German First Reich). And, it is not just an after-death place. It is our place of labor, now [Mat. 20:1-16].

Apparently John the Baptist was the first to cross the Jordan spiritually, and go into the enemy's country to wage war. For, that is what the Jordan represents spiritually, the boundary between heaven and earth, between the spiritual and the natural. And, the Church is going to go over in force.

But, first, there is to be a period of preparation. Although the army has fought some battles in the wilderness, God is going to recheck the results of their training, before leading them across. This is because, the series of battles about to be fought is going to be decisive. Previously, the enemy was just harassing, impeding, and diverting the Church. But, nevertheless, the Church has now arrived. It is at the jumping off point. Now, the enemy is going to be annihilated. And that's different. It's going to require new tactics and absolute obedience. And, it's going to be God's strategy that is executed, not man's. Some of God's moves are going to be strange. So, He is going to instruct the warriors to keep their eyes glued to the Ark, as it leads them through twists and turns. Because *"... ye have not passed this way heretofore"* [Jos. 3:4].

### **EAST SIDE - INSPECTION: CHECKING THE FOUNDATION**

The Mature Church is the one that crosses Jordan. It is the Completion Church. On the east side, there is a short preparatory phase, in the nature of a final proficiency check. The troops have been through boot camp and combat specialty training, but now all the necessary training elements must be re-checked for the last time, prior to deployment. On the west side, there will be a period of transition from training status to operations. That will be in preparation for the actual combat phase, The Completion Church takes the war to the enemy, winning the victories. That is the last Church, which was the first Church, the Church of Apostles. Because it is first and last, it represents Jesus, in corporate form.

So, just what is it that was taught to the Church in boot camp, which is to now be re-checked? It is the Christian fundamentals, focused on spiritual warfare. As military training, there are seven elements, shown in Figure-2, below.

<b>DAVID'S FOUNDATION Psalms 51</b>		<b>JESUS' FOUNDATION Hebrews 6:1-2</b>		<b>TRAINING ELEMENT Joshua 1-3</b>
<b>Seek Forgiveness</b>	→	<b>Faith</b>	→	<b>Motivation</b>
<b>Acknowledge Guilt</b>	→	<b>Repentance</b>	→	<b>Conditioning</b>
<b>Cleanse Sin</b>	→	<b>Judgment</b>	→	<b>Duty</b>
<b>Renew Life</b>	→	<b>Resurrection</b>	→	<b>Discipline</b>
<b>Proclaim God</b>	→	<b>Laying Hands</b>	→	<b>Armor</b>
<b>Bless Church</b>	→	<b>Doctrine</b>	→	<b>Tactics</b>
<b>God's Pleasure</b>	→	<b>Maturity</b>	→	<b>The Enemy</b>

**Figure-2. Foundations.**

These are Motivation, Conditioning, Duty, Discipline, Armor, Tactics, and The Enemy. In context, these foundational elements match those of David and Jesus, taken from [Psalms 51] and [Heb. 6:1-2], respectively.

David's seventh element, being God's pleasure, matches Jesus', being completion of the Church. And that points right at the enemy. As there were seven elements in boot camp, so the instructors had to be gifted and motivated in those seven areas. And, God took care of that the following way.

Each Christian has a specific calling [Rom. 8:28] according to God's purpose. The callings correspond to God's gifts of grace (charismata) [Rom. 12:6-8]. So, your calling is what you are best at, in the Church. Now, each gift falls in the context of one of the seven churches. See Figure-3.

