

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER I Pursuing God's Purposes II

WEDNESDAY, January 1

Scripture: Joel 2:1-2

Pursuing God's purposes often demands a leap of faith as the spiritual curtains are opened and we peek at a comprehensive prophetic panorama of end time promise. Joel 2 outlines both a short-term physical and long-term spiritual fulfillment. From beginning to end it speaks of God's impending judgment and a great end time harvest. The first two verses foretell a great army invading Judah and reducing the nation to captivity with the promise many generations would pass before God raised another army like it. The solid implication is the second appearance of such an army will be spiritual. Just as there was a physical fulfillment to physical Israel, we see the last part of verse 2 alluding to spiritual fulfillment to spiritual Israel. Taking our place in that army requires a great deal of discernment as we embrace the vision and pay the preparational price of fulfillment. God's current spiritual army (the Church) often looks bruised, blasted, battered and bombed. In some instances the Church appears as if it had just finished a 15 round fight with a 1000 lb gorilla, down for the count, but we must remember this is part of God's boot camp for the end of the age. I trust there is a graduation in our future and the best years are yet ahead.

THURSDAY, January 2

Scripture: Joel 2:3

I remember the Marine boot camp I endured with its O-course, Sea course and "Dilbert Dunker" simulating a cold carrier "cat-shot" where you crash and flip over in the water requiring you to escape from a cockpit while strapped in upside down under water. Then you practice drown-proofing and swim a mile in a flight suit. Each phase presented such a challenge that each event washed candidates out. I wondered if I would make it through. Is it possible to wash out of God's boot camp or ring the bell signaling surrender in spiritual seal training? Joel 2:3 says, "A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; surely nothing shall escape them." Verse 3 reminds us why boot camp is a necessary prerequisite for specialized training. Mental toughness developed in boot camp is usually essential for the next phase of training. For me in the military, it was Nuclear Weapons Delivery School. The training was so good that if our pilots were suddenly decimated and our nation needed the old-timers, I could fly such a military mission without reservation. It would actually be a privilege. Shouldn't God's boot camp produce the same resolve? In Acts 3:21, we are told all things spoken by all prophets shall be fulfilled. Nothing escapes this army God equips. We have to understand circumstance and situation have an ultimate purpose. Our ability and our condition will be **shaped by God's grace** poured out empowering us to stand in the full measure of what Father promised. The one thing you can say about this army is whatever they envision they reach out to possess. What is the source of this resolve?

The answer has to be “boot camp.” They intend nothing God has promised going unfulfilled in the scope of their life and influence on the succeeding generations. Can we be such people? Will we graduate?

FRIDAY, January 3

Scripture: Revelation 11:15

The army we see in Joel is so strong they get to help accomplish promises in Revelation like 11:15: “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” We could probably spend days just enumerating the kingdoms of this world that have taken a stand against God: The United States judicial kingdom legislates unthinkable horrors demanding divine judgment, educational elite have poisoned generations of youth with Secular Humanism, there are sections of government equally bound and even our political parties have taken stands against God. Many believe the Church should retreat from trying to influence politics and other segments of society. The Word says, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” That does not sound like a retreat. It is a call to war and involvement. Let the faint of heart return to their houses. But let the army stand up and finish boot camp!

SATURDAY, January 4

Scripture: Revelation 14:14-15

Revelation 14 verses 14 and 15 are very descriptive of a current spiritual reality. We see in verse 14 “...One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle” sitting on a cloud and waiting. This represents the Church as a reaping machine being assembled under the head. It seems that Jesus has certainly been sharpening His sickle while forcing an answer to the question - how much are we really in His hand. How many refreshings with all of their respective unusual manifestations are needed to sharpen us to acceptance without criticism, judgment and revolt? Are we willing to fully put ourselves in God’s hands? Unusual revival brings foundational character issues to the forefront. Verse 15 points us to the sovereign issue of waiting for the timing of God as announced by the angel who comes directly from the Throne Room. The word “time” in verse 15 is the Greek word **ho-rah**. This word is used of a specific hour or an appointed time. There is a special season for this harvest to begin. Are we in the Lord’s hand? Are we yielding to God’s sharpening process for our sickle? Are we finishing boot camp?

