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**You Can Do It!!!**

**PREPARE'S VISION**



Gary Gilbertson



## References

1. Genesis 24:1-62
2. Genesis 24:63
3. Genesis 22:2-13
4. John 3:29
5. Matthew 3:4
6. Isaiah 40:3
7. 2 Kings 1:8
8. Ephesians 6:14
9. 1 Kings 16:31; 21:25
10. 1 Kings 18:21
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13. Mark 6:18-20
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15. *Hidalgo*, 2004 Touchstone Pictures
16. Exodus 10:4-19; Deuteronomy 28:38;  
2 Chronicles 7:14,15;
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18. Numbers 14:9
19. Genesis 25:29-34; Hebrews 12:16
20. Psalm 19:10
21. John 3:29



Thank you for picking up this manual outlined by Prepare. We hope this will help equip you on your journey to start or continue a Prepare group at your campus.

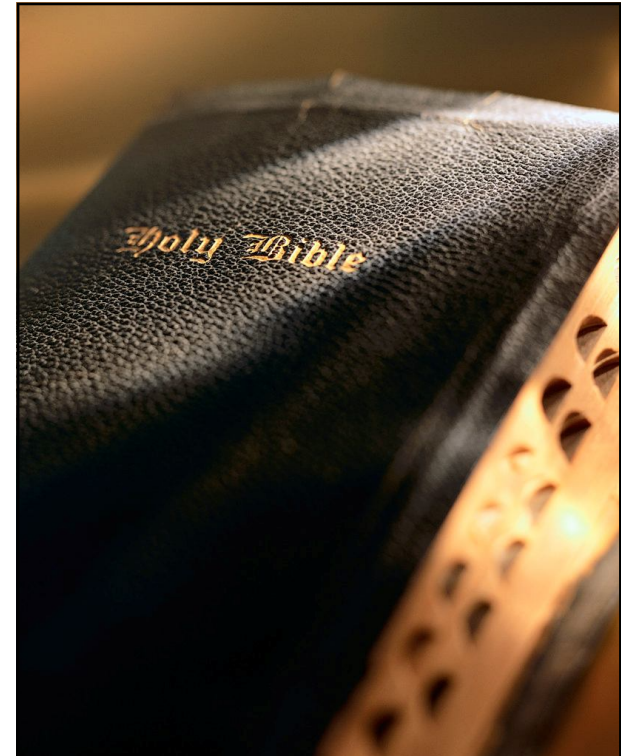
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## A Parting Thought

**Keep reading the WHOLE of the Bible  
and God will use that to keep you balanced.**



## The Commission



After twenty-two extremely satisfying years of pastoring in a small college town, God called my wife Stella and me out into missions. It was then I began to understand the thrilling

‘camel’ message from heaven. He told me to start a young adult ministry on college campuses. The name was clear: Prepare Ministries, as it was the mantra of John the Baptist. So in the parking lot, with no salary to offer, I asked a former member of a St Olaf bible study if she wanted a “job” with Prepare Ministries. She accepted, and we were off. The first year we started five campus groups. The doors opened as God’s hand was upon the movement. We prayed and waited for God to answer and open the doors. We stepped into the ministry, not knowing where God was desiring us to go and depending on Him to lead.

We still are following that ideal today. God continues to move on the campuses, and we desire to be there to partner with Him in what He is doing. God is raising up unusual leaders, are you willing to listen to His voice and move as He directs? Are you willing to be a camel-coated John the Baptist in your generation? “Behold the camels are coming...”

*Applications for staff or a starting a new campus group are available; please see contact information on back.*



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## Birth of a Vision



I'm sitting in my office and a thought breaks in: "You are a camel." I have had the Lord say some very interesting things to me over the years. As a pastor He spoke to me once saying I was a garbage

can. That one I understood; I was to be a place where people could safely deposit their garbage and I would help them get rid of it. But a camel? If that was the Lord, what was He saying to me?!

