

## 5. WISDOM IN WAR 2

### The Spoils of War

#### PROVERBS 24:5-6 (PASSIONNTPSA)

**WISDOM CAN MAKE ANYONE INTO A MIGHTY WARRIOR, AND REVELATION-KNOWLEDGE INCREASES STRENGTH. WISE STRATEGY IS NECESSARY TO WAGE WAR, AND WITH MANY ASTUTE ADVISERS YOU'LL SEE THE PATH TO VICTORY MORE CLEARLY.**

What a great scripture! If you study the Bible stories and the historical accounts of war victories, you see the importance of wisdom. Many have labeled this "THE ART OF WAR" meaning that you don't win a battle by trying to get in as many hits as possible. **You win the war through shrewd and cunning strategy.**

Dr. Lance Wallnau shared an interesting tidbit that turned the Battle of Gettysburg. The fighting was intense until a Union soldier noticed a little hill off to the side. In a flash, he understood that whoever took that hill first would win the battle. He immediately dispatched a soldier with some men to do just that. Interestingly, the one he dispatched was a theologian. Sure enough, as his men moved toward the hill, some Confederate soldier got the same idea and gathered men to take it. The Union got there first and won the battle. This victory set off a chain of victories that literally turned the tide of the war.

In the Battle of Waterloo between Napoleon and the Earl of Wellington, fatigue and poor health caused Napoleon to be indecisive and make tactical errors like waiting until midday to engage in battle so the ground could dry out from the earlier rain. That just allowed his opposition to gain numbers and ended in his defeat and exile until he died of stomach cancer. We are often deaf to wisdom when we don't feel good.

Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. [Exo. 12:35-36](#).

This is a combo of wisdom and favor. These things were later used to build the temple. This is a prophetic picture of the end of the age when we are raptured. Plundered means "to snatch away." It's the Hebrew equivalent of us being snatched at the catching away. :) That's the wisdom of God. :) Of course, we've already looked at how the Father's wisdom hid the indwelling until after the death and resurrection of the Lord. That's a definite spoil of war! But I want to look at a couple of examples of David and how he waged war with wisdom.

#### 1 SAMUEL 23:1-5 (NKJV)

**1 THEN THEY TOLD DAVID, SAYING, "LOOK, THE PHILISTINES ARE FIGHTING AGAINST KEILAH, AND THEY ARE ROBBING THE THRESHING FLOORS." 2 THEREFORE DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD, SAYING, "SHALL I GO AND ATTACK THESE PHILISTINES?" AND THE LORD SAID TO DAVID, "GO AND ATTACK THE PHILISTINES, AND SAVE KEILAH." 3 BUT DAVID'S MEN SAID TO HIM, "LOOK, WE ARE AFRAID HERE IN JUDAH. HOW MUCH MORE THEN IF WE GO TO KEILAH AGAINST THE ARMIES OF THE PHILISTINES?" 4 THEN DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD ONCE AGAIN. AND THE LORD ANSWERED HIM AND SAID, "ARISE, GO DOWN TO KEILAH. FOR I WILL DELIVER THE PHILISTINES INTO YOUR HAND." 5 AND DAVID AND HIS MEN WENT TO KEILAH AND FOUGHT WITH THE PHILISTINES, STRUCK THEM WITH A MIGHTY BLOW, AND TOOK AWAY THEIR LIVESTOCK. SO DAVID SAVED THE INHABITANTS OF KEILAH.**

After a military campaign, David and his men arrived back at Ziklag only to find their wives and children and treasure stolen. They were so upset that they wanted to stone David. David strengthened himself in God and then inquired of the Lord.

#### **1 SAMUEL 30:7-8 (NKJV)**

**7 THEN DAVID SAID TO ABIATHAR THE PRIEST, AHIMELECH'S SON, "PLEASE BRING THE EPHOD HERE TO ME." AND ABIATHAR BROUGHT THE EPHOD TO DAVID. 8 SO DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD, SAYING, "SHALL I PURSUE THIS TROOP? SHALL I OVERTAKE THEM?" AND HE ANSWERED HIM, "PURSUE, FOR YOU SHALL SURELY OVERTAKE THEM AND WITHOUT FAIL RECOVER ALL."**

#### **1 SAMUEL 30:17-20 (NKJV)**

**17 THEN DAVID ATTACKED THEM FROM TWILIGHT UNTIL THE EVENING OF THE NEXT DAY. NOT A MAN OF THEM ESCAPED, EXCEPT FOUR HUNDRED YOUNG MEN WHO RODE ON CAMELS AND FLED. 18 SO DAVID RECOVERED ALL THAT THE AMALEKITES HAD CARRIED AWAY, AND DAVID RESCUED HIS TWO WIVES. 19 AND NOTHING OF THEIRS WAS LACKING, EITHER SMALL OR GREAT, SONS OR DAUGHTERS, SPOIL OR ANYTHING WHICH THEY HAD TAKEN FROM THEM; DAVID RECOVERED ALL. 20 THEN DAVID TOOK ALL THE FLOCKS AND HERDS THEY HAD DRIVEN BEFORE THOSE OTHER LIVESTOCK, AND SAID, "THIS IS DAVID'S SPOIL."**