SUNDAY, January 5

Scripture: Revelation 14:17-20

This passage outlines two distinctively different reapings. In the second, an angel is holding the sickle versus “...One like the Son of Man,” in the first. Another angel has to come, as in the first harvest, and release the word. The harvester and disposition of the harvest are completely different. The second harvest is thrown “...into the great winepress of the wrath of God.” Verse 20 most probably speaks of the great end time judgment and war of Armageddon. It should be encouraging for us to realize the Lord is preparing a generation to be the sickle in His hand for a salvation harvest. Many are saying, “Get ready, Jesus can come any time and take the Church up...” but what about the Psalm 2 harvest Jesus died for? All we need to do is open our eyes and realize harvest time is beginning and finishing boot camp is essential! “Ask of Me, and I shall give the heathen for thine inheritance” – must be fulfilled!

MONDAY, January 6

Scripture: Acts 3:19-21

Acts 3:19-21 is one of the most encouraging passages in the New Testament. It is encouraging because it tells us the doorway into refreshing comes through repentance. Secondly, it tells us Jesus is coming *to* the Church before He comes *for* it. Thirdly, it reveals Jesus personally supervises and guarantees the "...restoration of all things spoken by all the prophets." This is our personal guarantee there is not one prophecy that will not be fulfilled. The chief issue is *when* and in *what generation*? We stand in a season when Jesus is visiting to empower the Church to fulfill His purposes. Many of us need resurrection, reconstruction and restoration. One fact finding issue escaped most of us - when we embrace prophetic promises, and believe for manifestation, we also must endure the preparational price of warfare bearing the brunt of the one who resists the purposes of God. This realization brings us to focus on the preparational price and how it helps us fulfill God's perfect plan which often extends way beyond our expectation. How much of what you expected 10 or 20 years ago is yet to manifest? Perseverance and patience are two twins that must be birthed to achieve Christian character.

TUESDAY, January 7

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-2

Isaiah 60:1-2 says, "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you." In the light of Acts 3:19-21, we need to ask ourselves, has Isaiah's prophecy in verses 1-2 been fulfilled? We know these are prophetic verses which deal with spiritual Israel. Ephesians tells us God made of Jew and Gentile "...one new man." We are coming into the season where greater and greater darkness eclipses people. God is beginning to rise upon His people and we see measures of encouragement, but certainly not of the magnitude that we should expect from what is promised. The joyous part is Jesus personally guarantees He will come to supervise fulfillment.

WEDNESDAY, January 8

Scripture: Isaiah 60:3-5

We need to ask ourselves, in the light of Acts 3:19-21, if Isaiah 60:3-5 have come to pass? Are the kings coming to the Church? Are the rulers of nations coming to the Church for wisdom, because of the magnitude of what God is doing among us? Verse 4 says, "They all gather together, they come to you...." Are all the leaders of nations coming to us? Has verse 5 been fulfilled? Has the abundance of the seas, the wealth of unbelievers, come to the Church? If these things have not yet transpired, we know Jesus will come to empower us until the promises are fully manifested. He cannot return at the end of the age until *all* prophecies have been fulfilled. It is easier for heaven and earth to pass than one promise to fail.

THURSDAY, January 9

Scripture: Isaiah 61:4-7

We need to ask ourselves, as we contemplate God's sharpening us into a sickle for His own hand, if the fulfillment of verses 4-7 have come? Can we look around our nation and see ruins and desolations which former generations did not know? I was in high school English class when John F Kennedy was assassinated. Our teacher prayed just as she started every class with prayer. Desolation is everywhere. On the legal landscape: pornography use to be illegal, homosexuality and lesbianism use to be illegal. Are we eating the riches of the unbelievers? Have we seen double honor? Have we possessed the double anointing? I fully expect to see the prophetic promises of Isaiah 61 in manifestation throughout the Church. We need to extend the full measure of our faith, expectancy, and intercession for the realization of prophetic promises. I expect to

see Jesus working with us to fulfill that which was prophesied. Can we restore the desolations of many generations? The prophets saw it – do we see it?