This was not the first time camels had come to my attention. Years before my mind had been arrested while reading Genesis 24<sup>1</sup>. It is the story of Abraham sending a servant to find a wife for his beloved son Isaac. A servant with 10 camels packed with goods, had been dispatched to their relatives far away to seek a suitable mate for the son of promise. You better believe that Isaac was eager to see if the servant would find someone for him. He was about 40 years old, that is a long wait! Anyway, Isaac is pacing and meditating in a field wondering when the servant was coming back. His cell phone wasn't working so he hadn't heard anything, and his Facebook status was still 'single.'

One late afternoon he looked up for the thousandth time to the northeast toward Haran in modern day Syria. He saw something in the distance coming;



## Other Travelers

*What about other groups already doing a great job on Campus?*

**Great!** God is putting in the hearts of almost every campus organization a kingdom mentality. Believers are beginning to acknowledge that there is only one Body, one Bride. There is a spirit of cooperation. Be a part of that. Participate with any corporate work that is seeking to glorify the Lord and bring people to Him. Some groups do not have the freedom to speak about the gifts of the Spirit, interpretation of dreams, deliverance and inner healing. We encourage wise but free study and experience of all that the Bible speaks about. As studies may transition into larger group meetings we encourage sensitivity to those who might not have been exposed to the more super-natural aspects of the Christian faith yet are still seeking truth about God. We want to feed all the 'fish' without scaring them away.



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**Fasting.** I am at a retreat center as I write this little booklet. I spent time praying with some resident intercessors here. They are sweet people whose lives in retirement now center on prayer. They told me of a sincere but new believer who was determined to fast for the three days he was to be here. Within one hour he was at their door asking for a ride to get some food. Fasting is more difficult for some than others, but I am convinced that it is one of the most neglected

**Fasting is a neglected, yet powerful weapon!**

and most powerful weapons in our spiritual arsenal. John the Baptist fasted as did all of his followers. Jesus said that his followers would too, as soon as He, the bridegroom, was gone. Get a book on fasting and make it a part of your spiritual discipline. I suggest at least one day of fasting a week. **You can do it!!**

**Mentoring.** We have already said how integral mentoring is to this move of God. Get one. Be one. We have materials on how to proceed. It is not complicated. None of the things for spiritual success are. It will make all the difference in the world.

**Meetings.** Start a small Bible study. God will guide you to people of like mind. Ask God for vision for your campus and the young adults associated with it. We find that several of our campus studies have up to half non-students participants or they may come from a smaller campus in town.



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indeed the servant had been successful! But instead of the orchestra striking up a chorus of “Here comes the Bride”, the scripture records, “and behold the camels were coming.”<sup>2</sup> As I read this verse I felt something welling up inside. Like at a good chick flick I felt my eyes get misty and I thought, “What is this?! What is there about this verse that touches my spirit?”

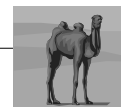
The unusual scripture would not leave my mind so I ended up speaking on it at a weekly campus bible study I led at St. Olaf College in southern Minnesota.

Isaac is what theologians call a type of Christ, meaning something or someone in the Old Testament that foreshadows

**The unusual verse wouldn't leave my mind**

truths of the New Testament. In this case Abraham represents God the Father, and his son Isaac represent Jesus, the Son of God. Abraham had been commanded by God to sacrifice his promised, long awaited and much loved young son. As he lifted the knife to slay his own son, God stopped him and showed him a ram caught in the thicket to kill instead. Isaac was spared.<sup>3</sup> Abraham passed the test and is called the Father of faith.

Jesus on the other hand was not spared. He became the sacrificial lamb in the thicket. God gave His own son as the ultimate and final sacrifice for all our sin. Isaac is a clearly planned foreshadowing of Jesus. The foreshadowing goes even further, just as Isaac had a bride coming on camels, so shall Jesus have his Bride come mounted on a caravan of camels. These ‘camels’ are young people who have the character and



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spirit of John the Baptist, who interestingly called himself the Friend of the Bridegroom.<sup>4</sup> Just as a servant brought Isaac's bride to Him, John the Baptist prepared Israel for Christ's first coming.

