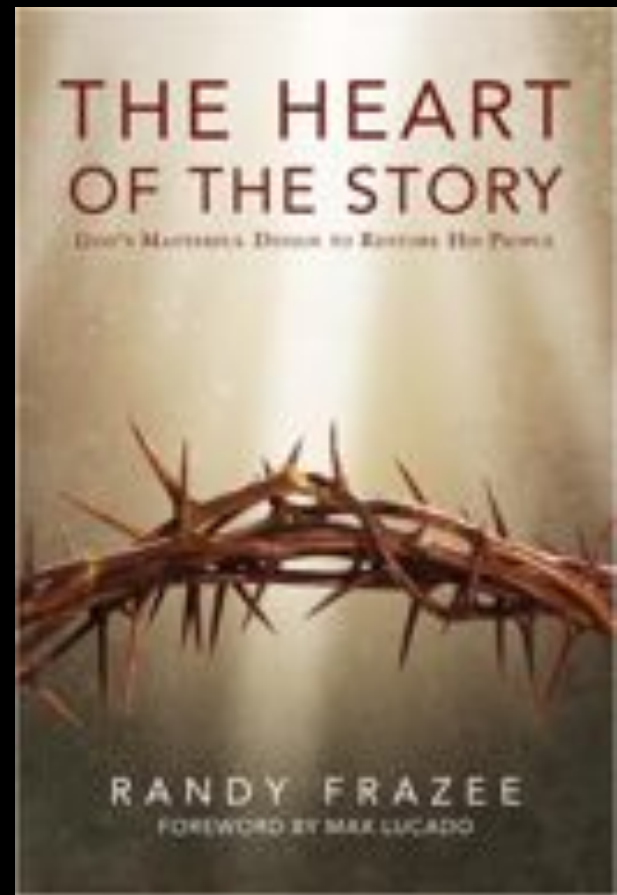


The Heart of the Story

Chapter 7: They Might Be Giants

November 9, 2011



General George S. Patton



Defeat is not an Option

- *“It was time to start the next chapter in God’s Upper Story.” (p. 77)*



The fiasco of the spies:

- *“Yes it was a land flowing with milk and hone. A single cluster of grapes was so big that it had to be carried by two men! The bad news? The Canaanites had been supersized to match the size of the grapes.”* (p. 77)
- *“The native people were big, tall, scary-looking warriors. The spies felt like grasshoppers...”* (p. 77)

A Minority Report

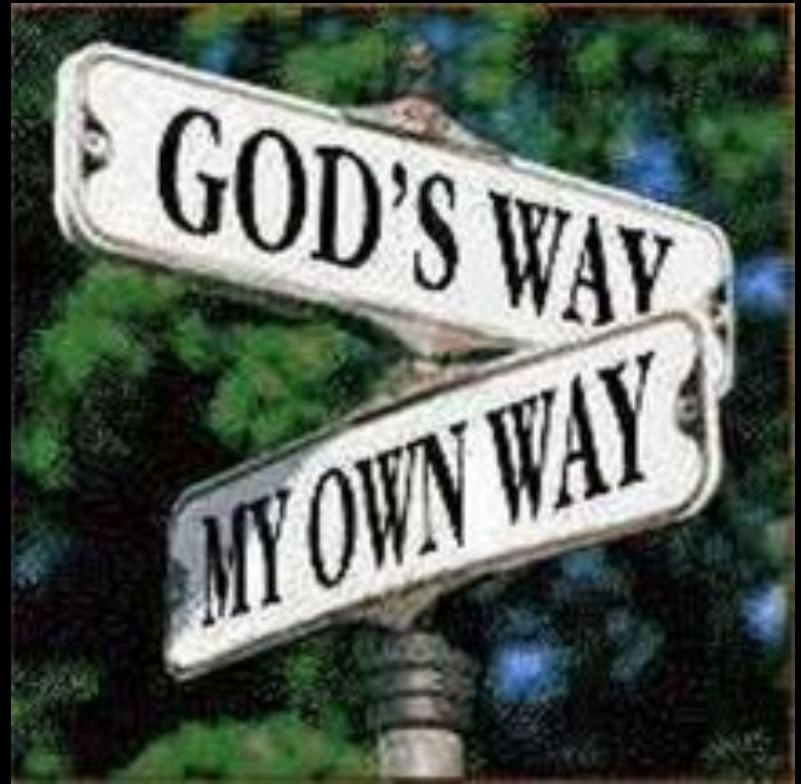
- *“The Land we passed through is exceedingly good...the LORD is with us.”* (p. 78)
- From Wikipedia:
 - A committee report written by at least two members of a committee to officially state a position counter to the committee's majority, i.e., a dissenting opinion.
- *“But the people wouldn't listen.”* (p. 78)

God's Plan for Conquest

- *“Just cross the river, perform delicate surgery on all your men, and then march around a well fortified city inhabited by giants.”* (p. 80)
- *“Nothing about God's plan made sense. At least not from the Lower Story perspective.”* (p. 80)

God's Ways...

- *“God’s ways are not always our ways, and this is because he always has his Upper Story front and center in his mind.”* (p. 80)
 - Proverbs 14:12
 - Isaiah 55:8-9
 - Psalm 25:4-5
 - Psalm 128:1
 - Proverbs 3:5-7



THE Way!

- Matthew 7:13-14
- John 10:7-10
- John 14:1-7



So...Do Not Be Afraid

- *“Perhaps sensing a little nervousness from Joshua, he added, ‘Do not be afraid.’ This encouragement is a major Upper Story theme.” (p. 80)*
- *“The community God is creating for us will not be characterized by fear, despite the fact that we will face many fearsome moments.” (p.81)*

The Law

- Is this in the wide sense or the narrow sense?
 - Wide
 - LAW = TORAH = TEACHINGS
 - Narrow
 - LAW = THE 10 WORDS
- The Key does not come in obedience, but in the fact that God says *“I will be with you.”*
 - Emmanuel
 - The Great Commission (Matthew 28:20)
 - Communion

The Conquest

“It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.” -Deuteronomy 9:5-6

The Conquest

- This is the fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham many years before.
- *“What seems brutal and excessive in the Lower Story is a statement about God’s justice and righteousness in his Upper Story kingdom.”* (p. 83)



Bravery and Courage

- This comes not in obedience, but in humility and an understanding of a God who came to be with us not because we deserved it, but because we could survive without him.
- Baptism is more than a public declaration that we make for God, but is an intimate encounter with a God who wants to have a relationship with us and for us to be with him

“I will be with you.”

