

Jeremiah 31:3 (HCSB)

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you."

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV)

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith."

Blessings from the Battlefield

1 Kings 20

1 Kings 20:21-29

And the king of Israel went out and struck the horses and chariots, and struck the Syrians with a great blow. Then the prophet came near to the king of Israel and said to him, "Come, strengthen yourself, and consider well what you have to do, for in the spring the king of Syria will come up against you." And the servants of the king of Syria said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills, and so they were stronger than we. But let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they. And do this: remove the kings, each from his post, and put commanders in their places, and muster an army like the army that you have lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot. Then we will fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they." And he listened to their voice and did so. In the spring, Ben-hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. And the people of Israel were mustered and were provisioned and went against them. The people of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, but the Syrians filled the country. And a man of God came near and said to the king of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because the Syrians have said, "The LORD is a god of the hills but he is not a god of the valleys," therefore I will give all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'" And they encamped opposite one another seven days. Then on the seventh day the battle was joined. And the people of Israel struck down of the Syrians 100,000 foot soldiers in one day.

Four Lessons we must Learn:

I. Bad Theology leads to Bad decisions

Our Own Wrong Assumptions:

- When we think God Loves us more than others.
- When we think God Loves others more than us.
- When we think God overlooks our sin.
- When we think God gives us only Blessings and never Burdens.

Psalms 71:20

You caused me to experience many troubles and misfortunes, but You will revive me again. You will bring me up again, even from the depths of the earth.

II. Little is much when God is in it.

Verse 27 - "And the people of Israel were mustered and were provisioned and went against them. The people of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, but the Syrians filled the country."

III. God is always bigger than we think.

Verse 28 - "And a man of God came near and said to the king of Israel, 'Thus says the LORD, 'Because the Syrians have said, 'The LORD is a god of the hills but he is not a god of the valleys,' therefore I will give all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (NIV)

We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

*O what a happy soul am I! Although I cannot see, I am resolved that in this world; Contented I will be;
How many blessings I enjoy; That other people don't! To weep and sigh because I'm blind;
I cannot, and I won't.
(Fanny Crosby, Age 8)*

IV. Every victory is God's good gift of Grace.

Verse 28-29 "'...therefore I will give all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.' And they encamped opposite one another seven days. Then on the seventh day the battle was joined. And the people of Israel struck down of the Syrians 100,000 foot soldiers in one day."

1 Corinthians 15:56-58

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.