

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a dark, round stone on a brown, frayed cord. The background is a light, textured surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

ZION
MINISTRIES

BRINGING
DOWN
Goliath

BRINGING DOWN Goliath

by Dr. Brian Bailey

It is so wonderful to be living in these days. We are living in a time when God is bringing change, and there is going to be a sovereign wave of glory sweeping over many countries of the world. We want to have our hearts open so we can be channels, each and every one of us, so that wave of glory will not only fill us but also overflow out to others.

We are going to look at the battle between David and Goliath. There are lessons to be learned from this battle which apply to us, as there are still spiritual Goliaths that oppose God's people. Goliath was a giant who represents an enemy that could not be overcome by natural forces, whether by human strength, by natural wisdom or ability, or even by weight of numbers.

Goliath held a whole army and nation in fear and trembling. And in our day it is still possible for spiritual "Goliaths" literally to bind individuals, families, cities, and nations. I would like to give you an illustration of this:

BRINGING DOWN A MODERN GOLIATH

In New Zealand, a friend of mine became the pastor of a church, which for 15 years had not been able to grow larger than 150 people. Sometimes it would go up to 150 members, and then come crashing down again to perhaps 30 members. It was up and down many times but could not go beyond 150 people. However, when this new pastor was seeking the Lord, the Lord said, "Come to the church every morning at 6 o'clock to pray." As he was praying there, the Lord gave him a vision. The Lord showed him a huge demon that ruled over the city, which was keeping the church from being able to grow any bigger. The pastor kept praying at the church every morning, and some of the church members started to join him

until a large group was praying. As they continued to pray for several months, the Lord gave the pastor a vision that the demon was no longer standing in the heavenlies, but had been partly cast down to where only about half of him was above ground level. The church continued to pray until another person had a dream, that only the head of the demon was still to be seen. As they continued to pray for a number of months more, the demon was then cast completely down, and after that a revival broke out. The church grew to be about 1500 people, and it became about the third largest church in New Zealand. It is so wonderful, you see, but the key was bringing down the Goliath. As long as Goliath was there, the whole town, and certainly this church, was held under the power of that demon. That mighty Goliath had the power to bind the town and bind the church. Virtually nobody could do anything in that town. And nobody had understood why, because in neighboring cities God was blessing, but in this particular area, nobody could get a breakthrough. Why? Because they had not had the revelation of the Goliath- they first needed deliverance from the enemy that was hindering them.

WHAT GOLIATH CAN REPRESENT

We look not only at what Goliath stands for, but also, we must understand that he was an obstacle that had to come down. This is how our thinking must be aligned. When we look at obstacles, we must look at them from the counsels of God. The giants might be there, but they are destined to fall. However big they are, they are destined to fall. We are destined for the glory of God, praise God!

Something else about this giant- in 1 Samuel 17:16 he presented himself before Israel for 40 days. Israel was always conscious of Goliath during this time. He

wasn't someone who just came for a visit and upset them and then left. Goliath didn't go away, he just stayed there. He represents a bondage that one is always conscious of.

Also, we find that Goliath mocked the Israelites, 1 Samuel 17:10 & 43-44. And you know, there can be something in your family, or situation, or in your own life that you cannot overcome. It seems the more you pray, the more this bondage arises, and it looks down upon you and it just mocks, mocks, mocks. It almost says, "How can you serve God? How can you be a Christian? I am here."

I think it's wise to know that our particular Goliath can be from our past generations. We can have a Goliath that oppresses us, that dominates us, and that Goliath has not come through any opening in our own life, but has come from a past generation. We need to know what is good in our genealogy, for the prayers and promises that have perhaps been given to us from our parents or our grandparents. But there is the opposite thought that generations can pass on bondages that grow and become stronger.

The Lord gave me a vision when I was speaking at a women's conference. In this vision I saw the hearts of three generations: a grandmother, a mother and a daughter. The grandmother had a little weed in her heart, which the Lord told me represented a specific bondage in her life. She passed that weed on to her daughter, and in her heart it grew to be a very strong bush. Then I saw, in turn, that she passed that bondage on to her own daughter. However, by this time it was no longer a weed or a bush, but a full-grown tree in the heart of this grand-daughter. In other words, if we don't deal with things in our life, we can pass them on to our children, and we don't just pass them on as

weeds. We pass them on as bushes or perhaps mighty trees. They can bind individual families, churches, cities, and nations.

There was a certain brother and sister that came to us many times for counseling, and God was gracious in meeting them in various areas of their life. God developed a precious ministry in them to bring healing and deliverance to many people. They were used also to bring solutions and deliverances even to churches. God blessed them in many areas, but there was one problem in their life: he was a businessman and he was constantly having problems in business. Eventually he had to file for bankruptcy. They said, "Well, look. God is surely blessing us spiritually but financially we are having a real problem." And they said, "Would you please pray about our financial situation?" As we prayed, the Lord seemed to quicken a word to me. I said, "Let me ask you a question. Have you got brothers and sisters?" He said, "Well, I've got a number of brothers." I said, "Are they in business?" He said, "They are in business." I said, "Are they prospering?" He said, "No, they are not prospering."

So, you see, it was not just him. It was the family that was not prospering. And the word that was coming to me was "a vow of poverty." I said, "This keeps coming to me: a vow of poverty." I said, "I think it goes back into your past generations." And as he prayed, the Lord brought back to his mind that his grandfather had taken a Franciscan vow of poverty. He had been a very wealthy businessman and had prospered in virtually everything that he had touched. But he came into contact with the Franciscans, and because he admired them, he then took a Franciscan vow of poverty. He gave away his wealth and lived as a poor man. But the interesting thing was this: he took that vow of poverty and it bound his family for at least two

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Editor: Norman Holmes

Asst. Editor: Linda Holmes

Cover Art & Layout: Carlo Aguilar

ZION MINISTRIES is a non-sectarian parachurch ministry that has been raised up by the Lord to help prepare and equip those called to Christian leadership. Towards this goal, we offer you this teaching magazine.

generations. So we prayed that the vow of poverty be renounced, and that God would restore financial blessing to the family. And shortly afterwards, there was a breakthrough in his finances. We have known families that everything seems to go wrong in that family until you hit the Goliath. And when you hit the Goliath, it releases the family. Perhaps God wants you to break a family bondage in the life of a loved one. You know, when someone is bound, how can that one fight a battle? They need another to come and fight the battle for them.

