

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Dec.25

MONDAY

Fighting the Philistines again, David grows weary in the battle. Ishbi-Benob, a giant of a man, sees his chance and attacks him. But Abishai steps in and fights him off. After that, David's men insist that he stay away from danger.

READ: II Samuel 21:15-17

We read that Ishbi-Benob had a new sword. The Hebrew text literally says "armed with a new thing." Maybe a sword? But definitely something new. There are always new attacks upon the Word of God and upon our faith. New discoveries, new ammunition which the enemy uses. Don't be intimidated by it. In the end, it will fall as Ishbi-Benob fell. And the Old Book and the Old Faith will stand! By the way, that's a great hymn in our hymnbooks (p.174) you will enjoy reading through. *This glorious triumph over death's dark fears is the world's best gift in an age of countless fears!* Come on, sing it out!

TUESDAY

Rapha, a Philistine, had impressive genes! He had at least four gigantic children, including Ishbi-Benoth, already killed. Another one had six fingers and toes, as well! (how hard would he be to pick out in a police line-up?) All four of these men are killed by David's men.

READ: II Samuel 21:18-22

Do you remember when the twelve spies first went into the Promised Land? They reported seeing giants! The people decided not to enter the land because of that - thinking, "What chance do we have fighting giants?" Today's passage answers that: if they would only trust God, even giants will fall before them! You see how this relates to us, right?

WEDNESDAY

The defeat of the four giants prompts David to write a song of triumph. This is later included in the Psalms as *Psalms 18*. He declares, in numerous ways, God's care and protection. Notice all the metaphors David uses!

READ: II Samuel 22:1-4

Alright, pick a favorite metaphor for Jesus. Is it maybe a Rock? A fortress? A deliverer? A shield? The horn of my salvation? A stronghold? A refuge? God is all this and more to those who trust Him! Let us call upon the Lord this very day to deliver us. "Lord, deliver me from evil. Keep me from it! Keep me from admiring it! Keep me from playing

around with it! Keep me from falling prey to it!"

THURSDAY

As he considers all the battles God has fought (and won!) for him, including the most recent ones over the four sons of the giant, David continues his song of triumph. He writes of his certainty that God hears him in his time of distress.

READ: II Samuel 22:5-7

When we, in distress and despair, cry unto the Lord, He hears us! What could be better than that? My cry reaches His ears, and He hears me! Why should we ever hold back? What keeps us from crying out to Him in times of trouble? Let us trust Him fully with the distresses of life today!

FRIDAY

David describes God coming down from Glory to earth on David's behalf in forceful language. It's a very similar picture of what happened at Mt. Sinai when the Law was given.

READ: II Samuel 22:8-12

Astounding description, isn't it! God rides on the wings of a cherubim (an angel) and soars through the heavens - now get this - on my behalf and yours! Picture that the next time you cry out to God for help. Here He comes! Mounted upon a holy angel and riding to your rescue! He's your deliverer in whom you may trust and not be afraid!

SATURDAY

The Lord comes to deliver David and He does so with the same power and same authority that lightning strikes and thunder booms. There's nothing half-hearted about it!

READ: II Samuel 22:13-16

David writes in verse 16, "at the rebuke of the Lord, the thunder crashed, the oceans were emptied, and the foundations of the earth were made visible." What a great God we have! He will move Heaven and earth to deliver us from trouble! He will be save us and keep us this very day! His brightness will embrace us! He is our God and we are His people!

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