

God's Presence With Man: 2

The Place of the Stronghold

2 Samuel 5.9-10

“Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward. So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.” (vs9-10)

Stronghold – place of refuge, safety, place to retreat

This was his dwelling place – this tells us David spent much time in the stronghold.

He became great, he prospered, his honour and wisdom increased – because the Lord God was with him. The stronghold for David was the place of the Presence of God (There was no temple in Jerusalem, there was no Tabernacle either)

In the stronghold David inquired of the Lord – he sought the Lord, he took refuge in God

inquire – consult, take counsel, seek information

The stronghold was the place where David heard from God.

The Targum* reads: “*the Word of the Lord God of hosts was for his helper*”

**Targum – an interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Aramaic*

The stronghold was the place that David was at one with God, enjoying the presence of God, he also calls it -

Psalm 27.5 - “His pavilion”

Psalm 32.7 - “hiding place”

Psalm 61.3 - “strong tower”

Psalm 91.1 - “secret place of the Most High”

Today we might call that place our secret prayer closet. It is the place that we get alone with God and fellowship with Him.

2 Samuel 5.17-21

Lord of the breakthrough.

In verse 20 we read that God is Lord of the breakthrough. When we need a breakthrough in a given situation we need the Lord to intervene

Too often we want the breakthrough without the stronghold. The stronghold is a necessary requirement for the breakthrough.

Nahum 1.7-8 (Amp)

“The Lord is good, a Strength and Stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows (recognizes, has knowledge of, and understands) those who take refuge and trust in Him. But with an overrunning flood He will make a full end of [*Nineveh's very*] site and pursue His enemies into darkness.”

David recognised the need to take refuge in God, and as soon as the situation arose he withdrew to the stronghold where he could hear from God. We need to know the strategy God has for us in order to see that breakthrough.

- Moses heard it at the Red Sea – (*Exodus 14.16-17*) lift your rod up, stretch out your hand over the sea and go forward
- Joshua heard it at Jericho – (*Joshua 6.3-5*) march around the city in silence once a day for six days, on the seventh day march seven times, at the end of the seventh time sound the trumpets and shout a great shout

Why do we need the stronghold? Because we can fall into the trap of assuming God wants us to do something. We need to hear and know the strategy for this moment.

2 Samuel 5.22-25

Philistines had deployed themselves again – again David inquired of the Lord, he didn't take it for granted what God wanted him to do.

Because something worked last time, doesn't necessarily mean it will work this time or that it is right to do it again.

Jesus often went into His stronghold - Luke 5.16

“So He Himself *often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed*” (NKJV)

Jesus only said and did those things He heard from the Father.

He didn't necessarily follow the same procedure when dealing with people – He took time to hear from God, He spent time in His Father's presence and received the strategy

Let us look at a few examples:

When dealing with the blind, we see Jesus doing what the Father told Him to do, not what 'worked' last time.

Matthew 9.27-31 (vs29) - touched their eyes

Mark 8.22-26 (vs23) - spit on his eyes, then touched him

John 9.1-12 (vs6-7) - made a clay with spit, go and wash

Mark 10.46-52 (vs52) - Jesus spoke to him