Perhaps a giant is binding your community. You cannot go against him, obviously, until commissioned of God, but the important thing is to first cry out to God and say, "Oh, Lord, show us our community. Show us our community."

In another country, they had a real problem with immorality that had come in. A shop had bought a building just opposite the church. Many were advising the pastor, "We should have a march of righteousness to protest this shop with all their pornographic literature, and protest against this to the authorities." The pastor said, "Well, let's pray first." And God said, "I don't want any marches. You're not going to impress any authorities." God said, "Pray." So they had several days of fasting and prayer and then had a prayer meeting to come against this Goliath, this whole organization that had camped opposite the church. And in the spirit, God gave them victory. You know, literally, within a week, the owners of that store made a statement to the press, "We feel led to leave this country and go to another." Oh, praise the Lord, they were truly led!

Because of this, our mind must be set on overcoming and defeating the Goliaths we may face. The thought of a giant is this: it represents an enemy that cannot be overcome by natural forces. It cannot be overcome by human strength, our own will, ability, natural wisdom, or even might of numbers. And so it is therefore important to recognize that our Goliath is a giant that can only be brought down by a David. In order to vanquish Goliath, we need, first of all, to take a look at David. For David is the one who overcame Goliath- not Saul, not the Israelites, but David. He is the one who has the key for deliverance.

DAVID'S PREPARATIONS FOR VICTORY

DAVID INHERITED PROMISES, Genesis 49:8-10. He came from the tribe of Judah, and therefore David inherited the promises given that tribe. It says of Judah in Genesis 49, "Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies," and that he shall be like a young lion and will also hold the scepter. In other words, he will break the strength of his enemies and he will rule. In Africa, there's one animal that has no fear of anybody else and it's a lion. Every other animal hides away, but a lion lies down anywhere because he knows that no one dares touch him.

A lion is the king of the jungle and is a symbol of rulership. In Romans 5:17 there is a very beautiful promise that says, "Those that receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in this life through the One, Jesus Christ." David epitomizes one who rules and reigns in this life.

The Scriptures also teach us that David will be king in Jerusalem during the Millennial reign of Christ. This is brought out by the prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah, Ezekiel 37:24-25 & Jeremiah 30:9. We could say that he is a type of those who will rule and reign with Jesus during the thousand-year Millennial reign, Revelation 20:4 & 6.

In Revelation 5:5 we are told that Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah who has prevailed, just as David prevailed. And you see, this is what God wants His people to inherit! In our personal life, and also in relation to the congregations to which God has joined us, it is important that we know and understand the promises God has given to us. Some of these promises may have been given a long time ago, but God will honor them. David was aware of his genealogy and his inheritance, and he moved into all that God provided and promised.

DAVID HAD VICTORY OVER THE LITTLE THINGS, 1 Samuel 17:34-36. Before David tackled Goliath, he had gotten the victory over the lion and the bear. You know, unless you can get victory over the little things, you never engage a Goliath. We've seen churches absolutely ruined because they took on a Goliath before they had dealt with the lion and the

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bear. In other words, the Christian life is a life of steady progress. David, you see, had been prepared by God to do battle with Goliath because he had already been victorious over the lesser enemies that had come against him. This is important, that when we have little bondages or little battles, we concentrate on being victorious in them. Then when we are victorious in them, there will come the commissioning of God in order to meet the big ones.

DAVID WAS COMMISSIONED, Matthew 22:14, 1 Samuel 17:37. Commissioning is so important. One can be called by God, but one must also be commissioned by God. You cannot go against Goliath until you are commissioned. Concerning that situation in New Zealand, you see, it was our friend who was commissioned to go against that demon. God did not commission the previous pastors to go against the big demon. But the one that was commissioned got the victory! I cannot over emphasize this. You see, one has to be commissioned before one could do a work for God. And so David was commissioned because of past successes.

There was a certain conference many years ago, and it was decided to bring a number of pastors on to the platform. These pastors were to pray and bind a certain fallen prince over their city. And all these pastors were lifting up their hands and binding the power over that city. I was sitting in the congregation when God opened my eyes and by my side stood this tremendous angel, not a demon but a tremendous fallen angel that was governing this city. The Lord said two things to me: He said, "Don't touch him. Number one, because you haven't got the power. And the second thing is this: it's not his time to go." So, it's very important that when taking on a Goliath, one takes on the Goliath with God's power and in God's timing.

DAVID DISCARDED THE ARMOR OF SAUL, 1 Samuel 17:38-39. Saul offered him his armor, and David discarded it. There may be many reasons, of course, why he discarded the armor of Saul. I suppose it didn't fit. But something else: what good was Saul's armor to

him? It didn't give Saul the victory. That which did not work for someone else surely will not work for you. You only use that which has been successful in the life of another. You know, we should prove and try things.

So many people today, especially in the charismatic movement, never examine a thing to see if it has worked for a person. People can be so gullible- some new thing comes along and they're just like little goldfish. Their mouth opens and shuts and they're hooked on everything. Before you take anybody's counsel, first examine whether it has worked for them. In other words, you use proven weapons. That which has been tried and tested is what we use. That which works. You discard Saul's armor. David took the weapons that he had already proven- the sling and stones. But his confidence was in what God would do, not in his own strength or abilities.

DAVID BROUGHT ALL ISRAEL INTO VICTORY

It is so very wonderful that as David went in the name of the Lord, then Goliath was smitten and destroyed, 1 Samuel 17:45-53. The interesting thing is the consequences of David's victory: he took the whole nation with him! When David destroyed Goliath, it wasn't only David personally that had the victory, but the whole of the nation of Israel entered into the victory. And beloved, it might well be that in your battle, that as you are commissioned by God to fight and you defeat that Goliath, you're not just going to bring yourself into liberty but you're going to bring your whole family, church or city into liberty.

God has ordained all these demons, all these enemies that are holding captive even communities, to be destroyed. God said, "He will reduce to nothing the gods of this earth," Zephaniah 2:11. God has ordained them for destruction. I believe that God wants to bind and break some Goliaths. A Goliath is ordained for destruction. Oh, beloved. Whatever the problem is, let us see what God said: "Over the Philistines I will shout in triumph," Psalm 108:9.



