

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

July 3

### MONDAY

David and his men went to fight against Jerusalem. The Jebusites who lived there were confident of their defenses and bragged that the blind and lame (meaning *their gods* since David had referred to them that way) could defend the city. Nevertheless, David won the battle and took the city.

#### **READ: II Samuel 5:6-8**

The enemies of God are many and noisy, thinking that power lies in numbers and volume. A spokesperson for a recent march in San Francisco stated that the great turnout of marchers and spectators proved that their cause was right. Don't be deceived by that lie! Numbers mean little to God. Even as believers, we are not right because we are more numerous than others, better organized, or because we somehow persevere better. Our rightness comes from the Lord. His way is right! And His Word is right! And God's work within us is to make us right!

### TUESDAY

David moved into Jerusalem, and it became known as *the City of David*. He started rebuilding it - expanding its borders as he went. And because God was with him, David became greater and greater.

#### **READ: II Samuel 5:9-10**

When God makes a man or woman to be great, it is in order that God's purposes can be better carried out in his or her life. Great in His Kingdom, we might say. Even when we are somehow honored or celebrated, we must give Him all the glory. For it is His doing. This is the story for each one of us, for He has lifted us from the pit and placed us on a pedestal of His grace!

### WEDNESDAY

King Hiram of Tyre honored David by building him a palace. Seeing this, David acknowledged it was the Lord's doing, and that God was exalting David for the sake of His people Israel. David's number of wives and concubines continued to increase, and more sons and daughters are born to him: eleven are listed here by name.

#### **READ: II Samuel 5:11-16**

We do not need to look too closely at David's life to see that he was not without sin. Here, we read, he married many wives. We can make no good excuse for him. His many wives did not stop him from coveting those who were not yet his wives. Being the king lulled him into thinking that any one he wanted could be, and should be, his. Here's the point: sin easily besets us. It creeps up on us. It comes at times of great victory in other areas. It happened to David that way. We must be diligent, and on guard, determined to stay away from sin. With greatness comes great responsibility.

### THURSDAY

When news of David's victory over the Jebusites reached the Philistines, they brought their armies against their long-time enemy, assembling in the valley of Rephaim, not far from Jerusalem. David asked the Lord for guidance and God assured him that victory

would be his. David and his forces attacked them and defeated them easily breaking through water (or like a hot knife thru butter, we might say). The Philistines even left their religious icons on the field as they fled for their lives. Later, David's men collect them. In fact, when the battle is over, David renames the place Baalperazim meaning *the master of the breakthrough*.

#### **READ: II Samuel 5:17-21**

In the battle, God brought to shame the idols of the heathen. This fore-shadows God doing the same to all who oppose Him. He will bring to naught anything and everything which is of this world. He will destroy all that the ungodly desire and cherish. (and some of that which we desire and cherish, as well) As the hymn writer put it: *All for Jesus, all for Jesus; all my thoughts and words and doings; all my days and all my hours!*

### FRIDAY

The Philistines again assemble outside of Jerusalem to fight against David. When David asked the Lord for direction, the Lord gave him a plan of attack: to send some troops around behind them and attack them from a flank. When David and his main force in the city hear the sound of marching over mulberry trees, they should attack immediately from the front. David did what God commanded and won a total victory.

#### **READ: II Samuel 5:22-25**

David had an army at his command, and the experiences of past victories, one of them, a complete blow-out, against this same group just a verse or two ago! Yet David relied on the word of God and on His promise rather than on his own strength and experience. He asked the Lord for direction and waited for God's timing, and then attacked with all his might. *Lean not to your own understanding*, the Bible says. *But trust in the Lord*.

### SATURDAY

David gathered together about 30,000 fighting men and went to Baal-Judah, where the Ark of the Covenant was being kept at the home of Abinadab. They placed the Ark on a new cart, and Abinadab's sons, Uzzah and Ahio, walked along side it. At the same time, David and others were celebrating the return of the Ark, playing on various musical instruments.

#### **READ: II Samuel 6:1-5**

David doesn't need 3000 men to lift the Ark, or even protect it; he took them to honor it and to celebrate its return. Because we love the Lord, in some ways we just want to honor him a little more. That's one reason we "dress up" for church. Or donate new pew Bibles. Or spend hours with the flower arrangements. Or cut the grass. Or pick up a piece of trash on the carpet in the auditorium. Or wax the floor in the church. To honor our God.

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