<b>GRACE GIFT Rom. 12:6-8</b>		<b>MINISTRY CALLING Eph. 4:11</b>		<b>CHURCH ELEMENT</b>
<b>Sharing</b>	→	<b>Discipler</b>	→	<b>FAITH</b>
<b>Exhortation</b>	→	<b>Witness</b>	→	<b>TRUTH</b>
<b>Prophecy</b>	→	<b>Prophet</b>	→	<b>SPIRITUALITY</b>
<b>Leadership</b>	→	<b>Evangelist</b>	→	<b>POWER</b>
<b>Ministry</b>	→	<b>Pastor</b>	→	<b>MINISTRY</b>
<b>Teaching</b>	→	<b>Teacher</b>	→	<b>DOCTRINE</b>
<b>Mercy</b>	→	<b>Apostle</b>	→	<b>MATURITY</b>

**Figure-3. Gifts, Ministries, and Churches.**

So, each Christian is called to minister in the churches of Faith, Truth, Spirituality, Power, Ministry, Doctrine, and Maturity. These are the ministries of discipling, witnessing, prophecy, evangelism, pastoral, teaching, and apostolic, respectively. And, they correspond exactly with the seven instructional elements of boot camp. So, those who are now re-checking the foundational elements must also be organized according to their grace gifts.

And, Paul says to stick with this calling [1 Cor. 7:20]. So, if you are to be a training evaluator on the east side, you need to determine what gift of grace is predominant in your life. The following details each military aspect to be checked.

**MOTIVATION:** The first thing to check is motivation, that these people really want to engage and defeat the enemy. And, are they further trainable? Will they learn from their first combat how to survive? Do they want to become perfected soldiers [Php. 3:14]? Many are young, having been born in the wilderness, because the old generation has died off. So, if they haven't grown up in training, they must grow up now. They must put away childish things [1 Cor. 13:11]. They must want to go on to maturity [Heb. 6:1-3]. They must want to strive for mastery [1 Cor. 9:25].

What is their source of motivation? It must be God's promises. God promised the Israelites to give them the enemy's land [Jos. 1:2]. To Christians, God promised the kingdom [Luke 12:32]. The context of this element is Faith, and we can still motivate these youngsters by sharing our faith experiences.

**CONDITIONING:** The second thing to check is conditioning, both physical and mental. These fledgling soldiers must be built up, strengthened. They must be conditioned so that they can take hardship. So that they can overcome. Their natural courage must have been developed into confidence, based on God's promise that they will be strengthened by His

presence [Jos. 1:5]. Jesus promised it [John 14:18]. Paul manifested it [2 Tim. 4:16-18]. It's the truth. And, we can still help build up their conditioning by witnessing to the truth of these promises, as manifested in our own lives.

**DUTY:** Do they know about duty? Not a list of individual duties, but the concept, itself. How things get done in the military. As a soldier, what is your duty? God told Joshua that it was to follow the rules [Jos. 1:7]. He promised that the troops would prosper in the warfare to come, only if it was conducted according to His rules, which Moses had just written down. For us, in the teaching context concerning the kingdom of heaven, Jesus said that the old rule-book is still in force [Mat. 5:17-18]. He said that He had come to bring the fullness of the Law. He was anointed to do that [Luke 4:18-19], in all the functions of the five-fold ministry [Eph. 4:11]. So, were these youngsters anointed so that they learned about duty through Jesus' anointing [1 John 2:27], which each soldier should have obtained by putting on Jesus' yoke [Mat. 11:25-30]. He promised us that His yoke is not heavy. So, are these soldiers wearing Jesus' yoke? Do they know about the anointing and spirituality and the prophetic, so that they may hear about duty directly from the Holy Spirit? This must be checked.

**DISCIPLINE:** Are these soldiers disciplined, as required for any military success? God promised the Israelite army success if they would meditate on His word day and night [Jos. 1:8]. That was to be their discipline, their method for insuring obedience in the ranks as the power of God was exercised. For us, that power is exercised in signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit [Rom. 15:19], that the gospel of Jesus might be fully preached [1 Cor. 1:18]. In Christian discipline, the word of God dwells in us richly [Col. 3:16] and we pray continuously [1 Ths. 5:17]. As obedience begins in the mind, so discipline is of the mind. Every perception must be brought captive to the obedience of Christ [2 Cor. 10:5]. And, this word, "obedience," is "hypakouo," literally, "sharpened hearing." Christ's soldier preachers, of whom John the Baptist was the first, must hear the rhema words of God and obey as John did [Luke 3:2]. Have these soldiers been trained in meditation, prayer, hearing, and obedience in the context of power and preaching? Check it out.