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When Goliath came down, that which had oppressed Israel left. It was like a cloud that disappeared, and the sun shone. How many are in darkness? How many have a cloud over them? And beloved, when that cloud goes, their lives will be completely transformed because they will come into light.

David's victory was very much like Christ's victory. When He defeated Satan, God gave each and every one of us victory over the demons. And when a principal enemy is defeated, it is amazing how everybody rises up and can deal with their own lesser problems. When a central victory is obtained, it seems as though everybody grows and can cast off their own individual problems. Oh, it is a tremendous transformation that comes into a church when a Goliath is destroyed. And there again we have the thought, that Goliath was ordained to be defeated. Your Goliath is ordained to be defeated and none knows it better than he does.

We were in a situation where a certain Bible college was spiritually bound because of one of its leaders. God stirred us up to cry out to Him, "Oh God, bring release." When we were on a trip thousands of miles away from that particular place, one afternoon at about three o'clock there stood before me two fallen angels. And the Lord said, "These have bound that situation for which you were praying. Now command that they be bound and thrown down into the pit." I informed the angels of that command, and they bowed their heads in recognition of the fact that this indeed was the word of the Lord.

As I spoke, a black chain came up through the floor. Then I commanded that this chain bind the angels. They made no protests as the chain curled around their waists. Then I commanded that the chain take them down into hell, which it did. A few weeks later that faculty member was removed from the school due to revealed sin in his life. And when that Goliath was brought down, the entire school entered into victory!

**GOLIATHS MUST BE BROUGHT DOWN,
Matthew 12:29**

You may have a Goliath opposing you, a family bondage going back for generations that has not yet been dealt with. Your church may have a Goliath trying to stop God's people from breaking through in the Spirit to higher levels in God. Your community or

nation may have a Goliath that needs to be brought down. So many believers go backwards because the Goliath they face is stronger than they are. They are fervent for the Lord for a season but then they slide back because they are not strong enough to deal with Goliath and break the bondage. This was the condition of Saul and the army of Israel before David stepped forth with the faith and anointing of God.

God wants the power of this enemy broken. God wants to put a holy determination in your heart and cause faith to arise so that you say, "This giant is going to be brought down!" We must realize that such enemies are ordained by God to be brought down by His people moving in the power of His Spirit. Oh, how glorious it is when you know that some enemies are there just because they are ordained by God to be brought down! It is encouraging to look at the enemy and say, "You are ordained by God to be defeated!"

Beloved, I feel that the burden of the Spirit is that we deal with the Goliaths. We need to allow the Spirit of God to rise up within our hearts. Let us declare before God, as David did, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine? How can he stand before the anointing of the Lord?" Let us be militant and go forth under a Davidic mantle to do battle and bring Goliath down.

We are going to see the powers of the Evil One fall. God's time of deliverance is very near. As the darkness covers the earth in these last days, so the glory of God shall arise upon the Church, Isaiah 60:1-7. There will be great revival at the end of the age with multitudes who will be saved, Matthew 13:39 & James 5:7-8.

LET US NOW BELIEVE GOD to break the Goliaths that have been opposing us. Let us receive the commissioning of God so we can declare, "There is a new anointing; there is a fresh word; there is a victory to be won. Goliath, it is your time to fall before the anointing of God in His people."



By the late Rev. Brian Bailey (1925-2012), the former president of Zion Fellowship and Zion Christian University. For over 60 years he helped bring renewal and revival to many nations around the world through his leadership in many organizations, ministering in over 100 nations and authoring over 65 books.



PREPARING TO OVERCOME

by Daniel Gazaway

I played sports and have been interested in them for most of my life. Suppose we take a basketball team where you come in as the new coach. You meet the team and find out they really don't know how to play the game. They can bounce the ball but that's all - yet there's much more to the game than bouncing the ball.

Your first year goes by and you go through a real losing streak. The 2nd year you maybe win a few games. During the 3rd year you try to get your team into the playoffs. But when the 4th year comes you expect the players to be mature; you expect them to be able to play basketball; you expect them to overcome; and you expect them to want to win the championship.

A coach chooses who he thinks will do the best job for the team. He puts in the ones who he feels will do an all-out effort, especially if they've been with him for years and they know what his game plan is. So spiritually I want to apply that to us. Here comes the Holy Spirit- the coach to prepare the team- that's who we are. He takes us from our immaturity and step by step we receive instruction and coaching by the Spirit of God. Little by little the Word of God brings us up to a level of maturity. The Lord expects more from us now than He ever has before because of our years of being exposed to His truth- and also, He expects us to have our churches prepared for when the time comes to win the game. We have a desire to become winners, we have a desire to overcome, and He expects us to mature and be able to win the battles. So, I want you to keep that analogy in your mind.

READY FOR THE BIG BATTLES

The Lord spoke to me recently that we would have a few more battles. I thought, "Oh just a couple battles," and the Lord said, "No, no, they're going to be your biggest battles yet." In my soulfulness I would just like to have a couple of little battles. I thought that's

what the Lord meant, but then He brought back to my remembrance something called the Heartbreak Hill in the Boston Marathon. That is a hill near the end of the long race when everyone is already exhausted. They don't put that hill at the beginning of the race course, they put it at the end. It probably determines who will win and who will not. So, I felt the Lord was bringing this to my attention. He said, "Heartbreak Hill has to be conquered."

When people come to their own "Heartbreak Hill," it's the ones who are persistent, the ones who attack it, who say "I can do this," that win. There's an illustration of this in Judges 6:1-6 about Gideon's army. The Lord was giving them the opportunity to be persistent when the question was asked to Gideon's army, "Who wants to go home?" and many went back home. Then the next testing was about how they were drinking. Water represents the Word of God. Some might be drinking just a little to quench their thirst, but they will not be ready for war. We all have our own "Heartbreak Hill." I believe the Lord gives us each an opportunity to be persistent. But what will be our response, what will be yours? Do we want to continue, or do we want to quit? This is a time to look at Heartbreak Hill and persevere.

