

# Psalms 3:1-8

Sunday 11/26/2023

## I Review

Last week we talked about **Psalms 3 being a tribulation Psalm doctrinally** and a picture of the Jew (typified by David) being persecuted by the antichrist.

**Historically we know that it is a true story about David and Absalom** as he goes through his own trials with his son.

All of that is important, **but what is most important is how it impacts us (inspirationally)**. You and me in the world that we live in. I showed you that in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that two prevailing spirits came across America.

### Two Prevailing Spirits:

#### 1.) *The Spirit of Falsehood Micah 2*

From the turn of the century up to 1948 is where they took the Bible from us and sold us a bill of goods that was through the Spirit of Falsehood.

#### 2.) *The Spirit of Antichrist John 4*

Around 1948 to present day, we see the nation of Israel become a nation and from there we see everything move toward the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. And now we see the Spirit of Antichrist out of John 4 added to the Spirit of Falsehood.

**The devil hates three things** that God has established to accomplish his program.

- 1.) Word of God
- 2.) Nation of Israel
- 3.) Church

We have talked about over the last couple of weeks how the devil has tried to destroy all three. I built this around two great verses found in the book of Isaiah. (Isaiah 46:9-10 and Isaiah 42:9).

*Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me, Verse 10. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

*Isaiah 42:9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.*

In Isaiah 46:9-10 it talks about how we learn from history that what we're facing right now we can go back in history and see it happening before as it relates to us now.

In Isaiah 42:9 I showed you where he actually told us that before something comes upon us, he will show us, so that we will never be taken by surprise.

I am constantly trying to get across to you by using the examples of Israel and the Church, the parallels in history showing us where we are at today. In both cases you know Israel was in total apostasy at the first coming of Christ. They had rejected everything in the word of God, and they had a false religion which they claimed to be true Judaism.

We see today, that right before the second coming of Christ, the church is also in total apostasy. We too have dumped the word of God and are fast approaching where we have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. In both cases God only had a remnant left. The remnant of the nation of Israel and then the remnant of the true church of Jesus Christ that was founded in the book of Acts.

Isaiah 10:21-22 shows you exactly what I am talking about when he says in verse 21:

*Isaiah 10:21 The remnant shall return, [even] the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. Verse 22. For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, [yet] a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.*

It says there was a time when Israel was like the sand of the sea, but now they are just a remnant. There was a time when true Christianity spanned across this world, yet today it is just a remnant. Remember the story about the birth of Christ?

*Matthew 2:11 And **when they were come into the house, they saw the young child** with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they **presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.***

Out of the whole nation of Israel only three men showed up. The three wise men. There may have been more, but we base that on the three gifts they brought. The whole nation of Israel had the Old Testament. Israel had the same thing as the wise men that showed when and where he was to be born, and the star in the sky. They could have known all of that, but Israel is down to a remnant. The reason why these three men are focused on (there may have been more) is based on the three gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Those three gifts represent the three offices that Christ held. Only two men in the Bible held all three offices of king, priest and prophet. Christ is one of them and David is the other. This is where Saul got into trouble because he was a king and a prophet, but he was not a priest. When Saul offered that sacrifice in 1 Samuel 15, God killed him for doing that.

The wise men not only knew where he (Jesus) was and came to him, but also recognized the three offices. They brought gold which represents him as king (1 Kings 10). They brought frankincense which represents the priesthood (Exodus 30:34). They brought myrrh which represents his office as a prophet (Song of Solomon 5:5). These guys knew everything they needed to know about Christ's first coming, but I guarantee they were a remnant.

**Wise men will still seek him and will find him. Wise men who will get a Bible and get into the word of God, will seek Him and they will find him.** There is no reason for God's people to be in the apostasy that they are in today and missing the second coming of Christ.

