

Saturday, November 5, 2022 ▫ Read 2Samuel 5:17–25

Questions from the Scripture text: Who heard what in v17 (cf. v3)? What did they do? And who heard of that? And what did he do? Where else did the Philistines go (v18)? Of Whom does David inquire (v19)? What two specific questions does he ask? What combined answer does Yahweh give? What does v20 now call the Valley of Rephaim? How did it get that name? What did the Philistines abandon as they were fleeing (v21)? Who did what with them? What did the Philistines do (again!?) in v22? What did David do again (v23)? What was Yahweh's answer this time (v23–24)? What was the result (v25)?

What attributes of God shape the actions of a man after God's own heart? 2Samuel 5:17–25 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these nine verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **people after God's own heart live in response to God's truth, power, and wisdom.**

The spiritual background to the passage. Saul tried to do things his own way (1Sam 13, 15), and Israel suffered. So God provided for Himself a man after His own heart (1Sam 13:14, 15:28), by whom He promised to save His people (cf. 2Sam 3:18). Now, in 5:17–25, we get our first taste of that salvation by the hand of the newly anointed (cf. v3) king.

The military background to the passage. The Philistines have heard about the anointing (v17a) and think they'd better make a preemptive strike against this newly united Israel. They go hunting for David (v17b), David takes up a fortified position, the Philistines hole up in Rephaim (v18), and the ensuing conflict teaches us several remarkable things about our God.

Our God is the speaking, guiding God. First, David is the anti-Saul. Saul trusted his own wisdom, either neglecting to ask God or directly disobeying Him. We have seen David inquire of Yahweh several times (e.g. cf. 1Sam 23:2, 2Sam 2:1), and as king he continues to do the same. One of the ways that God works in our lives is by giving us the guidance of His Word and giving us the desire to seek that guidance. He reminds us here that He is the speaking, guiding God.

Our God is the powerful, delivering God. It was Yahweh who broke through the Philistines like a breakthrough of water (v20). It was Yahweh who went before David to strike the camp of the Philistines (v24). David "defeated" them in v20, and "drove back the Philistines" in v25, but these battles are reminiscent of the conquest, in which the Lord gave victory that exceeded human means and even without human means.

Finally, our God is the wisely and creatively planning God. Idols are the creations of man (v21), but God Himself is the great Author and Creator. So, when David faces an identical situation (v22, cf. v18), Yahweh gives a very different answer (v23, cf. v19). Who is dull and wicked enough to find the Lord boring? Even the cue of "the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees" (v24) is so interestingly creative!

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And His truth is always the same. But His work can be marvelously varied. And even having saved us by David's greater Son, God still guides and delivers His people in His wise and interesting plan! He is worthy of your inquiry, and your trust, and your praise.

Where can you find God's Word? How should you respond to His power? To His wisdom/creativity?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for teaching us in Your Word. We praise Your providential, redeeming power, and Your marvelous, inexplicable wisdom. Grant that we may ever seek from You instruction about what we should do, and ever give to You praise for whatever You do, in Jesus's Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP23B "The Lord's My Shepherd" or TPH195 "Shine Thou Upon Us Lord"

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Second Samuel 5, verses 17 through 25. These are God's words. Now, when the flicston's heard that they had anointed, David King over Israel. All the Philistines went up to search for David and David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. The first one is also went and deployed themselves in the valley of Rafaim, So, David inquired, if you always saying, so I go up against the Philistines, will you deliver them into my hand?

And your voice said to David, go up for I will doubtless deliver the listings into your hand. So David went about all parent. Zeem and David defeated them there. And he said, Yahweh has broken through my enemies before me like a breakthrough of water Therefore he called the name of that place.

But I'll parrot seem and they left their images there and David and his men carried them away. Then the Flistons went up once again and deployed themselves in the valley of Rafaim. Therefore, David inquired of y'all and he said, You shall not go up, circle around behind them and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees.

Then it chubby when you hear the sound of marching in, the tops of the mulberry trees. Then you should advance quickly for then Yahwe will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines and David did. So as you all they commanded him and he drove back the Philistines from Geber as far as gazer So far, the reading of Gods inspired and inerrant word.

So this is the first victory that the Lord gives Israel after David is anointed king and it's one in which, therefore, we're comparing or intended to compare what the Lord is doing through David, with what the Lord did through Saul. And what kind of King David is with, what kind of King Saul is?

Because the people of Israel, at the beginning of this book had asked, for asked Samuel asked, God's prophet asked God for a king, like, those of the nations who would save them and the Lord, basically answered. Well, that's not exactly how it works. But I'll give you a king like one from the nations and so, he gave them.

The guy who was a head taller than everyone else and the guy who likes to make executive decisions and the guy who doesn't like responsibility, so they had to drag him out from hiding among the baggage. And then when he was in places where The people wanted one thing and God wanted another, he didn't like the responsibility of that didn't do, what a leader is supposed to do, which is the right thing.