We need to make the most of our opportunities while on earth before we pass through those gates into heaven. I'm not a crybaby, so I'm not going to quit; I'm going to persevere.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Be persistent to keep asking God for victory. Keep on seeking until you find it, just like you do when you misplace your wallet or purse. It's a shock if you reach for your wallet and it's not there. You will search everywhere it could possibly be until you find it. And you know about knocking, you would not go into somebody's house unless you knock on

the door first. You want them to know you are out there. We want the Lord to know we're knocking, "It's me Lord, it's me, I'm knocking!" The Lord will answer anybody who is knocking. We need to be persistent and He will answer. We will have to ask, and we will have to seek, and we will have to knock so we will have divine intervention and we can take down our enemies. I'm going to ask, I'm going to seek, I'm going to knock until I see the oppression removed from over the Church.

When we have an evil spirit coming up against us, we need to remember something, those coming against us are a defeated army. I am so glad I belong to the army of the Lord, and the armies are not equal. There's 1/3rd that are in the other army that followed Lucifer who said, "I want to be like God Almighty." And they found out they didn't have the power they wanted, but the army of the Lord does. We are in the army of the Lord. The Lord has spiritually called us for a time of war. Ecclesiastes 3:8 says there's a time to love and a time for war. This is a time to go to war. Our weapons will be determined by the Lord. He told Gideon which ones to use- they each started the battle with a trumpet and a torch. Whatever the Lord gives us to use, in man's eyes it might be foolishness, but in the wisdom of the Commander of the Army of the Lord it will bring the defeated foe down.

In Canaan they had another conflict. When Saul and his army heard the words of Goliath, they were afraid and dismayed. They had won wars before, but this time they were in distress because there was a 10 foot tall giant in front of them, yelling at them! Not only was the king afraid, the warriors and soldiers all fled. But the one who was not afraid was the one who had experienced victories while taking care of his father's sheep in the wilderness. He knew there was a God in heaven who did things miraculously. We are going to be up against things we've never faced before, but we too have had experiences with our miracle working God, so when we face the giants we will not turn back.

In 1 Samuel 17:28, when David's eldest brother heard what David asked, he was angry at David. David replied in verse 29, "...is there not a cause?" If we're going to lay our life down, we have to know what the cause is. The cause is that the Lord has planted His Church and He expects us to be overcomers. He expects us to win the battles.

The Lord has been maturing His Church and He expects us to become overcomers. He expects us to win the battles. The Lord is like the coach who looks

over his players and thinks, "Now who am I going to put in the game for this important play?" There isn't a coach around that will put in someone who will lose the game for him when he knows there is another player who can win the game. The Lord is going to be very careful who he puts out there in these Last Days.

IMMATURITY CAN DISQUALIFY US

I watched a play-off game of American football where two players brought shame to their coach. The game had less than a minute to go, one team was ahead but they were not able to control themselves- they made a foul that caused them to lose 15 yards (13.7 meters) as a penalty. Then another one of their teammates did something else that caused them to lose another 15 yards. It literally brought shame to the coach because these players had not been taught how to keep their tempers under control. It caused them to lose a very important game. In their immaturity they let their emotions determine the outcome of the game. With the help of the penalties the other team made a field goal and they won.

This is why the Lord is dealing with things in our life. He doesn't want us to be bystanders watching what's going on, like the benchwarmers in basketball who are only good enough to sit on the bench. I want to encourage you to pay the price for maturity.

God wants to have our spirit perfected. He is going to use those who are mature in the Last Days. The time is coming when the Lord is going to go out and search through His Church, to look over you and me and choose who are the ones that He is going to use.

These Last Days will bring the glory of God out on the streets, out to the nations, that God's name will be glorified. The biggest opportunity of our life is ahead of us, to be involved in the Last Day harvest and see tremendous multiplication. There are many souls that need to be won into the kingdom and there are crowns prepared for our heads. What an opportunity we have before us! Just a few more battles... yes, they are intense, but the end is in view. I want to encourage you to pay the price, become an Overcomer.



Rev. Daniel Gazaway is the pastor of Faith Tabernacle in Concord, NH, USA and is a board member of Zion Fellowship International. He has taught in many Bible schools and leadership seminars around the world.

LET MY PEOPLE GO!

by Norman Holmes



LONG AGO, GOD'S PEOPLE WERE ENSLAVED in Egypt where they endured much suffering and bondage. But the day finally came when God spoke that the Israelites were to be set free to go to their Promised Land.

We are living in the times when we will see a great spiritual fulfillment to this story- when God is going to set free His people, the Church. Just as God's word of deliverance broke the power of Pharaoh and the Egyptian gods, we will see in our days the hand of the Lord moving in power to break the "gods" of this present age. As God initiated the 10 plagues upon Egypt to release the Israelites, so His judgments in these Last Days will prepare the way for the Church to be set free and to enter the coming Kingdom of God.

Some may ask, "How is the worldwide Church like the enslaved Israelites? We have already been set free from our sins by the cross of Christ!" While it is true that everyone who is born again has been given eternal life, it is also very clear that many Christians experience major bondages in their present earthly life. As some examples, Christians in many countries have moral standards that are just about the same as the unbelievers - more than 50% of those who attend church in many countries do not believe in a literal Hell or in the bodily resurrection of Christ - and many believers are in bondage to pornography. Just as the Israelites were enslaved to work for the Egyptians, today there are many believers who are enslaved to their jobs, their debts, and to worldly goals and mindsets. Yes, a true Christian looks forward to eternal life; but like the enslaved Israelites in Egypt, many believers today are living in bondage.

GOD IS GETTING US READY FOR OUR OWN EXODUS. The Church in these Last Days will arise to enter her

full calling! Just as the Israelites were set free from their slavery, the Church is to be set free from her corrupt lifestyles and worldly mindsets- set free to become a holy and victorious people of God. And just as Moses returned to lead his people to their Promised Land, the Lord Jesus will return soon to lead His people into our "Promised Land" - His millennial kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy!

BREAKING THE POWER OF THE FALSE GODS

When Moses brought the word of the Lord to Pharaoh, he declared "Let My people go" in Exodus 5:1. But before this could be accomplished there had to be a breaking down of the power of Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt. Egypt was a powerful, advanced empire - why should they submit to the God of their weak and uneducated slaves?