## II. Psalms 3:3-8

Psalms 3:3-8 3. *But thou, O LORD, [art] a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.* 4. *I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.* 5. *I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.* 6. *I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set [themselves] against me round about.* 7. *Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies [upon] the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.* 8. *Salvation [belongeth] unto the LORD: thy blessing [is] upon thy people. Selah.*

If you ever become a pastor, or a deacon, or Bible teacher or even a leader in Christianity, sooner or later you will find yourself in the middle of this passage. In ministry any pastor or leader who seemingly gets along with everybody should be held in suspect. Especially in today's Christianity. Doctrine in real ministry will not put people together but rather will divide people.

When it comes to the ministry you never judge a man's work only by how many he gets saved or how big his church is, but also by how many hate him. The truth that he stands for will always divide people. I understand that this is hard for most Christians to accept today. Laodicea, the church age we live in, the Bible says in the book of Revelation, God has spewed out of his mouth. And actually, has no representative angel before the throne of God. The Bible says in Revelation 3:16 that they are neither cold nor hot. Jesus says I wish you were one or the other, but you're right in the middle. You are lukewarm and lukewarm Christianity never causes any problem for anybody. Lukewarm Christianity kind of goes right down the middle of the road and they view it all today through the spirit of falsehood.

Today churches have a kumbaya mentality. Don't upset anybody, don't make anybody mad, or don't rock the boat. Don't say anything to offend anyone. It's because we have nothing to compare it with. People that think that way have missed the greatest example and truth in the Bible. Do you realize that every man in the Bible that did God's work was hated? Show me just one in the Bible who thought was wonderful and great if he preached the true word of God.

## III. Bible Characters Who were Hated for Serving God

**Joseph** one of the greatest type of Christ in the Bible, his own brothers put him in a pit and sold him to the Midianites. They hated him. Why? Because he was God's man. How about **Moses**? Moses had opposition all his life; I'm not talking about with Pharaoh. I am talking about once they left Egypt. They hated Moses and complained about him all the time. Yet he is God's man. How about **Elijah**? Elijah up against Jezebel and Ahab. They wanted to kill him. They wanted to wipe him out. They hated everything he stood for. How about **Elisha**? Same deal.

How about **John the Baptist**? He was the forerunner who came heralding the coming of Christ. He got his head cut off for it because they hated his message. How about **Stephen**? The last message that he preaches about is God coming to the nation of Israel and they gnashed upon him with their teeth. They took him outside and stoned him. What about **Paul**? Paul was the greatest Christian that probably ever lived. He preached the word of God wherever he went, and

he paid the price for it. **Peter**, the same way. Peter took a stand and history tells us (whether it is true or not) they crucified him upside down. They hated Peter for his stand.

Show me one person in the Bible that stood for God that wasn't hated. I mean some people loved them and other people hated them. If you think that's changed today, you don't know much about Christianity. And you better just stay out of the ministry because it's not called a warfare for nothing. I am telling you right now, there will be some folks that will love the truth and there's some folks that will hate the truth. When you preach the truth its nothing personal against you, it's the book that you stand for, it's the message that you preach.

How about the **Lord Jesus Christ**? The lonely, lovely Jesus, lover of my soul. Oh, you need to be more like Jesus. Really? Did you ever see what Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23? Did you ever see what he said before Pilate? Do you mean be more like that? We get this idea that Jesus is some soft soap little guy, walking around with sandals and a robe with a nice flowing brown beard, not causing any problems. They hated him and from the very moment he was born they tried to kill him. Not one time did he side with the Scribes, the Pharisees or the Sadducees. Not one time did he say, let's just all get along. This is where the term comes from his way or the highway.

