

## 59 - Run to the Battle

### 1 Samuel 17

<sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

**48 – As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.**

In our last study, we examined the significance of declarations – God’s and ours! Not only the importance, but the necessity of making declarations to put the celestials (and ourselves) on notice that we are holding God’s agency – the sword of the spirit (His spirit) – in our hands. That sword is, as the scripture declares, **“a declaration of God”** (Eph. 6:17).

It’s worth recalling that the sword of the spirit is the final piece of what Paul calls “the panoply (or complete armor) of God.” It is the only implement of offensive warfare. All the other parts of the panoply are protective or defensive.

### 1 Cor. 14:8

8 For if a trumpet, also, should be giving a dubious sound, who will be preparing for battle?

Lest you wonder, I am hearing and I am therefore “sounding a trumpet”—not dubiously—declaring a call to battle, because it’s here. It’s at our doorstep...it is right before us and the good news is that if we will heed this call, we will discover everything has been made ready for victory.

Later, we’ll read Paul’s instruction and description of the panoply or armor of God. We’ve seen it many times throughout our studies, but it is freshly important in this season we’re in.

We appear to be in a season when action is required. It is as if we have been called into ACTIVE service, as opposed to passive service. In other words it is not enough today, it seems, to simply believe in Jesus Christ and in the word of God passively. Many of us are faced with relationships and situations which require us to stand firm for what we know to be true, according to the word of God, and even to declare that truth over ourselves or for ourselves in the face of family dynamic, family history, religious observance or tradition, associations we didn’t even know were or are not in accord with the truth. Our very underpinnings – our fundamental belief structures that may have gone unquestioned throughout our lives and the lives of our ancestors for countless generations – may be called into question and must be offered up to be consumed by the fire of the Holy Spirit operating in us and through us. This appears to be testing our

fitness, in Christ, for battle in a season during which our declaration – that is, wielding the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of God – is the instrument of our deliverance and victory, because God's declaration in us, which we **MUST** speak with our lips as He does, is equal in importance to His Name; and that is **ALL-IMPORTANT!**

We have moved into a season in which our **willingness** to stand for the truth of the word of God in us, and our certainty of His truth – **THE TRUTH** – has been established and is now called into action. We have been called to stand for that which we know is true about us in Christ Jesus, ***“by the blood of the Lamb and through the word of [our] testimony”*** (Rev. 12:11).

In fact, before we get to the panoply, look with me at this section in **Revelation**, beginning with **Chapter 12, verse 9**

9 And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent called Adversary and Satan, who is deceiving the whole inhabited earth. It was cast into the earth, and its messengers were cast with it.

10 And I hear a loud voice in heaven saying, "Just now came the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brethren was cast out, who was accusing them before our God day and night.

11 And they conquer him through the blood of the Lambkin, and through the word of their testimony, and they love not their soul, until death.

The conquering we see in this picture is accomplished by first, ***“the Blood of the Lamb”*** and second, ***“through the word of their testimony.”***

The words here are as important as the order in which they are placed. The blood of Jesus Christ, ***“the lamb of God,”*** is first and foremost. It is ***“BY”*** His blood. In other words, ***ONLY*** by the shed blood of Jesus Christ is victory over Satan and his messengers – ***“the sovereignties...the authorities...the world-mights of this darkness...the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials”*** (Eph. 6:12) – even possible!

Now, note that the second means by which we conquer Satan and the rest is ***“through the word of [our] testimony.”*** Victory is won ***BY*** the blood of Jesus Christ and ***THROUGH*** the word of our testimony. Christ sets up the victory and our declaration – the sword of the spirit – is the agency through which victory is fully accomplished. It is not one or the other, it is both. The order matters and the words matter. Victory – ***OUR*** victory ***IN*** Christ is won ***BY*** His blood, shed on the cross ***FOR*** us, and ***THROUGH*** our declaration of who He is, who God is, and who we are in ***HIM*** as God's own sons and daughters, by virtue of Christ being ***“the firstborn among many brethren [and “sisteren”]*** (Romans 8:29).

The significance of “BY Christ’s blood and THROUGH our declaration” cannot be overemphasized. We dare not skip through it lightly. The principle is essential to us today. We are engaged in a battle. It isn’t with blood and flesh, as we have studied before. The battle is in or among the celestials, who are in total opposition to God, to His purpose (let alone its fulfillment), and certainly to us who have the unprecedented and never-to-be-repeated privilege of being the recipients of God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ. All of this opposition is led by Satan, whose name is the Hebrew word, “adversary.”