GOD FIRST PREPARED HIS SERVANT MOSES and granted him great authority. In the same way, if we are to tear down the power of the "gods" of this world and set the captives free, we need to meet with God and become commissioned with power. This might be power in prayer, that as an intercessor you can "bind the strong man" as Christ taught in Matthew 12:29. Or you may become empowered through your worship to fulfill what Psalm 149:6-9 declares: "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment..."

I saw an example of this when I was conducting a pastors' gathering in Baguio City, known as "The Vacation Capital of the Philippines." Our worship became released with great purity and power, and

I told the pastors that we would see visible results from the breakthrough in the heavenlies that we had experienced in worship.

A few days later one of the leaders of our ministry led a man to Christ who was the owner of the largest chain of prostitution houses in Baguio. He immediately closed them down, and the testimony of what happened to him and his business became national news. Yet it all started when the worshipping pastors first gained a victory in the heavenlies.

Christians can gain authority to break the powers of Satan as preachers, as worshipers, as teachers in a classroom, as businessmen honoring God's standards - God can use us wherever we are! But the key is that we need to meet with Him to gain His authority, and then we need to be ready to confront the Pharaohs and false gods of this world.

WHAT DO PHARAOH AND THE EGYPTIAN GODS MEAN FOR US? Pharaoh represents those who oppose the work of God, while the Egyptian gods represent the principalities and powers of Satan. They work together, seeking to control governments and cultures while blinding the minds of the unbelievers and bringing Christians into bondage (study 2 Cor. 4:4, Eph. 6:12, Dan. 3:14-15, Rom. 12:2, and 2 Cor. 10:4-5).

In Bible times the people worshiped gods that promised them prosperity, power, pleasure, and other worldly measures of "success." Today many nations do not bow down to idols made of wood, stone, and metal- instead, they worship more sophisticated idols such as the celebrities, pop music idols, and the billionaire business giants. These modern idols will have their power over the people broken the same way that God broke the power of Egypt's gods: through judgments and shakings! In these Last Days when everything will be shaken, the modern gods will all be exposed as empty idols who can offer nothing of lasting significance or help.

THE LAST DAYS SHAKINGS

Haggai 2:6-7 explains how the Lord will accomplish this in these Last Days: "This is what the Lord Al-

mighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord of hosts."

In this prophecy, the Lord said he would shake all the nations to accomplish His purposes. The book of Hebrews repeats this prophecy in Chapter 12:26-28 and shows that it will be fulfilled in these Last Days before the Second Coming of Christ. In line with this, at different times during these past years the Lord has spoken to me about various shakings that He has been bringing into the world.

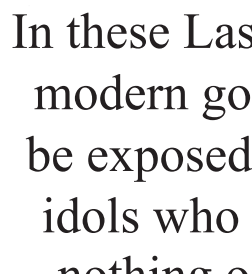
Back in the late 1980s the Lord shook the communist nations of the world, and most of their governments fell after the people saw that the communist philosophy could not bring the prosperity, justice and peace that had been promised.

Then God spoke to me during the shaking of the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997. That

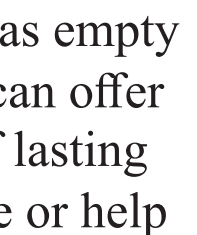
shaking affected many Asian countries with riots, bankruptcies, increased poverty, and other troubles. A similar financial crisis hit many nations around the world in 2008.

At the beginning of 2011 God spoke to me that He was going to begin to shake the Middle East nations. Shortly after this, the Arab Spring uprisings began, which overthrew many governments and shook 21 nations. The Lord then further spoke that after He shook these nations, He would then shake the democratic nations of the world. In recent years, many democratic nations have been facing division & distress. Brexit in England, Democrats & Republicans in the United States, Israel needing 3 elections in the same year- these shakings have been arising in many democratic nations around the world.

However, in 2020 the world started experiencing greater shakings with the Covid19 pandemic. This plague has not just shaken a city, or nation, or continent, as the former crises did- this crisis has shaken the entire world! And after this shaking is over, there shall come further shakings such as multiple



In these Last Days the modern gods will all be exposed as empty idols who can offer nothing of lasting significance or help



financial crises that we will have for a long time after the corona virus crisis is over.

At the start of 2020 my wife was seeking the Lord for a word concerning the coming year, and the Lord spoke the word "ACCELERATION." The Lord told her that in 2020 we would start to see the signs of the Last Days coming in an accelerated way.

As we go through these difficulties we often ask ourselves, "WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR THESE SHAKINGS? We know that God loves us and has wonderful future plans for us; so how do these shakings fit into God's good and loving plans?"

Hebrews 12:26-28 helps explain this, where we read: "Now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful."

Just as the 10 plagues upon Egypt broke down their trust that their false gods would give them prosperity and peace, in these Last Days God will allow shakings and crises to bring down the power of every false god. He will show the world that mankind's natural securities offer only fading and false promises. As God arises to shake the earth, more and more people will see that only Christ and His eternal kingdom can be trusted and followed!

THE TEN PLAGUES OF EGYPT

In the time of Moses, the Lord brought ten plagues upon Egypt to break Pharaoh's power and the people's trust in their false gods. With the first plague the River Nile was turned to blood, and they found that the river they worshiped, that brought them life and prosperity, became instead a river of death. The second plague of the frogs (Ex. 8:1-14) struck at Egypt's goddess of fertility, who had the face of a frog. Egypt became filled with frogs, so that the people despised them, and they saw that it was the Lord who multiplies life, not their false goddess.

The third plague of lice from the dust (Ex. 8:16-19) struck at the power of several Egyptian gods, and especially at the power of Pharaoh's magicians. The magicians had been able to partially copy the first two plagues that Moses brought, but when they realized

they could not duplicate this one, the magicians declared, "This is the finger of God." So as the shakings of these Last Days increase, we will also find that the best of the world's scientists and financial managers will not be able to imitate or cope with the judgments of God as mankind's leaders run out of answers and solutions.

Beginning with the fourth plague (Ex. 8:20-32) the Lord kept the next plagues from harming the Israelites. While God's people suffered through the first judgments, we also find that the Lord protected them from the worst sufferings. To gain the same blessing we would do well to heed the exhortation of Zephaniah 2:3, to "Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger."

