

## 1 THE PHILISTINES INVADE (AGAIN)

2 Samuel 5

## 2 WARRIORS AND POETS

- A verse-by-verse study through the united kingdom period of Israel and Judah, and specifically the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon.
- The seven-year civil war between Israel and Judah is finally over, and Israel is united as a nation once again under the rule of David in the new capital of Jerusalem.
- As it turns out, one of the new king's first tasks will be to deal with Israel's arch-nemesis: the Philistines.

## 3 THE PHILISTINES INVADE – AGAIN

- *When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand."* (2 Samuel 5:17-19)

## 4 COMING FOR DAVID

- During the time since David was first made king at Hebron, the Philistines have more or less left him alone.
- After all, he was engaged in a civil war with the House of Saul – the ruling dynasty of Israel, and the implacable enemies of the Philistines. A fractured Israel could only be in their best interest.
- He was also the king of Ziklag, and so still at least a nominal ally of the Philistines.

## 5 COMING FOR DAVID

- But since his crowning as king over all of Israel, the Philistines realized the danger they now faced: An Israel united, led by David and the cadre of elite warriors that he had assembled over the last fifteen years.
- During his time as the king of a Philistine city-state, it is possible that David was able to break the stranglehold that the Philistines had over iron weapons, leveling the playing field of warfare between the Philistines and the Israelites.

## 6 COMING FOR DAVID

- With all of this in mind, the Philistines realize that a united Israel under David is going to be a very bad thing for the hegemony over the region, so they turn out in force and invade the Valley of Rephaim.
- The Valley of Rephaim – literally the "Valley of the Giants", probably because of the legendary stature of the inhabitants whom the Children of Israel drove out – was a valley that started at Jerusalem and extended southwest for several miles.

## 7 THE VALLEY OF REPHAIM

## 8 DAVID GOES TO WAR

- David inquires of the Lord as to whether or not he should go up against the Philistines.

- Although we are not told the specifics of this inquiry, it is safe to assume that David did it through Abiathar the High Priest, and that the inquiry was made via the Urim and Thummim, since this is generally the case when the method of inquiry is elaborated upon.
- In any case, God tells David to go, and more – that He will deliver the Philistines into David's hand.

#### 9 **THE PHILISTINES INVADE – AGAIN**

- *And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away. And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. (2 Samuel 5:20-22)*

#### 10 **THE PHILISTINES ROUTED**

- David goes to battle against the Philistines and utterly routes them. He instantly attributes his victory to God. Contrast this with Saul's self-focus when it came to battle and victory ("the enemies of Saul").
- Interesting to note is what happens after the victory. The defeat of the Philistines is so complete that, in their haste to flee, they leave all of their idols behind. David and his men take these, either as trophies of their victory, or to devote to destruction.
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#### 11 **THE IDOLS TAKEN**

- In the ancient world it was a common practice to publicly shame or disgrace the gods of a defeated people. This was the Philistine rationale for storing the Ark in the Temple of Dagon.
- In an interesting turnabout, the gods of the Philistines are now taken captive by the Israelites. This marks a complete shift in the political landscape of Canaan.
- In just a generation, Israel has gone from being a subjugated people to being a major power.

#### 12 **THE IDOLS TAKEN**

- But David's confiscation of the Philistine idols bears an eerie similarity to Amaziah's defeat of the Edomites and confiscation of their idols.
- In both cases, a king of Judah defeats one of Israel's hereditary enemies. And in both cases, the idols of their enemy are taken as spoils.
- But the way each king deals with their success, and the final consequences of their actions, are starkly different.