Do you know what the real problem is today? People are following that spirit of falsehood. Christianity is in a dream world today. It's not reality. We have been lied to for so long, we have been without the Bible for so long. We've been sold this bill of goods that we see Christianity as some dream world someplace. Well, you better read Jeremiah 23:25, because he says Christianity today isn't real. It's a dream world. He says I have heard what the prophet said that prophecy lies in my name, saying I have dreamed, I have dreamed. And those prophets are called **prophets of deceit** in verse 26. Christianity is a dream world today. Most of God's people don't even live in reality. The 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Christianity can't seem to take a stand on anything and yet they fall for everything. In Bible New Testament Christianity there can never be any compromise with the truth when it comes to God's word. A pastor today has to be able to do that, take the heat, and not care about what anybody likes about it. Because truth is truth.

#### IV. Word of God – Absolute Judgment and Standard

I heard it fifty plus years of my life in ministry. I hear it today. Well Bob thinks he's right and everybody else is wrong. You know that is a nasty job to have to do. Clearly you don't know me and that is not true. The real issue is that I just have a different standard for judging things by than you do. You say well you're not the judge. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:15 that he that is spiritual judgeth all things. **We have to have a spiritual absolute judgment standard to judge everything by, so you and I don't get messed up.**

Some guy will say to me "Well Bob you know he's a really good man". I will say, compared to who? What's your standard? Who do you compare it to? That statement is irrelevant and means nothing without some kind of standard to judge what you just said. He's a good man. Maybe he is but based on what? Heinrich Himmler? Heinrich Himmler is responsible for 20-30 million people killed in the death camps. You know what his twelve-year-old daughter said about him? She said he was the kindest, sweetest loving father any girl could ever have. You mean like that?

This guy will say to me, well you know he's done a really good job. And I will say compared to what? What is your standard to say that? You mean compared to the Pope or compared to Jimmy Swaggart? You mean compared to Joel Osteen? **What is your standard?**

You see **I have a standard that I go by that is absolute and I have nothing to do with it.** It is the one that God gave me. This guy will say to me, well this guy has a really good church. And I will say compared to what? Compared to the Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, the Catholics? What is your standard for making those kinds of statements? They mean nothing if you can't balance it up against an absolute truth.

I told you 1 Corinthians 2:15 you that are spiritual, you need to judge all things, but you've got to have an absolute judgment. You must have a guideline to go by. You can't just look at something and think well it's great and then make that kind of statement. We go through our lives too many times buying things that aren't real, getting involved in things that are going to bust you and break you. Getting into relationships, circumstances and situations that are going to take your Christianity and your relationship with God from you. Why? Because you don't judge it by a standard and he that is spiritual..... You're spiritual? Oh, I'm spiritual Bob! Then he that is spiritual judgeth all things from the absolute standard of the word of God. Very few guys will just take the absolute word of God and make it the standard for everything they do, everything they believe and everything they practice and preach. If you are going to ever stand for the truth, you're going to find yourself in Psalms 3:1-2.

## V. Men in Church History that Were Hated for Standing for the Truth

**Martin Luther from 1483-1546** who brought in the Reformation. In his time he was the most hated man in Germany. The whole Roman Catholic system turned against him, hated him and wanted him dead. He took on the Roman Catholic church and he won! He brought about the Reformation. Somebody said to him one time Martin, don't you know the whole world is against you? You know what he said? Then I am against the whole world. That's Martin Luther. He didn't get along with anybody that didn't believe what he believed. He was a heretic by the Roman Catholic church. His great heresy was in Romans 1:17 that the just shall live by faith and they wanted to kill him for it. That is exactly what we believe. That is how he got saved. He was a Roman Catholic priest, and he wanted a relationship with God so desperately. He did everything the Catholic church told him to do. Then one day God led him to Romans 1 and right there it was, the just shall live by faith. When he found the truth, he was hated.

I think of **John Knox. He lived around 1514-1572** in church history. He was fearless for his stand, and he was hated for it. He took on bloody Mary, the Queen of England who was Roman Catholic who wanted to wipe out every Christian in England. He went before her and in the defense of the gospel preached the gospel to her and survived. But he was hated. She killed thousands and thousands of Bible believers. John Knox stood there and put his finger in her face and told her she was going to die and burn in Hell without Jesus Christ. He was hated for the truth.