Starting with the fourth plague we also find that Pharaoh started to bargain with Moses- he said that the Israelites could sacrifice to God but must remain in the land. As the judgments became heavier Pharaoh offered more concessions to Moses, but he was only willing to let the Israelites go partially free on his conditions, not on God's terms (Ex. 8:25, 8:28, 10:11, & 10:24). Moses would not compromise on what God said, and we must also be careful not to compromise with sin and Satan. Moses was like David, who was not content with just toppling Goliath with a stone, but who also cut off Goliath's head with his sword!

Temptations will always come to us when we face opposition. Our opposers will tell us "Just compromise a little, and things can stay about the same." But since one compromise will lead to many more, we need to stand up, like Moses, for all that God has said.

In the 1930's the prime Minister of England, Neville Chamberlain, offered repeated compromises to Adolph Hitler as he was arising in power. Chamberlain declared his compromises would bring "Peace in Our Time," but it only allowed Hitler to grow stronger and stronger. Chamberlain had to finally resign in defeat as World War 2 erupted, and it was only the determined, persistent leadership of Winston Churchill that gave England the courage to oppose and eventually overcome Nazi Germany. Chamberlain's leadership is now remembered with shame, while Churchill became acknowledged as the greatest world leader of the 20th century. Yet if we prepare to fully stand for God, we can gain an honorable testimony that will last forever!

The judgments upon Egypt became more severe as their cattle and food crops were destroyed by the further plagues. Pharaoh's counsellors pleaded with Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to leave (Exodus 10:7) yet he would not permit it.

THE POWER OF THE BLOOD

The tenth plague of the Death of the Firstborn was the final judgment to break the power of Egypt and set God's people free. In order to be protected from this judgment, each Israelite family had to sacrifice a lamb and place its blood upon the doorposts of their house. When the angel of death went through the land of Egypt, all the homes of the Israelites were spared as the angel saw the blood and passed over. This event became known as Passover.

For us Christians, the fulfillment of this protection comes from the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God. The power of the blood of Christ, like the Passover lamb, can powerfully protect us and bring deliverance. But the blood had to first be applied by the Israelites to be effective, and in a similar way we need to learn how to apply the blood of Christ to benefit from its power.

As an example, once I was invited to preach at a church that had only 6 elderly members. Years before it had been a powerful church that had hundreds of members, but through compromise and complacency the church slowly became powerless, and the membership dwindled.

I felt I should go preach there, and as I prayed in an apartment at the church the night before I was to preach, God opened my spiritual eyes. I saw a fallen angel that sat on a central throne high above the church. I knew he was the hindrance that was keeping the church weak and ineffective.

I felt led to conduct spiritual warfare by singing about the power of the blood of Christ. As I worshiped, I saw a fountain begin to spring up from the church- a fountain of the blood of Jesus, to cleanse the church from sin, Zech. 13:1. As I kept worshiping I saw the fountain springing up higher and higher, washing away the sins of the church. As the fountain arose to approach the throne, the fallen angel fled in terror while a holy angel took his place.

In the service next morning, the Lord moved in power and set in motion a series of events that led

the church on to gain new power and victory. One year later the church had over 100 members and was again arising to become a powerhouse for God. That church was set free by the power of the blood of Christ- but the blood had to first be applied before it became effective for their need!

The Lord wants to teach us in these Last Days how to apply the power of the blood of Christ. There will be deliverances for people, for families, for churches and even nations. We are called, like Moses, to become deliverers- so let us learn how to apply the blood of Christ to the situations we face in order to bring cleansing and deliverance!

THE PROMISED LAND IS AHEAD

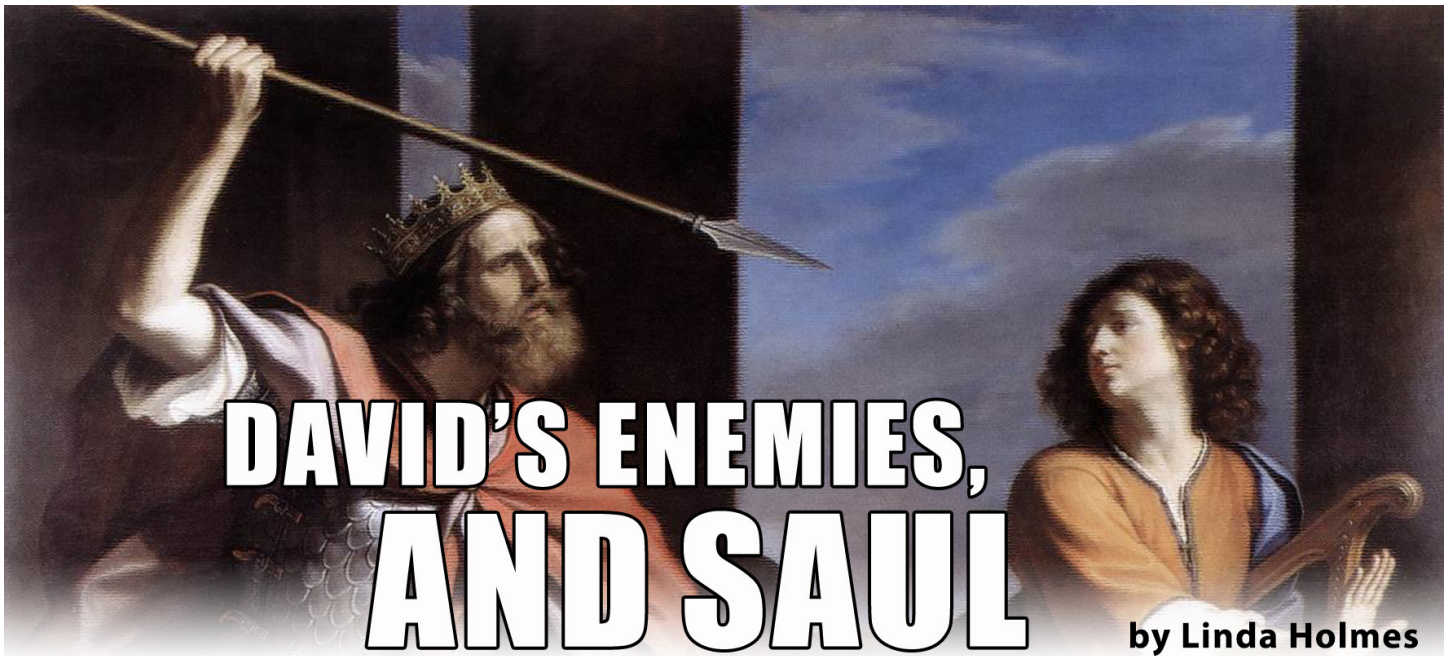
After the ten plagues in Egypt, the Lord led His people to the Promised Land where they were to build a holy nation. We will likewise find this to happen again after the judgments of the Last Days are completed. After all of God's people have been set free, the Lord Jesus will build His millennial kingdom on the earth to replace the kingdoms of this present world. We do not just have a Promised Land ahead of us, we have a promised worldwide Kingdom of God!

