

David in the Stronghold

October 28, 2007

2 Samuel 23:13-17 ~ 1 Chronicles 11:15-19

1) Context

- a) The Philistines are one of the Sea Peoples mentioned in Scripture
- b) David hiding in the Cave of Adullam - "refuge"
- c) There are 2 views as to when this event took place

The Philistines have moved into the land...

2) When & Why

- a) Note when the invasion comes
- b) Note why the invasion comes? 3 reasons (Judges 2:20-3:2)
- c) God has not changed his methods in 3,000 years - just the peoples names

The Philistines live in our hearts as well...

- d) Philistines in our hearts

Back to the text: David longs for the water of the well of Bethlehem...

3) David's recent past

- a) Fearful Anxiety
- b) Lonely & Sad & Dejected

4) Let us look briefly at the bravery and devotion of the three men

- a) How they loved David
- b) How little they feared the Philistines

Now let's look to the main point of this text...

5) David pours out the water before the Lord - Note 4 things

- a) Responds immediately
- b) Demonstrates love for his men
- c) Denies himself pleasure
- d) Honors God

We know why the Philistines are both in our land and in our hearts...

What are we going to do about it...?

6) One word - FIGHT...!

- a) After hundreds of years David subdued the Philistines

Let us pray...

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## 1) Context

- a) The Philistines are one of the Sea Peoples mentioned in Scripture
  - Originated in Asia Minor or a Mediterranean island
  - Failed to invade Egypt and settled in Canaan instead
  - Non-Semitic neighbor (Ammonites, Moabites, Amalekites, etc...)
  - Pagan to the core with Dagon (fishgod), Ashterah and Baal (rain)
  - Relied heavily upon rain - no river irrigation
  - Weaponry advanced - iron - not bronze and copper
  - Good land
    - fertile soil
    - flat with gentle rises for strongholds
    - flat allowing for use of chariots
    - on trade routes between Syria/Phoenicia and Egypt/Arabia
  - Promised Land apportioned to Judah (never taken by Joshua)
  - Dominated Israel for hundreds of years during reigns of Judges
  - Some victories by judges and now Saul and David
  - Expanding northward into Israel
- b) David hiding in the Cave of Adullam - "refuge"
  - Cave of Adullam to the west of Bethlehem about 12 miles
  - Hills are riddled with caves
- c) There are 2 views as to when this event took place
  - These two times are about 15 years apart (David at 23 or 38)
    - after arrows & showbread & David feigned madness in Gath (1 Sam 22)
    - after David made King of all Israel and takes Jerusalem (2 Sam 5)
  - I favor the earlier

The Philistines have moved into the land...

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2) When & Why

- a) Note when the invasion comes
 - Harvest time - maximize damage - maximize spoils
 - Viking Training Course: "Remember pillage first, then plunder!"
 - Also, Saul, the King, is preoccupied searching for David
 - While we fight amongst ourselves the enemy moves into the land
- b) Note why the invasion comes? 3 reasons (Judges 2:20-3:2)
 - 1. Punishment (20-21)
 - 2. Testing (22)
 - 3. Training (2)
- c) God has not changed his methods in 3,000 years - just the peoples names
 - The Philistines are loose here in America as well
 - Many scholars agree that they are known commonly as Democrats
 - Other Terms - Pro-choice, New Age, Homosexual
 - Gods Terms - Murderers, Idolaters, Sodomites
 - They are also destroying our crops (homes, communities, nation, future)
 - They also occupy the high places (gov't, communities, school, work, etc)
 - But life is not about them - 2 Peter 2:12
 - Life is about God - the Great I AM
 - Life is about those with whom God has chosen to share His eternal life
 - Do not confuse the moral issues of our world with your duty towards God
 - Do not limit your life to this world - 1 John 2:15-17
 - Just as the Philistines lived in the heart of ancient Israel...
 - Just as the Philistines live in the heart of present-day America...

The Philistines live in our hearts as well...