#### 13 **AMAZIAH**

- *After Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites, he brought the gods of the men of Seir and set them up as his gods and worshiped them, making offerings to them. Therefore the LORD was angry with Amaziah and sent to him a prophet, who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of a people who did not deliver their own people from your hand?" But as he was speaking, the king said to him, "Have we made you a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be struck down?" So the prophet stopped, but said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel." (2 Chronicles 25:14-16)*

14  **AMAZIAH'S FATAL DECISION**

- God has just given Amaziah a miraculous victory over the Edomites. As part of the immense spoil that Amaziah brings back, he takes the idols of the Edomites.
- Instead of giving God the glory for his victory over the pagans, Amaziah instead decides to take the gods of the nations he has just defeated (and which did them no good) and worship them instead.

15  **AMAZIAH'S FATAL DECISION**

- The result of Amaziah's decision is that he ceases to rely on God or be led by God. It is only a matter of time before he will go on an ill-advised campaign against the Northern Kingdom. He will be defeated, Jerusalem will be sacked, and Amaziah will be assassinated.
- *From the time when he turned away from the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But they sent after him to Lachish and put him to death there. (2 Chronicles 25:27)*

16  **TWO DIFFERENT PATHS**

- 1 David
  - Confronted by the culture.
  - Chooses worship.
  - Rewarded with guidance and victory.
- 3 Amaziah
  - Confronted by the culture.
  - Chooses idolatry.
  - Punished with silence and defeat.

17  **DAVID DEFEATS THE PHILISTINES**

- *And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines." And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer. (2 Samuel 5:23-25)*

18  **DAVID DEFEATS THE PHILISTINES**

- David again goes to God for guidance about the second Philistine invasion. It's a good thing, too, since God tells David that a frontal assault will fail.
- This time, David is instructed to get around behind the Philistines' rear and wait for a sign from God that He has gone before them, and then – and only then – to attack.
- David follows the Lord's leading and is once again victorious against the Philistines.

19  **CONFRONTING THE CULTURE**

- Cultural confrontation is as unavoidable for us as it was for David and Amaziah.
- Both were leaders of a nation surrounded by a number of other hostile nations, any of which would have been happy to absorb Israel as a nation and destroy their cultural identity.
- We too are surrounded by a culture that is influenced and controlled by "the Prince of the Power of the Air" who would be more than happy for us to lay down our arms and go

home.

20  **1) CONFORMITY**

- *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4)*
- *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (1 John 2:15-16)*

21  **1) CONFORMITY**

- Conformity comes in passivity: for years, Christianity has given up the fight in the area of entertainment. We were unwilling to confront this sector of the culture, either because we wrongly judged it of little eternal significance, or because we couldn't keep up.
- But conformity can also come in victory: Amaziah engaged in idolatry *after* God had already given him a tremendous victory.

22  **2) CONQUEST**

- *And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:17)*
- *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)*

23  **2) CONQUEST**

- David was not militarily passive, and thus Israel was not only able to assert their independence, they were able to become a significant military power in the region.
  - It is interesting to note that the one area where David is passive – the raising of his children – results in disaster
- In victory, David was mindful of where his victory had come from.

24  **HOW CHRIST CONFRONTED THE CULTURE**

- Each king in the Old Testament ought to tell us something about our King Jesus – either as a positive type or a negative contrast to the character of Christ.
- Christ was surrounded by a culture of overt religiosity that elevated the external expressions of religion over the attitudes of the heart.
- But this was in the context of an even larger culture that was receptive of everything but Christ, pluralist about everything but Christianity.

25  **1) HE LOVED IT**

- *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (Romans 5:6-9)*

26  **2) HE WAS DIFFERENT FROM IT**

- *And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. (Matthew 7:28-29)*
- *And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" (Mark 2:12)*
- Jesus Christ was so relevant to the world specifically because he was so very different from it.

27  **3) HE CONFRONTED THE LIE WITH TRUTH**

- *For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matthew 5:20-22)*

28  **TAKING IT HOME**

- Do you love the culture where God has placed you, or have you allowed a persecution mentality to set in?
- Are you different from the world in ways that are more than external – ways that give you the authority to speak into other people's lives and cause you to give glory to God?
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