John the Baptist wore a camel hair coat.<sup>5</sup> He announced the coming of the messiah. In Jesus' first coming he did not fulfill all of the prophecies concerning Himself. The Jews were confused. Where is the king who would punish all evil and establish Himself eternally on the throne of David? Where was the divine hero who would alleviate the years of suffering bondage and sorrow for the Jewish people? Where was the righteous judge who would bring in the "day of the Lord"? Jesus died on the cross without accomplishing those well established promises. Jesus must come again, and so must the spirit of John the Baptist.

Now there are going to be thousands of young people who receive the anointing of John the Baptist's spirit to herald the second and final coming of the Lord Jesus. Here's what they will look like. They will be wearing camel hair coats. They will be wearing leather belts. They will be eating locusts and wild honey. How does it sound? They will be:

**wilderness walkers,  
truth talkers,  
enemy eaters  
and promise land seekers.**



## Starting the Journey

*How do you start?*



**Prayer.** It was mentioned earlier that camels have natural pads on their knees. When they load up with pottery, hay, or a bride, they kneel. A well known story about the apostle James is that he had calluses on his knees because of his fervent prayer life. They called him "camel knees". If you are

like me, I struggle with prayer. I almost never feel satisfied with the intensity or amount of time I give to prayer. But I am not giving up to either condemnation or sloth. I will, by God's grace, increase in my humility and dependency on God's power through prayer.

To be a camel we must have knees that match our high and humble calling. Walk through your campus and neighborhood, through the halls of your dorms, through the class rooms, the administration. From your heart cry out for mercy for the people God has given you. Call out the Bride. Serve her. Prayer will always be the foundation of God's work through you. Gather others to pray. Alert intercessors that you want to start a Bible study. Look to see if there is a 24/7 prayer room in your area. Read on prayer. Ask God to give you a spirit of supplication. Don't get discouraged. **You can do it!!**





## The Call

**So what do you think?**

Are you one of the camels God is calling to bring the  
Bride of Christ to Himself?

His Father sent the Holy Spirit to get a wife for Jesus.

Jesus is eagerly waiting.

I wonder if there are angels right now in heaven are  
whispering, "Behold, the camels are coming"



## The Camel

### *Wilderness Walker.*



I could not get away from camels as they kept popping up in unusual ways, for instance: one of my sons was dating a sweet young woman who happened to be visiting at the time of my birthday. So she gave me a stuffed camel which is an unusual gift to give an older gentleman, even one whom you may have thought to be a bit peculiar. She knew nothing of my growing fascination with camels.

Isaiah prophesied about John the Baptist, who like a camel lived in the wilderness, that he would be a voice crying in the wilderness "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."<sup>6</sup> He **literally** lived in the wilderness. He could survive because he had the characteristics of a camel spiritually. Did you know that camels can go for weeks without water? They can drink up to 30 gallons in ten minutes when it is available and then store it - not in their humps, but in their blood. They do not give up and get discouraged when things are dry or the walk is long or the load is heavy. They can eat the nastiest of stuff and get nourishment from it without tearing up their lips. No other animal can do what they do. God's 'camels' will be like that spiritually. They will have broken the subtle powerful pervasive bondages



## The Camel

of materialism and the comforts of present day society. They will not be motivated by the American dream. They will be drawn to a pilgrim mentality they will see the wilderness as their stomping grounds since the kingdom of god is their destination. Camels carry a treasure and they are willing to pass through the roughest terrain to bring that treasure to it's destination. They aren't necessarily the prettiest of creatures but they will get the job done. And when they are carrying the treasure of a beautiful bride, they are beautiful to behold.

One more fact about camels: they're born with pads on their knees. To take on or deliver their treasures, they **must** get on their knees. Across the world there are prayer rooms being manned 24 hours a day 7 days a week by young 'camels;' some of whom have rings in their noses and spiked purple hair while others have a backpack with an application for M.I.T. in their pocket.