Fast forward to **Billy Sunday about 1862-1935** the famous evangelist preacher who preached all across the United States, even in Kansas City. He single-handedly brought in prohibition from 1920-1933. He stopped the booze in America that brought in the Bootleggers, the Roaring 20's and everything they did to try and get around it. He was hated for that. He played professional baseball before he got saved and became a preacher. He could preach the paint off the wall. He preached to millions and millions of men and women who came to Christ because of his preaching. But he was hated.

Sinclair Lewis, who was a movie producer, hated Billy Sunday with a passion. So, he made a movie which you can still see today. It's called "Elmer Gantry". He made that movie against Billy Sunday by showing Elmer Gantry as a fornicating drunk who was ripping people off. Today Billy Sunday would be a cult because churches today think it's okay to drink alcohol. He was hated in his day.

**You got to have an absolute standard folks, especially with what is going on today. The spirit of falsehood is prevailing across this country with the added spirit of antichrist** and are taking from us your family and kids! The absolute truth is needed so that your kids can grow up out of this church and make the right choices based on the absolute book.

How about **J. Frank Norris**? Jay Frank Norris was called the Texas tornado. One of the key men in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that kept our Bible for us. He broke with the political system and the corrupt godless system of the Southern Baptist Convention around 1910. He was hated all his life. Not just by the world, but by Christians for his stand on the truth of the word of God. He started a Bible college and if you get the book on Harold Henniger out of the bookstore you will see that Henniger was saved at the Akron Baptist Temple under Dallas Billington. Tremendous guy. Another great book, "God is Real" by Dallas Billington.

Some guy called him up one time and says I'm going to come over and kill you. Norris says I'll be here till four o'clock. The guy bust in his office with a gun and Norris stood up, outdrew him and shot him right on the spot. From that point on he's called the "Pistol-Toting Preacher". He was in a town getting ready to preach and somebody said don't you know downtown in the square there are 200 people that are going to hang you. You know what he did? He went down and got in the back of a pickup truck and preached the gospel and forty guys got saved. But he was hated!

How about **Dr Ruckman**, the second man in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that kept the Bible for us. Norris started the fundamentalist movement on the word of God and Ruckman established why the King James Bible as the only Bible. He was hated his whole life. If you believe what he believes, you're an Ruckmanite! They hated him. What was his crime? He stood up and preached that every one of us have an absolute perfect standard, the word of God. Written in our language that you can hold on your lap that you can have a relationship with God. He was called a heretic. Spirit of falsehood!

So Psalms 3:1 *How are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me. They say no help from God.* Right now, in history that is what the Nations say today about Israel. This is what Job's three friends said about him. This is what Christ's enemies said about him. This is what Paul's enemies said about him. The question today, what do they say about you?

## VI. Christianity Today-No Backbone, No Courage

Christianity today has no backbone and no courage. Nobody is willing to take a stand, but everybody is willing to fall for everything. God's people don't have the courage to stop and fix their own problems first. The Bible will not only get you through life and all of its problems, but it will also help you move past them. But that is where your courage starts. That is where your honesty starts. That is where your desire for your family, your wife, and your kids starts. It starts with individuals that want to be everything that God wants them to be. But how in the world will they ever take a stand when they can't stand for their own issues to fix them? How will they stand in a day of adversity and face the true enemy?

The devil in this church and churches across this country will pick us off one at a time. I've seen it for years. Now I understand that not everybody will fit into my style of ministry. People look at things differently. I get that. Especially in the last four or five generations. There are different styles of ministry, and every pastor has to be responsible for his own style. You know a ministry will take on a pastor's personality, especially if he pours his life into it.

