

The Lord Prospers David on Every Side

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-5
1st Scripture: 1 Chronicles 18:1-13
2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 8:1-14

Hymn #13- *O Worship the King*
Hymn Insert- *Here I am to Worship*
Hymn #678- *Christ Shall Have Dominion*

Introduction:

Following David's expressed desire to build a Temple for the Ark of God, through Nathan the prophet, God had responded to David, by bringing forth the "Davidic Covenant." And within this covenant, God had promised David, that his seed would ascend the throne of Israel forever. And we saw that this covenant had a double fulfillment, first with reference to Solomon, and then, especially and more perfectly, with reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, whose kingdom, would ultimately be a kingdom of perfect peace and rest, forever! And last time, we considered David's humble response, where we found that David had a keen awareness of his own unworthiness, leading him to exult in the greatness of God, while expressing the sincere desire for God to be glorified in the outworking and fulfillment of this covenant. For David was well aware of the fact that every ounce of past, present and future success, strung to David's life, had (and will have) its origin, solely in the grace and power of God!

This morning, we will come to see how the Lord prospers David, on all sides, leading to a tremendous expansion of his kingdom, as a shadow and reflection of the future glorious Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, David's greater Son. For, by the time David concludes his reign, Israel's borders will have spread to its furthest lengths, ever, in the history of the nation's existence. And while other great nations (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome...etc), will far exceed such limits, here, the kingdom expanded under David's reign, is a small picture of the expansion of Christ's kingdom, which will ultimately span the whole world. And, unlike every other kingdom, it will last forever (see Daniel's prophecies)!

Now brethren, as we look at our main text for this morning, we will consider it under four general headings:

- 1- The extent of David's military prosperity
- 2- The means of David's military prosperity
- 3- The consequences of David's military prosperity

I. The Extent of David's Military Prosperity

It will be helpful to have your little map on hand, as we work through this first point. You will find one, inserted in the bulletin.

Looking at your map, you will find a "shaded in" area, surrounding Jerusalem, and the western (and north western) portion of the Sea of Galilee. This was the domain, over which David ruled, when he *began* his reign over all Israel. Then, if you move outward in all directions, and look at the surrounding, dotted line, you will find the extent of David's rule, when he came to the *end* of his reign, and that which became the borders of Israel, when Solomon had later ascended the throne. Unfortunately, the map you have in front of you, actually does not truly suffice to cover the whole territory (my fault---should have drawn a smaller scale). You have to try to imagine an additional 180 miles of territory traveling north (and north east) of the upper most shaded area (see upper arrow), and about an additional 100 miles south of the lower most shaded area (see lower area). So, try to imagine those dotted lines which go up and down (without connecting), traveling a nice chunk more, north and south, to get the whole picture, of how far David had expanded the kingdom, during his reign, by way of military advancement and success.

Looking at your map then, see those lands, which David had conquered, in accordance with our main text. And keep in mind, as well, that the section outside of the dotted lines, along the northwest coast of the Mediterranean Sea (on our map), belonged, in part, to Tyre, which was a key ally of David. Remember, Hiram, the king of Tyre, loved David, and they covenanted together, and he built David's palace, among other things.

And so, in accordance with our text, we find that:

1) David attacked the Philistines (to the west, near the coast of the Mediterranean Sea), and he took Metheg Ammah from them (vs. 1). In the parallel account, found in 1 Chronicles 18, we are told that David took Gath and its towns from the Philistines. And so, here we find that David had reduced the Philistine's territory in the land, taking these significant locations. Remember, under the reign of Saul, Israel lost important territories to the Philistines.

2) Following this, we are told that David had conquered Moab, east of the Dead Sea, putting many of the Moabites to death, and committing the rest to servitude. And those who remained were to bring tribute to David (vs. 2).

3) Then, we are told that David had conquered the king of Zobah, recovering a large section of territory way up north, near the Euphrates River. From Zobah, David also took one thousand chariots, seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers...etc. (vs. 3&4).

4) Then the Syrians (from Damascus), to the south east of Zobah, came to the aid of Zobah, but David killed twenty-two thousand of their soldiers. And David then set up garrisons in Syria, making the Syrians his servants, forcing them to pay him tribute as well (vs. 5-6).

