

Ziklag

Sunday, June 11, 2006

BBC (British Broadcasting Corp.) – worldwide – Lk. 17:28–30.
Heretic Graham – whose mouth must be stopped – Tit. 1:9–11.

“Shall I pursue after this troop?”
“We have a great High Priest.”

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Heb. 4:14–16. Two Persons of the Godhead are continuously praying for us – Rom. 8:26–27 and 34.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6–7. Filling up that which is behind of Christ’s afflictions (Col. 1:24); rejoice! partakers of Christ’s sufferings. (2 Pet. 4:13).

“They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever. For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.” Psa. 125:1–3.

“Our fathers trusted in thee; they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered; they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.” Psa. 22:4–5.

“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.,,The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way.” Psa. 37:5 & 23.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Prov. 3:5–6.

Lessons from Ziklag.

David was compelled to flee for his life to live among and make common cause with the despised Philistines – because the government was Hell-bent to kill him, and the circumstances he faced then and there on the ground seemed to him to afford him no other refuge: “And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul; there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel; so shall I escape out of his hand.” 1 Sam. 27:1.

Achish, Philistine King of Gath – strangely – befriended David and his 600 men with families, and gave them a city – Ziklag – as a permanent dwelling place. So cleverly did David deceive Achish into believing his loyalties were now with the Philistines and his break with Israel was complete and final. “And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant forever.” 1 Sam. 27:12. “And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.” 1 Sam. 28:2.

The predicament David found himself in was desperate. “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope...Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.” Rom. 15:4 & 13.

The sudden, peculiar hostility of the Philistine war lords – after David had proven himself over and over for “a full year and four months” (1 Sam.27:7) – saved David from a full scale bloody war against Israel AND, in the aftermath, saved David from a devastating defeat at the hands of the Amalekites who in David’s absence sacked Ziklag and made off with the families of his 600 men. “And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day – (many days or weeks earlier than if he had gone into the Philistines’ military campaign against Israel) – that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire...And David enquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop?” 1 Sam. 30:1-8.