FRIDAY, January 10

Scripture: Isaiah 45:1-7

One of the chief issues that arise in embracing prophetic promises is the surety or weight we ascribe to the fulfillment of what they uttered. We must ask ourselves how trustworthy is Isaiah? We certainly know in chapter 53 that he perfectly described Jesus the Savior and in chapter 45 he prophesied a king would arise named Cyrus who would conquer the nation of Babylon and God would use him to rebuild Jerusalem. What is unique about what God says in this passage is that He will do this through an unbelieving king. Isaiah names Cyrus and identifies what he will do before his birth. Historical records indicate that Cyrus overthrew Babylon in 539 B.C. and freed the Jews from their exile so they could return to their land. Once we look at Isaiah's time of ministry, which began near the end of Uzziah's reign from 790 to 739 B.C. and continued through the reigns of Jotham 739-731, Ahaz 731-715, and Hezekiah 715-686, we realize that his ministry was a 150 years prior to the event prophesied. Assyria ended the freedom of the Northern Kingdom as the reigning power. Isaiah said Judah would go into captivity through Babylon – not Assyria. A number of the things Isaiah prophesied were indeed remarkable. To speak the specific name of an individual who would become king, conquer a nation not yet risen to power, and release the Jews 100-150 years before that man was ever born speaks volumes about the accuracy of the prophet. If Isaiah said a season was coming where we would restore the desolations of many generations – we can bank on it – it's out there somewhere!

SATURDAY, January 11

Scripture: Jeremiah 25:11-13 and Daniel 9:1-4

The first question is how much weight do we ascribe to what the Holy Spirit is illuminating? The next question we have to ask is, what do we do once we sense God is leading us to embrace a season of ordained prophesied restoration? A picture of that is in the book of Daniel. Daniel found himself in such a season. Jeremiah prophesied the number of years Judah would be in captivity in Babylon. Daniel had been one of the young princes who was taken to Babylon during the defeat of Jerusalem. Jeremiah had already prophesied this would take place and outlined the exact number of years. Jeremiah even told what God would do to the nation of Babylon for its treatment of the Jews. History records Jeremiah was absolutely accurate! Daniel set his face to seek God and to pray concerning the restoration of his nation. Daniel 9:2 says, "in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD, given through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." Daniel began the process of restoring the desolations of many generations. He had to do it from captivity. With a new covenant based on better promises we would expect God to give us the ability to possibly do it before our nation goes into captivity. In verse 4 Daniel establishes a pattern, "And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, 'O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,...'" Daniel began to confess the sin of the previous generations that brought them into captivity. Secondly, he began to proclaim and declare God's covenant of sure mercy for the people and the land. God, through Isaiah, offered that covenant of sure mercy to all who would come. Daniel apparently saw it and began to proclaim it in prayer for restoration. The rest is history. Cyrus defeated Babylon and returned the Jews to their home. The pattern is clear. The question is are we willing to step out and trust God for an anointing that will restore the desolations before our nation goes into further judgment and potential captivity? The time is at hand for the Church to really be the CHURCH!

SUNDAY, January 12

Scripture: First Peter 4:17; Acts 13:18

Daniel discerned the times and seasons through prayer and acted accordingly to remove judgment from his nation. What are we removing? First Peter 4:17 is an example of Acts 3:19-21 in fulfillment in our generation. The word “times” in Acts 3:19 is the word **kairos**, just like it appears in First Peter 4 when **kairos** refers to judgment. But in Acts 13:18 we see that Moses led Israel for a **chronoi**, a set period of about forty years. We are now in the third **chronoi** of the restoration of the Holy Spirit. As we start our third leadership generation totally dedicated to restoration, we also begin a whole new number of distinctive **kairos** thumbprint moves of God. It seems the Lord is preparing our nation for great revival. Judgment has been transitioning from the Church to the world. For many years there has been an idol in America under the heading of sports, and yet the devastation in the last few years to hit major sports figures has been incredible. One media outlet does a segment entitled “The Athlete arrest” of the day. One of the greatest heavyweight champions of all time has been in and out of jail and is generally considered a joke. One of the greatest hitters of all time was banned from baseball for gambling. Who can forget championship games ending with emerging stars giving all the credit to Jesus as Lord and Savior. There is a noticeable transition at work where sincere Christians are being elevated over their worldly peers! What would happen if God were to do this politically and financially?

MONDAY, January 13

Scripture: James 5:1-7; Exodus 12:36

The “anointing to spoil” is a principle judgment spoken of by Isaiah, James and first appearing in Exodus. The first manifestation in Exodus is a dramatic national judgment. James prophesied this for the latter times. How much perseverance would it take if we were called to this financial transfer to wait in preparation while God transitions His focus from cleansing the Church to judging the world? This prophetic promise of a supernatural financial transfer has been emphasized by the Holy Spirit for several decades, and yet, those who are called are still waiting to see the manifestation of what God has promised. Perseverance and patience are required when we embrace the prophetic promises of God and seek to walk out their fulfillment as the Lord individually illumines. A great price to fulfill prophecy comes out of our lives as we persevere day by day, week by week, and month by month in developing godly character as a platform for imparted charisma.

