

THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE

- I. Introduction: The Painting:
- II. Checkmates in life:
 - ...An incurable illness
 - ...A broken relationship
 - ...A wayward son or daughter
 - ...Financial ruin
 - ...A past that is destroying your future

Things are not as dark as it seems. It isn't over yet. You are not defeated because THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE!

In fact, the entire Word of God is a record of last moves by our King. God always has the last move.

ABRAHAM (Genesis 17-21) And The Checkmate Of Unfulfilled Promises

God promised Abraham he would be the father of nations, yet his wife was barren. On one occasion, Abraham prayed for Abimelech's household and their wombs were opened, yet Sarah remained barren. Eventually Abraham tried to fulfill God's promise himself and Ishmael was born as a work of the flesh. Yet the King had one more move when Isaac, a work of the spirit, was born and the promise fulfilled. Is your ministry one of the flesh or spirit? What do you do while you wait for the King to make His move in your life?

JOSEPH (Genesis 30-50) And The Checkmate Of A Painful Past

As long as you are living in the past, you will never have a future. You must deal with the checkmate of the pain of your past in order for the King to move in the future of your life. Like Joseph, difficulties often set you on the road to your destiny. Every checkmate situation of a painful past can be used by God to help you achieve your destiny if you will allow the King to move in your life.

**MOSES (Exodus 2-4)
And The Checkmate Of An Aborted Ministry**

For forty years, Moses lived with the memory of an aborted purpose. He had tried to deliver God's people and failed. Would God ever use him again? Me at WE: 20 years later returned to do what God sent me there to do in the first place!

**CALEB (Numbers 13 and Joshua 14)
And The Checkmate Of Advanced Age**

Caleb wandered with the disobedient for 40 years while his generation died in the wilderness. Although Caleb was advanced in age when Israel entered their promised land, he rose up in power and took his mountain. There is no such thing as retirement in the Kingdom of God.

**JEHOSHAPHAT AND JOB (2 Chronicles 20 and book of Job)
And The Checkmate Of Satanic Opposition**

King Jehoshaphat's story In 2 Chronicles 20 begins with confusion but ends in conquest, because he learned how to deal with the checkmate of attacks by the enemy. Once you master the strategies Jehoshaphat used, you can apply them to every checkmate situation, even when you don't know what to do. **Job** lost his fortune, his family, his health, and his friends and his wife turned against him—yet he remained faithful and prospered in the end. This chapter examines the keys to his faithfulness and how to apply them when faced with the checkmate of satanic opposition.

**NEHEMIAH (Book of Nehemiah)
And The Checkmate Of Diversion**

Nehemiah had a divine destiny to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, but there were many diversions in the process. At one point, the work on the wall ceased due to these diversions, but Nehemiah persevered and the wall was built. Diversions will try to abort your spiritual destiny. Is your ministry God-directed or man-directed?

DAVID (2 Samuel 11-12)
And The Checkmate Of Broken Fellowship With God

Here is David, who as a lad killed a giant on the battlefield, but as a king failed in the confrontation with the giant of lust. David suffered the consequences of his sin. The child that was born to him and Bathsheba died. But Bathsheba conceived again and another son was born to David. This young man succeeded his father to the throne and was the wisest ruler that ever reigned in Israel. Even if your relationship is broken with God, He isn't finished blessing your life. Failure is not an eternal checkmate because the King has one more move and He is just waiting to birth your "Solomon." Prodigal son, Peter, Jonah.

THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN (John 8:1-11)
And The Checkmate Of Sin

The woman was caught in the act of adultery, the religious leaders were livid with anger, and the crowd wanted to stone her. This poor woman symbolizes all of those in the world who are bound by sin and condemned by society. But the King had one more move. Jesus wrote a second opinion over her life and will do the same for you. He bore your shame!

PAUL (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)
And The Checkmate Of Unanswered Prayer

Paul sought the Lord three times regarding his thorn in the flesh, but was never delivered. Yet Paul did not let this affect his destiny. He was the most prolific writer and the greatest evangelist in New Testament times. No prayer is unanswered. It isn't about us. It is about God's purposes rather than our privileges and pleasures. *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

BLIND BARTIMAEUS (Mark 10:46-52)
And The Checkmate Of Bondage

Whatever bondage may be affecting your life, it is erecting a powerful checkmate that must be dealt with if you are to be and do all God intended. Your physical, mental, or emotional condition is not too big for God. Your poverty is not too deep. Your habit is not too great. THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE and when He makes it, you--like Bartimaeus--will be made whole and leave the cloak of your bondage in the dust of your past. Threw away garment that marked him as blind. Prison service. Prison examples.

THE LAME MAN (Mark 2:1-12) And The Checkmate Of Hindering Circumstances

The story of the lame man let down through the roof by his friends provides scriptural guidelines for breaking through these barriers and overcoming limitations that would checkmate God's work in our lives.

1 And again he entered into Capernaum, after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

A human barrier: Crowds;

A physical barrier: He couldn't walk.

A barrier of tradition: Ripping off the roof.

A barrier of preconceptions: These men had brought their friend to receive healing, but Jesus said, "*Thy sins be forgiven thee.*" These friends had to lay aside preconceptions of what they thought should happen in order for deliverance to come.