**ARMOUR:** Do they know how to use their armor? We're not talking about artillery, but body armor and personal weapons. Joshua told the army that they were moving out in three days, and to get their supplies and arms ready [Jos. 1:10-14]. The Christian soldier's armor consists of six items, all defensive. They are all mental, not metal. They are the shield of faith, the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the rhema word of God [Eph. 6:13-18]. In that order, they correspond to the first six churches. All these items are for protection of the soul. These troops should have been taught how to protect themselves in the context of the pastoral ministry. That is, their instructors should have taught them one-on-one, how to take care of themselves in combat, how to not become casualties.

**TACTICS:** Do these soldiers know elementary tactics? Joshua's recon team came back with the report that God had truly delivered into Israel's hands all the country west of the Jordan, and that the inhabitants were afraid of the Israelites [Jos. 2:24]. In other words, the door to Canaan was unlocked. Do these soldiers know the key tactics that will unlock victory over the enemy?

At the time that Peter identified Jesus as the Christ, He said that no man had revealed that to Peter, but that God had told him [Mat. 16:17]. And John said that it is the anointing

of the Holy Spirit that teaches spiritual things [1 John 2:27]. Next, Jesus gave to Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. And, these keys were the authority to bind and loose on earth and in heaven, simultaneously [Mat. 16:19]. The Christian soldier will bind the strongman and loose his captives, pulling down the strongholds [2 Cor. 10:4]. These are the tactics of spiritual warfare, whose instructional context is the teaching ministry, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Are these tactics second nature to these troops?

**THE ENEMY:** The final item on the east side is specific to this enemy at this time. It is the characteristics and capabilities of the enemy troops. The Lord gave Joshua and the army the names of the seven tribes to be defeated [Jos. 3:10]. The meanings of these Hebrew names identify seven classes of demon documented in the New Testament. They are spirits of antichrist [1 John 4:3], error [1 John 4:6], divination [Acts 16:16], fear [Rom. 8:15], uncleanness [Luke 4:33], slumber [Rom. 11:8], and infirmity [Luke 13:11]. In this order, these demonic types are the natural enemies of the seven churches, taken in their order. The first six attack mentally. The last attacks physically. The instructional context for this item is that of the apostolic ministry.

### **WEST SIDE - TRANSFIGURATION: ORGANIZING THE CHURCH**

With the proper foundation laid and checked, the Church is ready to cross Jordan. In the natural it looks impossible, because it's harvest time and Jordan is overflowing its banks [Jos. 3:15]. But, God has given the Church exact instructions, and the new leader, Joshua, will follow them to the letter. The troops are told that the Ark shall go first, leading the way. And, once they are across the river, they are not to get ahead of the Ark or even too close to it, but are to use it as an indicator of the route of march [Jos. 3:4]. Joshua then tells the soldiers to sanctify themselves, because they are going over. And, the sanctification is their job. They've got to get themselves washed [Eph. 5:26]. Next, God tells Joshua that from now on he will be magnified in the sight of the people, so they will know that God is with the leader. It takes a sanctified Church to see Jesus glorified [Heb. 2:8-11]. And, Joshua is the Hebrew name for Jesus.

It turns out that there are eight military specialties which the troops are going to need on the west side of the river. These are Relief, Guidance, Prophecy, Miracles, Healing, Teaching, Apostling, and Tongues [1 Cor. 12:28]. See Figure-4, below.

<b>CHARACTER TRAITS</b> <b>2 Pet. 1:5-7</b>		<b>MILITARY SPECIALITIES</b> <b>1 Cor. 12:28</b>		<b>PREPARATORY STEP</b> <b>Josua 3-6</b>
<b>Faith</b>	→	<b>Relief</b>	→	<b>Deployment</b>
<b>Godliness</b>	→	<b>Guidance</b>	→	<b>Building Up</b>
<b>Agape Love</b>	→	<b>Prophecy</b>	→	<b>Unit Formation</b>
<b>Virtue</b>	→	<b>Miracles</b>	→	<b>Unit Operations</b>
<b>Self-Control</b>	→	<b>Healing</b>	→	<b>Support Units</b>
<b>Knowledge</b>	→	<b>Teaching</b>	→	<b>Unit Briefings</b>
<b>Patience</b>	→	<b>Apostolic</b>	→	<b>Commander's Appearance</b>
<b>Phileo Love</b>	→	<b>Tongues</b>	→	<b>Final Warning</b>