## VII. Endure a Hardness & Courage to Stand

I have always looked for a certain kind of person for ministry. I've always been very selective. I take a militant self-disciplined structured form of ministry. It's based on Ephesians 6 where I am told to put on the whole armor of God because I am a soldier. It is based on Hebrews 2:10 that says Jesus Christ is the captain of my salvation. It's based on 2 Timothy 2:3 and 4 that says we as Christians are to endure a hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. You have to build people a certain way for them to be able to endure that hardness. It just doesn't happen.

Most of God's people are good people and most of them love the Lord. They want to do this, but it's like trying to become a Navy SEAL or become a Special Forces Operator. You know they will have 100 or 200 guys go through the training course and at the end of the training, maybe 20 or 30 guys will make it. And yet all those guys are good soldiers. They are good operators but they're just not ready or cut out for that kind of intensity. And for me the ministry is an intensity. It's not something that I take lightly. And you have to build people a certain way for them to be able to endure that kind of hardness. That is not for everybody, especially today and I am okay with that.

I look for men and women like those in the book of Acts (that's our model) who they get saved, get into a church, and get trained. They'll see the pastor's heart through his preaching and build a relationship with him. They will support it financially with their tithes and offerings because this is where our ministry is. Then they will take a stand with him to hold the line.

Take women for example, I look for a woman that is sweet, tender, who is loving, kind, who obeys her husband (most of the time). A good mother, but when it comes to her stand with the word of God, she'll gut you like a fish! Now they're hard to find but they're out there.

You know my favorite story in the Bible and what I build my ministry on is found in the book of 2 Samuel 23:8. It's about David's mighty men of valor. There is a list of men who were David's mighty men who went head and shoulders above everybody else. They accomplished things that the rest of Israel's army never accomplished. They were close to David and got his heart and they knew what he loved, and they fought for him and stood with him against the enemies of Israel. One guy, Adino the Eznite took on eight hundred men and slew them single-handedly. That is not a scribal error. It wasn't eight or eighty, it was 800 men that he killed. In this chapter you will find four key things that I look for in young men and women when they come through those doors. It takes courage to take a stand and you are going to get in the middle of it.

## VIII. Men & Woman who Make up the Hedge & Stand in the Gap

Another favorite of mine is Ezekiel 22:30 where he says *I sought for a man among them that should **make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me** for the land that I should not destroy it, but I found none.* That is a great verse. I look for the same thing in a man that God does. Notice the **two things** there that he talks about. **The hedge and the gap.** Most people don't even know what he is talking about. The hedge will be a defensive thing. When they invaded Normandy on June 6<sup>th</sup> D-day and went into France, they got hung up just three days later when they got into the hedge groves. The hedge groves were high hedges that had been there for six, seven or eight hundred years. Instead of fences, the French grew hedge groves to section out their property and they were thick. Some of them were twenty feet thick and high. The Germans got in there and held them to a standstill. The hedge groves were their defense and for you and me as a Christian our hedge grove is our defense. The hedge is what keeps the enemy out. We can stand behind and fight. So he says make up the hedge. Every church ought to have a hedge. The people need to take a stand and be the hedge just like in Normandy, nobody could get through it. I look for the same things today that he did back there in Ezekiel.

The next thing he says is I look for a man to make up the hedge and **stand in the gap.** What is that? In a church from time-to-time people are going to leave. They're not going to leave mad, but they are going to leave for various reasons. Good people like Zach and Jenny, DeJ'on and Brittany. They are good people, but they left a gap. What happened is you guys stood up and filled the gap. Men and women stood up and made the hedge and filled the gap. People like John Gowans and Bob Gregg. A church and a pastor need to realize that there is always going to be gaps in the line and you don't just sit back and be satisfied with the way things are. You are always looking for young men and women to train to fill the gaps. That is what a church is supposed to do. But it takes a certain kind of person. Certainly, it takes a remnant mindset. It takes somebody who understands the day and age that we live in. What the urgency of the hour is. Realizing what God has given us here and understanding it's our responsibility to take care of it and train others. So, when the gaps come, then somebody is always ready.