A spiritual barrier: Sin had erected a spiritual barrier between this man and God. We know this by the fact that Jesus forgave his sins as well as healed his body. Are there spiritual issues of sin, unforgiveness, bitterness, etc., that have erected a barrier between you and the King? If so, eliminate these by asking God to forgive you.

A religious barrier: Religious enemies turned this incident into a theological dispute. there

was a dispute as to whether Jesus had authority to forgive sins or not. While this clamor was going on, Jesus said to the man, *"I say unto thee..."* You must hear the voice of Jesus above the noise of the crowd of disputing religious spirits around you

A mental barrier: It's impossible! This man was resigned to being bedfast for the rest of his life. Maybe you have been in CHECKMATE circumstances so long that you have lost hope that things can change. Hebrews 11:1 says, *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* Hope gives substance to your faith. You probably are not suffering a faith crisis, but rather a hope crisis. Ask God to eliminate mental barriers and renew your hope so your faith will have substance.

RAHAB (Joshua 2 and 6) And The Checkmate Of Unsaved Loved Ones

In Joshua chapters 2-6, there is a story about a woman named Rahab.

Built over this gap between the two walls of Jericho was the house of a woman named Rahab who was a harlot. There was a constant stream of visitors in and out of her house and this probably influenced the spies to seek refuge there. They presumed that two strangers would not be noticed and the character of the woman was of no particular concern to them. The presence of these men did not go undetected, however:

Rahab took the men to the roof of her house and hid them with stalks of flax that were laid out for drying and processing.

After the departure of the king's messengers Rahab went up to the roof and addressed the spies:

*"...I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For 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 the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."
(Joshua 2:9-13, NKJ)*

A few days later, the Jordan River parted and the Israelites walked across on dry ground. The people of Jericho peered across their walls to see a crowd of Israelites walking around the city in a silent procession. For six days, the strange ritual was repeated. On the seventh day, again the

people walked silently around the city but this time at the conclusion of their hike seven priests with trumpets blew their horns. The people began to shout, the earth trembled, foundations cracked, and walls which had safeguarded the city for years collapsed.

Remember now--Rahab's house was built on the walls. What tremendous faith she demonstrated to remain in her house while the walls of the city were shaking and crumbling in the dust. But there she stayed--Rahab and her entire family--and from the window of their home fluttered the scarlet cord. Then Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the country:

"...Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel. (Joshua 6:22-23, NKJ)

This example is a great spiritual parallel of household salvation. Rahab interceded for her entire family, and they were all saved. Biblical records reveal that this woman later became the wife of Salmon, a prince of Judah. She gave birth to Boaz who married Ruth, who bore a son named Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David, through whose line came Jesus Christ. Rahab is listed among the ancestors of the Lord in Matthew 1:5. James commends her for the faith demonstrated by her works (James 2:25) and Paul enrolls her in the hall of fame of the faithful, declaring:

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. (Hebrews 11:31, NKJ)

The scarlet cord from Rahab's window was a symbol of redemption through the blood and the promise of God, *"When I see the blood I will pass over you"* (Exodus 12:13). Rahab claimed this promise for herself and her entire household. Even when it seemed all hope was gone and the very walls upon which her home was built were crumbling, Rahab's faith remained intact.

Have you prayed for years for your loved ones, without visible results? Are you interceding for a lost son or daughter, parent, or spouse? Do you feel like you are up against a big CHECKMATE in this area?

Don't you dare give up on them! When you pray for their salvation, you are spiritually placing the scarlet thread of the blood of Jesus Christ over your household. When Paul and Silas ministered to the Philippian jailer, they told him...

... "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)

Begin to claim this promise every day. Come against the CHECKMATE that Satan has erected in the lives of your lost loved ones by declaring, "I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I am

saved, and my household will be saved!”

Example of my Mom

Don't stop praying. Don't give up. Don't let Satan write CHECKMATE over their lives. It isn't over yet because THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE!

LAZARUS And The Checkmate Of Death

Death seems to be the ultimate checkmate of life, but for believers death is swallowed up in victory. Over 2000 years ago, Satan thought he had executed the ultimate checkmate when Jesus died on the cross. But three days later, in splendor and majesty, the King arose from the grave. The King had one more move! Death was not the ultimate checkmate in His life, nor is it in our lives.

REVELATION God's Final Move

GET READY! THE KING IS ABOUT TO MOVE

As we journey together towards the twilight of time on earth as we know it, we will continuously experience checkmates in life. In these dark times of seeming defeat, always remember that behind every circumstance there is a supernatural power at work, the King, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The King has one more move!

No matter how desperate your situation--it may even look like you have lost everything--but THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE. How do I know this? How can I be so confident to declare this to you? I know because our King has a well-documented history of last moves. I know because...

- ...Seas don't split open to allow people to pass through on dry ground.
- ...Water doesn't just spring forth from a rock.
- ...Food doesn't just accumulate on the ground every night.
- ...An old man holding up his arms does not determine the outcome of a war.
- ...Thick city walls don't just fall down flat when people blow horns.
- ...Men thrown into furnaces and lion's dens do not survive.
- ...A jar of oil doesn't just keep refilling itself.
- ...Dead men don't walk out of their graves.
- ...Wading into a dirty river doesn't cure leprosy.
- ...The blind don't see, the deaf hear, or cripples walk just because someone touches them or spits on dirt and puts mud in their eyes.
- ...Threatening storms don't just stop because someone talks to them.
- ...Shackles don't just miraculously fall off and prison doors open.