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d) Philistines in our hearts

- As they perpetually held a part of the heart of Israel  
so they perpetually hold a part of the heart of each believer...
- Through disobedience they, and we, suffer this consequence
  - They did not possess the land at God's promise
  - Just as mankind did not obey God in the garden
- "Every sin increases the principle, and fortifies the habit of sinning. It is an evil treasure that increases by doing evil. And where does this evil treasure lie? It is in the heart, there it is laid up, there it is kept in safety. All the men in the world, all the angels in heaven, cannot dispossess a man of this treasure, it is so safely stored in the heart. Here dwells our enemy: this is the fort, the citadel of this tyrant, where it maintains a rebellion against God all our days. It is like an enemy in war, whose strength and power lie not only in his numbers, and force of men and arms, but also in the unconquerable forts that he does possess."

Indwelling Sin in the Believer - by John Owen

- This is precisely the role God prescribed for the Philistines of Israel
- This is precisely the role God has prescribed for the Philistines of America
- We will find it impossible to rid them from our land - from our hearts
- The Philistines are here to:
  - punish us for our sins
  - test our faith
  - build in us godly character (ex. - getting cut off)

Back to the text: David longs for the water of the well of Bethlehem...



### **3) David's recent past**

- a) Fearful Anxiety
  - Priests of Nob & families killed - Abiathar escapes Doeg
  - Imprisoned by Achish in Gath - escapes by feigning insanity
  - 400 men now dependent upon him
  - Secured his family in Moab (1 Sam 22:1-2)
  - 23 years old
- b) Lonely & Sad & Dejected
  - Bethlehem was his boyhood home as a shepherd
  - Philistines now desecrating that homeland
  - Abandoned Michal in haste in Gibeah many long months ago
  - Perhaps she had already been given to Paltiel by Saul
  - Tired of fighting at 23 (5 years or more)
  - Ref (Ps 120:7) "I am a man of peace; but when I speak, they are for war"
  - Wrote Psalm 142 while here...

### **4) Let us look briefly at the bravery and devotion of the three men**

- a) How they loved David
  - Take risks and endure hardships to bring him joy
  - No man more despised than a poor commander
  - No man more loved than a good commander
  - David had demonstrated himself to be trustworthy
  - "I have tested you in the furnace of affliction" - (Isa 48:10)
- b) How little they feared the Philistines
  - Bethlehem was nearly 15 mountainous miles east of the cave
  - Love outweighs fear (story here?)
  - let us likewise hazard our ALL in our love for the Son of David

Now let's look to the main point of this text...

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5) David pours out the water before the Lord - Note 4 things

- 1) Responds immediately
 - Publicly admits error
 - Leaders need be especially careful of their words
 - He did not lord himself over his men
 - Not like Saul - "you were once small in your own eyes" - 1 Sam 15:17
 - Not like Felix - "When I find it convenient I will send for you" - Acts 24:25
- 2) Demonstrates love for his men
 - They are too precious in his sight to be risked in such a way
 - Please don't do it again...
- 3) Denies himself pleasure
 - although the desire for the water remained he suppressed it
 - although he was a passionate man he controlled those passions
 - such are the actions of great and wise men
- 4) Honors God
 - His men demonstrate trust in him but he points them to God
 - Water was purchased at too high a cost to be used as simple refreshment
 - Water was the blood of the men - as such it was God's due
 - Let us bless God by devoting to Him our best

We know why the Philistines are in our lands and in our hearts...
What are we to do about it...?



6) One word - FIGHT...!

- a) After hundreds of years David subdued the Philistines
 - David was tired but he pressed on...
 - "Giving way to the law of sin in the least, is the giving strength to it; to let it alone is to let it grow; not to conquer it, is to be conquered by it."
 - We must always be fighting - there is no alternative
 - "There is no way for us to pursue sin in its unsearchable habitation, but by being endless in our pursuit."
 - David conquered the Philistines of his day
 - Let us remember this: "every act of sin is a fruit of being weary of God."
 - Let us not grow weary of God

Let us pray...