

## **300 Series: Strategy** **Slide Notations**

**"Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing..."**

**The 300 Principle!** Throughout secular and sacred history there have been small groups of people who stayed and stood to do the improbable, only to find the power flowing through them to do the impossible!

**Fitting In!** With a "one off" body, warranted at the Cross, inhabited by the Holy Spirit, built tough for warfare and offered for intimate worship... I am going to love, honor and treat my body as a gift from God!

**Rockin' on Ready!** I'm manning up, *living* on alert, *sensing* the presence of my enemy, *ready* to spring to the aid of people who need me... simply because God asks me to!

**Lessons from history to prepare us for tomorrow's battle...**

**History<sup>1</sup>: Spartans!** 10 yrs, Xerxes, king of Persia planned revenge on Greece... For Darius defeat@Marathon. 10 yrs, Themistocles, warned, "Persians will return..." "Coming for *double* vengeance, with *double* assault: land/sea." Fell on deaf ears... "victory too complete!"

**History<sup>1</sup>: Spartans** Themistocles not only a great military thinker... Also alert/wary watchman... 7 yrs on the clock, "Any day now" Need new ships, funding. And a politician/salesman... "Since they can't visualize Persia..." He "creates" a believable threat, one they can see... and they give him the \$\$\$!

**History<sup>1</sup>: Spartans** Themistocles sails off to meet the Persian armada of 1000 with 200 ships! Perfect odds for a man w/heart of 300! w/o Themistocles there would only have been a "300 slaughter." Together Themistocles/Leonidas opened way democracy/western civilization.

**Themistocles had been warning his people of imminent danger for 10 yrs... And they finally sailed into history as part of the force that secured western civilization as we know it!**

**Jesus has been warning us for 2000 years and what we do impacts democracy and eternity!**

**History<sup>2</sup>: Gideon** "Let the fearful, the selfish, the unwary all go home... Rather have them safe/sound @home than in harms way/battle. *"By the 300 alert ones I will deliver you!"*

**All "300" legends begin with a few doing the impossible!**

**1Timothy 1.18** "I charge you son Timothy, according to the things that have been said to you, and about you, war (strateue: serve as a good soldier, spiritually militant in) a good warfare (strateian: a military campaign), holding faith and a good conscience..."

**2Corinthians 10.4ff** "the weapons of our warfare (strateias: for the Christian battles) are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds..."

**2 Tim 3.3,4** "you must endure hardness as a good soldier (stratiotes) of Jesus Christ... not going into the battle (strateuomai) all wound up in the pragmatic affairs of this life, so that you can please the One who chose you to be His soldier (stratologeos)!"

**1Pet 2.11, Jas 4.1** "Yes, you're going to have to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against your soul... and that's where your battles come from – your lusts (hedone) used to strategically destroy you..."

***"I am summoned to a righteous battle, equipped with effective weapons, enabled to endure the hardness of the battlefield. I must be unhindered by contrary personal desires in the fight for others freedom, living and fighting to please the One who called me to battle service..."***

**To do the impossible... I need a strong/sound mind!** I'm being transformed by the renewing of my mind!  
**Ro 12.1,2** Not merely natural, I have the mind of Christ! **1Co 2.16** Renewed in the spirit of my mind I put on the new man! **Eph 4.23** I'm going to let the mind of Christ to serve others be in me! **Ph 2.5-7**

**To do the impossible... I need a fit body!** I will not let sin reign in my mortal body. **Ro 6.12** I will live by putting to death the deeds of the body! **Ro 8.13** My body is the purchased temple of the Holy Spirit! **1Co 6.19,20** My spirit, soul & body need to be preserved to His coming! **1Th 5.23**

**To do the impossible... I need a wary eye!** I need to know my times and what to do! **1Chron 12.32** I am not here to look out for myself but also for others! **Ph 2.4** I have an enemy who goes about like a roaring lion looking for victims to ruin! **1Pet 5.8, Jo10.10**

**To do the impossible... I need a courageous heart!** I will not be afraid, or dismayed, I will not fear, because *the Bible tells me so...* more than 300x. I am going to be "strong and courageous" because I know who has called me, and who is sending me and who is protecting me!

**To do the impossible... I need the right promises!** No weapon formed against me... The battle belongs to the Lord! We are more than conquerors... I have the victory that overcomes! If I die I find I have another body! "he that believes in Jesus, overcomes the world!"

**To do the impossible... I need to focus on the prize!** "To please the One who has chosen me to be His soldier..." "forgetting the things behind, I reach ahead, pressing toward the mark for the prize of my high calling in Christ!" **Ph 3.13ff** "The salvation of many!" "The defeat of my enemy!"

**To do the impossible... I need a plan to win!** "Either you plan to win or you're planning to fail!" Warriors need a strategy for the war! "A present plan of action to reach a desired goal or destination!"

**Most Christians don't have one or any idea that they should... and hoping for a brilliant plan when you're already surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered... is like believing Batman is going to show up at your first backstreet mugging!** (Before you enter the alley it would be good for you to know what you would do, "If...?")

#### **Illustration with Xerxes Clip**

**Need a good plan...** Senses overwhelmed standing in the presence of a god... Intimidating entrance/presence... Oily words of "reason"... "It's all a misunderstanding!"... Faintly veiled threats... Subtle offers of blessing... Flashing anger/rant...

**Need a good plan...** Flesh running hot with the fantasy/possibilities... Little compromise makes you the "deliverer" of your people/lands... Richer than ever could be on your own... Powerful and well received, by one and all... Peace, no more fighting/war...

**Need a good plan...** Slander of God drumming in your ears... With all He does, He doesn't *really care* about these things does He?... What has He done for you lately?... What's *His* offer again?... He wants you to prosper, right?... Where is He when you need Him?

**Strategy?** "You only live once" plan! "Die another day" plan! I'll do it for "them" plan! (NO!) "I have a problem with the bowing part..." plan! (Maybe!) "I have something to tell you" plan! (Best!)

**War of the Worlds...** The devil took Him to the top of a high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And said, "I will give you all this if You just bow down and worship me." **Matt 4.8,9**  
**The King's Plan...** Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" *And the devil left and angels came and ministered to Him!* **Matt 4.10,11**

**The King's Plan...** 3 strategized approaches to one trouncing defeat... You have needs... You have feelings/rights... You have a future... "take the shortcuts!" **One answer: The Word of God!**

**The King's Truth...** *What good is it if a man gets everything he wants but injures or destroys his own soul?* If anyone is embarrassed by Me or the way I am leading you, know this, I will be more embarrassed of you before the angels when I return... **Lk 9.25,26**

***Every year millions of people come to Christ... loving the story of salvation and what Jesus gives... Only a handful will show loyalty and fidelity during their lifetimes... laying down their lives for the***

*One who brought them salvation... They're part of the legend of the few, the fit, the fierce, and the focused!*