

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD

Friday, February 16

Reading: Psalm 18:28-50

Psalm 18:31 *For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? 32 It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure. 39 You armed me with strength for battle; you humbled my adversaries before me.*

One popular '80's chorus goes like this:

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land / The battle belongs to the Lord
No weapon that's fashioned against us shall stand / The battle belongs to the Lord

While the words of this song come from several biblical sources, the title comes from the life of David. As he stood before the giant Goliath, the young shepherd shouted out: "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give all of you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:47). From that point on, David's life was filled with battles. The second half of Psalm 18 is David's reflections on how God had given him the strength to be victorious over his enemies.

Remember that David's enemies were also God's enemies. They were heathen nations trying to wipe out God's people Israel; or like Saul, they were people who had rejected God's ways and fought against God's appointment of David as king. In these battles, David affirms that it was God who had given him the strength and ability to defeat the enemy (18:29, 32, 39). The Lord made his path and position sure like a deer standing on the rocky heights (18:33-36). It was because of God's love that He placed David on the throne and gave him victory over his enemies (18:35, 39-40, 43-50). That is why David breaks out in praise (18:46, 49-50).

As we consider God's provision for David to win victory over his enemies, it would do us good to consider the battles we face every day. Not against people or nations, but "against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).

What is our weapon in this battle? In Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul calls it "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (6:17). David says the same thing in verse 30: "As for God, His way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him." It is the unconquerable Word of God that defeats our enemy.

A second weapon David suggests is praise. When we give God all the glory we will be better prepared for battle. When we realize the battle belongs to the Lord we can trust in Him to provide the victory as we fight.

David did not stop until his enemies were crushed. In our battle with sin and Satan, we too must never stop! We must continually rely on the Lord's strength to defeat the temptations and trials that try to shake us off the Lord's path. God's "unfailing love" is still our shield and fortress.

THRU THE BIBLE Reading: Leviticus 10-12; Mark 7