

Finishing Well

Lesson #22

Enemies That War In My Soul: Giant #2

June 16, 2021

Josh. 3:9-10 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God. ¹⁰ And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

Numbers 33:52-53, 55 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan, ⁵² then you shall drive out ALL the inhabitants of the land [our soul- mind, will, emotions] from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; ⁵³ you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess. (Promise) But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. [Consequences of Disobedience & Unbelief]

The Hittites, known as the "Sons of Terror," are mentioned more than 50 times in the Bible.

Gen. 10:15 Descended from Heth - [Noah > Ham > Canaan > Heth = Hittites]

Gen. 23:3-20 Abraham bought the burial cave for Sarah from the Hittites. [Ephron the Hittite]

Gen. 26:34 Esau took wives from among the Hittites. Rebecca despised them.

Joshua 1:4 includes their territory as a great part of the Promised Land for Israel.

II Sam. 11:3 Uriah the Hittite, one of David's mighty men, was killed to acquire his wife.

Ezra 9:1 The Hittites are mentioned throughout the kingdom years and even after the Jews' return from captivity.

The Hittites had a military inclination and were a great power in the area before the Israelites entered the land of Canaan. They instilled physical fear in the Israelites.

In 1440 BC, Caleb discovered Hittites in Canaan. When Moses brought the Jews to Kadesh-Barnea at the entrance of the Land, he sent out a patrol of twelve men to make a reconnaissance and advise him. Num 13:29 tells us that three of the toughest warlike people lived in the land in the mountainous areas: the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites.

The Hittites' Religion Was A Pluralistic Worship Of Nature.

They were called "the land of 1000 gods," who were over the elements of earth, sky, weather, etc. As in most other pagan societies, this nature worship led to despicable practices which brought the wrath of the true God. God commanded Israel to drive out ALL inhabitants to eliminate the pagan practices which would ensnare God's people.

Ex. 23:28-30; 32-33 And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. ²⁹ I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee.

³⁰ By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. ³²Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

³³ They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

According to I Kings 9:20 and Judges 3:5-7, the Jews lived among the Hittites and others who were not conquered, resulting in intermarriage and eventually serving their gods. In this they compromised doctrine, for God had ordered them not to intermarry. Social compromise leads to the destruction of the nation. The result = Jews never drove the Hittites out of the Land.

➤ When those who have true doctrine compromise doctrine, they are destroyed.

Fears That Affect Man - Fill us with dread and terror

1. Fear of Dying - the uncertainty of it
2. Fear of failure - I'm sure I will fail.
3. Fear of being exposed as worthless - We wear a mask outside home.
4. Fear of pain
5. Fear of embarrassment - What will others think of me?
6. Fear of insecurity
7. Fear of unemployment
8. Fear of sickness
9. Fear of rejection by others
10. Fear of men - Will they forsake me if they disagree?
11. Fear of shame will yield feelings of intimidation

Reactions to fear, dread and terror:

➤ Carnal self: FEARS being hurt by others.

We erect WALLS to protect self from being hurt➤ aggression; shyness; aloofness

Exposing The Spirit Of Fear: The Spirit of Fear Started in Eden.

Genesis 3:10 So Adam said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." What a tragic statement!

The basis of fear is "conscience troubles" brought about by the guilt of disobedience.

- When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree, their conscience came alive.
- When Adam and Eve were enticed by Satan to rebel against God's rule, fear flowed in the human personality. Love for God left Adam and fear flowed in to replace it.
- At that moment Adam was spiritually disconnected from God.
- When a plug is pulled out from the socket it loses touch with the source of power.
- The root cause of unhealthy fear is isolation from God.

Paul teaches in Romans 2:14, the conscience is the sense that differentiates between right and wrong. The conscience will condemn or approve our thoughts and actions.

Too often we make decisions by what we fear instead of by what God has said.

Our conscience is a poor guide as to what is or what is not the will of God.

It is the Word of God that must judge us as to what is right or wrong.

Purpose Hittite Spirit:

A. Destroy human lives by instilling fear, dread, terror and intimidation

- Fear has been called man's deadliest enemy.
- Fears, unfounded and unreasonable, tormenting and persistent, can destroy man's peace and happiness.
- Fear can destroy the total person - body, soul and spirit.
- Fear heads the list of mind-originating sicknesses. [>80% are psychosomatic]
 - ❖ Headaches, asthma, high blood pressure and arthritis can all be caused by fear.
- Fear and worry are the interest man pays on trouble before it is due.

