



Mobilizing, Equipping and Deploying Intercessors...

for this Kairos moment of defeating demonic strongholds and advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

More In-depth Study of the Role Moses and Joshua **Lesson 8 from the Dunamis Course focuses on intercession, with a teaching module on Moses and Joshua.**

For Video teaching - Go to <http://www.vimeo.com/11198941>

I. Lessons from the battle against Amalek (From the Dunamis Course, The Power of Prayer, Lesson 8)

There are two more important points about the work of intercession, which are drawn from the Battle of Amalek as recorded in Exodus:

“The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, ‘Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.’

“So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.

“When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up -- one on one side, one on the other -- so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

*“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.’ Moses built an altar and called it *The LORD is my Banner*. He said, ‘For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.’” (Exodus 17:8-16, NIV)*

A. Lessons in prayer and spiritual warfare

The work of the intercessor that we have talked about so far has been about the struggle with God. However, there is another whole dimension -- the battle with Satan and the powers and principalities of evil.

In the Bible, the Amalekites are symbolic of those opposed to the advancement of the Kingdom of God. These are not people, but demonic powers. (There also are times when people may become part of a demonic stronghold through which the demonic powers will work.)

Moses engaged in victorious warfare over Amalek by interceding for the preservation of the people. In the New Testament, we are given some specific instruction about this type of prayer:

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Eph 6:11-12, NIV)

The intercessor is on the frontlines of this spiritual warfare, and many times this occurs in intercession. One may be called to engage demonic powers and, when we do, we have great authority in the name of Jesus Christ.

B. The Moses work and the Joshua work

There is another point to make out of this story of the battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites. We find that there is a complex interrelationship between God working through the intercessor and God working through those who are laboring to do His will. Through this complex relationship, we see God's Kingdom work taking place.

Moses is up on the hill interceding, while Joshua is down in the valley. But notice the connection between prayer and physical action -- Moses is obedient in prayer and Joshua is obedient through the physical actions he is taking as he leads the Israelite army into battle. If either man stopped doing what they were called to do, the battle would have been lost.



Charles Spurgeon was an anointed preacher of the Word, a "Joshua worker," who was supported in prayer by the intercessors praying in the boiler room of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, England. Picture used by permission from www.faithforthefamily.com

It is important to note that neither Moses nor Joshua worked alone. Moses was backed up by Aaron and Hur, who held his staff. Joshua was accompanied by an army of warriors. This teaches us that while there may be a prominent leader, these roles also may cooperate with many other supporting roles.

Today, in the advancement of the Kingdom of God, there is this same working relationship on two fronts or on two dimensions. On one level is prayer; on the other is the work. This dynamic may be seen in many examples:

The great English preacher Charles Spurgeon spoke to the crowds from the pulpit with power and elegance. Yet, supporting and enabling that empowered preaching were hundreds of intercessors praying in the basement of the church.

Charles Finney's name is remembered as the great revival preacher who brought many to Christ in the 19th century. Wherever Finney went, though, there was another man, one whose name history has forgotten but who contributed just as much to the revival as Finney did. This man was called to serve as Finney's intercessor. As Finney stood in the pulpit before the crowds, this man was alone on his knees before God.

1. Example from PRMI trip to China



Su Chang and the Rev. Cindy Strickler often have worked together as a teaching team. In the situation pictured, they were the "Joshua workers" in an up-front teaching ministry. While teaching in China on the healing work of Jesus, they came under demonic attack.

We recently had the experience of seeing an example of this take place on a mission trip to China. We were teaching to over a hundred Chinese church leaders on the work of the Holy Spirit and Jesus' work of healing. Cindy Strickler was upfront, teaching on the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Su Chang was translating her words into Mandarin Chinese. They were the Joshua workers. Tom Kemner and Mary Ellen Connors were standing in the back of the room caught up in urgent intercessory prayer for them. We were in the role of Moses.

No sooner had they started teaching than it seemed that a cloud fell over the room. It was obvious that Su Chang was having a difficult time translating and Cindy Strickler looked physically uncomfortable – as if at any moment she would faint. Later, we learned that Su had been assaulted by waves of nausea and Cindy felt like a sharp knife was stabbing her in the back. It was all they could do to keep teaching.

For those of us standing in the back of the room, the prayer battle just got worse. In the name of Jesus Christ, we were pushing back some evil that was seeking to quench the working of the Holy Spirit. This was a terrible day! And it was just hard work in which we felt that nothing much was accomplished.

Then we had a time of asking for feedback from the group. To our joy and astonishment, person after person stood up and reported how they had experienced Jesus Christ moving



in their midst and touching them with various forms of healing. Through the Joshua work of the teachers and our Moses work as intercessors, the Holy Spirit had prevailed and not only taught the people, but also demonstrated His truth by actually moving through the people in healing ministry.