Despite what everyone else wants him to do. And you remember in chapter 13 and chapter 15, he went ahead and made sacrifices rather than waiting for salt, Samuel to come and make the sacrifices in one case. And then in the other case, he let the people keep some spoil and kept egg alive for some personal humiliation rather than everything being destroyed the way God wanted and including King, Ah hat King, Agag being destroyed.

The way God said and then of course he said it was, you know, we kept a bunch of the spoil for sacrifice. Although destroying them because God said, so is, you know, the sacrifice that God wanted He wanted obedience, not sacrifice doing things. Supposedly forgot. According to our will is like the sin of witchcraft Samuel told Saul.

So that was what Saul was like? What will David be like The Flystones gather? In Rafaim David is at the stronghold as a place that, you know, as well, because he spent a lot of time there hiding from Saul, when Saul was king and, and David knows that he is supposed that he will get victory, but he inquires of Yahweh to know how the Lord would like for them to get victory.

Now, David is quite a capable man, but as we heard in first Samuel 17, he's also a man who does things in the name of the Lord. And apparently, you know, we may see this example of David as a man after God's heart as someone who is relying upon and has the spirit of God with him.

And that's really one of the only explanations you can get for someone who tackles a lion by the beard and beats it to death. So David is very capable but he does not want to be independent. He does not want to be proud. He does not want to does not want to go in his own way.

It's very interesting. Here you have two of the same situations David in David in the stronghold and the Philistines and the valley of refereeheim in both cases. And David asks, both times, he does not presume upon God's will even the second time and God's answer is different. The second time he says, you shall not go up, but the outcome is the same.

When we have the written word of God, we have our instructions from God. And this sets an example for us, not that the Bible is going to say different things and at two different times, but it's that's an example for us of always going to the Word of God.

Searching it. Freshly inquiring of it. And this is helpful and for many reasons, especially associated with the weakness of our minds. Because sometimes we get things wrong in Scripture and you get something wrong in Scripture and you do according to the wisdom that you had at the time and often the Lord and his wonderful mercy.

Does us good anyway even though what we did was wrong and many people draw a false conclusion that therefore I must have gotten the scripture right? Because God blessed me But that's not how the blessing of God works. Is it Because he's a gracious God and often blesses over against and even opposite.

What we do in this life. And so it is always helpful to kind, There's always right to come back to the scripture. Look at it. Freshly just in case you got it wrong or just in case you're heart and mind are not willing. Eager inclined to do what the right thing is, the scripture is living and active and the Lord uses a torque on our hearts.

It's not just a fact book or a strategy book so that we would know what the right thing is to do. It's what God uses got. The spirit uses to apply Christ to us and make our hearts and minds want to do the right thing. It's a means of grace and so we need gods to work in us both the will and to work for his good pleasure.

And so always coming back to the scripture, always coming back to the Word of God is an example of the spirits, way of working out our salvation with fear and trembling. So what kind of God did David know God to be in the first? Of course, which we have been thinking about here is, he is the speaking God?

The guiding God We've already seen him inquire of the Lord in for Samuel. 23 verse 2 and second, Samuel 2 verse 1 and now that he's king, he doesn't say well I'm in charge. No need to inquire of the Lord anymore. I know the Lord's will it's for everyone else to obey me.

That's a danger with some people in authority. They really want to focus on how God's will is for everyone to obey them and to honor them. And they don't want to focus very much on there being under the authority of God. But as we see in Romans 13 and other places every authority on earth is an authority under God.

As a lesser magistrate, in the middle of the chain of command. No one in the earth is at the top of the chain of command. David knows this, praise God, that he is a man under authority and that God is a merciful God who gives his will who tells speaks to us and guides us.

So, he helps us by his word, and by His Spirit, A man. After God's own heart, will know that. God is a speaking. Guiding God and of course, great David's greater son. Who is the man after God's own heart, even in his first temptation, of course. And of course his whole life doing all things according to the Word of God.

But he placed such value upon and took such nourishment. From every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, that he was able by this righteousness of his to resist the devil's. Temptation to say, if you are the Son of God make these, don't tell these stones to become bread.

Use your powers for this selfish thing out of discontent and what God has provided for you even though there's no one here. And you are and your signs are a testimony are supposed to be a testimony to your words. All of that temptation. But there wasn't that because the hunger of 40 days without being eating bread, could not match the satisfaction of 40 days.

Having only God's Word as bread and when the Spirit applies the mind of Christ to us and we're hungry or dissatisfied with the way things are going. We find that having God himself alone and his word alone as our satisfaction, is a great remedy to discontentedness because whatever the hunger is whatever, the dissatisfaction is can't hold a candle to the enjoyment of contentment with satisfaction with God himself.