TUESDAY, January 14

Scripture: Genesis 15:13-14

God told Abraham the nation he fathered would be in bondage for four hundred years. But there would come a time when He would bring them out with a mighty hand, with great grace and deliverance. How would you embrace a generational call demanding a lifetime of bondage? God prophetically ordained and appointed a season of dramatic fulfillment that was 400 years away. He must develop a people who walk steadfast in their expectation, passing that quality dedication to the next generation, whether or not they ever see it in their lifetime. These are the people who walk as foreigners and strangers in the earth, “looking for a city whose builder and maker is God”, realizing like Abraham their true home is eternity. This is where pure faith is lived out on a daily, monthly and yearly basis. God has had such people throughout time. The greatest faith of all is demonstrated when we are forced to use it on our flesh to obey God. We have to choose to be such people now!

WEDNESDAY, January 15

Scripture: Isaiah 60:5; 61:6-7; James 5:1-8; Ephesians 6:18

Ephesians 6:18 tells us “...with all perseverance...” we are to pray and intercede. How long would we be willing to wait to see the financial transfer prophesied in Isaiah 60:5, or to see the restoration of our educational system; which now qualifies as the desolation of many generations? How long will we pursue the double anointing prophesied in Isaiah 61:7? How long are we willing to persevere, to see what James promised in chapter 5:1-8? God has ordained dramatic and exciting end time fulfillments. We need to answer the question: “Are we in this with God as long as it is convenient, or are we in it to the end regardless of personal cost?” Perhaps if we make such a commitment, God will speed up the time frame of fulfillment.

THURSDAY, January 16

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-9

One of the most dramatic prophetic promises of all time resides in Psalm 2. The fulfillment of Psalm 2:8 is worth waiting for in any generation. It says, “Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.” Jesus, because He paid the price to establish the New Covenant, is promised the fruit of His death, burial and resurrection in verses 8-9. The Father wants a harvest of nations and the Son has paid the price to possess it. He is the head and we are the body. We are His hand and sickle being sharpened for a great harvest. Are we willing to pay the price in perseverance to qualify for the cutting edge of that sickle?

FRIDAY, January 17

Scripture: Joel 2:3

Can we not see how Psalm 2 fits into the prophetic picture of Joel 2:3 which says, “A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.” This describes the success of the sickle. Just as an efficient sickle cuts everything, so does fire consume everything in its path. “A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns....” These are fire-tested and “fire baptized” people. Through fire they become agents of harvest. Has the fire around your life increased in the last few years? Is it not because the sharpening of God is upon us to become an efficient sickle for an appointed season?

SATURDAY, January 18

Scripture: First Corinthians 2:11-15

Why in the world do we have to be a fire-tested people? What in the sharpening process of God does fire do to make us a better sickle? First Corinthians 3 states that *fire reveals the heart*. Verse 13 says, “each one’s work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.” God’s fire reveals the heart. It reveals commitment. It reveals our willingness to persevere until the prophetic promise is fulfilled. Has the fire of circumstance and situation revealed hearts in the last few years? It has - and - still is. The fire of adversity is a major part of the preparational process.

SUNDAY, January 19

Scripture: Psalm 66:10-12

Throughout Scripture, God tells us continually His preparational process is one which is matured and completed through adversity. Psalm 66:10-12 says it well when it states, “For You, O God, have proved us; You have refined us as silver is refined. You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs, You

have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.” In the old days, when they wanted to temper or strengthen a tool, they would fire it and then cool it in water, fire it and cool it in water. It speaks of a transforming process by which we are shaped and sharpened to hold an edge. The tempering process of God strengthens us like steel. Are we not a people who have been fired, water-cooled and sharpened continually? Some of us are so sharp, we cut on each other, but we need to stay in the Master’s hand ready to cut when He thrusts in the sickle.

MONDAY, January 20

Scripture: Joel 2:4-5

This army God is preparing recognizes their purpose is power, not pleasure. They have submitted to the training and progressive grinding by which God establishes character in His people. They have yielded and now are ready to move with Him. They are set in battle array. They are in the war to win, fire-tested, ready for battle - regardless of the cost! By grace, they tasted divine **doo-nam-is**, were challenged to receive **ex-oo-sia**, forced to pursue **is-khoo-o** and died waiting for **krat-os**. God wants to pour His dominion through His people, but we must submit to the process because it yields the fruit of resurrection!

