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The Lord Was With Him II Samuel 5:11-25

Intro: Ch5 is a collection of 5 different stories that all relate to the **establishment of David's kingdom**. Each story deals with what appears to be completely unrelated events but taken as a whole, they give us a proper view of the kingdom. Last week we looked at David's anointing as king over a united Israel and his success in finally wresting possession of the city of Jerusalem from the pagan Jebusites. What stood out in both instances is that each event was a direct fulfillment of a specific promise from **YHWH** to David (**thru much difficulty**) & Abraham (**after much time**).

But, the real key to understanding the quick growth & successful expansion of David's kingdom lies hidden in **vs10**. The reason was simply that **the Lord God of hosts was with him**. This is the key to success for every servant of God: **the divine presence in our lives**. We talk about this reality, we understand the fact of it but do we comprehend the complete necessity of it? We know the Lord is with us b/c He promised us as much in His Word but more often than not, we treat His divine presence in our lives as an emergency relief valve – something that we open up whenever the pressures of life get to high. But that's a gross misunderstanding of purpose of God's presence. He's not here with us to simply rescue us from our foolishness, although He does get a good workout doing that. No, He's present in our lives so that He can be part of every area of our lives. He's present in our lives b/c He **is** our life (**Jn 15:5**).

With that kind of perspective, how can we fail to seek out our Lord on a regular basis? It's part of human nature to believe we are self-sufficient but that's the fallen nature. To go thru our Christian life without seeking direction from the Lord regularly is to rely on the arm of the flesh. As we'll see, David (**like us**) enjoys success whenever he seeks guidance from the Lord & obeys it but (**also like us**) he messes up whenever he fails to seek the Lord's wisdom.

11-12- Hiram- Tyre was a commercial & maritime center north of Israel on the Mediterranean coast (now Lebanon). It's most likely that out of all the events of ch5, this is the last to occur b/c Hiram reign only coincides with the

last 10 yrs of David's reign & on into Solomon's. This shows David's influence & importance in that region. Neighboring kings honor him with the finest materials & craftsmen to build him a palace. This also shows that David was more than just a man of war; he knew how to build important & mutually beneficial political alliances.

At 1st glance it may seem that vs11 is just a foreshadowing of when the nations of the earth will bring homage to God's restored people during the millennium (**Isa 63:3, 10-14**), close similarities but that's not the emphasis here. No, David understood these new "digs" weren't about him - they're a sign of **how YHWH** had established (**confirmed**) his kingship over Israel. More than that, David recognized that **what YHWH** was exalting was **His own kingdom**. David rightly saw that the kingdom belonged to God, not himself. Most significant of all, more than the how or the what, was the why! Why'd God establish David as king over Israel? Why'd God exalt His own kingdom thru David? **For the sake of His people!** Did you catch that? **YHWH** didn't establish David's throne just so David could act like a king & enjoy all the benefits of royalty. No, He did it so that David could **function** as a servant to **YHWH's** people! David's kingship was **not** for **David's advantage** but **for Israel's welfare**. Kingship was **not** an **end** in itself but a **means** to an end – the benefit of God's people. David was over Israel for Israel's good.

This needs to be emphasized b/c this mentality runs contrary to sinful human nature, whether royal or regular folk. As humans we crave attention, we do not chase service. People do a lot of things that seem sacrificial but they're almost always for a selfish reason (athletes, social guilt). It's one thing to **perform** but quite another thing to **serve**. God doesn't limit His call to serve His people to Israel's newest king. In fact, Jesus insists that all His disciples hold to this mind-set (**Mk 10:42-45**). This is true for all believers but especially for pastors, teachers & leaders. There's a fine line between desiring to reach more people with God's Word & desiring to have more people in your ministry. How often does ego shape the vision of a ministry more than service to God's people? Any focus other than service is misguided (jk?). Its hard 2 stick to the true kingdom vision: serving the Lord's **needy** & frequently **obnoxious** sheep.

13-16- more- here, the author lists the new tally of more concubines & wives David took & of more sons & daughters born to him during the

Jerusalem years. Obviously, these events occurred over the 33 yrs David ruled over Israel. Unlike the other 4 episodes in this chapter, which show David in a positive light, this 1 has both **positive** & **negative** connotations. On 1 hand, the number of sons listed reflects David's **strength**; on the other – the number of concubines & wives listed reveals David's **folly** b/c it was in direct violation of **YHWH**'s prescribed rules for His covenant king (**Deut 17**). While David & everyone else may have seen these multiple sons as a sign of God's blessing on him & his many wives, the reality is: most of the trouble that comes in David's later life comes from his relationship with women & from his children. So, while the rest of the chapter is positive towards David, these verse give us both a **yes** & a **no**. We cannot ignore the **no**. Here we see David's **strength** & his **stupidity**.

The point is: sometimes 1 blemish can taint or mar an otherwise excellent record or stellar ministry. Justus Jonas played a prominent role in the Reformation that occurred in Germany & was a close associate of **Martin Luther**. Luther once praised his colleague for having all the qualities of a good preacher but he also added the fact that "**people cannot forgive the good man for hawking and spitting so often.**" So, the preaching may be excellent but if it's **too wet** it tends to **dampen** one's opinion of it! Similarly, we can say that as a whole, David's rule was admirable & his faithfulness to YHWH was consistent; but, we can't afford to spin the data. We can't sweep the evidence under the rug that shows David's faithfulness, while **consistent**, was actually **less than complete** or that some of his actions were controlled more by the **socially accepted culture** of the time than by **God's law**.

