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Today, our Scripture text is found in **1 Samuel 22:1-3:**

“David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father’s house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men. And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.”

At this particular time, David’s life was full of turmoil and overwhelming tempest.

Saul was pursuing David, chasing him like some wild beast as he sought to end David’s life. The evil spirit overcoming Saul was nothing less than murderous.

No doubt, we can each bear witness of these verses as we have been pursued by the enemy of our soul.

Having just escaped Saul’s assassination attempt, David went to the cave of Adullam. Sad to say, this would be David’s headquarters for a time. **Adullam** means *justice of the people*.

It is a truth that when God’s people run to Christ as their refuge, He always grants them justice concerning their circumstances.

We want to exegete this Scripture to demonstrate the greatness of God’s Word and how He speaks to

DAVID RAISES A SMALL ARMY FROM THOSE REJECTED

every one of us in the challenging times of our life.

David’s brethren, along with his father’s house, had heard Saul was attempting to kill David, thus they all went to David so that they might comfort him in his time of distress.

I want you to notice the type of people who gathered around David and made him their captain.

In this Scripture, David is a type of Christ, therefore, just like Christ, David reached out to those who were truly disadvantaged. David would aggregate a small remnant of believers who were truly called of God and who lived for God.

We clearly see three types of people in this passage. For the most part, they are despised and rejected by the mighty and arrogant. As a matter-of-fact, most religious sects would turn their noses down at these followers of David: if you don’t fit their criteria, you have no posture or place within their denomination.

Christ was a rejected Savior and, if you chose to follow Him, you too will be rejected.

We see first in our Scripture text those who were distressed. The Hebrew word **masoq** (pronounced matzuk), which is translated *distressed*, in the Hebrew means *a narrow place, a confinement or disability: anguish, distress, straitness*; in other words, those who were in a place of confinement or possessing some physical or spiritual disability.

Perhaps even today you feel there is some type of disability trying to overwhelm you and even overtake your life. You may feel disabled, but, by the power of the Holy Ghost

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we all can be strong in this hour of uncertainty.

I rejoice in God’s Words, *“By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me” (Psalm 41:11).*

Because Jehovah delighted in David and had pleasure in him, He never allowed Satan to triumph over David. In the same way Judas and the elders of Israel sought to destroy and triumph over Christ, they all failed and even more so because Christ triumphed over death through the Resurrection on that glorious Sunday morning.

You may be distressed today, but that does not mean you are defeated or out of the fight. Look closely at the words of the apostle Paul:

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body” (2 Corinthians 4:7-10).

Every one of these followers who came to help David foreshadowed the indwelling of the Holy Ghost following Pentecost.

Secondly, we witness those who were in debt. Debt can be burdensome and troublesome. As believers, we should seek to minimize our debt and never lust for the opulence of the world. All Satan has to offer is the lust of one’s eyes. Lust can never be satisfied, but love always fills the

void in one's life. It is only wise and prudent to minimize our financial distress in these last days.

Due to the recklessness of our government, the day of reckoning is just ahead, and our money will fail as it did in the days of Joseph:

“And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth [or disappeared as worthless]” (Genesis 47:15).

Notice how the money failed within Egypt, even though Joseph was the Prime Minister. The famine took its toll on the known world and in Egypt as well. This famine and distress was the very thing Jehovah used to bring Israel and his sons to Egypt to preserve them through His anointed servant, Joseph.

Sometimes Jehovah allows distress within our lives to bring us to where He has willed us. When life becomes difficult, know that God is working something for your betterment, even if you don't see or understand it.

Thirdly, we see those who were discontented. The word *discontented* (Hebrew: **mar**), means *to be bitter*.

Perhaps you, reading this today, are bitter over certain things that happened in your past.

I will never forget the profound and lasting word the Lord gave me twenty plus years ago: *Forget the past, embrace the present, and I will take care of your future.* I know well this is easier said than done, but do it we must. Hurt is the basic reason for almost all bitterness. We have all been hurt by someone or a particular circumstance.

Personally, I feel like I have been hurt most of my life, beginning in my adolescent years, when my parents divorced. I certainly could have allowed those events to turn into bitterness, but instead I used those circumstances as an impetus for both literal and spiritual success.

Much hurt, without a doubt, can cause much bitterness! In spite of all the grave difficulties each of these individuals had concerning rejection, God brought them together and used them for His kingdom.

Now here is the key to this entire message: David went to Mizpeh in Moab. The word **Mizpeh** means *watch tower*. It was to the watchtower David ran, and it was there he sought God through heartfelt prayer. David was determined he would not come forth from that watchtower until he knew what God would do.

The Holy Spirit is saying to you reading this newsletter today: you must go to the watchtower and pour your heart out to God until He sends you forth knowing and understanding what He wills for you.

At this particular time in my own life, I am patiently waiting upon the Lord to know what He will do for me. It is irrational to move forward not knowing God's will. If we do not know God's plan for our lives, how can we justifiably move forward? If we move forward without understanding God's will, whatever we do will be wrong in our own strength.

Many reading this today have already made enough bad decisions; there is no need to make another one. The apostle Paul declared: *“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17).*

Paul is clearly telling us if we can't understand God's will, and yet we move forward, we lack wisdom. Truthfully, the spirit and gift of wisdom is in great need among God's people today. We are told:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally...” (James 1:5).

Without a doubt, Jehovah is generous in His gifts; however, many of us simply fail to ask. Jesus declared:

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock,

and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

David is the perfect example of a believer who sought wisdom from God. He ran to the *cave of justice* and sought Jehovah; he would not leave or go onward until he knew or understood what God would do for him.

If, as believers, we would only do as the patriarchs of old we would see greater success.

In closing, let me share with you **James 1:8**, *“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”*.

Warned of great danger, the prophet Elijah, asked, *“How long halt ye between two opinions?” (1 Kings 18:21).*

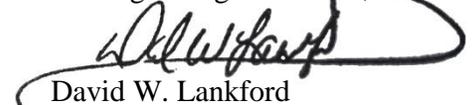
Regretfully, this was the prophecy Jacob had prophesied to Ruben in Genesis 49:3-4:

“Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel...” (Genesis 49:3-4).

I am confident the Lord wills each of us to excel and succeed according to our dependence upon Him. I encourage you, run to the tower and do not come forth until you know what Jehovah will do for you. As He did for David, He truly will meet you there.

As always, we humbly thank you for your love and support for The Voice of Evangelism. You are making a difference in touching the hearts and lives of souls around the world.

Serving Along Your Side,



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