

Session 3 - Breaking the Prince

1. The way through to destroying the Prince is through the power of the cross

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. (Matthew 27:51-2)

*** At the cross the power of sin was broken - the torn curtain.**

*** At the cross the Lord showed his authority over creation - the broken rocks
at the cross the Lord showed his authority over death**

2. Our Stronghold

No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. (Isaiah 54:17)

The Prince wants us to think that he cannot be broken, and that he is free to roam the land. But as Jericho shows us, he is very afraid that we will see through his lie -

Before the spies lay down for the night, Rahab went up on the roof and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.

When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. (Joshua 2:8-11)

The angels are within the stronghold of the Prince, and they are worshipping the Lord within the blood. This gives us great strength and a foundation on which to move against the Prince. We need to join with those angels regularly, so that heaven and earth are establishing a Sanctuary within the Stronghold.

The enemy is furious and kicks back really hard, but he cannot get at our Sanctuary.

3. Our weapons

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

*** Prayer**

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (Acts 12:5)

Peter was only saved by an angel, but it was the tough unyielding prayer of the church which moved God to send the angel. This tough unyielding prayer - prayer which will never give in, no matter what comes against it – is the prayer which will break the stronghold. It puts pressure on the Prince, and never yields until he breaks, even if it takes a hundred years.

This is very risky prayer. The Prince is a killer as we have seen, and he will push back. He will disturb our families, our finances, our work our health, our marriage and anything else he can get at. This is a price we have to be prepared to pay. For us, prayer is warfare until the last breath.

*** Sacrifice**

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. (Revelation 12:11)

We have to become that sacrifice as we fight the Prince. He has to see not us but the sacrifice of Christ within us. We must become living crucifixions. The sacrifice has to consume us and set us on fire.

*** Release the blood**

Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:24)

*** We need the better blood:-**

It is the blood which will break the Prince. This is his strength:-

The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. (Genesis 4:12)

But the blood we have has a different strength:- **Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:24)**

*** We need blood on the gates**

Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. (Exodus 12:7)

We have to put the blood on the gates of the Nation, so that the Prince will know that he has invaded a land protected by the blood of Jesus.

*** We need the healing blood**

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

We have to release the blood for healing, forgiveness and new beginnings. First we have to move in the blood, and then it can flow through us. We need to be purified and surrendered.

*** Bind the strong man**

In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. (Mark 3:27)

The Prince is a complex spirituality. Like Legion, he is made up of many. One of the ways of restricting him is to begin to bind some of the more obvious ones as we see them. This may look a very small action, but all military engagements begin by destroying little things - railway lines, communications, fields of food. This begins to trouble our enemy and puts fear into him - just what Joshua did at Jericho with his marching strategy. How do we know which things to bind? Intercessors know that such binding has to be God-centred, and this is how we make sure that it is:-

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. (Romans 8:26)

*** Reclaim**

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:20)

The Prince owns nothing. Whatever he has he has stolen and we need to make this into a weapon against him. Look at this:-

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me. (Matthew 4:8-9)

But also look at this:-

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

We are dealing with thief and a liar. Everything belongs to Jesus. We have to start taking back what has been stolen from us - especially our heritage. How do we do this? We worship. We worship the Lord in any and every place, raising his authority over places and people. We release a tidal wave of worship which washes the enemy away and brings us back to a true foundation.

4. Our encouragement

All soldiers get weary. We need some encouragements in our hearts as we battle on. Here are a few for us to reflect on.

*** Jericho leads to victory**

When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. (Joshua 6:20)

*** Exodus leads to freedom**

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. (Exodus 14: 29-31)

*** Incarnation leads to hope**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

*** Cross leads to triumph**

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)