

STAND FIRM

WITHSTANDING THE ASSAULT ON THE TRUTH



Part 12
“Worship as Warfare”

May 7, 2023

Introduction: A Real Battle

As we have seen throughout this study, the exhortations to stand firm are given in light of very real battle against evil forces. While the effects of this battle unfold in the physical world, the forces themselves are spiritual. While we may stand firm against their effects in the physical world, we cannot wage war against them using physical force.

Eph. 6:12—For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Main Point: We are called to stand firm on the truth that God is our refuge and strength and it is in _____ Him that we are guarded from fear and discouragement as we live in a hostile world.

Thriving in Enemy Territory

The Example of David—1 Samuel 21:1-15

Context: Having been anointed as the future king of Israel, David entered into the service of the current king (Saul) and quickly rose to prominence within Israel because of his bravery and faithfulness. In spite of his faithful service to Saul, the king became jealous of David's successes and sought to have him killed. Having been hailed as a hero in Israel and marrying the king's daughter, David was forced to flee and become a fugitive.

Observations

1. Having been separated from all that was his in the world, David sought out the place of God's _____.

2. David _____ the true nature of the situation from the priest.

3. David asked for _____ from Ahimelech the priest.

1 Sam. 21:3-4, 6—³Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.”⁴ And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.”...⁶ So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence...

1 Sam. 21:8-9—⁸Then David said to Ahimelech, “Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.”⁹ And the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here.” And David said, “There is none like that; give it to me.”

4. David fled from there into the territory of the _____.

“Gath”

5. Fearing for his safety, David _____ the Philistine king and was able to escape.

Key Point: Having sought the presence and word of the Lord, David received both His _____ and _____.

1 Sam. 22:13a—¹³And Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him...¹⁵“Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No!”

The Words of David—Psalm 34

Context: While the account in 1 Samuel 21 explains the relevant details of what happened when David was in Gath, Psalm 34 gives us insight into David's heart and mind.

Observations

1. David begins by directing _____ towards God.

Psa. 34:1-3—¹I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.² My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.³ Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!

2. He then referenced the deliverance and protection what the Lord accomplished for him.

The Lord delivers from _____!

Psa. 34:4, 9—⁴ *I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears...⁹ Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!*

The Lord _____ His people to protect them!

Psa. 34:7-8—⁷ *The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*

3. He acknowledged that God _____ His people when they call to Him in their distress.

Psa. 34:17-18—¹⁷ *When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸ The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*

4. David's conclusion is that the people of God will not _____ their willingness to trust in and worship Him.

Psa. 34:21-22—²¹ *Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. ²² The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.*

Key Points: God's people can praise the Lord both in the _____ of difficulty and _____ they have experienced deliverance.

The experience of David anticipates the greater obedience of _____ in trusting the Lord so that His people might receive the ultimate protection and deliverance from their enemies.

Psa. 34:19-20—¹⁹ *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. ²⁰ He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.*

John 19:32-36—³² *So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."*

Concluding Thoughts

1. We live our lives in _____ territory.

1 Pet. 1:17—*And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile...*

2. In seeking both the _____ and _____ of the Lord, we access His provision of us.

Josh. 1:8-9—⁸ *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

Heb. 10:24-25—²⁴ *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

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5. Fearing for his safety, David deceived the Philistine king and was able to escape.

Key Point: Having sought the presence and word of the Lord, David received both His provision and protection.

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Key Points: God's people can praise the Lord both in the **midst** of difficulty and **after** they have experienced deliverance.

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Josh. 1:8-9—⁸ *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

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