A computer expert has concluded that 92% of fears are in the imagination and not based on facts; they will never come to reality.

The classic situation is when a husband is late coming home. As the time passes a fiery arrow is fired by Satan into the mind of the wife. "He has been involved in an accident."

By the time he arrives home 1 hour later than normal - because of road work and a traffic jam - she is crying hysterically and shaking with fear, having listened to the thought in the imagination and persuaded herself that some harm has befallen her husband.

- The enemy has done his work again of robbing her of peace of mind.
- Thoughts not based on facts are dangerous. God is in control of the tiniest matter.

Consider: If man does not conquer the fears of the imagination, he will experience what Job experienced.

Job 3:25. For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me. There is a very real power in fear.

The fears of the imagination are entirely man's own fault. If the enemy whispers into the mind; "Perhaps he has had an accident." Reject the thought. It is not based on truth.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

Biblical Examples of the Hittite Spirit at Work

A. The Spirit Of Fear brings Intimidation, Fear and Discouragement

1. Gen. 12:10-20 Fear attacked Abraham: He was afraid if the Egyptians knew that Sarah was his wife, they would kill him. He put his wife's life at risk because of his fear.
2. Gen. 31:31 Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I said, 'Perhaps you would take your daughters from me by force.'
3. Israel, under Moses, was afraid to possess the land - the Hittite spirit. There were giants in the land. They LOST the inheritance God had for them. The spirit of FEAR was successful in its attempt to rob, kill and steal.
4. Num. 21:1-4 [Aaron just died. Coming to end of the wilderness wanderings]

King Arad heard that Israel was coming. He fought against Israel and took captives. They vowed to utterly destroy the Canaanites and their cities if the Lord would give them victory. To "utterly destroy" meant to devote something completely to the Lord [Lev. 27:28-29; Deut. 7:2-6], wiping out the people and their cities and giving all the spoils to God.

God accepted the vow and Israel, with God's help, won the battle.

- This first victory certainly encouraged the Israelites, but it's one thing to "mount up with wings like eagles" and quite something else to "walk and not faint."
- Courage in the battle must be followed by endurance in the race.
- Because the Edomites wouldn't give Israel right-of-way through their land, Moses had to lead the people east of Edom and then north through difficult terrain.
- It didn't take long before the difficulty of the march made the people impatient, and they started complaining again.
- The Hittite spirit did damage - "and the souls of the people were discouraged because of the way." Warfare is not easy. When things get rough, we often fear, grumble and complain. God will allow the hardness of our ways to test our resolve and our faith.
- The Hittite spirit will try to steal your faith and replace it with fear and dread.
- Has terror ever gripped you when you had to face some unknown thing?

5. Saul was afraid of Goliath and hid in his tent. Fear gripped him.

6. I Sam 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Saul feared the people rather than God and did not kill Agag the King of the Amalekites as he had been commanded to do by God.

His disobedience resulted in God tearing the Kingdom from Saul.

7. Gideon was afraid of his family.

Judges 6:12, 14-16 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valor. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? ¹⁵ And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. ¹⁶ And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

²⁵It came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: ²⁶ And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down. ²⁷ Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.

8. Elijah the prophet ran from Jezebel when the way was hard.

9. Jeremiah cursed the day he was born because of that way.

- It is hard to lead a people when they are always in a rejecting mood.

10. Jonah, afraid of the Assyrians who were brutal in dealing with their enemies, feared for his very life. Fear led Jonah to disobey the Word of God.

11. Matt. 1:18-25 Joseph's betrothed [Mary] was pregnant. He was not the father of the child. Fear of what people would think and what they would say.

- God intervened and sent an angel. "Fear not. Take Mary as your wife."
- Truth: When man experiences fear, he should let God speak into the situation. He knows the source of the fear and the harm it can do, if man allows it to grip him.

12. Mark 6:20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him.

13. Peter was afraid of what others would say and he denied the Lord.

Consequences of fear

1. Physical consequences: Dan. 5:5 Belshazzar saw the writing on the wall and fear gripped him. In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

⁶ Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.

Man can feel fear coursing through his body. Hair stands on end. Fear can trigger off all kinds of physical diseases. The book "None of These Diseases" suggests that fear can produce up to 51 diseases in the body, including a heart attack. Fear can even kill.