**Figure-4. Operations.**

In that order, the first seven also match the basic church elements of Faith, Truth, Spirituality, Power, Ministry, Doctrine, and Maturity. Also, Peter told us that there are eight soldierly character traits that we are going to need to be fruitful. These are faith, godliness, agape love, virtue, self-control, knowledge, endurance, and phileo love [2 Pet. 1:5-8]. The first seven of these also match the church elements and first seven military specialties. The eighth character trait, military specialty and pre-combat activity on the west side of the river will be detailed below. Peter said that we need these traits in order to see and to not fall. The first trait, faith, will get us across the river.

**DEPLOYMENT:** Joshua has instructed the priests, exactly. They are to carry the ark to the river's edge and then step in. Now, this is going to be a step of faith. In the natural, the river is over its banks, flooding down its course. But, Joshua has also prophesied what is going to happen, that the river is going to pile up in a heap, just as soon as the priests' feet touch it [Jos. 3:13]. It's going to be a replay of the crossing of the Red Sea, except that instead of Moses parting the waters, it's going to be a result of the priests' faith. As soon as the feet of the priests carrying the Ark touch the Jordan, it recoils back all the way to a town named Adam, in the vicinity of Zeratan [Jos. 3:16], whose name means "pierced."

The harvest floodwaters cannot resist the workers of the Lord of the Harvest [Luke 10:2]. The waters roll back to the first Adam, because now have come the servants of the Last Adam [1 Cor. 15:45], the one who was pierced [John 19:34]. And so, the natural waters yield to the spiritual [1 Cor. 15:46]. The river dries up, so the soldiers can see where they are walking and won't fall. God has created a temporary land bridge for the soldiers. And they pour through to form a bridgehead. Peter said that likewise our entrance into Jesus' kingdom shall be fully furnished to us [2 Peter 1:3-11]. He says that we won't fall if

we can discern Jesus well enough. And, that our vision will be okay if we are diligent in the eight character attributes.

Eight is the number characterizing new beginnings as a result of faith. Eight marks Noah coming out of the ark and Jesus coming out of the tomb. So, the context of going over to form a bridgehead is that of a new beginning for the operational church, as a result of a step of faith. It is here that the first military specialty comes in, because we are a relief expedition. We are going over against the principalities and powers on the west side, to release from bondage those held captive in strongholds.

Deployment is the committing of the church to spiritual warfare.

**BUILD-UP:** Tribe by tribe, they build up the invading force. The tribes represent every sort of person. The Hebrew word meanings of the tribal names plus Jacob's character sketches [Gen. 49] of his sons and grandsons, describe many sorts of people. There are leaders (Judah), overcomers (Gad), graceful (Joseph), blessed (Asher), wage-earners (Issachar), merchants (Zebulun), and militants (Benjamin). And, there are also the independent (Levi), reckless (Naphtali), unstable (Reuban), and judgmental (Dan). Then, there are those fruitful in affliction, representing the end-times fullness of the gentiles (Ephraim).

This army, carrying all its gear, has come across Jordan, straight toward its first objective, Jericho. Again, it's like the Red Sea crossing, because they have come across, unopposed. The enemy is not in sight. And, like the Red Sea, the people see their salvation, and realize that God's word has been performed. They see the truth about God and Joshua. They compare that truth to the truth they know about themselves. And, they wonder how God will organize this force so that these very different personality types can work together, in unity.

