



DOES YOUR WORLD FEEL LIKE IT'S CRUMBLING? By: *David W. Lankford*

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Today we want to take our scripture text from **1st Samuel 30:1-8**, "**And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to the Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Naabal the Carmelite. And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all**".

When reading our scripture text we witness one of the greatest tragedies that ever befell Israel while David was king over God's people. It has often been said bad things happen to good people and that is true. However, as a Christian you are faced with an adversary who is

a personal adversary who seeks to kill, to steal, and to destroy. The apostle Peter declared in **1st Peter 5:8**, "**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour**".

The apostle Peter is speaking from empirical knowledge because it was Satan, the roaring lion, that would tempt him to deny Christ Jesus three times before the rooster would crow that early morning. Satan is a master at creating circumstances and situations wherein you feel as though your world is crumbling all around you. One of Satan's greatest tools is the tool of discouragement. It was once said that Satan put some of his tools up for auction: one of the bidders asked the question: why such a high price on the tool of discouragement? Satan's reply was very simple, "when every other tool that I possess fails, discouragement always succeeds". Needless to say, after the enemies of Israel had burned the city of Ziklag and had taken captive their wives, their sons, and their daughters, you can understand why the people wept until they could weep no more.

There have been times that you too have been so broken and discouraged that you could not shed another tear even though your trouble and difficulties had not ceased nor abated. One of the greatest miracles always overlooked in our scripture text is that God did not allow the Amalekites to slay neither small or great of the people but only suffered and allowed Satan to carry them away. That, my friend, is a miracle within itself! I have learned something very special in my life and that is, whatever I magnify will only get bigger. Thus, if

you magnify your problems, your problems will become bigger, or if you magnify the Lord, the Lord will become bigger than your problem. The psalmist declared in **Psalms 34:3**, "**O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together**". Just like the children of Israel, when our world begins to crumble and profuse difficulties began to purvey and permeate our lives, instead of crying out to the Lord, we cry out to other people somehow thinking they can help mitigate or lessen our trial or difficulty. What is even more tragic in our scripture text is that the people spake of stoning the very man that God had placed over them. But I personally want to be like the psalmist David as he dealt with this overwhelming circumstance and situation. He too had lost just as much as anyone else but he did not digress but rather he progressed. The bible says that David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. The phrase "encouraged himself" in the Hebrew has a very extraordinary meaning, and it means that David attached himself firmly to the Lord God of Abraham, which caused him to become very courageous and valiant. I want to assure those of you reading this newsletter today, though your world may seem as though it is crumbling, if you will hasten to attach yourself to the Lord God of Abraham, you will soon find victory in your life. I would be remiss and I would be derelict if I told you there would never be any problems in your life while serving the Lord Jesus Christ. The truth is, following Jesus Christ is one of severe trials and complications. The psalmist declared in **Psalms 34:19**, "**Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all**". It was the

psalmist who also proclaimed in **Psalm 30:5**, “**weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning**”. You may very well feel that the circumstance and trial you are enduring at this very moment is insurmountable, but remember - there is a God who is the God of all flesh and He still sits on His mighty throne: and He has decreed: **“is there anything too hard for me?”** Sometimes it is good for the child of God to have to suffer and go through afflictions for the purpose of growing and maturing. We read in **Psalm 119:67**, “**Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word**”. Personally I do not enjoy trials or afflictions myself, but if they cause me to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, so be it. The psalmist also declared in **Psalm 119:71**, “**It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes**”. The point is, if the Lord uses afflictions to draw me closer to the foot of the cross so be it. I want to encourage you today and assure you that there will come a day when there will be a day of recovery. The Lord God of Israel promised David that he would recover and would not fail either. Let me give you just a few scripture verses of encouragement to embolden your spirit and cause you to stand strong in the face of your enemies. **Psalm 50:15**, “**And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me**”. If we will simply call upon the Lord in the day of trouble, then just as He delivered David, and David recovered all, so will you. We read in **Psalm 55:22**, “**Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved**”. You have to learn to cast your burdens and cares upon the Lord. If you cannot learn this aspect of Christianity, you will grapple, and

you will struggle your entire Christian life. We read in **1st Peter 5:6-7**, “**Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you**”. Peter tells us there will come a time of exaltation, and David and all of Israel witnessed a time of exaltation after they had recovered all without fail. There are some things in our Christian pilgrimage that we have to learn. The Holy Ghost cannot impart some things, neither can He gift us with some things in our journey: the truth is, they must be learned. We know this by Paul the apostle’s statement found in **Philippians 4:11**, “**Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content**”. Simply put, some things have to be learned by instruction, by experiences, and by subjection. Once we have learned that subject matter we can then understand the reason why. You see, the Lord will fight your battles but you must learn to trust in the Lord with all your heart, which many people struggle to do. The psalmist said in **Psalm 121:1-3**, “**I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber**”. Throughout the Word of God our Lord has assured us He would fight our battles and that we would be victorious if we would only trust Him. We read in **2nd Chronicles 20:17**, “**Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you**”. You may feel as though you’re being overwhelmed and flooded with troubles, but hear ye the Word of the Lord: **Isaiah 59:19**, “**When the enemy shall come in**

like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him”. In this passage the Lord said He would lift up a standard against the enemy: but what He is saying in the Hebrew is that He will put the enemy to flight for you! Thus, you don’t have to fight this battle, but rather trust him with all your heart. I want to encourage you today that your circumstances will soon change if you can simply learn to cast all of your cares upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Don’t allow Satan nor his cohorts to distract nor discourage you here in the end. Christ will come again and it is sooner than what most people believe. **Luke 21:34** says, “**And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares**”. As always thank you for loving this ministry and supporting this ministry with your gifts of love. The ministry is presently in the midst of many changes, but all of these changes are for the betterment in serving you and in ministering the Word of God to you. Until next month, may you walk by faith and not by sight!

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford