

One Nation, Under God — *A Price?!*

I. Review

Hebrews 11:32-33 (Msg®)

³²I could go on and on, but I've run out of time. There are so many more—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets. . . . ³³Through acts of faith, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves.

Ephes. 3:20 (Msg®)

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

“Hero-isms”

1. Heroes have unique abilities that separate them from the rest of us.
2. Heroes are never weighed down by the mundane problems of life.
3. Heroes always have a clear sense of good & evil.
4. Heroes always want to do the right thing.
5. Heroes have heroic lives.

II. A Price . . .

Luke 14:28–33 (NIV®)

²⁸“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. **Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?** ²⁹For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. **Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?** ³²If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Luke 9:22–24 (NIV®)

²²And he said, “The Son of Man **must suffer many things** and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” ²³Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** ²⁴For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

A. Abram

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV®)

¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ²“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

B. Paul

2 Tim. 4:6-22 (NIV®)

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.⁸ Now there is in store for

me the crown of righteousness . . . ⁹Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. . . . ²¹Do your best to get here before winter . . . ²²The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

III. Adversity, Adversaries, & Antagonists

A. The Most Consistent Characteristic of Heroes — Great Opponents

2 Cor. 11:23-29 (NIV®)

²³I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

B. Adversaries Accomplish . . .

1. Adversaries prepare us for useful service. (Joseph)
2. Adversaries expose our fears. (Moses)
3. Adversaries elevate us to a new level of trust and faith. (Esther)
4. Adversaries define our progress. (David)

C. The benefit of adversity is realized in the victory!

Rev. 3:12 (NIV®)

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV®)

Therefore, my dear brothers, **stand firm. Let nothing move you.** Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Proclamation

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip (you) with everything good for doing His will and may He work in (you) what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (from Heb 13:20-21) (NIV®)