## IX. Six Things that Build a Good Soldier

Now I want to show you something here in Psalms 3. I want to give you **six things** that if you are going to be a soldier and take your stand you are going to need to build these into your life and your family. The attack today will be on you first, mom and dad. Then it will be on your marriage and your family and kids. Parents are concerned today about their kids. They see what is going on and they don't want to lose their kids. Maybe they don't know exactly what to do or how to do it, but God will get you to the right place. Just don't wrap your kids in bubble wrap and think that will take the shock away from the world. You need to build around them a wall of biblical truth. You need to build around them a wall that they have an absolute standard that everything in their life they see can make an absolute judgment on, so they make as few mistakes in life as possible.

### 1.) My Shield, My Glory, My Head

Verse 3 **But thou, O LORD, [art] a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.**

#1 **My Shield**- We can run this back to Ephesians 6:10-18 where he is talking about the whole armor of God. He lays out for us seven pieces of armor but in verse 16 he says, *Above all (this is number one over all the other pieces) taking the shield of faith wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.* The shield of faith protects your heart because you know when the devil first attacks you, he throws those fiery darts at you, and goes after your heart.

You come to church and get into the word of God, and you don't guard your heart you get out of the book, and you don't do what you are supposed to do. You stop growing and you say to yourself well I don't want to do this, or I don't want to do that. I am where I want to be and that is when the darts come to your heart. The next thing you know you have problems with things. You don't like this, or you don't like that. You lost your shield, and the devil will go after your heart with those fiery darts.

#2 **My Glory** – This will be the judgment seat of Christ. The judgment seat of Christ for each of us is absolutely the one thing we should have our full attention and our eyes set on. Keeping our eye on the prize Romans 8:18 says *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

There is coming a day when the glory of God that is in you right now is going to be revealed to everybody. Right now, it should be revealed by your life, your testimony and what you do for God. But in that day, it will be your glorified body. The Bible says in Colossians 1:27 Christ in you the hope of glory.

#3 **Lifter Up of Mine Head** – Why are God's people in such despair today? Why do God's people struggle with so many things when you have the victory already? Why do God's people make such bad choices in life when they have the book of the absolute standard that they can judge everything by? Luke 21:28 says *Lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. As dark as this world is and as messed up as it is, does not affect me because I have Christ*

in me, and my day is as bright as God's promises. The Bible says in Colossians 3:2 that we are to set our affections on things above. We say keep your chin up. Don't focus on the things of this world folks you're better than that. Look to him sitting on the throne, knowing he will come for you. But until that time, he'll take care of you. As Paul says to young Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:5 **until then we do the work of an evangelist. We keep going!**

## 2.) God Will Always Hear Your Prayers

**Verse 4. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his Holy Hill.**

If you have a trained eye, you will notice that verse strangely matches the book of Jonah 2:2-7. This is Jonah's final prayer and God hears him out of the Holy Hill. What a great verse! In the book of Jonah, Jonah dies, but is resurrected three days later. He is a type of the resurrection and the promise to us will be that God never ceases to hear your prayer. He will never leave you or forsake you. He will always know your situation and take care of you in every situation out of his Holy Hill. That is spiritual Mt Zion that we talked about a couple of weeks ago. Up in heaven, Christ is seated on the right hand of God (Mark 16:19) making intercession for us Romans 8:34.

There is a great story found in Mark 6:45-50. The Lord sends the disciples out into a little boat. and they go out into the middle of the sea which is about 3 ½ miles out. Then the Bible says that it is pitch black and a great storm comes up. They are stuck out there bailing water, and it looks like they are going to be swamped. They are all going to die and yet the Bible says that in the meantime, Christ had gone into a mountain to pray. That is a picture of you and me in this life struggling with the wind, the storms and the waves of life that want to swamp your boat, take your family and kill you. But the Bible says that the Lord Jesus went into the mountain to pray. It says they are in the middle of the sea in the middle of the night and the Lord is on a mountain, yet the Bible says he saw them toiling in rowing. That is a picture of him up in the third heaven right now seated by the right hand of God and we're going through the struggles that we go through, and he sees everything that we are going through. He hears your cries, he hears your prayers, he sees everything we go through out of his Holy Hill. He will always hear you. There will never be a time no matter how bleak and black it looks that he isn't watching you and there is great comfort in that.

