

GUIDED BY GOD
I've Seen This Before
1 Chronicles 14:8-17

Promotion Brings Problems

And when the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David. And David heard of it and went out against them.

- David has just been crowned king of the kingdom of Israel; he was already king of the kingdom of Judah
- David's power has vastly increased
- David's increasing power in the region was viewed as threat to the Philistines, the arch enemy of the people of God
- The Philistines feared and wanted David stopped
- When the Philistines heard about David ascending to the throne, they mobilized all their forces to try conquering Israel and capture David
- The Philistines know what David's rule will mean, it will mean unity and peace for all of Israel
- But David heard the Philistines were coming and so David and His men marched out to meet them
- As a believer, you are a threat the kingdom of darkness and the devil wants you stopped

David Inquired of God

[9] And the Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. [10] And David enquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand?

- The Philistines have come, and they have spread themselves out in a place called the Valley of Rephaim
- The Philistines are spread across the *whole valley*
- David could have said I'm a king, I'm a powerful man, I make all the decisions
- Position and power did not keep David from inquiring, asking God for guidance
- Shall I go up and fight them?

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- If I go up and fight the Philistines, are you going to give me the victory?
- David's a king, but he's still dependent on God for guidance
- Even though David was anointed, powerful and a ruler over all Israel, he *still* sought God for guidance

God's Response

And the Lord said unto him, Go up; for I will deliver them into thine hand. [11] So they came up to Baal-perazim; and David smote them there. Then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like the breaking forth of waters: therefore they called the name of that place Baal-perazim.

- David asks for God's guidance in dealing with the Philistines and God said you will fight the Philistines and you will be victorious
- God says follow my instructions and I'll give the victory
- David and his army fight the Philistines and they are forced to retreat
- David wins the battle and *immediately* gives God the credit
- David said the Lord enabled him to *break through* the enemy lines like turbulent, raging water
- As a memorial to his great victory, David renames the battlefield, Baal Perazim, which means *the Lord has broken through*
- David is describing the **presence** of God; God you were with me in the midst of this battle
- David is thanking God for making good on His **promise**; he asked God if he should fight the Philistines and God said go ahead I promise I'll deliver them into your hands
- David is describing the **power** of God, although I'm the valley of the giants, your power in me has given me the victory

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- Greater is He that is within me than He that is in the world
- David asked God for a *breakthrough* and from that moment on he called his battle the place where the Lord breaks through

I've Seen this Before....

[13] And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley. [14] Therefore David enquired again of God;

- The Philistines regrouped and spread themselves in the valley, *again*
- Just because you have a breakthrough victory doesn't mean the enemy will not come back
- But David went to God *again* in prayer
- Most people would say, "I've seen this before, why go to God "again" for guidance"
- I've fought this battle before, "I know how to win"
- I'll use the same "formula" as I did before
- We can't presume what we did *last time* is what God wants us to do *this time*
- David inquired of the Lord again because if God was worth asking *one time*, He's worth asking *every time*
- We must be like David and go to God again ask for His guidance *again*

God's New Strategy

Vs 14 "... and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. [15] And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt go out to battle: for **God is gone forth before thee** to smite the host of the Philistines. [16] David therefore did as God

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commanded him: and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gazer.

- David did not presume he knew how to handle the enemy
- He went to God again and God gave him a *different strategy* to defeat the Philistines
- Even though the Philistines came to David the same way, God had a different plan
- God told David instead of fighting the Philistines head-on like before, circle back behind them and position yourselves in front of a grove of mulberry trees
- God said don't move until you hear the "sound of going" in the tops of the mulberry trees
- Christians often wonder, "Why isn't God giving "me" supernatural guidance like that today?"
- God told David when you hear rustling in the mulberry trees, that will be *Me*, God the Lord of Hosts
- When you hear the sound in the mulberry trees, David, it is your *signal* to fight
- God told David to *wait for His signal*
- When you hear the wind in the mulberry trees, David, it is your *signal* to fight
- David obeyed and did exactly as the Lord commanded
- David and his army rushed in and defeated the Philistines
- The fight was at the same place against the same enemy, but the strategy was *different* this time, but the victory was the *same*
- As a result of the victory over the Philistines, David gained both *fame and fear*
- The key here is depending on God's guidance, even if you've *seen* the situation, problem, even opportunity before.
- When we seek God, He promises to guide us regardless of how challenging or difficult the situation is.