

THE LITTLE-BY-LITTLE PRINCIPLE

DEUTERONOMY 7 – ERIC SIMPSON – JUNE 24, 2018

Benaiah (*2 Samuel 23*) – Our biggest problems and our deepest pain are often an arrow pointing to God's larger purposes for our lives.

Hezekiah (*Isaiah 36-37*) – As we step toward God's purposes, we'll find the Lord frequently reframes our current realities instead of changing them.

Deuteronomy 7:1

When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you

Deuteronomy 7:17-19

¹⁷ You may say to yourselves, "These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?" ¹⁸ But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt. ¹⁹ You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the miraculous signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.

Deuteronomy 7:21-22

²¹ Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. ²² The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.

Sometimes God deals w/ our 500lb lions swiftly but often He deals w/ them gradually.

Why?

Deuteronomy 8:2

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

Deuteronomy 8:12-14

¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

It's not just about dealing with our 500lb lions, it's about who we're becoming while they're being dealt with.

It's not just about getting the Israelites to the promised land, it's about who they'll be when they get there.

God has the capacity for swiftness, but He has the wisdom for little-by-little.