

"Welcome The Challenge"



EZRA 8:21-31

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“WELCOME THE CHALLENGE”**EZRA 8:21-31****INTRODUCTION**

IT IS NO SECRET THAT OUR NATION IS INVOLVED IN WAR.

FOR MANY OF US IN THIS ROOM, WE NEVER EXPECTED THIS KIND OF CONFRONTATION.

MOST WAR I FOUGHT ON BATTLEFIELDS WHEN THE ENEMY IS IDENTIFIABLE. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT THAT KIND OF WAR.

THE ENEMY IS CLOAKED IN SECRECY. THERE IS NO ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF TROOPS FIGHTING FOR A NATION.

HOWEVER, OUR NATION, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS DECIDED TO REBUFF AND FIGHT THIS STRANGE TYPE OF ENEMY.

THE LOOK OF DREAD ON THE FACE OF OUR PRESIDENT, OBAMA IS UNMISTAKABLE. THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET IS NOT REJOICING ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF GOING INTO BATTLE.

WE'VE BEEN WARNED THAT THERE MAY BE CAUSALITIES. WE'VE BEEN TOLD TO HOPE FOR THE BEST AND PREPARE FOR THE WORST.

HOWEVER, IN OUR DAILY LIVES- WE ALL FACE NOT A CONFRONTATION OF THE BATTLE FIELD. BUT LIFE HAS DEALT WITH US CONFRONTATION.

THE SONG WRITER PENNED THE WORDS BEST.

EVERY WHERE YOU GO THERE IS TROUBLE

EVERYWHERE YOU GO THERE IS STRIFE.

MOST OF US DON'T GET EXCITED ABOUT THE TRAGEDIES AND TROUBLE OF THIS LIFE.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HEARD SOMEONE IN CHURCH SAY”

1. PRAISE GOD! MY CHILDREN ARE IN TROUBLE.
2. HALLELUJAH! I JUST GOT LAID OFF FROM MY JOB.
3. THANK YOU JESUS! MY HUSBAND LEFT ME FOR A YOUNGER WOMAN.
4. PRAISE HIS NAME! MY DOCTOR JUST TOLD ME THAT H'S CONCERNED ABOUT A SPOT ON THE X-RAY.

LIFE'S OFTEN UNPREDICTABLE, AND TROUBLE DOES NOT TRIGGER A RECEPTION OF JOY

AS A MATTER OF FACT, TROUBLE BRINGS TO MOST OF US DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND FEAR.

HOWEVER, I NEED TO TELL THE CHILD OF GOD THAT WE ALL MUST UNDERSTAND THAT AS LONG AS WE ARE LIVING, THERE WILL BE CHALLENGES IN OUR LIVES

THERE WILL BE DAYS OF GREAT HUMILIATION,

THERE WILL BE DAYS OF GREAT WOUNDINGS OF THE HEART.

THERE WILL BE DAYS WHEN YOU'LL FEEL LIKE LOSING YOUR MIND, UP IN HERE

THERE WILL BE DAYS WHEN THERE WILL BE DAYS WHEN YOU'LL START THE DAY CRYING AND CRY YOURSELF TO SLEEP.

IF LIFE DOESN'T COME TO YOU WITH TROUBLE, JUST KEEP ON LIVING.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT A MAN THAT IS BORN OF A WOMAN IS OF A FEW DAYS, BUT THOSE DAYS ARE FULL OF TROUBLE.

WE DON'T ACCEPT THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE TOO WELL. HOWEVER, I HAVE COME TODAY TO GIVE YOU A NEW LOOK AT THIS THING.

MAYBE INSTEAD OF FOLDING UP YOUR ARMS AND BRINGING OUT YOUR WHITE FLAG, MAYBE A NEW WAY OF DEALING WITH THE TROUBLING CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHALLENGES OF LIFE ARE IN ORDER..

I'VE COME TO SUGGEST TODAY THAT MAYBE INSTEAD OF DREADING THE CHALLENGE, INSTEAD OF MOPING AND REJECTING THE CHALLENGE. MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR US TO WELCOME THE CHALLENGE.

THIS MAY SOUND STRANGE BUT CHALLENGES OF LIFE ARE NEVER WITH US WITHOUT CAUSE OR REASON.

THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE ARE NEVER BLANKET CHALLENGES.

THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE ARE NOT ALWAYS TAILOR MADE FOR EVERYONE.

THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE ARE NOT ALWAYS THE SAME EVERYDAY.

HOWEVER, THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE SHOULD BE WELCOMED IN THIS VEIN:

1. IF GOD DID NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD HANDLE THE CHALLENGE- HE WOULD NEVER ALLOW YOU TO GO THROUGH WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH.
2. IF GOD DID NOT BELIEVE THAT SAMSON COULD HANDLE HIS EVENTFUL END BETWEEN TWO PILLARS AFTER BEING BETRAYED BY DELILAH, HE COULD HAVE EASILY CHANGED THE MIND OF SAMSON. WHOM THE BIBLE SAYS, LOOKED AT DELILAH, AND SHE WAS PLEASING TO *HIS* EYE.
3. IF GOD DID NOT BELIEVE THAT DAVID COULD HANDLE HIS EVENTFUL END SERVING ON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL, AFTER A SEASON OF DESPAIR IN THE KINGDOM, AS HIS OWN SON ABSALOM WAS ASSEMBLING TROOPS AND SUPPORTERS AT THE GATE, TO RISE UP AGAINST HIS OWN FATHER AND DECLARE

CIVIL WAR IN BOTH THE KING'S DOMAIN AND IN THE KING'S HOUSE, GOD COULD HAVE EASILY ALLOWED ABSALOM'S HEART TO BE CHANGED TO LOVING HIS FATHER, IN SPIRE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. IF GOD DID NOT BELIEVE THAT PAUL COULD HAVE HANDLED HIS EVENTFUL END AND SERVE IN THE ROLE OF A SPIRITUAL FATHER AND BISHOP TO TIMOTHY AND TITUS, AND OTHER PASTORS AND PREACHERS THROUGHOUT THE REALM OF ROME, WHEN THE CONTROVERSY OF JOHN MARK ROSE UP AND IT CAUSED A SPLIT IN THE MINISTRY, GOD COULD HAVE EASILY STILLED THE HEART OF PAUL TO CHANGE
5. IF GOD DID NOT BELIEVE THAT YOUR LATTER DAYS WOULD BE GREATER THAN YOUR FORMER DAYS, HE WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED YOUR HEART TO BE BROKEN, NOR ALLOWED YOUR FRIENDS TO FORSAKE YOU, OR ALLOWED YOUR BODY TO BETRAY YOU, AND ALLOW TROUBLE TO RISE, UNLESS HE BELIEVED THAT YOU COULD MAKE IT THROUGH.

THE CHALLENGES SUGGEST THAT GOD HAS CONFIDENCE IN ME AND HE IS IN CONTROL OF ANY SITUATION AND CIRCUMSTANCE.

THE CHALLENGES SUGGEST THAT GOD IS SETTING ME TO TAKE ME TO A NEW LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING AND MATURITY THAT I DON'T POSSESS RIGHT NOW,.

SOMEBODY HERE KNOWS THAT YOU CAN HANDLE SOME STUFF NOW THAT YOU COULD NOT DEAL WITH THIS TIME 10 MONTHS AGO.

YOU CAN HANDLE SOME STUFF NOW THAT YOU COULDN'T HANDLE 10 WEEKS AGO.

YOU CAN HANDLE SOME STUFF NOW THAT YOU COULDN'T HANDLE 10 DAYS AGO.

AND NOW BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCED, I HAVE LEARNED LIKE PAUL SAID, THAT IN ALL THINGS I HAVE LEARNED TO BE CONTENT.

1. IF GOD HANDLED MY LAST PROBLEM, HE CAN HANDLE MY NEXT PROBLEM.
2. IF GOD TOOK CARE OF MY LAST ENEMY, HE CAN TAKE CARE OF MY NEXT ENEMY.
3. IF GOD EXPOSED MY LAST UNSEEN ENEMY, HE CAN EXPOSE MY NEXT UNSEEN ENEMY.
4. IF GOD SHELTERED ME DURING MY LAST STORM, HE CAN SHELTER ME IN MY NEXT STORM.
5. IF GOD WIPED THE TEARS FROM MY EYES LAST TIME, HE CAN WIPE THEM AGAIN THE NEXT TIME.