There is only one way that the Christian army is going to be unified on the west side of the river. And, Jesus described it when He prayed for the Church. Just before Jesus went to the Cross, He asked His Father that the Church might be perfected in unity in the same manner that Jesus and the Father were unified [John 17:9-23]. And, that is individual by individual. The Christian in Jesus and Jesus in the Christian. Only those who are each in Him are unified with each other. As a matter of definition, the unified Church is composed of all those who are individually in Christ. The unified Church is not a physical entity, it is spiritual. And, how does one know if one is "in Christ?" By the fruit one bears [John 15:5]. So, this buildup to a unified army points forward to fruit, the spoils of war. And, it will take soldiers of godly character, operating in the guidance specialty, to steer Christians to this truth about the nature of unity.

Build-up is marshaling a diversity of believers for a common effort at spiritual warfare.

**UNIT FORMATION:** The troops have been piling in from twelve different depots. Now, the mass of personnel must be formed into the select units needed for combat operations. To sort them out, their records must be checked and they must stand another inspection. The first thing Joshua did was make sure everyone was established in God's Covenant. That is, Joshua had all the warriors inspected and circumcised, who weren't previously [Jos. 5:3]. Circumcision was the token of God's old covenant. For the Christian New Covenant, the token is a circumcised heart. So, the present physical is a heart check. And, those with whom God has the Covenant are called select, or elect. Recall Peter's instruction to get established in your calling and in your selection [2 Pet. 1:10], if you want to be fruitful. The callings governed the training units on the east side of the River. But, selection points at the

makeup of the operational units in the combat area. These units will be made up around the eight military specialties. It's going to be a different kind of army, because eight is God's number characterizing a new way of doing things.

<b>CHARACTER TRAITS</b> <b>2 Pet. 1:5-7</b>		<b>MILITARY SPECIALITIES</b> <b>1 Cor. 12:28</b>		<b>OPERATIONAL GIFT</b> <b>1 Cor. 12:8-10</b>
<b>Faith</b>	→	<b>Relief</b>	→	<b>Faith</b>
<b>Godliness</b>	→	<b>Guidance</b>	→	<b>Discernment</b>
<b>Agape Love</b>	→	<b>Prophecy</b>	→	<b>Prophecy</b>
<b>Virtue</b>	→	<b>Miracles</b>	→	<b>Miracles</b>
<b>Self-Control</b>	→	<b>Healing</b>	→	<b>Healing</b>
<b>Knowledge</b>	→	<b>Teaching</b>	→	<b>Knowledge</b>
<b>Patience</b>	→	<b>Apostolic</b>	→	<b>Wisdom</b>
<b>Phileo Love</b>	→	<b>Tongues</b>	→	<b>Tongues</b>
			→	<b>Interpretation</b>

**Figure-5. Correlation of Specialties and Operational Gifts.**

The eight soldierly traits and military specialties correspond to the nine operational gifts (energymata) of the Holy Spirit in the following order: Faith, Discernment, Prophecy, Miracles, Healing, Knowledge, Wisdom, Tongues, and Interpretation [1 Cor. 12:8-10], as shown in Figure-5. The last two gifts, tongues and interpretation, when taken together, correspond to edifying (building up) the Church [1 Cor. 14:5].

Jesus said that your selection for this army and the choice of specialty are up to Him, not you [John 15:16]. That's because Jesus' reason for assigning you to a particular specialty is so that you may bear lasting fruit, and so that God may answer your prayers. That's also why the specialties are linked to the Romans-12 (motivating) gifts of grace. When you are in the specialty Jesus has chosen for you, it will be the one for which you are most motivated. And, the Holy Spirit will endow you with the operational gift necessary for execution of your specialty.

Jesus gave the commands concerning selection and military specialty so that we might love (agape) one another [John 15:17]. And, agape love is the character trait that matches the prophecy specialty that points at the present Unit Formation phase of preparation for combat. So, the formation of the units on the west side of the river is under the oversight of the prophets of the Church, so that Jesus' selection may be rightly understood and implemented.

Formation is organizing the church for spiritual warfare.