5) Toi, the king of Hamath, approximately 40 miles north of Zobah, who was at war with the king of Zobah, by the hand of his son (Joram), sent articles of silver, gold and bronze to David, wishing to greet and bless him, for conquering Hadadezer, his enemy (vs. 10).

6) David had also defeated Ammon (east of the Jordan River), and Amalek (south of Jerusalem), taking significant land from them as well (vs. 12).

7) And finally, David had killed eighteen thousand Edomites (see 1 Chronicles 18; probably a copyist error here) in the Valley of Salt, making himself a "name." And he put garrisons throughout all Edom (south of the Dead Sea), making the Edomites his servants as well.

Conclusion #1: And so, brethren, as a conclusion for this first general heading, we find that, throughout the course of David's reign, the kingdom of Israel has expanded greatly (in all directions), by way of David's great military success. Those surrounding nations, which were not at peace with David, were conquered, with some paying ongoing tribute to him.

II. The Means of David's Military Prosperity

Now, secondly, brethren, our text, not only informs us of the fact that David has had great military success, expanding Israel's borders greatly, but furthermore, it reveals to us the specific means of David's military prosperity. One might rightly ask, "How in the world could David, lead the nation of Israel, to conquer such well established and powerful nations, as those described in our text?" Well, our text provides us with the answer to this question, twice (once in the middle of our text, and then a second time, at the very end, so that no confusion could ever cloud this matter). Look with me at the second portion of verses 6 and 14:

Vs. 6b- "So the Lord preserved David wherever he went."

Vs. 14b- "And the Lord preserved David wherever he went."

And so, to what did David owe all of his great military successes? To the preserving hand of his all-sovereign, all-powerful God! Indeed, the God, who created heaven and earth, and all things, was with David and his sword and his army, ensuring certain victory, wherever David went. You see, brethren, David's confidence was not in his military prowess or in his natural ability to wield a sword. Rather, his confidence was in the might and power and faithfulness of God! And it was out of this hope, that David prospered, even as he had over the lion and the bear as a child, and even as he had over Goliath as a teen, and even as he had over every other enemy throughout the course of his young adult and adult life.

And so, God preserved David, wherever he went! God kept his strength, sharpened his mind, and caused all of his enemies to fall down before him!

III. The Consequences of David's Military Prosperity

And what were the consequences of David's military prosperity? Well, here are at least a handful of them:

1) Again, Israel had experienced the greatest extension of her borders, by means of David's military success. This was the greatest *physical* fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, concerning, giving Israel the Promised Land. Up to this point, Israel had failed to take much of the land, throughout the course of her existence as a nation.

2) This sets Solomon up, to have the most peaceful and prosperous reign, in all of ethnic Israel's history, enabling Solomon, as a type of Christ, to most reflect the universal reign of Christ. And furthermore, this peace on all sides, grants Solomon, more than sufficient rest and resources, enabling him to take the time to build God's glorious Temple, which leads into our third consequence:

3) Upon conquering all of these nations, David had obtained great amounts of gold, silver and bronze, which he had dedicated to the Lord, and which were ultimately used to supply the material needs of the Temple. [Consider verses 7-12 & 1 Chronicles 18:7-11]. And so, God supplied much of the resources for His temple, by means of David's military success over his enemies.

4) Finally, it emphasizes and confirms God's ability and faithfulness to fulfill His covenant! David's prosperity on all sides, is a great arrow, pointing David (and all future generations) to the certainty of God's covenant faithfulness! What God has done for David, in

time and space, He will do eternally for Christ and His church! He can; He is able to do it, and He will; He is faithful to do it!

IV. Closing Thoughts and Applications

Well brethren, having examined the text, let us then move on to consider three concluding thoughts and applications:

1) Let us see again the foolishness of ever trusting in the "arm of the flesh" as a means of our preservation, in any respect. Brethren, let our strength and confidence be in the Lord, at all times, and God will faithfully preserve us, unto our most useful and destined course. David found great victory over the same enemies, who subdued, and ultimately destroyed Saul. And what was the ultimate difference? Saul trusted in the arm of the flesh, and sought his own preservation, and sadly, he did even that, by wicked means. You see, when our security and hope are in anything else but God, it is inevitable that moral compromise will ensue, leading to certain self-destruction with Saul.