2. Emotional consequences: Fear of failure can paralyze a person from achieving his full potential. No one is at his best unless he is free from unhealthy fear.

Fear can make life a wretched experience and warp the personality. [Saul - I Sam. 28]

"Fear is a dark room where negatives are developed."

3. Spiritual consequences: While fear affects the emotions, there are instances of demonic activity. A demon of fear can prevent you from doing God's will in your life. You will make excuses for not obeying. [Moses, Jonah] Fear can render you useless in God's work.

Consider: I cannot be a successful growing Christian if I am filled with constant fear, worry and fretfulness. I cannot live a pleasing life to God if I am discouraged and dismayed and frequently yielding to my emotions and thoughts that are bathed in fear.

B. Fear undermines our trust and faith in God through the Bondage Of Fear.

- Demons need fertile soil in which to operate.
- The Hittite spirit encourages believers to deny the Lord and their faith.
- Satan whispers: "What will your friends and family say? Think how they will laugh and ridicule. What a fool you will look." Many believers say nothing, struck down through fear.

Fear is faith against God. Fear is a destroyer and can rule your life.

- Fear is actually faith in the power of the adversary, the devil, and not in God.

Mark 4:40 Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Rom. 8:15 For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. [Know, Reckon, Yield, Thanks]

Command: The word "FEAR NOT" is used approximately 300 times in the Bible.

Disobedience to this command: When you allow your carnal mind to take over and not the new spiritual mind, you too become fearful.

- Yielding to fear and terror bring about human effort instead of trust in God.
 1. Fear will cripple me from acting and it will defeat me before the battle really begins.
 2. Fear will stop me in my tracks as I seek to serve God.
 3. Fear will stop me from acting on what God has commanded or called me to do.
 4. Fear will waste me...drain me...make me timid.
 5. Fear can prevent me from inheriting the blessings of God in my life.

Fear can steal some of my rewards. It is tragic that many believers never possess their true inheritance and experience the abundant life and the "fullness of Jesus Christ."

Many will forfeit part of their inheritance when they stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

6. You will be open to fear and anxiety which reveals you do not truly believe that God is in control of your life. Fear casts doubt on that fact.

- A wall of defense has to be built up to counter fear. Study of the Word of God confirms that nothing happens in this world, but it must first pass His desk for approval.

In obedience to the Lord, we are to be spiritually minded.

I Cor. 2:16 The believer has the mind of Christ. At conversion you receive a new spirit, which enables you to know God and understand the things of God, including the Word of God.

Command: Rom. 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

II Tim. 1:7 "God has not given man a spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind."

- A sound mind is not filled with confusion and fear.
- Demonic powers will fight to keep their place in your mind and thinking.
- It is faith, which conquers fear, in the battleground of the mind.

The mind is like a reception desk in a hotel. Not everyone who comes to the desk gets into the hotel. A person has to have a reservation. Not every thought, which comes into the human mind is worthy of entering and lodging in the mind. Man has to train his mind to receive thoughts from God and to reject thoughts from the enemy.

- Now that "weed" is pulled out, there is an empty space.

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. [God's filter for your thoughts]

Samuel Ridout in his excellent book 'Lectures on the Book of Judges' makes the following convicting, challenging comment - "The Hittites dwell everywhere, and if you allow them, they will settle down in your midst. They will close your mouths, so you will be afraid to speak. Why is there so much silence amongst God's beloved people? Why is there so little testimony in the gospel, so little ministry amongst the saints, so few voices heard in prayer and praise in the assemblies? Is it not because the Hittites are allowed to dwell right in our very midst? You are afraid to speak a word for the Lord Jesus, afraid to lift up your voice in thanksgiving - to lead the prayers and praises to Christ Jesus. You are afraid to take your stand for Christ and confess Him fully - afraid to do that which your conscience and the Word of God declare should be done. The Hittite empire is indeed a wide one - it reaches everywhere and their dwelling amongst us is a witness how we have failed to cast them out. There is a call from Him to rise now and put them from us; to be done with fear, to be done with all this terror, this holding back, and to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might!"

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice."

Ps. 91:1 He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalms 27:1 "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation--whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the Refuge and Stronghold of my life--of whom shall I be afraid?"

Isaiah 35:4 "Say to those who are of a fearful and hasty heart, Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance; with the recompense of God He will come and save you."

Hebrews 13:6 "So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?"

Ps 56:3 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.