

## The New Joshua Generation

I recently spent 8 days in Alberta, Canada, taking in the sights from the Stampede (Rodeo) in Calgary to the beauty of Lake Louise, Banff and Jasper. The water in this part of Father's world is some of the most beautiful on the planet. One day we spent an hour or so at a turn-in which was simply marked "Confluence." I knew that meant the coming together of two rivers or streams; but I was unprepared for how powerfully the waters run in the glacial rivers of Alberta. I was also unprepared for the eye-popping colors! First, notice the joining of the two different streams, each rushing headlong from the mountains to this point of convergence or joining, thus the name "Confluence."



The water nearest me was from one mountain, the lighter colored water in the distance from another. The spot where you are looking is exactly where these two streams come together.

They then form a new river or stream here and continue their race to the ocean. This area is called the Athabasca portage.

Now take a look at some of the fury with which this water moved. This second picture is at a spot where the ground sloped more, making the water move even faster. Mind you, these photos were taken at the end of July, hardly the season of Spring melting! It is noted that locals point out that the waters in Alberta don't bubble like brooks, they roar. I can attest to this!



We took some time to be with the Lord right at the Confluence. I just happened to be reading Chapters three and four of the Book of Joshua. All of a sudden, what I was reading seem to jump right out of the Word and come alive as I sat beside that stream. Here is what I was reading:

3:14

When the people set out to cross the Jordan, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them.

3:15

Now it was the harvest season, and **the Jordan was overflowing its banks**. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge,

3:16

**the water began piling up at a town *upstream* called Adam**, which is near Zarethan. **And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry**. Then all the people crossed over near the city of Jericho.

As I sat by this raging stream of water, I was awed at the words I was reading in the Scripture. How in the world could this have happened? Can you picture this with me?

Here was water in a stream raging *down* from some mountain heading for the Dead Sea. In the exact place He chose, God just put up an invisible hand and absolutely stopped that water dead in its tracks, 'er, its creek bed! Water on one side of His hand flowed on down to the Dead Sea until it was all gone, but on the other side there was water raging and piling up and raging and piling up higher and raging and..... oh my goodness! Isn't that incredible? How in the world did God do that? I don't know! What a hand He must have! What can I learn from this?

1. Nothing is hard for God. Nothing is impossible for God.
2. What God says He will do, He does. And does well.
3. He has power undreamt of by mere mortals.
4. He performed **this** miracle so that others would know He had chosen Joshua to lead God's people as they appropriated the land God was giving them. He always performs miracles to draw attention to Himself.

Joshua seems to have been a man of incredible integrity, prayer, faith and obedience. I cannot recall anywhere in the Scriptures where it is recorded that Joshua compromised his walk with the Lord. I find it wondrous that when God told him how he would confirm him publicly, Joshua moved right out in obedience to God. He neither doubted that God would perform His promise; neither did he get arrogant and haughty at the position of service God called him to.

There are reports afoot right now of God working miracles in our world today, just like Jesus did during His ministry in the flesh. They run the gamut from multiplication of food to healing the blind to raising the dead. Every time a miracle is reported, unbelievers who see it are converted on the spot to Jesus. They get radically convinced of His divinity because the miracles prove the truth of the Christian witness. Most of these reports detailing whom God is using to work through note that He performs such acts through unknown and unheralded folk. The other

interesting note about those he is using so powerfully is that they are humble and unassuming. They only bring attention to Christ; it doesn't seem to enter their minds to bring attention to themselves. Such miracles provide indisputable proof that there is no substitute for His power; no program, no organization, no slick presenter, only Him.

As I live in our present world system, it seems to me that as history unfolds itself, there are interesting trumpets being blown. What I'm talking about here are trumpets of opinion, trumpets of interpretation of events, all being blown loudly by different factions.

1. One group screams that terrorists are going to completely destroy known civilization, especially Christians and Jews.
2. An opposing group trumpets that the first group is just making all this up.
3. A lot of western Christians seem to take their opinions from one of the first two groups, then if they go to church, they go, they perhaps pray for peace, then race home to see how much worse things have become.
4. A final group is one that no one hears much from. In the realm of the spiritual, they are the blood-kin of Joshua. They take their stance on national and international events as part of God's plan to bring men and women and children into His kingdom of peace, righteousness and joy in the Holy Spirit. This group seems to live by a different agenda.