TUESDAY, January 21

Scripture: Joel 2:6

Joel 2:6 gives us a promise for this army that we really need to see. It says, “Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color.” We know that Joel 2:6 is not here yet. We don’t see the government writhing in pain because the Church is rising. We don’t see Senators and Representatives, who espouse abortion, writhing in pain because the Church has risen under the authority of God and judgment is flowing. We don’t see the Supreme Court writhing in pain over some of their decisions. We see very few people whose faces are drained of color because the Church is moving in the full measure of God’s glory bringing the accountability of the Holy Spirit. The fear of the Lord has not returned to our country. Samuel experienced it. We, like Samuel, have the promise. Is it worth persevering until we see it in manifestation? Our generation wants Samuel’s anointing without Hannah’s **ag-onia**! When the cup is full, the anointing will come and city leaders will call to see if “we are coming in peace.” (For explanation of “full cup” read Marked Men)

WEDNESDAY, January 22

Scripture: Joel 2:7

The promise for this army is that we will all march in formation and we will not break ranks. We’ll find our place and stay in it - even when there is pressure to move about in other directions and dimensions. The movie “King David” gives a real glimpse of the prophetic spirit, because at the very beginning we find King Agag, who God had told Saul to destroy, standing there, still alive, in glaring disobedience when the prophet Samuel appears. Samuel says, “What is this? Why have you not obeyed the Lord?” After this exchange, Samuel takes a sword and swings it. As you hear a thud, the scene changes to a head rolling across the floor. The impact is awesome. Is this what it means to be a prophet? Does true obedience require such drama? The issue is not so much the beheading as it is the *spirit of obedience to the purpose of God*. Where is the zeal of the Lord in our generation to confront our ungodly politicians and political pimps masquerading as preachers. It certainly is something God wants to birth! Will we ever qualify?

THURSDAY, January 23

Joel 2:8

Joel 2:8 states, “They do not push one another; everyone marches in his own column.” In John 13, Jesus had to take a towel and demonstrate this truth for the twelve to get it. Fear of loss or usurpation causes us to plot, plan, scheme or protect what we have, instead of giving it away to all who have hearing ears. In our eagerness to package, promote and profit from divine revelation or anointing we have lost the simplicity of not “pushing” and consistently attempt to ever expand our influence breaking out of our God-assigned columns. True peace is a product of not “pushing” and accepting our assignment however humble. Great destruction usually follows attaining something God has not given. This principle hasn’t changed since Adam and Eve.

FRIDAY, January 24

Scripture: Joel 2:8

Joel 2:8 says, “They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. And when they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down” or they are not **baw-tsah**, meaning to break off, finish, stop, or halted by losses. It is a word that means a temporary set-back, or a devastation which causes all activity to cease. When we find ourselves in such a place, what should we do? I had been ministering the anointing to spoil, laying hands on businessmen, doing what God told me to do and planting that anointing for two years when I found myself in a warfare that brought the Business Seminars to a halt. The warfare was so intense, I didn’t do one for five years. The issue was a debilitating juvenile disease, an attack on one of our kids that was just as devastating then as it is today. Groaning too deep for words can be a Holy Spirit impartation or the product of unanswered prayer. Pain beyond description brought a dimension where the well of tears ran dry. I know how it feels to be halted by losses! In that place, God can push you on in ways you can’t explain. Heartache and complaint eclipse faith. Reduced to seeming failure, true compassion is born. Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he said, “So then death is working in us, but life in you.”

SATURDAY, January 25

Scripture: Joel 2:8

The fact that this army does not push one another means competition has pretty much been eliminated. The assignment of death is quite effective. The primary way God deals with competition and self promotion is through His personalized plan of crucifixion. This manifests when dreams are frustrated, visions fade, the glitter and glamour of position turn empty, and nothing seems to work as advertised. God’s crucifixion can be seen in the life of Joseph who had all the promises for reigning, but all preparation was in the pit. God’s plan apparently hasn’t changed. This army doesn’t push one another. They march in their own column, “And when they lunge between the weapons” they are not halted because of losses. Losses remove *us* (all personal ambition) from the equation.