**UNIT OPERATIONS:** After completing the circumcision, Joshua hears from God that He has removed the reproach of Egypt from the army [Jos. 5:8-9]. The Israelites had been a people in bondage and subject to reproach. Now, they are an army doing the will of God, and they are no longer subject to reproach by anybody. Indeed, the inhabitants of this kingdom are now terrified because of the presence of this army [Jos. 2:9]. They are terrified because when the units become operational, they will be operating in the miraculous power of God.

A Church which manifests power and miracles is an army destined for glory. And, Paul says that the Christian Church is called to the kingdom and glory [1 Ths. 2:12]. The Church is to be glorious [Eph. 5:27]. And, when is that? Only in eternity? It is when Christ shall appear [Col. 3:4]. And, He shall appear in the Church, in the time period of the Great Tribulation [1 John 3:2]. The Church shall be changed into His glorious likeness, as it goes from glory to glory [2 Cor. 3:18].

Jesus was glorified in body before He fought His major battle on the Cross. It was the occasion when Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, eight days after He had revealed His last move to the apostles [Luke 9:28-36]. Elijah and Moses point at the accompaniment of the glorification of the Body of Christ with the return of the prophet and apostle. Now, the bible says that Elijah shall return, just before the Great Tribulation [Mal. 4:5]. And, the last move in the Church is the move of the apostle. So, Elijah points at the sixth move, and Moses at the seventh.

During the transfiguration incident, Peter made an offer to build three shelters (tabernacles) for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. The offer was ignored. This would pass as a curious but unuseful piece of information, except that God doesn't put useless information in the bible. Now, tabernacles immediately suggest the Feast of Tabernacles, which is the seventh feast, the one that corresponds to the apostolic phase of the Church. The ignoring of Peter's offer suggests that Tabernacles is not the proper context for the incident of Elijah and the Glorification. What does fit the context is the Feast of Atonement, the sixth Feast, just previous to Tabernacles. The new testament words, atonement and reconciliation, are the same in Greek. Now, Paul, writing in the context of renewal in the end-times, says that the Church is given the ministry of reconciliation (atonement) [2 Cor. 5:18]. And, atonement also means "at-one-ment," getting the Church unified. This is the unity that Jesus prayed for [John 17:9-23]. So, we infer that the return of Elijah and the glorification of the Body of Christ, the Church, is during the sixth phase, the Teaching Church, on the west side of the river.

The requisite military specialty for becoming operational is miracles. And, the character trait is manliness, or virtue as it is also called. Because it takes virtuous character to wield the power of God.

Becoming operational is activating the functions of spiritual warfare.

**SUPPORT UNITS:** Camped in the plains of Jericho, the army observes Passover and eats the stored grain of the land [Jos. 5:10-11]. This is the corn which is to be used for the "meat" offering [Lev. 2:14]. It is strong food, "meat." They have sought first the kingdom of God, and He has added to them everything they will need [Mat. 6:33]. Likewise, Jesus said that He had "meat" that no one knew about. His "meat" was to do the will of God and to complete that work [John 4:34]. Later, Jesus said that He is our "meat." We internalize Him

and He does the work, living out of us [John 6:53-57]. Soldiers live on supplies. We live on (in) Jesus. He is our spiritual meat.

As to the physical necessities, Paul does not assure us that we will never be in want. What he does say is that even if in want, we will each be able to do everything (necessary), in the One who empowers us, Christ [Php. 4:13]. Notice that again the word is "in." To the Philippians, which was the only church supporting Paul, he promised that God would supply every need (of theirs) from His riches in glory in Jesus. That is, the glory that Jesus brings (through us) to the Father is the supply from which we are supplied. Thus, Supply follows Glory to God. And, it behooves us to support those who bring glory to God. And, it behooves us to bring glory to God, that we may be supported.

This fifth activity on the west side of the river corresponds to the pastoral ministry. And, the Greek word for pastor is the same as for shepherd, the one who takes care of the flock. The one who tends to others before himself. Like a medic. Or a chaplain. One who doesn't carry a weapon, but is still exposed to fire. So, the requisite soldierly character trait is self-control. And, the military specialty is healing. As in the laying on of hands.

Support is ensuring the necessary logistics backing up the spiritual warriors.