So knowing God, as the speaking guiding God and enjoying him in that way. Also knowing God as the powerful delivering God, we see The Lord goes before David in the first one. And the second one David gives the name. The place, the name bowel parrot, seam master of burstings through is what Bell parrot seem means and he

gives us a word picture so that we can understand what it looked like when Israel went to fight the Philistines at Rafaim.

The first time when God says, go up, Israel starts to go up. And, of course, the Philistines had picked militarily, advantageous point, and David was coming out of the stronghold and exposing himself and so forth. But as they come and they're going to attack the the Philistines. It's like there's this invisible tsunami the Philistines suddenly start getting smashed and thrown back in the air and landing on each other's spears and there's a breakthrough like water of the the land of the Flintstone.

So if you make a castle with a moat and a wall down there and the tide starts coming in and there's that moment where there's an especially big wave in the comes in a channel and just smashes them down. It looked like that was what happened to the Philistines as the and as Israel as David and his men were attacking them.

In fact, the Philistines that remained were so terrified and devastated, they forget to take their gods with them. They they run and leave their gods behind and David and his men. Carry them away. We can't think that they're carrying them way in this context in order to worship them.

Probably, you know, there's wood for fire and metal to meltdown for, you know, depends on what sort of metal it is for whatever. It's use. Like these gods were worthless to the Philistines but we can we can get some value out of them but gods, of course. And an air quotes, Our God is the powerful delivering God.

And so the Philistines don't learn their lesson. They gather again. David inquires again, and the Lord's answers different. He says no he says listen for the sound of marching in the tops of Mulberry trees. Well, what is the sound or to actually this is a better way. What in the world is the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees?

Well, it's not the sound of marching or it's not in the world. The Lord himself can can defeat justify. His will the Lord also has spiritual beings called angels that are very very mighty and whether it was through angels or through a miraculous making of the sound of an army in the tops of the, the mulberry trees.

The Lord decides this time that David and his army are not going to run up and attack, but they are just going to wait until they hear the Lord attacking. So you hear the sound of the marching in the tops of the mulberry trees and, you know, as a fullistion captain or foot soldier or whatever, you don't have a lot of good options for what this is.

Yeah, either the Israelites have developed the ability to walk on air and are deciding to attack by. And by walking in the tops of marching in ranks in the top of the Mulberry trees or you know, there's some kind of spiritual super army that you know has already defeated you once because you were thrown back like this breaking through with water that happened and in the Philist if you're a Philist and you're thinking oh no this happening again and if you're an Israel you're like haha it's happening again and different instructions.

Same result because it is this same. God David did as Yahweh. Commanded him verse 25 and he drove back. The Philistines from Gaba as far as gazer. Now of course it's the Lord who did it and yet the big difference at the end of verse 25 is the comparison between David and Saul David did as Yahweh commanded him because ultimately it's David.

Who? Defeat David. God forgive me. It's God. Who defeats the enemies. And so we want to do as God commanded us because we're trusting God to bring all of the results. The battles are his, he can win them with or without us if he lets us have mop up duty or if he uses us on the front end or whatever part he gives, what we do in obedience, whatever part, he gives that to the good that he is doing is a privilege and honor to us.

Although we have nothing to boast about. We say, the Lord is the one who did this and yet his account of it by his grace, is he or she did as Yahweh commanded him or her and whatever the result is as a God is the powerful and delivering God and of course he's also the wisely creatively.

Planning. God, he does things in different ways at different times. We should not panic when things are different. Both of these are marvelous victories, but the instructions were actually exactly opposite in in parts and the way it happened, you know, one was a sea attack and one was an air attack in both were land battles.

So the Lord is creative and one of the things that we do even though we don't have this kind of immediate new revelation in which we can ask for, like, do I turn left or turn, right? Kind of questions, You can ask for wisdom, one of those might be better and you might have those.

You might give you the wisdom to know which even though we don't have that kind of revelation. He still is creative and one of the duties and pleasures that we have in life is to observe the different ways. God does things at different times and to bless his name for his wisdom.

To bless his name for his creativity. So the man after God's own heart, as the Lord Jesus from whom David received the grace to be a man after God's own heart. And from whom from Christ. Also, we can receive the same grace to be men, after God's own heart.

And what this really means is to know, God rightly to know. God. Well, as the speaking and revealing God, as the infinitely, power God powerful God as the wise and creative. God who saves us. So we may trust him and obey him and then give him praise for whatever he does from it.

There's God. Let's pray Our Father in heaven. We thank you for this portion of your word. We thank you that our congregation back home. Will get to hear it proclaimed on the coming. Lord's Day. Pray that you would be with Pastor Brown, as he prepares in the passage and that you would help him to preach it.

Well, pray that you would be with all of the congregation that the hearing would be mixed with faith. And so would profit then as a means by which when they come to leave this world and cease from their works in this world, they would enter that rest of yours which they already know and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so we ask it all in his name. Amen.