

Immerse Day 67 :: May 4

In sports, it is pretty common for the team to take it easy the day or two before a big game. In theater, there is often a break before opening night. The calm before the storm. The deep inhale before you dive in.

The Israelites are done wandering. It is time to take the Promised Land, to go to war with the tribes in that region. But first, a day off, a break, a calm, a deep breath. But what might this look like before the Taking of the Promised Land?

The Israelites journey north through a number of well-established nations. But, God says, do not bother them. As you go through the lands of the Edomites, do not bother them. As you travel the road through Moab, do not bother them. Crossing the border into Ammonite country? Do not bother them. Again and again, God tells His people not to make trouble, not to start a rumble, not to bother these nations. Each one is a long-lost relative's clan, the descendants of Esau (Jacob's brother), the descendants of Lot (Abraham's nephew), and you shouldn't bother them.

We all need a deep breath before we begin a project, a game, a show. And this is Israel's deep breath. Don't bother these people; save your strength for the wars to come. Next you will enter the lands of King Sihon, and King Og, and though God will deliver them into your hands, it will still mean war. And after that comes the Promised Land itself, with warfare aplenty.

Is there a way that we could look at this quarantine not as a prison but as a Deep Breath? What kind of mental shift might it take in us to be excited not just about the end of COVIDland, but also the coming opportunities for ministry? Imagine turning your anticipation about your new freedom into anticipation for a new ministry landscape, a new canvas on which to paint your particular ministry. Maybe we shouldn't bother with little battles that sap our energy and instead save our energies for the Ministry that is to come.

Are you ready? Are you bothering with little battles, insignificant ones in the light of the grand ministry that could be?