SO, WELCOME THE CHALLENGE ! THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT THE CHALLENGES DON'T HURT. BUT I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE, BECAUSE I KNOW THAT GOD HAS SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE CONCERNING ME.

TRANSITION TO THE TEXT

IN OUR TEXT, THE EXILE OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL IS NOW COMING TO AN END. AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE NOW NO LONGER UNDER THE GRIP OF BABYLON.

THEY HAVE BEEN IN CAPTIVITY IN A STRANGE LAND, TAUGHT STRANGE WAYS. RECEIVED STRANGE INSTRUCTIONS, AND NOW, FREEDOM IS ABOUT TO BREAK OUT.

EZRA HAS ASSEMBLED A BAND OF MENTO COME AND SET UP THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THIS NEW LAND OF FREEDOM,

HE ASSEMBLES:

1. 38 MEN FROM THE FAMILY OF SHEREBIAH.
2. 20 MEN FROM THE FAMILY OF HUSHABIAH.
3. 220 TEMPLE SERVANTS FROM THE MAN IDDO.

AND THEY HAVE ASSEMBLED THESE MEN-ESPECIALLY THE 58 FROM THE LEVITICAL TRIBES AND THE TRAVEL TO THE NEW LAND HAS BEGUN.

EZRA UNDERSTOOD THAT WITHOIUT THE MEN OF GOD, REAL CHANGE CAN'T HAPPEN.

WITHOUT THE MEN OF GOD, THE PEOPLE WILL BE AIMLESS AND HOPELESS.

WITHOUT THE MEN OF GOD, PEOPLE'S DREAMS CAN EASILY BE SHATTERED.

WITHOUT A WORD FROM THE LORD, LIVES WOULD NOT BE STRENGTHENED.

EZRA UNDERSTOOD THE CHALLENGE . HE WELCOMED THE CHALLENGE.

I. FIRST, HE WELCOMED THE CHALLENGE BY UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL PREPARATION.

- A. HIS FIRST MOVE WAX TO PROCLAIM A FAST BY THESE 278 MEN AND HIMSELF. LET ME PAINT A PICTURE.
1. THEY ARE GETTING READY TO TRAVEL, BY FOOT AND BEAST, FROM BABYLON TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL, AND EZRA PROCLAIMS A FAST.
 2. BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO CROSS TERRAINS THAT ARE TREACHEROUS, DEAL WITH LAND THAT IS ARID, TRAVELING IN A REGION WHERE THE TEMPERATURE CAN BE COLD SOMETIMES AND HOT SOMETIMES. AND EZRA PROCLAIMS A FAST.
- B. LET US UNDERSTAND THAT BEFORE YOU CAN WELCOME THE CHALLENGE, YOU GOT TO BE SPIRITUALLY PREPARED.

1. MAY I SUGGEST THAT BEFORE THE CHALLENGE GETS HERE- YOU NEED TO BE SPIRITUALLY PREPARED?
2. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE CHALLENGE GETS HERE- FAST
3. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE CHALLENGE GETS HERE- PRAY.
4. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE CHALLENGE GETS HERE – GIVE
5. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE CHALLENGE GETS HERE – SHOUT.
6. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE CHALLENGE GETS HERE – STUDY THE WORD.
7. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE CHALLENGE GETS HERE – PRAISE HIS NAME.

C. AND NOTICE THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FASTING AND MISSING A FEW MEALS.

1. MUST BE DONE WITH PURPOSE.
2. JUST BECAUSE YOU MISSED BREAKFAST DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE FASTING.
3. JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE LATE COMING HOME FROM WORK AND YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE COOKING, THAT DOESN'T QUALIFY YOU AS FASTING.
4. BUT FASTING IS NOT ONLY TURNING THE PLATE DOWN, BUT FASTING ALSO MEANS TO BE PURPOSED IN WHAT YOU WANT FROM THE LORD.