These 'camels' are coming into one of the greatest cultural wildernesses in the history of the world. Mothers are killing their own babies, fathers are bringing moral filth into their own homes, marriage is being redefined after 6000 years of human history, and our truth police professors are claiming with a unified voice that there is no such thing as truth, "truth is what you believe it to be." The social,

**These individuals won't be motivated by the materialism and the 'American dream'**

**We are living in a cultural wilderness.**



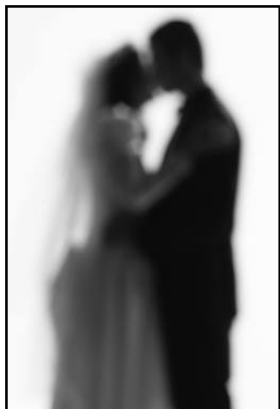
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His bride.

Do I *understand* that? No, I *believe* it. This world has spun out of control looking for the perfect experience of romance, marriage and sexual experience, and not in that order. Knowing I look forward to a perfect romance experience *eternally* gives me the strength, self control, and expectation that I need to be a faithful husband and father. God is calling us to be a pure bride and call others out of our current cesspool, not into a prudish or monkish existence, but into a purity that enjoys to the utmost what God gives on earth while knowing the best is yet to come.



## The Bridal Song



I am eternally grateful to Campus Crusade for Christ; as a nineteen year old student on the campus of the University of Minnesota I learned from Ted Martin I could become a *son* of **THE heavenly Father**. My new friends and mentor showed me that incredibly I could also become a *friend* and *brother* of Jesus. Amazing and wonderful!

In the 60's and 70's God was emphasizing the relationship He has with us. The Lord is adding to this message a new song from heaven and I for one want to sing it. Jesus we know is our *brother, redeemer, master, friend* and now is our *coming Bridegroom*. John the Baptist, a wilderness walking, truth talking, enemy eating, promise land seeking individual call himself a friend of the Bridegroom.<sup>21</sup> Why? He was not just preparing the way of the Lord but he was preparing a bride to walk in that reality. This wasn't simply a call for people to be good and religious, rather he was calling them to beauty and purity in preparation of a wedding feast.

Now that same spirit is preparing a people to meet Jesus, the heavenly bridegroom. We are preparing for the great marriage feast of the Lord and we are the Bride! The Holy Spirit is deepening our understanding that Jesus is a bridegroom and we, the church, are his future bride. All of history is going to culminate in a great wedding feast honoring Jesus and



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moral and intellectual building blocks of our culture are being destroyed. Is it any wonder that the youth are confused and undisciplined bouncing from mom's house to dad's house to a friends house to...wherever?

John the Baptist gave his life to speak the truth to his generation in preparation for Christ, likewise, this 'camel' generation will lead sacrificial lives for the coming of the eternal bridegroom.





## The Leather Belt

### *Truth Talkers.*



Elijah was describing as a hairy man with a leather belt.<sup>7</sup> Likewise, John's attire was a camel hair coat and a leather belt.<sup>5</sup> In Ephesians we are given the symbolic meaning of belt; it is called the belt of

truth.<sup>8</sup> The belt of truth has several levels of meaning.

First of all I believe the belt of truth refers to ruthless honesty. Most of us have told big lies. All of us have told little lies - like why we were late...again.

*The traffic was terrible, ahh ... actually it was, but I left late and that is the real reason (actual transcript from the author's life).*

We try to protect our reputation, our money, our image, you name it by small innocuous lies. These will stop. We will be secure in ourselves and trusted by others because we tell the truth. We will no longer use lies as a defense mechanism rather truth will be used to defend ourselves against satan.

Secondly, we speak the truth in the midst of a perverse world. Elijah faced a wicked menace of his day, the immoral, seductive, controlling, idol worshipping wife of Ahab, Jezebel.<sup>9</sup> Elijah, stood up to Jezebel and all her castrated priests calling on the people to choose, "If Yahweh be god follow Him. If Baal be god follow him."<sup>10</sup> He challenged and destroyed all of Jezebel's idolatrous entourage.<sup>11</sup> He was pretty lippy



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wilderness. It sustained him, but he was looking for much more. This generation I am talking about will pour over the word of God looking for His promises. The words of God will be as honey to them.<sup>20</sup>



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God is a God of promises. His people are those who hear, believe and live for His promises. God is delighted when we desire what He promises.

