

"The Battle For The Vegetable Patch"

Text: II Samuel 23:8-13.

Intro - II Samuel 23 - David giving an account of his mighty men & their accomplishments -

• What I want us to notice this morning in particular is the accounts of Eliazar and Shammah found in verses 9-13.

• We want to notice in these two accounts the object of their defense.

• Vs 9-10 - We have the account of Eliazar - Read
For further detail - Turn to I Chronicles 11:12-14 (Read)

• Object of defense was I Chr. 11:13 - "parcel of ground full of barley"

• Vs 11-12 - Account of Shammah -
Vs 11 - Notice the object of defense "piece of ground full of lentils"

• From the human perspective - Why waste the time and effort to defend basically the vegetable patch.

• We could see if it was livestock, gold, silver, city but a vegetable patch -

• Compare to some of the other accounts of the accomplishments of David's mighty men - it seem insignificant.

(2)

For example: II Sam 23:8 - we are told Adino killed 800 with his spear at one time.

Three of David's men broke through the Philistine garrison at Be^{er} Sheva to bring back David a drink of water from the well there

Abishai - killed 300 with his spear at one time -

Vs 20 Benaiah - "who had done many acts"

- killed two lionlike men of Moab
- slew a lion -
- killed an Egyptian -

Despite all of this. The defense of the barley field and the ^{more} lentile or bean patch were important to God.

Notice what God says about - The defense of the barley & lentiles -

God says this only about them.

Concerning the barley field -

II Sam 23

Vs 10 - "The LORD wrought a great victory"

Concerning the bean patch.

Vs 12 - "The LORD wrought a great victory"

Notice we do not read this statement in the other accounts of the accomplishment of David's mighty men.

We want to see what lessons can be learned from the battle over the 'barley' field? beam pabeli
 Turn to I Pe 5

1) The enemy always the same - the Philistines "

Both accounts -

Vs 9 - "the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle"

Vs 11 - "the Philistines were gathered together into a troop,"

Philistines - Picture of Satan's forces

We know Goliath - was a Philistine - he is a type of the anti-christ -

We are told about Satan -

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" I Pe 5:8

Turn to Eph 6:

The enemy is very well-organized and great in number - , Powerful

Vs 9 "gathered together to battle"

Vs 11 "gathered together into a troop"

Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:11-12 Read -

2) In the battle the majority of people will flee

Vs 9 - "and the men of Israel were gone away"

Vs 11 - "and the people fled from the Philistines"

Picture of the spiritual battle the Church is to fight - but most Christians desert their post -

Flee like a bunch of cowards -

4)

• We are commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ
in Luke 19:13 - to "Occupy till I come"

Hold the fort, hold the ground, hold your position -
Majority of Christians aren't doing -

They are of having worldly fellowship in worldly
churches.

* Nothing new - happen with Jesus - many deserted him
see John 6:66-68 - (when the battle
got rough)

Let me ask you "will ye also go away?"
Is the battle too rough for you milk sucking Christians?

3) We want to notice something else about the
people -

After the battle is over the, after all
the hard work is done and the victory is
one

• People will return to enjoy the victory celebration -
vs 10 - "the people returned after him only
to spoil"

Majority of Christians - want all the
benefits, of God's blessings - without
doing any thing for it.

They want the victory - but without the
effort - Amen.

Majority of Christians will desert you when
in valley but be with you when you are
on the top of the mountain

4) We want to notice about the battle -

Sometimes in the battle you will feel the presence of Jesus and sometimes you won't

We see this pictured in the defense of the barley field -

Vs 9 - Read - notice David was with Eliezer when they defeated the Philistines

David - in the Bible is a type of Christ. But in the account of the defense the bean patch - Shammah was alone

We must remember in the battle, whether we feel His presence or not.

Jesus has promised - "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

5) We want to notice how the enemy was defeated in both cases -

a) Recognize the battle is not yours but the Lord's -

* II Chronicles 20:15 - "Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's."

Both cases we are told it was "The Lord who wrought a great victory".

b)

b) notice what was used to fight & defeat the enemy -

Vs 10 - Read "his hand clave unto the sword"

In the Christian's battle, he is to use the sword of the Spirit - The word of God - our hand should clave unto that sword, and never put her down - Amen

c) notice what our position in battle -

• Barley field -

I Chronicles 11:14 - "they set themselves in the midst of that parcel, and delivered it"

• Bean Patch -

II Sam 23:12 - "he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it"

We are to do the same in the spiritual battle
Turn to Eph 6 -

Notice vs 11 "to stand"

vs 13 "to withstand"

vs 14 "stand therefore"

Paul instructs - see I Cor 15:58 "sted fast, unmoveable"

Paul was always standing in the midst of the battle -

Acts 17:22

Act 27:21-22

6) We want to notice why the defense of the barley field & bean patch were so important to the Lord

The reason, we know that they were important to Lord - is because, we saw earlier at the end of each account - we have the statement "The Lord wrought a great victory"

We are told ^{about} each piece of ground that was defended -

- one was full of lentiles }
- one was full of barley - }

Both lentiles and barley are a food source which was important to maintain the physical health & well-being of God's Chosen people.

I believe what this pictures - is God's spiritual food, the word of God, which is essential for spiritual health & well-being of the Church.

The word of God must be defended at all cost for without it, the true word of God, the Church will perish.

The word of God has been under attack since Gen 3 when Satan cast doubt upon it and said to Eve "Yea, hath God said".

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The word of God is still under attack today.

The enemy still the same - Satan and his ministers - along with their modern versions -

As Christians it our responsibility to help protect God's spiritual food supply -
The King James Bible - his preserved inspired, inerrant, indestructible word -

You see Satan would love to close the doors of His Church -

The ministry here may seem insignificant in man's eyes -

But not in God's eyes -

Because the ground we are defending is full of barley, full of lentils - it stands firmly on the rock, the Lord Jesus Christ and His word - the KJB. -

Let me ask you question, that Jesus did to his disciples one day
"Will ye also go away" ?

Or will you be one of Jesus's mighty men and "make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land"

Ezekiel 4