D. EZRA SAID WE ARE OING TO FAST TO PREPARE OURSELVES SPIRITUALLY-BUT LOOK WHAT HE SAID WE'RE GOING TO ASK GOD FOR: (21)

1. WE'RE GOING TO ASK HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNES.
2. IN HEBREW THIS DOES NOT TALK ABOUT JUST PHYSICAL DIRECTION, IT ALSO IMPLIES SPIRITUAL DIRECTION.
3. WE'RE GOING TO ASK HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR OURSELVES.
4. WE'RE GOING TO ASK HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR OUR CHILDREN. Q
5. WE'RE GOING TO ASK HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR OUR POSSESSIONS.
6. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ASKED GOD FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS ?
7. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ASKED GOD TO GIVE YOUR CHILDREN RIGHTEOUSNESS?
8. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ASKED GOD TO COVER YOUR POSSESSIONS WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS?

II. SECONDLY, YOU WELCOME THE CHALLNGE BY HAVING CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

- A. EZRA SAID THAT I KNOW THAT I'VE ONLY GOT 278 MEN AND OF THOSE 58 ARE FROM THE TRIBE OF LEVI, BUT I COULDN'T ASK FOR HELP FROM THE KING OF BABYLON.
 1. HE SAYS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE SINCE BABYLON GRANTED US RELEASE. KNOWING THAT WE HAVE ENEMIES OUT THERE
- B. EZRA SAYS THE REASON WHY WE DIDN'T ASK HELP OF THE BABYLONIANS IS THAT WE'VE BEEN BRAGGING.

1. WE'VE BEEN TELLING OUR CAPTORS THAT, "OUR DELIVERANCE WILL COME."
 2. WE'VE BEEN TELLING OUR CAPTORS THAT, "HE MAY NOT COME WHEN WE WANT HIM TO, BUT HE'S ALWAYS ON TIME."
 3. WE'VE BEEN TELLING OUR CAPTORS THAT, "HE IS A PRESENT HELP IN A TIME OF TROUBLE."
 4. WE'VE BEEN WORSHIPPING GOD IN SPITE OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCE.
 5. WE'VE BEEN PRAYING IN SPITE OF OUR TROUBLE.
 6. AND WE BRAGGED AND TOLD THE KING THAT, "THE LORD'S HAND IS UPON THEM THAT SEEK HIM, AND AGAINST THOSE WHO FORSAKE HIM."
- C. I NEED TO SUGGEST THAT ALL OF US THAT DO SOME BRAGGING ON HIM IN CHURCH—NEED TO BRAG ON HIM EVERY WHERE ELSE.
1. HE'S NOT ONLY GOOD ON SUNDAY, HE'S GOOD ON MONDAY.
 2. HE'S NOT ONLY GREAT IN CHURCH; HE'S GREAT ON THE JOB.
 3. HE'S NOT ONLY "JEHOVAH JIREH" IN CHURCH; HE'S "JOHOVAH JIREH" ON THE BUS.
 4. HE'S NOT ONLY "JEHOVAH NISSI" IN SUNDAY SCHOOL; HE'S "JEHOVAH NISSI" IN HIGH SCHOOL.
 5. HE'S NOT ONLY "JEHOVAH RAPHA" IN THE CHOIR STAND; HE'S "JEHOVAH RAPHA" IN THE COURT ROOM.
- D. BUT JUST DON'T SAY IT, BUT BE CONFIDENT WITH IT.

1. THE OLD FOLKS IN THE COUNTRY UNDERSTOOD THAT BECAUSE THEY MAY NOT HAVE HAD A WHOLE LOT.
 2. THEY DIDN'T HAVE CALLER I.D'S AND FASHIONABLE CLOTHING.
 3. THEY DIDN'T HAVE THREE LEVEL HOMES AND TWO CARS IN THE GARAGE AND ONE IN THE DRIVE WAY.
 4. THEY DIDN'T HAVE VISA CARDS AND MASTER CARDS AND AMERICAN EXPRESS CARDS.
 5. THEY DIDN'T HAVE GUCCI COLOGNE AND GUCCI HANDBAGS AND GUCCI SHOES
 6. BUT THEY KNEW THAT THE LORD WOULD MAKE A WAY SOMEHOW.
- E. I BELIEVE THAT SOMETIMES BEFORE WE PROSPER, WE OUGHT TO HAVE THE FAITH, AND DEMONSTRATE ON THIS SIDE OF OUR BLESSINGS, THAT OUR BLESSINGS WILL COME.
1. I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT UNTIL I GET HEALED; I'M GOING TO PRAISE HIM LIKE I AM HEALED.
 2. I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT UNTIL THE COURT HAS RENDERED ITS DECISION; I'M GOING TO SHOUT LIKE IT'S ALREADY IN MY FAVOR.
 3. I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT UNTIL MY LIFE IS BACK IN ORDER; I'M GOING TO LIFT UP MY HANDS, LIKE IT'S ALREADY DONE.
- F. EZRA AND HIS BAND OF MEN HAD ONLY A FEW RESOURCES, BUT THEY SERVE A MIGHTY GOD.
1. AND CHECK THIS OUT-IF GOD HAS DELIVERED YOU FROM THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY, DON'T BRING THE ENEMY ALONG FOR THE RIDE