Have you ever wondered why Jacob, the momma's boy, who tricked and cheated his brother got the inheritance? Why was Jacob blessed and Esau a loser? It is *VERY* simple. Jacob wanted it.<sup>19</sup> God is looking for people who want Him and His promises, people who know the ultimate emptiness of all the world offers and the ultimate pleasure of knowing

**It is true today that many are so earthly minded they are no heavenly good.**

God. God desires to be desired. Esau traded his inheritance which was in the future for some trifling immediate satisfaction: a bowl of red lentil beans.

You might say he traded the eternal for the temporal...his heavenly inheritance for an earthly one. He was, as the book of Revelation calls them, one of the "dwellers on the earth." God is looking for citizens of a heavenly kingdom. There is a saying that one is so heavenly minded that he is no earthly good. More true today is that many are so earthly minded that they are no heavenly good.

The Jews in the wilderness were given manna which had the taste of honey. It was to humble them and let them know that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God. The wilderness was not yet the land flowing with milk and honey but it was, I believe, to increase their taste and longing for that place where milk and honey flow. John was satisfied to eat wild honey in the



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about it too. While the false priests cut themselves to get their god to light a fire under their sacrifice he mocked. When nothing happened he chided them, "Oh maybe your God is taking a leak."<sup>12</sup> Read

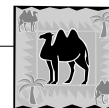
it; it's in the Bible. I do not encourage this attitude as a general rule but apparently it did not upset God on this occasion. He sent a blast of flames on Elijah's water drenched bull. Steaks well done. Jezebel was ticked. She sent her boys to take him out. They failed. Elijah prevailed.

Likewise John the Baptist stood up to that same immoral Jezebel spirit of his day. Once again this spirit showed up as the wife of a national leader. Herodias and Herod had an immoral relationship and she left her husband Philip, Herod's brother, to marry Herod.<sup>13</sup> So who was going to speak the truth about this immorality? Certainly not the 'politically correct' leaders of the day. Rather it was a camel coated, leather belted man. John very plainly and clearly spoke the truth. Their relationship was sin. Like Jezebel,

**Speaking the truth cost John his head!**

Herodias got ticked. She had manipulative control over her king husband just as Jezebel had over Ahab. As Herod watched the lewd dancing of Herodias' daughter (probably his niece) he was pleased. "Wow that was great you have a real gift for dancing, sorta like what I watch on MTV. What can I do for a sweet girl like you?" After consulting with her mother, this sweet little thing said, "Could you please bring me the head

**Truth is ruthless honesty and standing for Biblical truths in a perverse society**



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of John the Baptist on a platter?"<sup>14</sup> Oh, did I mention it is dangerous to wear leather belts? Truth is a powerful thing when spoken in the presence of a Jezebel spirit; it will bring her wrath. She may smile, but she ain't nice. Violence and immorality are bed partners. Persecution will surely follow those who speak the truth.

A word about women and authority: it is apparent God is raising up women to places of leadership and responsibility as never before. It is a time in history to release women to their callings and giftings as God desires. At the same time the radical feminist movement is attacking manhood in general and as a result womanhood, family, morality and the God of the scriptures are being distorted. The spirit of Jezebel is infiltrating families, colleges, and churches. In the final book of the Bible the church of Thyatira is rebuked because they tolerate the woman Jezebel who

**Wearing the  
'belt of truth'  
isn't easy or fun,  
but a necessity!**

calls herself a prophetess. So much for "tolerance." The camel coated, leather belted believers will not allow this ancient controlling perverter of authority and decency to go unchallenged.