SUNDAY, January 26

Scripture: First Samuel 30:1-8; Joel 2:8

In First Samuel 30:1-8 we find David halted by losses at Ziklag where they lost their wives, children and all worldly possessions. Everything was taken. Joel 2:8 speaks dramatically about the mind-set of the army. Many in David’s army did not have the attitude described in Joel 2:8. They spoke of stoning David. David was distressed, but “...strengthened himself in the Lord his God,” and rather than acting out of anger, sought the Lord about what His plan was in the situation. Verse 8 says, “So David inquired of the Lord, saying, ‘Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?’ And He answered him ‘Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.’” David was temporarily halted by losses, but in seeking God was encouraged to go forward and possess what had been taken. How many of us right now are on the sidelines

over issues for which we once believed God? How many of us have been halted by losses? Our situation, as hopeless as it may seem, didn't take God by surprise.

MONDAY, January 27

Scripture: First Samuel 30:9-10

Verses 9-10 say, "So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind. But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so weary that they could not cross the Brook Besor." Besor has a unique meaning in Hebrew. It means "to be full" or in the context "to have a cup of adversity that is so full you cannot continue. One third of the army had to stop at Besor because their cup of adversity was full. We need to understand the magnitude of the warfare over our generation. Oftentimes friends, church family or co-workers reach a point where their personal Besor is in manifestation. The cup is so full they cannot continue. What do we do when Besor arises in our midst? What is the divine response when adversity fills a cup so full a friend cannot continue pursuing the goal? David wasn't mad at Besor. He understood where the people were and it was quite all right if they stayed in survival mode. We need to take lessons from David as a commander of an army in how to deal with our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and mostly to recognize the issues of a personal Besor. God didn't condemn and we should not either.

TUESDAY, January 28

Scripture: First Samuel 30:11-20

Because David was a man of obedience, he didn't criticize those who had to stop at Besor. Because he recognized there were different levels of God's grace operational in the lives of people, God gave him a full measure of victory. Perseverance qualified him to recover not only what was lost but to spoil the army of every thing they had taken in all the other cities before they came to Ziklag. What David sees in manifestation here is a perfect example of Proverbs 13:22 which says, "...But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous." Job said it this way in chapter 27 "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, And the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty:...Though he heaps up silver like dust, And piles up clothing like clay -- He may pile it up, but the just will wear it, And the innocent will divide the silver." Perseverance brought David to a full measure of recovery and the abundance he had been hoping for in every area.

WEDNESDAY, January 29

Scripture: First Samuel 30:21-25

Following David's great victory, he had an opportunity to deal with a personal giant in his own life. He had to face one of the sons of Anak as it rose up in his men. They wanted to hoard what they had taken as they went back to Besor. They recovered their wives, their children, and all their goods, but many of them only want to give back the wives and children. David had to stand and speak and decree what was right before God. David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the Lord has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us...But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike." David recognized the people who stayed by the supplies had gone as far as the grace they received from the Lord would take them. Consequently, because they had gone as far as they could go, they deserved to be blessed in the victory. What is our attitude toward people who go as far as they can go? Can we discern the different levels of grace that God pours out on people, and can we bless them even though they stopped along the way?

THURSDAY, January 30

Scripture: First Samuel 30:26-31

The great thing about David is his heart. He recognizes God is the One Who gave the victory! God is the One Who gave them the spoil of their enemies. So David went to all the places where he and his men had frequented, and they shared the spoil which God gave. Perseverance brought great victory, but it wasn't a victory to be consumed on themselves. David displayed the heart God wants to put in every generation. Not only the heart of a warrior who will obey when he does not feel like it, but one who will share in all the places, "...where they were accustomed to rove." Can we be just like David? God may give us the opportunity!

FRIDAY, January 31

Scripture: First Samuel 31; Second Samuel 2:1,3

When David proved himself at Ziklag, it marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. David had been running from Saul for a number of years. In First Samuel 31 Saul died, and David's running from cave to cave ceased. For seven years and six months David reigned over the house of Judah, then all Israel was reunited to make him king. Ziklag marked the transition to the fulfillment God had spoken to him in the beginning. He transitioned from "running" to "reigning". Ziklag was very important. It means the place of great uncertainty, enveloped in grief, the wilderness, to be pressed down, or a place of great winding and bending. Ziklag was the place where they were spoiled, but it turned out to be God's opportunity for spoiling the enemy. Because David used faith on his flesh to obey, he stood in the call and brought his army, including those left behind, to the full measure of victory God ordained. Are we not in such a season? Rather than being discouraged by those who have reached their personal Besor, is it not time to stand up in the full measure of what God has ordained for us and begin to move toward fulfillment with all of our heart, mind, and being? David lived many years in the fruit of his perseverance. The transition was nearly complete, his days of running were over and he earned the right to reign.

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