Christ and the saints will rule in righteousness, Rev. 20:4-6 & Mt. 19:27-28. Satan and his fallen angels will be removed, Is. 24:21-22 & Rev. 20:1-3. There will be worldwide peace and prosperity, Mic. 4:1-4 & Is. 65:21-23. Even the animals will live together in peace, Is. 11:6-9 & Is. 65:25. Of that blessed promised age, it is said "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea," Hab. 2:14.

Yes, we are entering into a time period in world history when shakings, plagues, and many types of difficulties will arise. But let us persevere, as Moses and the Israelites did, until the time of our glorious Exodus. Let us be messengers of hope and power, and declare like Moses, "LET MY PEOPLE GO!"



Rev. Norman Holmes is the Director of Zion Ministries of the Philippines. He directs Bible schools, has written seven books, and conducts seminars in many nations.



DAVID'S ENEMIES, AND SAUL

by Linda Holmes

Psalm 18 is one of the last Psalms David wrote as he looked back over his life, remembering the victories and help that God had given him. This Psalm begins with the title "To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul." Of the 150 Psalms, 116 have titles. In some English translations of the Bible these titles are left out, or written in small print as though they weren't important. But the Hebrew Bible incorporates the titles into the Psalms. They are counted as the first verse or part of the first verse showing that they are an important part of the Psalm. These titles are not modern add-ons; they go all the way back to the pre-exilic period, the time before Ezra and Nehemiah. This title is also recorded in 2 Samuel 22:1.

HIS ENEMIES... AND SAUL

In Psalm 18 David was mainly writing about victory over two distinct categories of people- all his enemies in one category- and Saul in the other category. Saul is not included in the 'enemy' category. It does not say that God delivered David from all his enemies, Saul being the biggest enemy of them all. It says, God delivered David from all his enemies AND God delivered David from Saul.

"All of David's enemies" would include the Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Arameans, Edomites, etc. They can all be categorized as "David's enemies." The other category had in it: Saul. Just Saul.

STRONG, YET SWEET

In verses 37 and 42 David wrote that he had pursued his enemies until they were destroyed... he beat them as fine as the dust before the wind and cast them out like dirt in the streets. But in verse 35 he wrote, "And Your gentleness has made me great." What?? That doesn't sound very gentle! But in verse 35 David was referring to Saul. David was saying that God's gentleness, meekness, and humility had been worked into his life, and that is what made him great. Towards David's enemies he was brutal; towards Saul, David was gentle. In Judges there is the story of Samson- one day he killed a lion. Later he went past the carcass and noticed that bees had made a hive with honey in the lion. Samson said, "Out of that which was strong has come forth that which is sweet." David was like that lion- strong, but also sweet.

Why was Saul not in the 'enemy' category? It's because David didn't consider Saul to be an enemy. If you had someone in your life like Saul who wanted to use your body as the bull's-eye for his javelin practice, and who gathered thousands of people together for about 10 years to hunt you down to destroy you, you might say that's an enemy, but David didn't. So, if Saul wasn't an enemy, what was he? He was the vehicle by which David was brought to the throne. He was a trial. He was a man with faults, but he was not an 'enemy.' And David was a fighter, he was a man who marched to Nabal's house to kill Nabal and every male, young or old, just because Nabal insulted him. David was a man of war and bloodshed, yet this same warrior

David never rose up against Saul because David did not consider him to be an enemy (2 Sam. 24:6-11 & 26:17-25). And when Saul finally died, David wept. There's half of a chapter about it in 2 Samuel 1:17-27. David said things like this: "The beauty of Israel is slain on its high places. The mighty ones are fallen... Saul and his son Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives... You women of Israel mourn, weep over King Saul!" It's a beautiful eulogy. But, "Pleasant??? Really?? Saul was 'pleasant in his life?'" "The beauty of Israel?" Huh?? It's difficult to reconcile David's eulogy with Saul's actions unless we realize that David did not consider Saul to be an enemy.

David's army commander, Joab, was completely disgusted by David's love for those who were against him. First it was Saul, then Abner, and later Absalom. David's biggest fault, according to Joab, was David's love for those who hated him. Joab complained to David about it in 2 Samuel 19:6 saying, "You love those who hate you!" Joab considered it to be a fault; the Lord considered it to be a virtue. David loved Saul, but at a great cost to himself. David was misused, abused, accused and had his reputation ruined by King Saul, yet he refused to rise up against Saul. A person's reaction to difficult people is a barometer of that person's character, of their meekness, humility or pride. It shows who that person is inside. Dealing with a Saul year after year was difficult because it's something that involved character on a daily basis. David's reactions towards Saul showed he was a man of great character.

A LAMB-LIKE CHARACTER

David was like a lamb who had been sheared of its wool. A lamb has wool. The wool belongs to the lamb, but then a shearer comes and takes the wool away from the lamb. The shearer doesn't recompense the lamb. He doesn't pay the lamb, he doesn't ask the lamb, "may I please have your wool?"; and he doesn't

say "sorry". He just takes the wool and that poor little lamb is stripped of its warmth, covering, and identity. Yet that lamb doesn't complain or become bitter at the shearer- and David was not bitter at Saul. The lamb is not offended by losing its wool, and David was not offended by Saul. Some keep an account of offenses every time someone takes some of their 'wool,' and it disqualifies them from a higher place in God.

