

Inquire of God

From the Life of David

“17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. 18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. 20 And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim. 21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them. 22 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. 24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. 25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.” (2 Samuel 5:17-25 KJV)

What do you think to yourself, under whom you are moving and who is directing the affairs of your life. How you manage the cross roads that you face daily and how you make your choices? The lord Jesus Christ promised His disciples the following: ***“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33 NIV)*** Jesus promised that there will be troubles, problems, and even enemies, but he made it clear to everyone that he overcomes the world, and the power of darkness, so we can overcome. The lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven. He died on the cross for our sins, He was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their live.

The scripture that we use speaks about the life of David. After he was anointed as king over the people of God he was attacked by the enemy, the philistine. That teaches you that when you are anointed with the Holy Spirit to do God’s work the enemy will oppose you and fight against you with full forces because they are against God and against His works. They came up searching for David in full force, to oppose the task that God entrusted to him. David heard about that and he went down to the stronghold not hiding because he is afraid but he went there so he will have time and space to inquire from the lord. That what we need to do when we face a big trouble, we have to lay this whole issue in front of the lord and enquire of Him of how to deal with the situation as David enquired of the lord, ***“And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.” (2 Samuel 5:19 KJV)***

The Philistines encamped in the valley of Rephaim, ***“The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.” (2 Samuel 5:18 KJV)*** The meaning of Rephaim is giants. The enemy will come against us with whatever power they can bring in order to intimidate us to and make us fear to stop us and hinder us to achieve God’s purpose. The devil, our enemy, when he attacks, he tries to cause us one or more of the followings:

1. Confusion, to mislead us.
2. Discouragement, to lead us to surrender to his evil will.
3. Reaction, to do impulsive things and sin against people and against God.
4. Wrong decision, in deceiving us and convincing us with wrong solutions.

Therefore, we need to be aware of that very well and follow what David did, who asked God specific questions that guided him to decide clearly what he need to do. The same for us today, we have a certain issue and we need to decide about it. We have to inquired of God about the matter and ask Him questions that are critical and pertinent to the problem that when God answer us then that will be the time for us to move on the ground and achieve the task entrust to us and received the victory that we have in Christ Jesus our lord. When we enquire of God, and when the Lord Himself gives us the prove to go forward, He will not leave us alone but He will go ahead of us and fight the battle for us. David moved after he got the permission from God, and the Lord defeated his enemies as water break out, therefore this what David said, ***“as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.” (2 Samuel 15: 20 KJV)*** If we want to deal with our enemies as God ordained we need to inquire of God before we do anything and wait for His correct and exact answer.

The meaning of Baalperazim is the great destruction. David not only defeated the Philistines but he burned all their idols, ***“And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.” (2 Samuel 5:21 KJV)*** The devil always will attack us and try to introduce his idols into our lives and in the life of God’s church; therefore we need to be aware. The same event mention in other place and it is mentioned that David burned their gods, ***“And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.” (1 Chronicles 14:12 KJV)*** We are called by God to wage warfare against the gods of this world and move them away from our lives.

For second time David was attacked by the same enemy, for our enemy the devil will repeatedly attack us to hinder us, but let us here learn from David, that before he did anything he enquired of the Lord again. In such a way he did the right thing. Some time when we face problem and we solve it after we inquire of the Lord, the same problem may be repeated with the same people or with some other people. But the solution for this new problem is not the same solution for the previous problem even if we are dealing with the same people, same reason, and even if the problem happen in the same place. We need to inquire of the lord again to lead us and direct us of how to deal with the new and fresh problem.

Truly David faced the enemy again for the second time and he did not fail to inquire of the Lord and God told him ***“Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.” (2 Samuel 5:23 KJV)*** God showed David that he should take different direction and He gave David the exact time when he needs to attack the enemy. He clearly described to David the following: ***“And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself:***

for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.” (2 Samuel 5:24 KJV) God gave David another strategy for war, “Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.” (2 Chronicles 14:14 KJV) God gave David very accurate plan; not to go and face them straight, but to turn away from them, and compass behind them and be positioned in the mulberry tree, and there David needed to wait till he hear the sound of marching of the host of God over the trees, at this time he need to rise up for the battle, for he knew that the Lord had gone ahead of him to smite the enemy.

Even today, the Lord shall give us the same details, the exact time, place and direction, and even more if we will not neglect to inquire of the lord and asked of Him the permission to go on and invite Him to go before us, and ahead of us to fight the enemy on our behalf; He will give us all what we inquire of and more than that, the victory over the enemy. The Holy Spirit will speak to us and the Word of God will instruct us with more details of how we need to conduct ourselves while the battle is going on.

*“Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.” *2 Chronicles 14:14 KJV) The Hebrews word for Mulberry trees which is ‘Baka’ which mean weeping, which is mentioned in Psalm 84 in verse 6.*

“1 How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. 3 Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. 4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. 6 Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. 7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. 9 Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. 10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.” (Psalm 84:1-12 KJV) The men of Israel in their journey to reach Jerusalem to join their annual feasts and reach the temple of God, they will pass through the valley of Baca where the Mulberry trees are located. The valley of Rephaim and the valley of Baca according to some commentary is the same. What we can learn from that the followings:

1. The enemy will fight against us to hinder us from drawing near to God and to reach God’s temple, or His church.
2. Therefore we need to be consistent in trials not to go away from God and His church, but to draw nearer to Him and to take more active role in God’s service and ministry. During trials let us delight to get more in God’s church, *“10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of*

*wickedness.” (Psalm 84:10 KJV) God had promised the Israelites that He will enlarge their territory and would protect them from the other nations, when their men are moving to attend the three feasts of the Lord (the Passover feast, the feast of the weeks and the feast of the tabernacle) as we can read here: **“23 Thrice in the year shall all your menchildren appear before the LORD God, the God of Israel. 24 For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year.” (Exodus 34:23-24 KJV) Therefore as we continue to attend our duties and our ministries during trials, taking our stand and position against the tactics of the enemy, the Lord shall protect us, reward us and enlarge our territory.***

3. The attacks will be repeated every now and then. Therefore we need to be ready and prepared our minds about that.
4. During the battle, we need to be in the valley of Baca, *“Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.” (Psalm 84:6 KJV) In the valley of weeping, where we shed tears of repentance, where we cry out to God to receive help and support from Him, “O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God.” (Psalm 84:8 KJV) The Lord will hear our cry and see our repentance and will vindicate us, “For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” (Psalm 84:11 KJV)*
5. During the battle we need to trust God for He will bless us and will reward us, *“O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.” (Psalm 84:12 KJV)*

My dear and beloved: The Lord Jesus said, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) Many of your troubles and the difficulties that you face in your life are because you had not yet come to the lord. Or you didn’t ask of the Lord or inquired of how to solve the problem when you face troubles. But now it is the right time for you to repent from such kind of sin and rely fully on God and enquire of Him in regard to all what you face from troubles. Then He will be the one to guide you in all your struggles and give you all what you need, and directs you in all what you ought to do as you agree to pray.*

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you on the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Forgive me that I acted before I inquire of You. Lord teach me your ways, and guide me in all your truth, for You are God my Saviour and I put my trust in You. Deliver me from the evil one, spare me troubles, go before me and fight Your enemies. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.