All of this may seem obvious, but we are in a season, remember, in which a declaration of God better come out of our mouths! Let me say that again with a slight difference: We are in a season in which **God’s** declaration must come out of **our** mouths!

It’s been More than a year since we started these studies, titled, “*Light Up the Scriptures*,” and I am just now realizing their importance. Not that I’m important...I had to be persuaded over many months even to begin this process. It has been purely an act of obedience, but it finally hit me, as the Lord downloaded this study – on the heels of last week’s – WHY this has been such an important witness TO the celestials, where the battle is, but also to US who are the ones **through** which the battle is being won! And please allow me one more point, taking nothing to myself here...it is also important to the Lord Himself, **BY** whom – that is, by His shed blood – this battle will be won. We WILL gain the victory, as Paul declares, “***we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us***” (Romans 8:37).

It turns out that these studies have been and **are** declarations that stand as God’s agency both on Earth and in the celestials. We may not have known it until now, but we are waging a battle in the celestials which we will win – look again at the **Revelation 12:11:**

And they conquer him

This is not an IF or a maybe proposition, “***they conquer***” is a declaration...it’s a certainty BY the blood of the lamb and through the word of our testimony. Notice that the scripture says “***they conquer***” – “***they***” is a plural pronoun, not a singular one! We conquer **TOGETHER**, in Jesus name...**by** His blood and **through** the word of our testimony!

Certainly we conquer individually too...clearly, you don’t have my relationships or circumstances and I don’t have yours, so let’s look at the “***weapons of our warfare.***”

**2 Cor 10:**

3 For, walking in flesh, we are not warring according to the flesh.  
4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but **powerful** to God toward the **pulling down** of bulwarks;  
5 **pulling down** reckonings and every height elevating itself against the knowledge of God, and **leading into captivity** every apprehension into the obedience of Christ,  
6 and having all in readiness to **avenge every disobedience**, whenever your obedience may be completed.

Look at the power Paul was aware of and makes us aware of here, long before he introduced the panoply in Ephesians, which we'll look at shortly. Also note that the purpose of our powerful weapons are not defensive or protective...they are weapons of offense.

Quick aside: look at the first part of verse 7:

7 Are you looking at that on the surface?

It's as if Paul throws this is as if to say, "What are you thinking?"

Look again at **1 Samuel 17, now verse 48:**

**As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.**

David ran quickly TOWARD the battle. He didn't wait for that "uncircumcised Philistine" to come to him! He ran quickly toward the battle.

What does this have to do with us today?

Let's look together at the principles embodied in the account of 1 Samuel 17.

Now bring this into Paul's letter to the **Ephesians**, in which he describes the "panoply of God" in **Chapter 6**. The setup for all this, however, begins clear back in preceding chapters.

**The first 3 chapters** are Paul's painting the picture of the magnitude of God's purpose in us through Christ Jesus, and the explanation of what he calls "the secret."

**Chapter 4** starts like this:

1 I am entreating you, then, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,  
2 with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,  
3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit with the tie of peace:  
4 one body and one spirit, according as you were called also with one expectation of your calling;  
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
6 one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.

Paul goes on in 4 to expose what he calls “the systematizing of the deception.” He continues through chapters 4, 5 and part of 6 to address husbands, wives, slaves, fathers, and children as to their attitudes, demeanor and behavior toward one another.

Let’s pick it up at Chapter 6:10. We’ve seen this section many times before, but let’s look at it afresh, having seen the precedent of David running toward the battle line with his staff, his sling, and five smooth stones he chose from the stream.

### **Ephesians 6:**

10 For the rest, brethren mine, be invigorated in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

11 Put on the panoply of God, to enable you to stand up to the stratagems of the Adversary,

12 for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.

13 Therefore take up the panoply of God that you may be enabled to withstand in the wicked day, and having effected all, to stand.

14 Stand, then, girded about your loins with truth, with the cuirass of righteousness put on,

15 and your feet sandaled with the readiness of the evangel of peace;

16 with all taking up the large shield of faith, by which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery arrows of the wicked one.

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of God.

18 During every prayer and petition be praying on every occasion (in spirit **being vigilant also for it** with all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

19 and for me), that to me expression may be granted, in the opening of my mouth with boldness, to make known the secret of the evangel,

20 for which I am conducting an embassy in a chain, that in it I should be speaking boldly, as I must speak.