**UNIT BRIEFINGS:** The day after the soldiers got the stored corn, the manna stopped [Jos. 5:12]. It had been going all the time the Church was out in the wilderness. But, now that they are a unified army, it has stopped. From now on, Israel would eat of all the fruit of Canaan. It's like Jesus told the priests and Pharisees. The kingdom of God shall be taken away from those who don't produce fruit from it [Mat. 21:43]. It will be given to those who can produce. And, such will be the case once again, during the Great Tribulation. It's like Paul said. "*Who pays his own way, fighting a war?*" [1 Cor. 9:7]. The idea is to capture as much as you can. To gain the spoils of war.

The briefings are to define the specific objectives in the upcoming campaign. On the east side of the river, before deployment, the characteristics and tactics of the enemy were learned in general. Now is needed the exact description of the enemy holdings. Those which are to be destroyed and those that are to be seized and brought back as spoils. And, we have this information. We had a recon team in here a few weeks ago, gathering intelligence [Jos. 2:1]. So, we know what the enemy has.

Jesus used the word, "spoils" only once. Then, it was in reference to spiritual warfare, seizing the goods from those who keep strongholds [Mat. 12:29]. Jesus said that we were going to bind those strongmen and take their goods from them. And, the Greek word for "goods" is the same as for "vessels," which describes many different sorts of persons in the New Testament. So, the spoils are persons, whom the enemy has locked up in strongholds. Paul tells us that there are vessels of wrath and vessels of mercy [Rom. 9:22-23]. God will tolerate both kinds right up until He makes a short work on the earth. And that will be harvest time [Mat. 13:30].

These Unit Briefings require the military specialty of the teacher, working with the soldierly trait of knowledge. And, of the three kinds of Greek knowledge, this is precisely the one provided by the Holy Spirit in words of knowledge [1 Cor. 12:8]. It is supernatural, spiritual knowledge.

Briefing comprises the last training element covering the specifics of the spiritual combat about to ensue. It focuses on the characteristics of the strongholds to be attacked, and the command structure of the enemy.

**COMMANDER'S APPEARANCE:** As Joshua goes to reconnoiter Jericho, suddenly a man appears before him with a drawn sword. This figure says that he has now come as Captain of the Lord's host [Jos. 5:13-15]. The "now" suggests other "comings." Then, the Captain speaks the same words to Joshua that God spoke to Moses on top of Mt. Sinai. And Joshua worships Him. Our Captain is Jesus. And, He looks a lot different than when He was last on Earth [Rev. 1:13-18]. This time, He comes in power and glory. He comes as Lord of Hosts. Because the Great Tribulation is also known as the Day of the Lord. And, Jesus will give us detailed instructions for our battles, just as that Captain did for Joshua. This is the same One who appeared in power and glory to the Church, twice before on two separate days of Pentecost. First on Mt. Sinai [Ex. 20:18], then in Jerusalem [Acts 2:1-4]. Each time, He came to enable the Church. Each time He was unseen, but He appeared. Now, the third time will be the same. Again, we will see Him by His glory in the Church. And, we must learn to recognize Him in His final, victorious role as divine head of the Church.

The appearance of The Commander is the seventh activity on the west side of the river. It signals the imminent commencement of hostilities. And, it will be the Church which goes on the offensive, attacking the enemy where it lives. At this point the character trait required is patience. It'll only be a few days more. It's the long-prophesied time of restoration preached by Peter, at the very beginning of the first manifestation of the apostles in the Church [Acts 3:21]. And, it begins with the appearance of Jesus in the Church in the end-times, signaling the commencement of the restored manifestation of the apostolic phase of the Church. The appearance of Jesus in the church is the manifestation of the readiness of the command. It will occur just before large-scale spiritual warfare commences.