#### **2 SAMUEL 5:17-25 (NKJV)**

**17 NOW WHEN THE PHILISTINES HEARD THAT THEY HAD ANOINTED DAVID KING OVER ISRAEL, ALL THE PHILISTINES WENT UP TO SEARCH FOR DAVID. AND DAVID HEARD OF IT AND WENT DOWN TO THE STRONGHOLD. 18 THE PHILISTINES ALSO WENT AND DEPLOYED THEMSELVES IN THE VALLEY OF REPHAIM. 19 SO DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD, SAYING, "SHALL I GO UP AGAINST THE PHILISTINES? WILL YOU DELIVER THEM INTO MY HAND?" AND THE LORD SAID TO DAVID, "GO UP, FOR I WILL DOUBTLESS DELIVER THE PHILISTINES INTO YOUR HAND." 20 SO DAVID WENT TO BAAL PERAZIM, AND DAVID DEFEATED THEM THERE; AND HE SAID, "THE LORD HAS BROKEN THROUGH MY ENEMIES BEFORE ME, LIKE A BREAKTHROUGH OF WATER." THEREFORE HE CALLED THE NAME OF THAT PLACE BAAL PERAZIM. 21 AND THEY LEFT THEIR IMAGES THERE, AND DAVID AND HIS MEN CARRIED THEM AWAY. 22 THEN THE PHILISTINES WENT UP ONCE AGAIN AND DEPLOYED THEMSELVES IN THE VALLEY OF REPHAIM. 23 THEREFORE DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD, AND HE SAID, "YOU SHALL NOT GO UP; CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND THEM, AND COME UPON THEM IN FRONT OF THE MULBERRY TREES. 24 AND IT SHALL BE, WHEN YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF MARCHING IN THE TOPS OF THE MULBERRY TREES, THEN YOU SHALL ADVANCE QUICKLY. FOR THEN THE LORD WILL GO OUT BEFORE YOU TO STRIKE THE CAMP OF THE PHILISTINES." 25 AND DAVID DID SO, AS THE LORD COMMANDED HIM; AND HE DROVE BACK THE PHILISTINES FROM GEBA AS FAR AS GEZER.**

In chapter 8, here's a list of the spoil:

- Moabite tribute and servants
- 1,000 chariots
- 700 horsemen
- 20,000 foot soldiers
- Syrian tribute

- Shields of gold
- Large amount of bronze
- Articles of silver, gold, and bronze

Notice the pattern of DAVID INQUIRING OF THE LORD and then GOING INTO BATTLE. He didn't react even at Ziklag. He always sought the Lord for the Lord is wisdom. The one time he didn't and didn't go to battle was the time of Bathsheba.

#### **JAMES 1:2-8 (NKJV)**

**2 MY BRETHREN, COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YOU FALL INTO VARIOUS TRIALS, 3 KNOWING THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES PATIENCE. 4 BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE ITS PERFECT WORK, THAT YOU MAY BE PERFECT AND COMPLETE, LACKING NOTHING. 5 IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, LET HIM ASK OF GOD, WHO GIVES TO ALL LIBERALLY AND WITHOUT REPROACH, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO HIM.**

**6 BUT LET HIM ASK IN FAITH, WITH NO DOUBTING, FOR HE WHO DOUBTS IS LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA DRIVEN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND. 7 FOR LET NOT THAT MAN SUPPOSE THAT HE WILL RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM THE LORD; 8 HE IS A DOUBLE-MINDED MAN, UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS.**

Wisdom helps you navigate through trials and positions you to receive the spoil. If the enemy has attacked or is attacking your health, your spoil is coming out even healthier than before. If the enemy has attacked or is attacking your wealth, your spoil is coming out wealthier than before. If the enemy is attacking your peace, then your spoil is more peace. THERE IS NEVER REGRESSION IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD ONLY PROGRESSION. **BUT WISDOM IS REQUIRED TO HELP YOU NOT ONLY COME OUT OF THE TRIAL BUT ALSO LEAVE WITH SPOILS.** A lack of wisdom or agreement with current trial keeps you stuck.

The first step when confronted with a trial or bad report is 1) encourage yourself in the Lord and 2) inquire of the Lord. It's a blow when you get hit with a trial or bad report. It can take some time to recover so be cautious with your words during this weak time. Strengthen yourself and then ask God for wisdom on how to enforce the victory He already provided. Emotion isn't bad. It's how you respond to that emotion that can make or break the outcome.

#### **GENESIS 49:27 (NKJV)**

**27 "BENJAMIN IS A RAVENOUS WOLF; IN THE MORNING HE SHALL DEVOUR THE PREY, AND AT NIGHT HE SHALL DIVIDE THE SPOIL."**

This is the first place the word "spoil" is used. Interestingly, Benjamin is a picture of the end of the age church. Notice how warlike he is and how much spoil he takes. This is a fitting picture because the end of the age is over the glory of nations and the wealth contained in them.