## 3.) My Sustainer- What God Ordains, He Sustains

**Verse 5. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.**

The Christian children's prayer is "Now I lay me down to sleep I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake I pray the Lord my soul to take". It comes right out of this verse. In this verse is one of the greatest words that every child of God can ever hold close to his heart and it says for the Lord sustained me. The sustaining power of God sustains us through everything in life. This is what sets Christianity apart from the world. Nothing in this world will sustain you. An example of this is in John 4 with the woman at the well. She had been coming to that well all her life getting water and had to come back every day because water only temporarily quenched her thirst. Jesus made the analogy of water being the earthly stuff that if

she wanted to really quench her thirst, she needed to get the eternal water that he had. That water will sustain you. That is your relationship with the word of God through the church that God will sustain you through. He will sustain your life, your marriage, your family and kids. He will get you through when nothing else will. What God ordains; he will sustain.

#### 4.) In This Warfare Numbers Mean Nothing

Verse 6 **I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set [themselves] against me round about.**

You are always going to be outnumbered in this life as a Christian. You are always going to be surrounded. My model for this is one of the greatest stories found in the Old Testament in 2 Kings 6. You have Elisha and he has a young man with him, and they are surrounded by the king of Syria. Doctrinally this is Israel being surrounded by the antichrist the king of Syria.

Inspirationally it's a picture of what we have to face in the world. You have a young man and an old man Elisha. The young man will typify for us a young Christian. Good kid hanging out with Elisha. Wants to do what God wants him to do, but they get into a situation where they are surrounded. It looks like there is a good chance they will get wiped out. There are thousands of them around them and it is just the two of them. The young man does exactly what most young Christians do who haven't really been grounded yet. He looks at the opposition around him and that's all he sees. Too many times in our Christian lives all we look at is what the world is surrounding us with, and we never see what the real picture is. In time if you stay here with me (your Elisha) and let me help you, you will get to that point. The young man looks at Elisha, he looks at the surrounding Syrians and says what are we going to do? Elisha says in verse 16 *Fear not: for they that [be] with us [are] more than they that [be] with them.* The old man (Elisha) sees what God is doing. The young man only saw what the world was doing and there is the difference between whether you make it or not.

Out of this story (2 Kings 6) I take **five key things** that I have built into my life for the battles that I have to face.

#### #1 **Christian Insistence will bring Satanic Resistance.**

Once you decide you are going to take your stand and you are going to do what is right the devil is going to resist you. In most of Christianity today, nobody takes a stand. But I am telling you Psalms 3:1-2 will come into your life when you decide that you are going to take your stand. Because Christian insistence will bring Satanic resistance.

#### #2 **The Devil Will Surround You to Stop God in Your Life.**

This is what the young man saw. Don't be afraid! I read a book about Major Dick Winters who was the commander of Easy Company 506 in the movie Band of Brothers. In the battle of Bastone, which was a key place that we had to defend and keep. The Germans had to have it also to finish what they were doing. These boys were called out in the middle of the night, no ammo, no food, no clothes for cold weather. It was the coldest winter in Belgium, and they were told to hold the line. The last supply came in and somebody said to Major Winters who was the

commanding officer, “You know this is going to be my last supply delivery. I won’t be able to come back. I don’t know if you know it sir, but you are surrounded”. Dick looked at him and he says that’s okay son, were paratroopers we’re supposed to be surrounded! **We are Christians, we’re soldiers, we’re supposed to be surrounded!** Where do you get that it is supposed to be an easy life after you get saved? Where did you ever hear it wouldn’t be a battle? Where did you get the idea in this Laodicean minefield, the spirit of falsehood, that Christianity was going to be wonderful and nice and that everybody would get along? **Your Christian insistence will bring Satanic** resistance, and the devil will surround you with the world.

