

THE GREATEST SOLDIER

I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. -- NIV 2 Corinthians 10:2-5

The young soldier lays himself down to die on the hill he took. So resolute. So professional. So weary. With a smile and a happy heart he lays himself down to die. His enemies have left him bloodied, and mortally wounded, but he has taken this hill for his beloved king and country.

He is content. He knows his death is not in vain, for many good soldiers will soon follow to finally win liberty for themselves and this land where he has fallen.

His far off homeland is a fantastic place of freedom, prosperity and Liberty. Everyone there is wealthy and well. Bright Opportunity shines in every corner. His family and friends will be anxious for his return.

Yet when they see what he has done for Liberty, they will be satisfied. His assignment was very important and vital to this War. They will know he took the first enemy soil for their country's greater glory. He did his duty.

The enemy land lies in darkness, oppressed by a most evil ruler. People there are poor, unschooled and enslaved. Even Hope hides herself from those unhappy souls. He was glad he had come. His life was not too great a price to pay to free these people. He knew they were worth this most personal and ultimate sacrifice.

As he died, he remembered his home. There he had been greatly blessed to own freedom and prosperity. His was a mighty land. He cherished his family and friends. He loved his country with all his heart. Yet knowing others were living and dying in darkness and poverty was more than he could bear. Therefore, when the War Call went out, he went willingly. He knew there was a price to be paid. He understood this was a great war between the forces of good and evil. How could he not go?

That is how he finally came to this lonely hill in a foreign land, within enemy lines, alone and wounded from the fiercest of all battles.

Before he died he planted the emblem of Freedom in that foreign soil. Then he was supremely content, and he knew the greatest joy of all. He was content because he saw himself surrounded by the legions of others to follow, who would lay down their lives for Liberty, following his example. He understood that true freedom is only won by the blood of its citizens who lay down their lives so that others might be free.

We know him as the greatest soldier who ever lived.

His country? It is called the Kingdom of Heaven.

His battlefield? The planet Earth.

His name? His name is Jesus.

He is the most professional of all patriots and soldiers. The world knows Freedom because of him. His example and teaching is what patterned our own great "Land of the Free."

Fear not for his sacrifice, for he lives again, nevermore to die. His reward is great, for he gained a foothold on earth for the Kingdom of Light, and in that act gained freedom for all people. He now lives in that most wondrous land of Freedom. And so shall every former earthborn slave turned soldier who dares give their life in his Name, for Liberty.

Why did Jesus take that hill? What was so important that he must do that? He was the greatest soldier, not only for his courage and bravery, but because of his brilliant strategy in utterly defeating his enemies.

When he came to earth, he had a mission to take that hill. He had been told that if he could take it, the war would be won and the oppressed people would be set free. So he came to that dark land, taking the form of the people there, speaking their language and eating their food. He dressed like them and became one of them. He could bide his time for he knew when the time came, he would be ready to take that hill.

The day came, and he went to that place. The enemy was already there in dread array, waiting for him. He cared not for this. His mission was to take that hill, and he would, even if it meant his death.

The enemy cruelly bound him, nailing him to a cross. They lifted him up between heaven and earth. He appeared helpless and doomed. Satan came and stood at the foot of the cross, looking up at Jesus. He expected to see defeat there in the eyes of Jesus, who was moments away from death's door.

What Satan saw there on the face of Jesus was instead a vision of great triumph and joy! Satan grew fearful at the sight, finally realizing that perhaps he had miscalculated somehow. Jesus was dying. How could he win now? With fright and terror he and all his hosts fled the hill.

You see, Jesus, as God, even when he was at his weakest, is still stronger and more mighty than all the hosts of evil. The enemy realized this, the day they confronted the greatest soldier who ever lived.

On every world, around every family table, and around every campfire, people still talk about the greatest soldier, and how he won liberty for a world and victory for all of creation. He did it all by dying on a cross. That was the greatest battle ever fought.

Therefore, Jesus deserves the titles he has been given – “King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.” He is worthy to sit down at the right hand of Majesty, taking for himself the Name that is above all names. At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord! For he is the greatest soldier that ever lived.

We are the people that he set free forever. Because of this, we owe him everything!