**FINAL WARNING:** Because the context of this west side pre-combat operation is teaching, it is appropriate that this military phase conclude with a warning from God about false teaching. Joshua's first battle started with trumpets [Jos. 6:16], just as the Great Tribulation shall start with trumpets [Rev. 8:6]. But, just before, the instruction was given that the city was accursed, and the soldiers should stay away from the accursed thing [Jos. 6:18]. That is, they should not pick up anything that was either to be destroyed or to be given over to God. For the Christian army, there is also that which is accursed. Paul said that any one who preaches a perverted gospel should be accursed, and the word is "anathema," meaning excommunicated [Gal. 1:6-10]. And, "perverted" means to weaken by bending (in order to please men). Peter, also, speaks of "cursed children," being false teachers [2 Pet. 1:16-2:22]. This word, "cursed," means literally "prayed down," and is the same word Jesus used describing those He would send to Hell [Mat. 25:41]. And, so, this is the most serious warning, possible.

The Sixth Move of God in reformation of the Church is a teaching phase, just before the combat commencement of the Seventh Move, the Great Tribulation. But, teaching does not cease at the end of the Sixth Move. Those who are freed from bondage during the Seventh Move will require teaching. In fact, many of them will be brought out of bondage by being exposed to the doctrine of this army. And that doctrine must be sound. That is why the last event in the pre-combat phase on the west side is a stern warning about doctrine.

Administering the Warning takes the character trait of phileo love. The specialty is, curiously enough, tongues (and interpretation). And, the combination of tongues and interpretation is equivalent to prophecy [1 Cor. 14:5]. So, teaching in the combat zone will be judged prophetically, in brotherly love, according to the Warning.

## **SUMMING IT UP - PRACTICALLY**

What does this spiritual picture mean practically to The Church, in general, and to a local congregation, in particular? How did these spiritualities apply to my own local church, which, in 1995, was standing on the east bank of Jordan?

What it means is this. The Church is now entering a time of preparation for the intense spiritual warfare connected with the time of the Great Tribulation. The Day of the Lord. The time of the Great Harvest. During the time of preparation, the focus of the Church will be on teaching. Not on what men want to hear, but on what the Bible specifically says. The teaching, itself, will be focused on preparing for war. And on the corporate Church. The ministries of the Church. It will be a time of great shaking out of ministries.

There will be two parts to this move of God. The first will be to make sure a proper foundation has been laid, the "east-side" phase. Teaching will be focused on the seven-fold nature of the corporate Church and its ministries. Church teaching will be restructured in both content and approach. This will ensure the teaching and understanding of Jesus' six-fold foundation, following David's six-fold approach. For some in the Church, it will seem just a repackaging of familiar scriptures in a new context, with a new focus. Blessed are those who see it that way. To others, it will be as though they have never seen the Bible before, an exciting eye-opener. Blessed are they, also.

The second part of this move, the "west-side" phase, will see changes in the Church's ministerial structure, to align it with the eight-fold work areas of [1 Cor. 12:28]. This is not just renaming the titles of a few professional clergy. This is a substantial augmentation, modification, and even elimination of some work areas. And, it will involve a massive infusion of lay workers into ministry. This realignment is what I have described above as the transfiguring of the Church, in terms of preparing for large-scale spiritual warfare. These changes will be both in and outside the established churches.

Those churches which make this transition will see glory on a scale not seen in the Church before. These will be the churches that will be effective during the Great Tribulation. And, Jesus will cause those that continue to just "play church" to come and worship before the feet of the glory churches [Rev. 3:9].

The only real question is whether or not established churches can do what is necessary to enter into this next to last move of God in His continuing reformation of His Church. Alternatively, will born-again evangelical believers leave inflexible local churches and band together to form "West-side Churches?" Time will tell.

## **POSTSCRIPT.**

This article was written in 1995 and is now reproduced because of its increasing relevance. It was prompted by a local church that was poised to go on to completion. In the event, it didn't. What followed was a sovereign move by the Lord in 1997, to reveal to a small prayer group why that church had not made the transition to mature spirituality. What was more important was that the revelation applied to the entire Christian Church, of which the local church was a part. Those prophetic revelations came to be known as Impartations-97. They resulted in a book, published in 2002, entitled The Church Visited. Crossing Jordan has been slightly revised and is now presented because of its continuing relevance to what is happening in today's churches.