**#3 As long as God has our heartbeat don’t ever worry about being surrounded.**

I have learned that it’s okay if the devil has me surrounded. I am willing to give the devil the circumference as long as God holds the center and that’s my heart.

**#4. It’s not how much the devil is against you but rather how much God is for you.**

**#5. Unbelief is the Spiritual Blindness that can cause Fear and Failure**

5.) **God will Always Arise to Our Defense**

**Verse 7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies [upon] the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.**

Doctrinally this is the second coming of Christ. When you find the word “arise” in Psalms it is always a reference to the second coming. Christ arising to come to deliver Israel. (Psalms chapters 7, 9, 10, 17, 74, 82 and 132).

Inspirationally it is God for us. He will always arise to our defense in any time of trouble. He will be there. He will never leave thee nor forsake thee. He says breaking the teeth of the ungodly. God will shut up your enemy’s mouth by simply knocking his teeth out.

6.) **My Deliver – Two Types of Salvation**

**Verse 8 Salvation [belongeth] unto the LORD...**

There are two types of salvation in the Bible:

1. When a man gets saved.
2. When God saves you from your enemies after salvation.

In Verse 8 this is not just saved from hell, but saved from those who would hate you and hurt you. You saw this in Jeremiah 1:1-9 when God called Jeremiah to preach, and Jeremiah said boy I can’t do that I am afraid of their faces. And he said don’t be afraid of their faces I am with thee to deliver thee and the Bible says he touched his mouth with a coal. He said now I’ve given you my words and you go preach to everybody that needs to hear the truth. Jeremiah did, but he paid the price for it and he was hated and so will you,

## **Thy blessing are upon thy people.**

It is a simple concept. The more people hate you the more they persecute you, the more God blesses you. We are soldiers and Christ is the captain of our salvation. We are to endure a hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

## **X. Summary**

There is a chain of command in the military just like there is in the church. In the military, the worst order that you can ever receive from higher command will be to form a rear-guard action. A rear-guard action is when your whole regiment, company, or platoon is trapped. When they get the order of a rear-guard action, they know nobody coming to help them. They know that they are going to be sacrificed. Either taken as a prisoner or killed or a rare circumstance, be able to break out. But nobody is coming to get them. They are making the sacrifice of themselves so others can be saved to fight again.

**Today Christians in this church, and other churches like us, we're the rear-guard action. We make the sacrifice so others can be saved.** We pay the price, we take the flack, we take the hatred. But we know that we are the remnant, and we sacrifice so others can be saved. That only comes through discipline. It only comes through the word of God that men and woman see themselves, build themselves and then take their stand. It takes a special kind of person, and I am always looking for those kinds of people.

In the American military you have three sayings that will pretty much define where they are at:

- In the Army you will see the slogan "Be all you can be"
- In the Marine Corps "Semper Fidelis" always faithful
- In the Airborne "All the way"

And yet all those three components in the American military of the exact same three components that ought to be in every Bible believer's life that understands Ephesians 6:13-14. **We are to be all we can be, that we are to be always faithful, and we are to go all the way!**

The Bible says in Ephesians 6:13-14 that we have the whole armor of God. We put on the armor we get trained and then he says, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day. Then he says having done all to stand. After you understand that you are to withstand the evil day and you have done everything in your life, then he says stand, therefore.

So the question for all of us today is **where do you stand today against the evil day?** It's going to take a special person, it's going to take somebody who can endure a hardness. It is going to take somebody who doesn't get their nose bent out of joint about every little thing that doesn't go their way. It is going to take somebody that sees the real velocity of the situation. Who sees the tragedy that is befalling us.

**It is going to take somebody who sees that we are the remnant that must take our stand.**