These human failings in God's preeminent servant should be instructive to us. They should reveal to us the fallacy of Christian hero worship. You know, that tendency to become so enamored with certain kingdom servants that we fail to remember that they too are sinful people who will inevitably disappoint in some way or another. From pastors, missionaries, TV personalities & Christian recording artist: I've seen them all stumble & fall. Yes, it is disappointing but it shouldn't destroy your faith. God's kingdom is so much greater than the servants that hold positions in it. Even David compromises & mars the kingdom that he rules over & this unfortunate reality serves to prove that God's kingdom will only be safe in the hands of David's Descendant, who **always does what pleases the Father** (**Jn 8:29**).

17-25- Philistines hear the news & they don't like it. The last thing they want

is Israel united under 1 king. Apparently, they thought they knew David well enough to hunt him down & put a whooping on him. Regardless, they hear & go up; David hears & goes down – to the stronghold, probably the cave at Adullam where David & his men sought refuge from Saul. If that is the case then this even occurred after David was anointed but before he took Jerusalem, This passage reports 2 victories over the Philistines, which is significant b/c **YHWH**'s promise in **3:18** is already being fulfilled. But, the text doesn't just reveal **YHWH** as protector of His kingdom, it shows us **how** He protects it.

1st) He protects it by His guidance. At the very start of each event, David seeks direction from the Lord. Oddly enough, he discovers an interesting twist in the Lord's directions b/c, although David faces 2 almost identical situations, **YHWH** alters His guidance in the 2nd episode. But, the text doesn't seem to emphasize the diversity of **YHWH**'s guidance, just the necessity of it – mainly in its protective capacity. Joshua sought guidance from the Lord in taking Jericho but when it came to taking Ai, he figured it would be a cinch. It turned out to be the only defeat Israel suffered in the entire campaign to possess the land. **Acts 16:6-10** relates Paul's own experience with God's guidance. Note: Paul is being guided by hindrance. The Holy Spirit often guides as much by closed doors as He does by open doors. Since that time, untold multitudes of kingdom servants have experienced this divine protection.

2nd) He protects it by His power. In the 1st battle, David describes **YHWH**'s victory as a levy breach. **Baal Perazim** = *Lord of burstings out*. He compares **YHWH**'s actions to the way a massive wall of water breaks down everything in its path (**tsunami /Katrina**). So, **YHWH** completely levels the opposing force & David names the place **Smasher-town**.

The 2nd battle also emphasizes **YHWH**'s power as He describes Himself as a warrior leading His troops into the fight (24). The verb "go out" is very common in Hebrew but frequently refers to going into or leading into battle. So the idea here is that the divine Captain had entered combat & His people had only to follow Him. So in vs24, **YHWH**'s presents Himself as the divine Warrior of Israel who dives into the fray & knocks the Philistines for a loop.

This passage gives us 2 vigorous pictures of God's power: the **Leveler** & the **Warrior**. Modern Christians may balk at such severe depictions of our

gracious & loving Lord. They would much rather dwell on baby Jesus, meek & mild. But our text doesn't allow us to **tone down** these images of God. It actually intends to impress us with the fact that we do not have a namby-pamby deity who is house-broken to line up with our twisted ideas of spiritual appropriateness. People usually abandon gods like that & they get carted off to the landfill (21). No, **YHWH**'s people have a God who is a smasher & a fighter; a God **mighty in battle** (Ps 24), who can both defend all His sheep & defeat all His enemies!

Thus, this passage not only points to the fulfillment of **YHWH**'s promise in 3:18, it also alludes to the fulfillment of the greatest promise of God; a promise that is both the oldest & most opposed by Satan & the world: the 2nd coming of Christ in power & great glory. This promise was given in **Gen 3:15**, was preached & prophesied by Enoch in **Gen 5**. This was the promise Satan attempted to thwart thru-out Israel's history, up to & including the crucifixion of Christ. Tho the Devil tries 2 defeat it & the world refuses 2 believe it, this promise, like all God's promises, will be fulfilled!

What does this mean for us today? If we serve the same God who protected His kingdom under David, then we His people never need to fear b/c He is more than able to always lead us into victory & at the end, impose His kingdom on this earth in all its power & glory. There can be no doubt – after all, He's still the **Leveler** & the **Warrior**!

David was over Israel for Israel. Is this how you view your current situation? All of us hold a position of leadership in some form or fashion: family work, school, community, church. We have been appointed to that position of authority by God's will & power. Do we use it to our advantage or do we recognize that God's intention is for us to use it for the spiritual benefit of those "under" our authority? It's good to be king but God's kings are mere servants of His people.

Divine guidance – do you seek it? Are you open to it? You should be or else how do you know you're not walking in the flesh? You have a great opportunity to seek God's guidance today. A congregation that consistently & obediently seeks God's guidance will lack for nothing.

Maybe you've never seen God as a **Leveler** & a **Warrior**. **Ps 24:8** declares that the Lord is **mighty in battle**. It's not by accident that it immediately

follows Ps 23. This juxtaposition of images are both ends of the spectrum in how you relate to the Lord: He can be the Shepherd that *leads you in* or He can be the Warrior who *takes you out*. It all depends on where you stand with Him. If your not sure which side of the spectrum your on, we would like to assist you in finding that out. 😊