The leather belt of truth will not allow the individual wearing it to be passive in a classroom setting/ Many teachers and professors spew out opinions with no factual basis. We will respectfully ask them why they believe what they said to be true. A simple, courageous challenge to the charismatic self-assured instructor will bring truth not just to them but to a whole classroom who have uncritically swallowed opinion for truth. They will speak truth about themselves, i.e.



## Wild Honey

### *Promise Land Seekers.*



John the Baptist ate wild honey with the locusts. Honey is an amazing food, it has been used as a source energy for athletes, medicine for doctors, and as sweetener for eating since earliest recorded history. It is a near perfect food. It was found unspoiled with the tombs of ancient Egyptian royalty. In scripture honey is used most prominently to characterize the promise land of the Jewish nation.

Almost half of all references to honey are found in the phrase a land flowing with milk and honey. The promise land is a literal plot of real estate in middle east that God promised to give Abraham. That promise is still good. But the promise land is symbolic of another reality, that God has a land of promises for all of us. Ultimately the promise land is understood as heaven, where all of God's promises will be inexplicitly fulfilled.

If there is a John the Baptist generation who's food is honey it would be a band of people whose focus is the ultimate land of promise, heaven. It would be a people who long for and live for the ultimate fulfillment of the promises of God. It would be a people who's daily food, the sustenance of life, would be God's promises contained in His revealed word.

**God desires  
to be desired.**





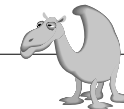
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now will be people of a different mindset. Those situations, difficulties, people who seem to be giants in our way will actually become sources of strength to accomplish the goals that the Lord has before us. We will eat locusts.



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they will be honest, and uncompromisingly speak the truth in love to awaken a diluted, wicked and perverse culture. This generation is being handed a leather belt from heaven.



## Locusts

### *Enemy eaters*



In the movie *Hidalgo*<sup>15</sup>, Hidalgo was an American horse descended from those who ran wild over the frontier plains of our country. He was a mustang. His owner took him to Saudi Arabia to compete in a 3000 mile race called *The Ocean*

*of Fire* against the finest Arabian horses in the world. According to the movie, men and horses die in this ancient race. In the movie a Bedouin servant whispered to our cowboy hero before the race began, “*The locusts are not your enemies.*” After days and days of brutal heat, fierce blinding sand storms, and excruciating thirst and hunger, the rider and horse seemed not just doomed to defeat but to death. The final blow came when a sun darkening cloud of locusts flew over them devouring every green or wet thing in sight. Now hope seemed to be totally gone. Until the rider remembered the words of the Bedouin servant. Large dead locusts lay around the sand after the cloud moved on. “Uhhh ... crunch ... not that bad.” He began to give some to his exhausted horse laying almost dead on the sand. They both survived because they ate the locusts.

Locusts are not known as good things in the Bible.<sup>16</sup> They represent the judgments of God. They represent misfortune, calamity, loss. But if you ate locusts... you know how to welcome them. When the



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locusts are headed for your field you say, “Hey honey open the freezer and bring every bag in the house. We about to be blessed.” The neighbors are more than puzzled about your attitude.

So what does it mean to eat locusts? I am not entirely sure, but I know this: we are headed for difficult times. Read the book of Revelation, or the newspaper if you prefer. Natural, social, governmental and national calamities are increasing like birth pangs. The individual who knows how to eat locusts survives and even thrives during these times. What is tragedy and discouragement for many becomes food, strengthen those who *eat locusts*. Perhaps the most explicit text for this concept is Romans 8:28,

*“And we know that God works all things together for good to them who love the Lord, to those who are called according to His Purpose.”*

For those who receive the anointing of the spirit of Elijah they will know how to navigate and prosper through the difficult and confusing days preceding the second coming of the Lord. Your faith will help you see in a new light. Yumm Yumm.

**“...our enemies  
will be food  
for us!”**

When the 10 spies brought back a report of the promised land to Moses and the leaders of Israel they said the land is absolutely fabulous, **but** there are giants in the land and we are like grasshoppers before them.<sup>17</sup> Joshua on the other hand said our enemies will be food for us.<sup>18</sup> What a different perspective! Those who take the promised land that God is offering to us

