

Fighting for the Cause

Is There Not a Cause?

It was a stand off. Israel's longtime enemies, the Philistines, were camped on the opposite side of the valley from Israel. The Philistines' champion, Goliath, was challenging the armies of Israel saying, "Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us" (1 Sam 17:8-9). This challenge had been issued morning and evening for forty days. Yet no one was willing to fight him because he was a giant of a man that who stood over nine feet tall!

David's time had divided between serving King Saul as a musician and tending his father's sheep. On a certain day, David's father called him from tending the sheep and sent him to take food to his three oldest brothers who were part of the army. When David arrived at the battlefield and saw Goliath challenging the armies of Israel, something rose up in him. He began asking what would be done for the man who defeated this uncircumcised Philistine. David's oldest brother, Eliab, grew angry with David and accused him of being proud and having an impure motive for coming to see the battle. Notice David's reply.

1 Samuel 17:29 (KJV)

29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

First, David said, "What have I done now?" This implies that accusations from David's older brothers were not uncommon. This is not surprising given the fact that each of David's older brothers were passed over and he, the youngest of eight brothers, had been chosen and anointed by Samuel to be the future king. David was also a regular guest of the King to play comfort music. Undoubtedly, there was some degree of jealousy there, much like Joseph's brother were jealous of him and sold him into slavery. A high calling and favor from God on a person, particularly in its early development, is often perceived wrongly and produces jealousy in some.

But the most significant part of David's reply was this: "Is there not a cause?" It was not pride or a wrong motive that rose up in David in response to Goliath's challenge, it was righteous indignation springing from his passionate commitment a cause. [1] Yes, David was confident that his God would enable him to defeat the Philistine and he was aware that doing so would have its benefits. But he also saw the bigger picture; he saw the cause of Israel, the kingdom of God. In Psalm 69:8-9 David spoke this cause and his passion for it.

(Psalms 69:8-9 NKJV)

8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children;

9 Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

We also see in this passage a confirmation of his brother's jealousy and how it affected his relationship with his family. Though success has its benefits, it also comes with its difficulties. This is to be expected and should not discourage us. [2] We know the rest of the story regarding Goliath. David defeated the Philistine and became a successful warrior. But the cause remained and the war continued.

War on Two Fronts

Battles on the Philistine front continued and God gave Israel many victories through David's leadership. However, battles on a different front were just beginning. David's success and growing popularity created jealousy in Saul's heart and thus began a war with the house of Saul as well.

War with the Philistines

The Philistines were perpetual enemies of Israel and, in some ways, continue to be today. Today's term Palestine, comes from a Greek word, *Palaistina*, which is a derivative of the Hebrew word *peleshet*, which means, "land of the Philistines" which referred to a small costal area roughly corresponding to today's Gaza. Whether or not today's Palestinians are direct descendants of the Philistines who fought David is difficult to prove. Nevertheless, battles continue to be fought over the same real estate. Who rules the land that is significant here, because Jesus is preparing to rule the earth from Jerusalem and the battles involving Israel today are ultimately about spiritual forces resisting the fulfilment of prophecy.

Since the church is an extension of Israel, and David is a type of Christ, we can draw a spiritual parallel comparing the Philistines to the non-Christian element of this world which resist the mission of the church. [3] David's success against the Philistines can be compared to the advance of Christianity, which is an ongoing spiritual war for us. It is a war over who governs the souls of men. [4] Will man be governed internally by Christ in their hearts or will they be governed by external forces by tyrannical civil authority? The former is liberty and the latter is oppression and ultimately slavery.

Paul was not afraid to insert the Christian message into the civil government of his day. When Paul wrote to the Romans, he said:

Romans 1:15-16 (WEY)

15 ...so that for my part I am willing and eager to proclaim the Good News to you also who are in Rome.

16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News. It is God's power which is at work for the salvation of every one who believes—the Jew first, and then the Gentile.

He knew that proclaiming the gospel of Christ in Rome, the center of political power, would be to confront Caesar and essentially inform him that there was a higher power to which he must answer. This precipitated a battle with the political powers of the day and we can expect battles in the political arena as well. [5] Paul was not ashamed or fearful to proclaim this gospel of the Kingdom to the political powers of his day. We must take the same position today. This is the Church's war with the Philistines.

War with the House of Saul

Another parallel we can see in David's life, as a type of Christ, is the general process by which David became king. It was a process that involved war, but it was not the war with the Philistines that prevented him being seated as the king of Israel, it was the war with the existing king, Saul, and Saul's house.

2 Samuel 3:1 (KJV)

1 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

Even though David had been anointed as king, it took a long time and many battles before he actually sat on the throne. In fact, as soon as it was known that God had favored David, Saul began trying to kill him. There was a long war that ensued until David finally became king and ruled the nation.

Likewise, Jesus has been anointed (Christ means anointed) as King of Kings and ever since there has been a war against Him with the goal of preventing Him from literally being seated as King and ruling the nations. It is interesting that one of Jesus' titles is Prince of Peace (Is 9:6). What is a prince? A prince is one who has legal claim to the throne, but has not yet been seated on it. Though Jesus has been anointed as King, He has not been installed in that position to rule the whole earth and establish peace. [6] The work of building and preparing for this to happen precipitates war.