2. IF GOD HAS DELIVERED YOU FROM COCAINE,
THROW AWAY ALL OF YOUR PIPES.
3. IF GOD HAS DELIVERED YOU FROM ALCOHOLISM,
THROW AWAY ALL OF YOUR SHOT GLASSES.
4. IF GOD HAS DELIVERED YOU FROM CIGARETTE
ADDICTION, THROW AWAY YOUR LIGHTER.
5. IF GOD HAS DELIVERED YOU FROM DIPPING'
SNUFF, THROW AWAY YOUR NASTY SPIT CUP.

G. SOMEBODY HERE KNOWS THAT THOSE WHO THE SON
HAS SET FREE. WE ARE FREE INDEED.

1. IF GOD HAS BLESSED YOU WITH A LOVING WIFE,
THROW AWAY YOUR LITTLE BLACK BOOK.
2. IF GOD HAS BLESSED YOU WITH HEALING,
THROW AWAY YOUR EMPTY PILL BOTTLES.

**III. LASTLY, IF YOU'RE GOING TO WELCOME THE
CHALLENGE-YOU GOT TO GIVE TO THE LORD.**

A. EZRA AND HIS MEN HAVE ALREADY SEPARATED
THEMSELVES. THEY'VE ALREADY MADE THE
SPIRITUAL PREPARATIONS. THEY'VE ALREADY
PREPARED THEMSELVES. THE PEOPLE OF GOD GAVE AN
OFFERING [25-28]

1. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT EVEN THE KING GAVE AN
OFFERING.
2. THE KINGS COUNSELORS GAVE AN OFFERING,
3. THE LORDS GAVE AN OFFERING.
4. EVEN THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL GAVE AN
OFFERING.

B. I NEED TO TELL SOMEBODY THAT IF YOU WANT SOME CHALLENGES MET. YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE

1. RENT DUE? GIVE.
2. CHILDREN GONE CRAZY? GIVE.
3. TROUBLE ON THE JOB? GIVE.
4. DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO? GIVE,
5. FRIENDS ALL WALK AWAY? GIVE,
6. PROBIEMS THAT YOU CAN'T SOLVE? GIVE.
7. CHALLENGES THAT YOU THINK YOU CAN'T HANDLE? GIVE.

C. EZRA SEPARATED 12 MEN FROM SHEREBIAH AND 12 MEN FROM JESHIAH AND THEY COUNTED THE LORD'S OFFERING.

1. I WISH THAT WE WOULD ALL GIVE. AND IN EVERY CHURCH, UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY A FEW FOLK CAN BE COUNTED TO BE FAITHFUL.
2. ONLY A FEW FOLK WILL PRAISE HIS NAME.
3. ONLY A FEW FOLK WILL STUDY HIS WORD.
4. ONLY A FEW FOLK WILL PRAY WITH FERVOR.
5. ONLY A FEW FOLK WILL KEEP THE MINISTRY ALIVE.
6. ONLY A FEW FOLK WILL SING AND NOT GET TIRED.
7. ONLY A FEW FOLK WILL USHER AND NOT COMPLAIN.