Every missionary who has served on the field has had upholding him or her those people who had prepared their way through prayer. In order to lead effectively and to do the work of the Kingdom of God, every pastor and church leader needs to be upheld by, and supported through, the intercessory prayers of others.

Mary Ellen Conners and Tom Kemner, standing in the back of the room serving as Moses workers interceding for Su Change and Cindy Strickler.

2. Extended to politics and to world events

This interaction between the Moses work and the Joshua work is not only in such matters as the preaching of the Gospel or upholding Biblical truth in church councils, it also is important for world events. A great historic example of this was the battle of Dunkirk at the beginning of World War II.¹



Allied soldiers escaping by sea from Dunkirk. Winston Churchill called this escape a miracle.
Photo from miracleofdunkirk.tripod.com

In the spring of 1940, the German army was sweeping across Europe. Belgium and Holland had been invaded and overrun. The situation for the British army was desperate. The German army in France had trapped 338,000 British, Belgian, and French soldiers with their backs to the sea.

In this conflict, there was -- beyond the clashing armies -- a clash of opposing visions. Nazism was a vision from hell, which was arrogantly hostile to God, to truth, and to humanity, while loosely pretending to be

compatible with Christianity.² Hitler's vision was embodied in ruthless armies, concentration camps, and the extermination of the Jews. It had set out not just to conquer territory, but to annihilate all other visions of reality. The struggle was a military one, as well as being an ideological and spiritual battle

During the first disastrous phases of the war, Rees Howells, with a few students at the Bible College of Wales, earnestly was doing the work of intercessory prayer. Surely this lonely work of intercession was joined by a great concert of prayer offered by the soldiers on the beach, their mothers in England, and others who cried desperately to God for help. But Rees Howells seems

¹ From - *Prayer That Shapes The Future* by Long & McMurry. Zondervan: Grand Rapids. 1999.

² Hitler had devised a cross designed to convince Christians that their faith was compatible to his occult philosophy. In it, the huge black swastika or hermetic cross had a small white Christian cross at its center. The visual effect was that the huge black cross completely swallowed the small white one.

to have gained a special place of intercession. His prayer journals are full of occasions where he sensed greater and greater authority and privileges in prayer, all gained at great personal cost. This was the Moses work.

At the exact time of the impending disaster at Dunkirk, the prayer journals of Rees Howells and his students record the following:

“On May 28, Mr. Howells again was alone with God. In the meetings, the prayer was for God to intervene at Dunkirk and save the men. As the Spirit came upon them in prayer and supplication, what one prayed at the end expressed the assurance given to all: ‘I feel sure something has happened.’

“May 29 was the day of the evacuation of Dunkirk. Mr. Howells said, ‘Let us be clear in our prayer that the intercession is gained. The battle is the Holy Spirit’s. See Him outside yourselves tonight; He is there on the battlefield with His drawn sword.’



Rees Howells preaching at the Bible College of Wales. Photo from The Rees Howells Trust (Bible College of Wales) www.biblecollegeofwales.org

“May 30, 7:30 p.m. ‘From a worldly standpoint there is no hope of victory; but God has said it. I could not come tonight and ask Him to intervene because we have already said that He is going to intervene. Instead of bad news about our soldiers, if He is on the field of battle He can change all that and make it very good news. Oh, for God to lift us up tonight! We are not to run into any panic thinking the Nazis are going to win: Germany must be delivered as well as England and France. We may have to go through far greater sufferings yet, but I am not going to doubt the final issue. We state in plainest terms: The enemy will not invade Christian England.’”³

This was the extraordinary work of intercessory prayer by the Moses team led by Rees Howells. The result was a great miracle of deliverance.

“When we look back now after these years, many in Britain still recall the terror of those days. Remembering the miracle of Dunkirk, acknowledged by various leaders to be an intervention from God -- the calm sea allowing the smallest boats to cross, the almost complete evacuation of English troops -- and then the lead Mr. Churchill gave to the

³ Norman Grubb, *Rees Howells, Intercessor* (Fort Washington, Pa.: Christian Literature Crusade, 1952), p. 239.

nation, how thankful we are that God had this company of hidden intercessors whose lives were on the altar day after day as they stood in the gap for the deliverance of Britain.”⁴

Praise God for the intercessors, but we must not forget the army of Joshuas -- the fishermen and boat owners who risked their crafts and their lives to sail across the English Channel to rescue the soldiers. Without them, the struggles of the intercessors would have been in vain.⁵

If the fishermen and boat owners had been confused and rushed to the churches for prayer, the army likely would have been destroyed and World War II may have ended differently.

It is vitally important that both the Moses work and the Joshua work take place together since that is the key to advancing the Kingdom of God. Seek guidance! Listen well! Whatever your calling, obey -- and you will find yourself in the great drama of working with God to shape His future.

⁴ Ibid., pp. 239–40.

⁵ Klaus Fischer, *Nazi Germany: A New History* (New York: Continuum, 1995), pp. 456–57.