Whereas the war with the Philistines is about taking the gospel of the Kingdom to those outside the Church, the war with the house of Saul speaks of the battles we must fight inside the church with the previously anointed elements of the Church who have turned from the truth but still seek power and control. [7] Though they claim the name Christ, they are not true Christians. Paul wrote to Titus about them:

Titus 1:16 (KJV)

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

The parable of stewardship in Luke, Chapter 19 again gives insight and confirms the reality of these two enemies of the purposes of God. The lazy servant hid his talent in the ground and did nothing to prepare for the return of his master. This parallels the internal battle with those who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof (see Luke 19:20-26). The external battle with the non-Christian elements of this world is portrayed by the citizens in the parable who did not want the nobleman to rule over them (see Luke 19:14, 27). [8]

The passages below speak of this war within our ranks.

Jude 1:3-5 (KJV)

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful

for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

2 Timothy 3:2-5 (KJV)

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Again we see that, though the characteristics of these traitors are described quite vividly, they are not necessarily easy to spot because they have a form of godliness. [9] But the identifying earmark is that they deny the power of God. This denial of power is a denial of the anointing as discussed in *Chapter Ten: The Spirit of Antichrist*. When we do spot them, we are told to turn away from them.

This is not talking about the, the immature or untaught, those who have a different eschatology, or those who are struggling with weakness. These are those who boldly depart from truth and turn the grace of God into lewdness. Though they call themselves Christian, they have departed from the foundational basics of Christianity. [10] They should know better.

The Builder/Warrior

In the previous chapter we saw that the construction of God's house, the church of the living God, the New Jerusalem, is underway, being built of living stones: gold, silver, and precious stones. It was zeal for that cause, the house of God, that made a warrior out of David and the same is true for us. The act of building God's house, the spiritual work of preparing a dwelling place for Him on earth, precipitates warfare with many battles. This principle is evident in the history of Israel and the building of the temple (house) of God in Jerusalem. The enemies of Israel have always sought to prevent or tear down what God is building in Jerusalem and the same applies to the New Jerusalem. Satan resists the building up of Jerusalem and he hates the building up of the church. To be successful builders, we must also be warriors.

The picture of the builder/warrior is vividly seen in the book of Nehemiah. After being in captivity for 70 years, the Jews gained favor and were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple in which to worship God. They immediately set out to rebuild the walls around the city as protection from their enemies who began to threaten attacks as soon as they started building. It is in this context that we read:

Nehemiah 4:16-18 (NKJV)

16 So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the

house of Judah.

17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.

18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

The passage shows that a significant amount of the work force was focused on warfare instead of on the actual building process. The same is true for us in spiritual warfare as we build the church and prepare the way for the King. [11]

A Generation of Warrior/Builders

Again, the battle between the house of David and the house of Saul was a long war in which the house of David grew stronger and the house of Saul grew weaker (see 2 Samuel 3:1). It took a long time for David's cause, his vision for Israel to trickle down to his army and for his army to grow strong enough to take over the reigns of national leadership from the house of Saul. This process could be described as a paradigm change. [12] Slowly and surely hearts changed and they joined David's cause and they came with a clear purpose, to make David king:

1 Chronicles 12:38 (KJV)

All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.

What a wonderful description of the builder/warriors that God is raising up today! A new paradigm is being formed in the minds of God's people who are embracing the kingdom cause and who will prepare the way for Jesus to be seated as King of the Earth! These will be people of pure heart who keep rank and operate in a strategic effort to see the King and the Kingdom appear on earth. This is a mighty army like who will grow stronger and stronger, like the house of David, until the weak fearful church who is afraid to face the Philistines is no longer recognized as legitimate.

David saw this future generation with a kingdom paradigm and referred to it as , "... the generation of those who seek Him..." (Ps 24:6) It is a generation that seeks first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt 6:33), and His appearing. It is a generation of mighty men and women of God who have a cause, to make Jesus King.[13] It is a multitude of unified voices calling for a regime change, if you will. It is a generation with a cause, preparing the way for Jesus to appear as King. It is a crying out, "Come Lord Jesus! Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven!"

The concept of a generation of builder/warriors coming forth from the earth is also seen in the dream shared in *Chapter 1: Abandon the Old Paradigm*. A portion of that dream is provided again below.

...we looked down at a different field on the other side of this structure. From this field, people were emerging from the ground! As they came out of the ground, it was as if they were being birthed from the earth. At first they looked like an expanding bulge on the surface of the ground, but as they emerged completely, they morphed into living soldiers who marched toward a

different section of the metal building that was actively under construction. In this construction area, the sounds of clashing swords could be heard and the soldiers joined a battle already in progress.

In interpreting that portion of the dream, I felt that God was communicating that a mighty army was being birthed, and this army will be birthed with an immediate understanding of spiritual warfare. They will come forth as an army of warrior/builders who operate from a new paradigm. This army has only one goal: building God's house and preparing the earth to receive her King! "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory" (Psa 102:16).

Paradigm Builder

Though Jesus is already King, He has not been installed in that position to rule the whole earth. Jesus has been anointed as King of Kings and ever since there has been a war against Him with the goal of preventing Him from literally being seated as King and ruling the nations. The work of building and preparing for Jesus to rule the earth precipitates conflict.

Before reading this chapter, how would you describe your position regarding this concept?

1 Strongly Disagree - 2 Disagree - 3 Neutral/Unsure - 4 Agree - 5 Strongly Agree

How would you describe your position regarding this concept after reading this chapter?

1 Strongly Disagree - 2 Disagree - 3 Neutral/Unsure - 4 Agree - 5 Strongly Agree