So how does each group impact their world for Christ? I don't know. I think that for much of my life I have been a member of group 3 above. I can get riveted to TV news about all the crises swirling around us. I have found myself thinking more than once that we are all going to kill ourselves with such hatred and animosity raging around the earth. This is followed by the thought that the Lord had better come and just wipe out the whole thing and end this earth venture. We can then let the end unfold as He has planned it – and those who know Him can be happy with Him in heaven forever.

But lately, having been pricked with hope by the reports of what the Lord is doing in various places of the world, most of them being anywhere but in Europe or North America, I have begun to reexamine my life. How do I indeed look at world events? How does my faith fuel my hope? Are we who embrace Jesus as our Savior victims of world politics and world terrorism? Why are there waiting lines to enlist as a martyr for Allah and none for Jesus? Am I more concerned with the plans of men, both plans for good and plans for bad, than I am with God's plans? Do I really believe the Lord Jesus is supreme over all the devices and stratagems of governments and nations?

If I do, would it not behoove me to really throw myself wholly into His purposes and plans? In other words, I should find out what is happening in HIS world today, what HE is doing throughout the earth. And the answer? He is alive and well, He is moving with great power and authority. He is bringing His Kingdom to bear in the hearts of people all over the world! And exactly whom is He using to do this? Little folks; humble folks; folks who are uncompromisingly His; folks who believe everything He says; folks who obey Him – immediately – when He speaks to them; folks who delight in giving up control of their lives, their ministry, their church! Folks willing, if you will, to hand over the trumpet song they’ve been singing, and let Him blow a victorious new song through their hearts and their lips and their lives! These are the ones He is using!

So what trumpet song, I ask myself, am I singing? What message do my words and my life speak to others? I have decided that my witness, my “seeable” testimony, is mediocre at best. I have allowed myself to settle for “being comfortable” in the church as it is; I enjoy leading worship and speaking or teaching when and where the Lord opens doors. I like being valued and looked up to by other brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. **I AM NOT CONSUMED WITH LIVING OUT A LIFE BEFORE THE LORD THAT REALLY SCREAMS “THY KINGDOM COME! THEY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH!”** As a consequence, the power of God in my life has been far too muted - - by my personal lukewarmness.

Rushing waters being dammed up by faith in God alone;  
fearless proclamation of the Gospel, the consequences not even being considered;  
letting God do everything He wills through me so others will be stunned by His power and surrender to His call to conversion.

Oh God, I want you to move in my life! Oh my Father, I repent!

As I type these words at my desk, I am making a considered decision to give up. I hereby give up my carnal “Christian” values. I come to You, Lord, and I speak my heart to You. God, I am poor. I am blind and wretched and naked and miserable. I come to You, to buy from You gold refined in the fire of Your holiness, that I might be truly rich. Father, I come to buy from You holy white garments, that I may be clothed with Your beauty, so that the shame of my carnal walk may not be revealed. And Father, I come to You that You might anoint my eyes with Your divine eye salve, so I might see the world the way You do.

Father, I want Your eyes; I want Your heart; I want Your will. Release all of Yourself into me and out of me. Father, I desire a heart like Joshua’s. Father, bless me with integrity in my walk with You; bless me with unhesitating obedience. Father, I choose to listen for Your voice and to obey You immediately. **LET YOUR KINGDOM COME! LET YOUR WILL BE DONE IN ME, THROUGH ME, IN YOUR BRIDE ALL OVER THE WORLD!**

***CONSUME ME WITH YOUR PURPOSES! USE ME UP. I WANT TO BE BURNED UP BY YOU. BURN OUT THE DROSS, LORD! BURN OUT THE DROSS! LET ME BE A NOBODY TO THE WORLD BUT A MODERN-DAY JOSHUA TO YOU!  
COME, LORD JESUS! COME!!!! SEND YOUR FIRE UPON US, LORD! SEND YOUR WATER! LET THE WATERS OF YOUR POWER AND YOUR PRESENCE THUNDER DOWN UPON US! COME AND CARVE OUT OUR HEARTS UNTIL THERE IS ROOM FOR YOUR GLORY TO BE PRE-EMINENT IN OUR LIVES! MARANATHA!***