8. ONLY A FEW FOLK WILL VISIT THE SICK AND SHUT INS.

9. ONLY A FEW FOLK WILL SUPPORT THE PASTOR.

D. BUT THANK GOD FOR THE FEW. THESE FEW FOLK GAVE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT. THEY GAVE.

1. 650 TALENTS OF SILVER

2. 100 TALENTS OF SILVER VESSELS

3. 100 TALENTS OF GOLD

4. 20 BASONS OF GOLD

5. 2 VESSELS OF FINE COPPER

6. IT'S AMAZING. THEY HAVE BEEN IN CAPTIVITY — YET THEY GAVE LITERALLY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

7. I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT WHEN TIMES GET BAD — THAT'S THE TIME TO GIVE TO THE LORD.

8. WHEN SITUATIONS SEEM IMPOSSIBLE — IT'S TIME TO GIVE TO THE LORD.

E. I MEAN AFTER ALL, YOU GIVE TO EVERYBODY ELSE.

1. YOU GIVE TO THE TAX MAN.

2. YOU GIVE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

3. YOU GIVE TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

4. YOU GIVE TO THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.

5. YOU GIVE TO A WAITRESS FOR ONLY A FEW SECONDS OF SERVICE.

6. YOU GIVE TO A DOCTOR FOR A FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS OF ADVICE.
 7. YOU GIVE TO A JUDGE AFTER SPEEDING FOR A FEW MOMENTS.
- F. IT'S TIME TO I THE LORD. EZRA SAYS NOW — BEFORE WE GO. YOU ARE NOW HOLY:[28]
1. NOTICE THAT THEY WERE NOT PROCLAIMED HOLY UNTIL AFTER THEY GAVE.
 2. UNTIL THEY GAVE GOD THEIR BEST — THEN THEY WERE HOLY.
 3. THEY WEREN'T HOLY BECAUSE THEY WORE WHITE.
 4. THEY WEREN'T HOLY BECAUSE OF WHERE THEY SAT IN CHURCH.
 5. THEY WEREN'T HOLY BECAUSE OF HOW LONG THEY HAD BEEN IN CHURCH.
 6. BUT THEY WERE HOLY BECAUSE OF THEIR OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD.
 7. THAT WORD HOLY, KADESH IN HEBREW, MEANS THAT THEY ARE SEPARATED AND SEPARATED AND SET APART.
 8. THAT MEANS THAT IN GOD'S EYESIGHT, THEY ARE SPECIAL.

CONCLUSION

- A. THAT'S WHY I CAN WELCOME THE CHALLENGES — BECAUSE I AM SPECIAL.

1. I AM A CHILD OF GOD.
2. I HAVE BEEN BOUGHT WITH A PRICE.
3. I AM NOT JUST ANYBODY.
4. I DON'T WALK LIKE I USED TO WALK.
5. I DON'T LIVE LIKE I USED TO LIVE.
6. I AM SOMEBODY.
7. I AM HIS SPECIAL ANOINTED.
8. I AM HIS REPRESENTATIVE.
9. I AM HIS JOY.
10. I AM AN HEIR OF SALVATION.
11. I'VE BEEN PURCHASED BY GOD.
12. I'VE BEEN FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT. AND WASHED
IN HIS BLOOD.

B. THAT'S WHY I WELCOME THE CHALLENGES

1. I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE- BECAUSE HE'S IN
ME
2. I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE - BECAUSE HE IS
MY JOY.
3. I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE — BECAUSE I'VE
GOT THE HELMET OF SALVATION.
4. I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE — BECAUSE HE IS
MY SHEPHERD.
5. I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE — BECAUSE NO
WEAPON FORMED AGAINST ME SHALL PROSPER.

6. I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE — BECAUSE GREATER IS HE THAT'S IN ME THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.
7. I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE — BECAUSE HE'S GOT ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.
 - a. HE HAS POWER TO LIVE.
 - b. HE HAD THE POWER TO CREATE THIS WORLD.
 - c. HE HAD POWER TO DIE.
 - d. HE HAD POWER TO PREACH UNTO THE CAPTIVES.
 - e. HE HAD POWER TO RISE ON SUNDAY MORNING.

C. AND I TAP INTO THAT POWER

1. WELCOME THE CHALLENGE. AND BECAUSE OF THIS, MY ATTITUDE IS THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
2. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
3. THE TEXT SAYS THAT WHEN EZRA AND HIS MEN TRAVELLED,,,,,THE LORD'S HANDS WERE UPON THEM.
4. WHEN YOU LOOK BACK OVER ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.... ANYBODY HERE KNOWS THAT HIS HANDS WERE WITH YOU?
5. BLESSED MY SOUL WITHOUT A WORD.
6. HE PROTECTED ME WITHOUT A PROCLAMATION.
7. HE LOVED ME IN SPITE OF MYSELF

YES.....

