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How Joshua DoSed Jericho: Cybersecurity Secrets from the Bible

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A Few Caveats

- All proselytization herein is of the "repent of your security sins" type – *there will be no altar call!*

- All corrections and challenges to my exegesis/*midrashim* are welcome

Cybersecurity and Scripture - Seriously?

- "There is nothing new under the sun" – Ecclesiastes 1:9

- "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots?" – Jeremiah 13:23

- "He taught them many things by parables…" Mark 4:2

- What do "as old as Methuselah," "read the handwriting on the wall" and "the Good Samaritan" have in common?

- The Bible has been used as a roadmap before

Agenda

- Adam and Eve
- Joshua
- Samson
- David
- Hezekiah
- Nehemiah
- Daniel
- Jesus
- Words of Wisdom
- Conclusion

Adam and Eve

◆ Reference: Genesis 2-3

◆ "And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Genesis 2:16

◆ The Serpent's Challenge and The Fall

◆ Conclusions

  ◆ Users will always click on the apple

  ◆ Provide fast fess up mechanisms

Adam and Eve

Joshua

- Reference: Joshua 1-6
- Joshua sends spies to Jericho; Rahab hides them
- Joshua lays siege to Jericho
  - Marches for six days around city
  - On seventh day, march seven times, with ram's horns and shouts
- City totally destroyed
- Conclusions
  - Beware the insider threat
  - …and the persistent threat

Joshua

Samson

- Reference: Judges 13-16

- Wife number 1 and the "guessed" riddle

- Samson falls for Delilah

  - Delilah recruited by the Philistines

  - Delilah persists in finding the secret of Samson's strength

- Samson brings the temple down on the Philistines

- Conclusions

  - Learn from prior attack patterns

  - "Nobody would ever do that, would they?"

Samson

David

- Reference: 1 Samuel 16 -17

- God rejects Saul: Samuel selects David as the new king

- David becomes harpist to Saul

- Philistines pick a heavily armored champion – Goliath

- David volunteers for combat and defeats Goliath

- Conclusions

  - Use the weapon at hand

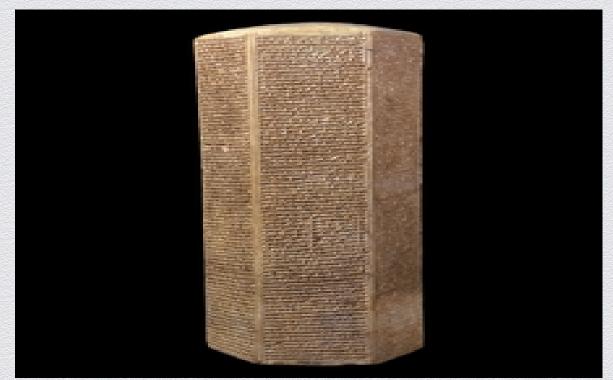 - "Man looks on outward appearances"

David

Hezekiah

- References: Isaiah 36; 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32, Herodotus

- Basic story well-attested outside of the Bible (i.e., from excavations in Nineveh)

- Assyria lays siege to Israel and Judah

- Assyrians surround Jerusalem

  - Hezekiah secures the water supply

- Sennacherib doesn't take Jerusalem

- Conclusions

  - Secure what is strategic

  - History has fulcrums – so do organizations

Taylor's Prism

Sennacherib

Nehemiah

- Reference: Book of Nehemiah

- "What is it you want?"

- Opposition brews

- "Work with one hand and … a weapon in the other"

- The wall is finished: Ezra reads the law

- Conclusions

  - Ask big – but have a plan

  - Enlist supporters but expect opposition

  - "Read people the law"

Nehemiah

Daniel

- Reference: Daniel 5

- Belshazzar has a feast

    - A mysterious hand writes on the wall

    - Belshazzar seeks someone – anyone – who can read it

    - Daniel is called and interprets the writing

- Daniel is honored; the next day, his prophecy comes true

- Conclusions:

    - Preserve integrity, even to a hostile audience

    - "Read the writing on the wall"

Daniel

Jesus

- References: Matthew 14:13-21, John 6:1-15

- Jesus seeks "alone time" after the death of John the Baptist

- A crowd follows him

    - Jesus heals the sick

    - No food except 5 loaves and 2 fishes

- Jesus asks God to bless the food…which multiplies to feed 5000

- Conclusions:

    - "Feed the hungry"

    - Security is evangelism

Jesus

Words of Wisdom

- On the need to verify all information coming from an untrusted source:

  - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1

- On security by obscurity:

  - "Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed or hidden that will not be known." Luke 12:2

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Words of Wisdom

- On the importance of keeping and reviewing audit records:

    - "For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14

- On speaking security truths:

    - "…let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation." James 5:12

Summary

Story	Lessons
Adam and Eve	1) Users will always click on the apple 2) Provide fast 'fess up mechanisms
Samson	1) Learn from prior attack patterns 2) "Nobody would ever do that, would they?"
Joshua	1) Beware the insider threat 2) ...and the persistent threat
David	1) Use the weapon at hand 2) "Man looks on outward appearances"

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Summary

Story	Lessons
Hezekiah	1) Secure what is strategic 2) History has fulcrums – so do organizations
Nehemiah	1) Ask big – but have a plan 2) Enlist supporters but expect opposition 3) "Read people the law"
Daniel	1) Preserve integrity, even to a hostile audience 2) "Read the writing on the wall"
Jesus	1) "Feed the hungry" 2) Security is evangelism

Conclusions

- "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." Ecclesiastes 1:9

- More people need to understand security than will ever be experts

- Analogies, stories, and "synthesized material" can help de-mystify security, embed knowledge and "translate" to the masses