Some of you, in pursuit of your own sinful lusts, have your backs to God, and are seeking to hold yourselves up. Oh friends, "there is a way, which seems right to a man, but the end thereof, is the way of death/destruction!" When you perhaps least expect it, your whole world will come crashing down, and you will rue the fact that you have no eternal, all-powerful, all-sovereign Christ, to hold you up! For the Christian, whose hope is in Christ, states with the utmost desperation and confidence, "Lord, hold Thou me up, and I will stand!"

And this applies at the national and corporate church level as well. "The wicked will be turned into hell, and every nation that forgets God" and "The shields of the earth belong to our God!" Where does this leave a nation that has turned its back on God; a nation which has embraced an idolatrous love for material things and leisurely activities, and a nation which has put its confidence in its past prosperity, its nuclear bombs and its silver and gold? And what of the prayerless or worldly church, which attempts even great things, in a spiritual battle, with no spiritual armor or weapons of warfare? Brethren, let our confidence be in God, and in His Christ, on every level, in so far as it rests on us!

2) Notice again brethren, that while God does not delight in the death of the wicked, the defeating and overcoming of all of His enemies, will serve to bring Him praise! Here, we find that the very plunder, which David took from his enemies, was used to help build the Temple!

Indeed, the very walls of God's house of worship are jeweled with the defeat of His enemies! God's victories over those who oppose Him; over those who would dare contend with Him, serve as trophies of praise, reminding all who worship Him, that He alone is, "The Lord of lords and King of kings!" The very fabric of His temple; of His house of worship and praise, greatly testifies to this reality! Indeed, God will be glorified in the destruction of His enemies! Every word and thought and action, which has willfully opposed Him, will serve as a jewel in His very crown, as it were!

Oh friends! Some of you would yet contend with God, living comfortably in your sins, thinking that such blatant acts of rebellion, would remain unnoticed, by a God who is altogether holy! Do you think for a moment, that you can trample on God's Word and His Law, and the very calling of His gracious Gospel in Christ, and merely sweep it under the rug of eternity, never to be brought up again! God knows! God sees! And it must be recompensed! Indeed, all sin must be dealt with and paid for, to the fullest extent! The question is, will you come to Christ, as a beggar, in desperate need of the grace, which only He can supply, unto the preservation of your never dying soul? Or, will you continue on in your sin, and pay for it, eternally in hell! Those precious words from the cross, which Pastor Doug recently preached about, "It is finished" ("Tetelestai!") offer hope to you, now in the present! The "Paid in full" stamp, given on behalf of all sinners, who flee to Christ, was secured right there in His sacrificial suffering! But, to die outside of Christ, is to solidify a debt that you or I could never, ever pay! And so, your hell will be an eternal unsatisfied debt, should you die outside of the Lord Jesus Christ! Repent today, right now, and flee to the risen Christ, who presently stands at the right hand of God, until His work; indeed, the building of His glorious, redeemed church, is complete/finished! No longer contend with God, friends! By faith in Christ, be a trophy of His grace, and not a trophy of His expressed, righteous wrath! Justice will and must have its final word! Let it be in Christ and not in the eternal burning of your own body and soul!

3) Lastly, brethren, as you continue to trudge through this life, daily striving to honor and glorify our blessed Savior, while contending with the world, the flesh and the devil, daily, take a deep breath and a step back, and ponder the end of it all! Ponder the consummation of Christ's kingdom! Ponder the blessed expansion of His eternal Kingdom, reflected in the life of David, given here in our text! For, this is a glorious shadow of the eternal hope, that we have been given in Christ, whose Kingdom will expand to every end of the earth, and that, without

end! All of Christ's enemies will be conquered! All who oppose His Kingdom without repentance, will be defeated and destroyed. And so, the present struggle, the present discomfort and pain, the present sorrow and anguish, the present suffering and hardship, the present corruption and evil, indeed, the very present, ongoing battle with sin...are all very temporary! Perfect peace and rest are just around the bend! For the dominion of Christ, **MUST** reach its ultimate fulfillment! [Note: Vs. 2, a picture of mercy]

AMEN!!!

Benediction: Jude 1:24-25