In Palawan, my family lived in a house that had so many termites in the wood that at night we could hear them chewing the walls. We would put our ears to the walls and listen to them eat the house. We pulled down 7-meter-long wooden beams with our hands and carried them with 3 fingers; they were so light because they were hollow, all eaten up inside. Those termites undermined the strength of the house. But I discovered that they were not the only termites in the house. There were others and every day I could hear them chewing. It's as though there were some inside of me- no, not literal termites, but something eating me up inside.

We had come from a place where the leader was a difficult person. He was a shearer, and for 3 ½ years he sheared the wool off of us. When we moved to Palawan, we were more than 13,000 kilometers away from that person, but still my thoughts were like termites, eating, eating, eating inside of me and weakening me just as the termites weakened our house. I had allowed myself to be offended by that man. I was like Jeremiah, remembering the wormwood and the gall. After about one year of remembering every hurtful thing that man had said and done, I said, "enough of this" and prayed diligently, and forgave, and prayed... and forgave... until I didn't remember it anymore. The Lord delivered me 'from the hand of Saul.'

If there is a Saul in your life then I want to tell you to let go of bad feelings towards that person, no matter

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what he or she has done to you. Ask God for His love to flow through you, for you to have pity, to have compassion on that person. That Saul is troubled. That Saul is wrong. But that Saul is there to help move you to the place that you're supposed to be in. That Saul will help propel you into your inheritance.

DAVID WAS A LION TO HIS ENEMIES

While David was like a lamb towards Saul, he was like a lion to his enemies. When David wrote Psalm 18:37-43 he was referring to real flesh and blood people who were on a constant campaign to destroy him and discredit God. David fought against them in battle after battle and didn't stop until they were totally, completely, thoroughly destroyed. But it's different for us because our enemies are not flesh and blood enemies. They are powers of darkness, principalities and powers, oppressions and bondages. We don't have people running after us to kill us. And even if we did, Jesus taught us to turn the other cheek, let them slap you. Don't fear those who could kill the body but can't touch the soul. So, for us believers, the powers of darkness are our enemies. We discover the characteristics of these enemies from David's writings in the Psalms. We find out that they were ever increasing (3:1)- that means there are a lot of them; and that they lie- we can't believe a word they say (5:9). We learn that they are in a rage because of the righteous (7:6). They hide and wait for us to come along so they can "shoot from the shadows at

the upright in heart" (Psa. 11:2). Imagine that! You stroll along, innocently singing a little song of praise, and suddenly a fiery dart hits you and some horrible thought pops into your head, and you're so glad no one can read your mind because if they did, you'd be really embarrassed. We learn that our enemies are deadly (17:9); that they are like a greedy lion (17:12); and they are too strong for us (18:17). Their purpose is to wear us out (27:2). They are false witnesses who breathe out cruelty and lies (27:12). They speak evil of us and wish we would die (41:5). They even try to convince us that we have some dreaded and fatal disease (41:8) [that little scratch you have is some horrible, incurable disease!]. They lay snares for us, which is the same word as the modern Hebrew word for landmines (64:5). The enemies diligently search out our iniquities (64:6), they are digging for dirt in our lives to point out any failure, large or small, or imaginary, and then remind us of the things we've done wrong. They oppress us (42:9) and wear us down by constantly asking us the question, "Where is your God?" (42:10).

If there is anything like that in your life- that which says to you "God can't help you" or that which lies to you and says you're not good enough, or you're going to die because you sneezed, or you have thoughts plaguing your mind, then those are enemies. David went after them. He pursued them, he overtook them, he beat them up and conquered them. And that's what we should do with our enemies.



Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

DAVID'S GREATEST ENEMY

Goliath wasn't able to defeat David; neither could the Ammonites, Moabites or Philistines. Saul couldn't defeat David and neither could Absalom. In the end, David did what no one else could do: David defeated David! And in the end it was Saul who defeated Saul. They both were their own biggest enemy, not each other.

Whether we consider enemies to be our problem, or difficult people to be our problem, there is one enemy that we rarely consider, and that is ourselves. We don't usually think of the flaws in our own character that other people might be having a hard time with. We have a tendency to see everyone else's faults except our own. In every difficulty with another person, we think that the other person is the Saul and we are always the David. I have never heard anyone say, "That person I work with is so excellent, he is just like David and I'm the Saul." Almost everyone has some kind of difficulty with other people, either at church, work, home, school, or wherever. They might be your leaders, followers, in-laws, out-laws, children, spouse or neighbors, but we always think the other person is the problem. Yet when we look at David's life, we find that his biggest problem was David.

When my family lived on the island of Palawan, a thief broke into my semi-outdoor "dirty kitchen" and stole my kerosene stove. After that happened, I was afraid and I woke up with every little sound. One night I heard a noise in the other room, so I got up and tiptoed to the door and there across from me, I saw a shadow.

I thought, "It's the thief! He's in the house!!" I shouted and ran towards that shadow and to my surprise, that shadow ran towards me and I crashed into it. I had run into a mirror! I forgot that we had a mirror in that room. The shadow I had seen was my

own reflection. I learned something that night, that sometimes my enemy is... me.

Psalm 18 was written late in David's life as he looked back at God's faithfulness in his life. But when we come to verses 20-21 it seems we might have some questions because David said, "the Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness.... For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from my God." We might think, "Righteous? You have not wickedly departed from your God?? You know David, I read some headlines about your affair with Urijah's wife. How can you say you are 'righteous' and 'have not departed from the ways of the Lord?'" But then David adds in verse 23, "and I have kept myself from my iniquity," meaning, "from the iniquity which I was inclined to do." David acknowledged that there was something in his life that had tripped him up. He had a corrupt inclination, a leaning towards sin, an enemy inside of him.

David recognized his weakness, repented and turned from it. From that time on, he guarded himself. We never hear of David sinning in a similar way after his repentance from his fall with Bathsheba. David became so washed and cleansed that he was able to write, "God has rewarded me according to my righteousness; He has recompensed me according to the cleanness of my hands." And I believe that God wants to deliver each of us from our enemies, and from every "Saul," and especially from ourselves, so that we will live in victory and triumph in every situation.



Rev. Linda Holmes is the Co-Director of Zion Ministries of the Philippines and the Academic Administrator of Zion Christian University DEP Philippines.