

## David's Three Great Warriors

In 2 Sam 23:1 to 4 we read; 'Now these are the last words of David, son of Jesse. The man who was raised on high, and anointed by the God of Jacob and the sweet Psalmist of Israel says, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke in and by me and His word was upon my tongue. The God of Israel spoke; the Rock of Israel said to me, 'When one rules over men righteously, ruling in the fear of God, He dawns on them like the morning when the tender grass springs out of the earth through clear shining after rain'."

David was a great king who ruled over his people for forty years and he was a man who knew God. David wrote many beautiful Psalms during his reign and these Psalms reflect His relationship and his love for God. The Psalms also give us a picture of the conflict and the dangers that David faced during his lifetime. They also give us a sense of peace and security, knowing we are the sheep of God's pasture.

David faced many life threatening battles, yet through them David wrote Psalms of joy, thanksgiving and praise. In 2 Sam 23, David was coming to the end of his life. As an old man he was remembering parts of his life. David had been anointed king when everyone else thought he wasn't all that important. (1 Samuel 16:11 to 13) Even his brothers resented and dismissed him. (1 Samuel 17:28).

After David had been anointed king by Samuel and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David, (1 Samuel 16:13) he went back to tend the sheep (1 Samuel 16:19). It was God who could see the potential in David who was then just a teenage boy. When David was still a teenager he was sent to take some food to his older brothers and ended up killing Goliath. (1 Samuel chapter 17).

David proved to be a great leader of his people. He came in contact with many people from various walks of life. Some were royalty, some were ordinary people in need of help, some willingly joined David in battle and risked their lives for him. David couldn't have written such beautiful Psalms without imparting something, and having people notice his relationship with God. He must have shown them how to have faith and trust in God. David appreciated his men and their commitment to him. David named 37 different warriors, and from that list of 37 men, David named three mighty men as being the bravest. (2 Samuel chapter 23). Josheb-basshebeth, also known as Adino the Eznite. Eleazar and Shammah.

The name Josheb-basshebeth means 'sitting in the counsel'. He wielded his spear and went alone against 800 men and won. He would have needed supernatural help because his victory would have been beyond human capability. This man would have known God before the day of that battle. He must have, through David, heard about God.

Our ultimate goal should be to sit in the counsel of God forever. Christians should sit under the teaching of Holy Spirit filled, Godly men, to learn about the counsel of God. All Christians need someone to teach us about God. Josheb-basshebeth had to make a choice. He had to decide whether to run away like the other soldiers had done, or stand and fight the enemy. He chose to stand and fight. In the natural it must have looked impossible, but with the example of David and Goliath, he stood up to the enemy and won. He would have realised it would be impossible for him, but he put his faith in the God of Israel to give him the victory. Once he started he couldn't stop for a break. He had to keep on until the victory was won and enemy was defeated.

We serve the same God who helped Josheb-basshebeth win the victory, so we can apply the same faith to our situation. We have to get to know God for ourselves by sitting in His counsel. We must choose to face the enemy, but we must first hear from God to know what we are facing. For example: is this an attack of the enemy, a discipline from God or the result of a foolish decision made by us? Then we must be persistent. God will help you if you keep pressing in and onward until you win the victory. Exercise your faith based on God's Word. Romans 10:17 says 'Faith comes by hearing the message and the message comes by the teaching of Christ'. Believe that God wants you to be

victorious and He wants you to know He is with you. Problems that come will not be won in the natural way of thinking, but by faith in the miracle working power of God. We need to hear from God ourselves. No one else can do it for you. Others can support you but you must seek God for yourselves. Remember too: All things work together for good for those who love God and are called for His purpose. So we might be conformed into the image of His Son. (Romans 8:28 & 29).

Jesus said in John 6:45, "It is written in the Book of the Prophets; they shall all be taught of God. Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to Me."

The battles that some of us face seem unsurmountable, but with God nothing is impossible. Faith sees everything as it is in the natural, but believes for the supernatural victory. Faith is based on what God says; not on how we feel. Believe God has an answer to your problem; seek God, hear from Him, act on His Word and keep pressing on. Be consistent. Don't fear what man might say. It is hard to be full of faith and fear at the same time. If you ever get advice that doesn't line up with God's Word, reject it. God never contradicts His Word. When we use God's Word to gain a victory, it must be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Eleazar means 'God is my Helper'. He fought with the Philistines until his hand was stuck to his sword and the Lord wrought a great deliverance that day. All the other soldiers had run off leaving Eleazar alone to fight, and he won. He refused to let go of the sword until the battle was won.

Our 'sword' is the Word of God and we must cling to it and fight with it until it 'sticks' to us. We must learn it until we can speak appropriate scriptures, at the appropriate time, to fight our battles in this world. The scriptures must become a strong foundation to live by. We must get the Bible out of our heads and into our hearts where the Holy Spirit can use them. We can't win any battle simply by using the Bible as a history text book. It must become life to us before we can use it as a two edged sword. We must allow the Bible to become alive within us through the Holy Spirit. We need the power of the Holy Spirit. God does not work out of our frustration or anger; He only works out of our faith. Resting in God will give you peace in any situation, and we must have the faith to believe He will win every battle for us, if we would just believe and trust in Him. He will give us the victory in His timing according to His Word. Let go of the problem but don't let go of His Word.

Shammah means 'God has heard'. He stood in the midst of the ground of lentils to defend it and slew the Philistines after the Israelites had fled. The Lord wrought a great victory through Shammah.

Sometimes we can feel as alone as Shammah must have felt at that moment after the soldiers fled. But Shammah didn't give up. He fought alone for that field of lentils - but with God on his side. A field of lentils may not seem significant, but it was a field of food for the Israelites. It belonged to the nation. God will give you the strength and wisdom to fight for what is yours. It is vital for us to pray for our nation and our leaders. Pray for your source of 'food' which is your church and your leaders. Pray for your own family. We need to pray for our own nation, whatever nation you are from, pray for it because it is your own field. Be like these three men, hold on and use God's Word until it becomes part of you. We need to pray for our homes, our families, our church, our countries and ask God how to pray so we can use His strategies. By doing this, we will be more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

Amen and God bless you.

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