

## Where Will You Stand? – 1 Chronicles 11:12-14

### I. INTRODUCTION – Read 1 Chr. 11:10-14

#### A. *Lexington*

1. In less than a month, we'll celebrate Independence Day.
2. Before the Revolution, Americans were British citizens.
  - a. But King George & Parliament had stripped them of many of their rights & freedoms.
  - b. Most Americans thought they'd been reduced to tyranny.
4. After years of attempting to work with Britain through legal means, Americans saw only one way to restore their God-given rights – & that was to throw off the shackles of tyranny.
5. Patrick Henry expressed the thoughts of many when in a speech to the Virginia House of Burgesses he said,

There is no longer room for hope. If we wish to be free, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us!

They tell me that we are weak, but shall we gather strength by [indecision]? We are not weak. Three million people, armed in the holy cause of liberty and in such a country, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations, and will raise up friends for us. The battle is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave.

Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

6. One month later, 70 some militia men lined up at the center of Lexington in Massachusetts.
  - a. They'd been alerted by riders that a force of British were on their way to nearby Concord to confiscate military supplies from the American militia there.
  - b. So they lined up on the Lexington Green to stop them.
    - 1) Their captain was John Parker a veteran of the French & Indian War.
    - 2) He said, "Stand your ground! Don't fire unless fired upon. But if they mean to have a war, let it begin here!"
  - c. When the Redcoats finally came into view, they were way more than expected.
  - d. 700 in all, with many battle-hardened veterans, Captain Parker knew his men had no chance & ordered his men to disperse.
  - e. But some of the younger British troops broke ranks & rushed onto the Green.
    - 1) They were tired of the months of waiting for hostilities to begin.
    - 2) Outraged that a bunch of country bumpkins would dare to oppose them, they took aim at their retreating backs.
    - 3) Their commander, Major John Pitcairn ordered them not to fire, but some of the younger officers joined the men taking aim at the fleeing Minutemen.
    - 4) A pistol shot rang out, then another. The only pistols on the Green that day were carried by British officers.
    - 5) 3 or 4 rifles were fired as conflicting orders of "Fire!" & "Hold your Fire" were given.
    - 6) Then, in a momentary lull, an officer on horseback ordered the men to fire & swinging his sword over his head gave the command for a volley toward the Minutemen.
    - 7) By this time British veterans had taken their position on the Green. They let loose a massive volley. Miraculously, not a single American was hit!
    - 8) But the British volley halted their retreat. They formed a quick line & fired back.
    - 9) Seeing this, Major Pitcairn ordered the British to open fire. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> volley was better aimed & was followed by a bayonet charge.

10) 8 Minutemen were killed & 10 wounded. The rest scattered.

11) The British suffered only a single casualty.

7. The British continued on their way toward Concord but were stopped by a large force of American militia at the North Bridge where the Redcoats suffered heavy casualties.

8. They retreated all the way to Boston where the city was put under siege. The War had begun.

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9. It was at Lexington & Concord that the American people finally said “Enough!” to the long, slow erosion of their rights & freedoms.

10. Though vastly out-manned, out-trained, & out-gunned, they denied the oppressive hand of tyranny.

11. To some it seemed certain suicide to take on Britain, the world’s strongest military & navy.

12. But Patrick Henry said it well –

**We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations, and will raise up friends for us. The battle is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave.**

### **B. Today**

1. Today we’ll take a look at a similar story in the time of David.

2. It comes in the record of his *mighty men* in 1 Chronicles 11.

## **II. TEXT**

### **A. Set Up**

1. As soon as David was anointed & appointed by Samuel to be king, things began to fall into place.

2. But that’s not to say David’s rise to the throne was easy or effortless.

3. Nothing was easy at first. He had to depend on God *every step* of the way.

a. First in his contest with Goliath, then in dodging the jealous King Saul’s spears.

b. David spent years running for his life from Saul who hunted him across the length & breadth of Israel.

4. But as David went forward by faith, obstacles turned to opportunities.

5. His calling & ability to rule became increasingly clear, both to himself *& to others*.

6. People began allying with him.

7. In 1 Samuel 22 we’re told when David was hiding out in the cave of Adullam, those *in distress*, the *indebted* & the *discontented* rallied to him.

a. These men were misfits, ne’er do wells, also-rans, & failures.

b. Some of them, like David, had run afoul of King Saul & made David their captain.

c. For others, circumstances had conspired against them & they’d gotten so behind there was no way clear.

d. Others were just *fed up* & ready to *give up*. Throwing in their lot with David was a last ditch effort.

8. All these rallied to David because he was someone they could identify with. He’d had greater disappointment than they. He’d been treated more unfairly.

a. But he still trusted & served God. His faith inspired them. So they joined him & his cause.

b. David didn’t treat them like the misfits they’d come to believe they were.

c. He looked at them thru the eyes of what God’s power & grace could accomplish in them.

d. And that vision transformed them! They became the mighty men of valor David knew they really were.

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9. In this, David is a picture of Jesus.

a. Jesus is the anointed & appointed king who’s not yet taken His Earthly throne.

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- b. While we wait for Him to claim it, we who are *distressed* by the conviction of the Holy Spirit, realize our *spiritual debt*, & are *fed up* with the emptiness of life without God, we go to Him & pledge our loyalty to Him & His cause.
- c. Then by His grace & Spirit, He molds & shapes us into something *incredible*, something *marvelous*, something *glorious*!

10. We are Jesus' mighty men & women.

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11. There's one of David's mighty men I want you to see this morning.

12. We have something important to learn from his example.

### **B. Vs. 12-14**

1. David had a total of 37 mighty men. [2 Samuel 23:39]

2. But 3 were exceptional standouts.

- a. The 1<sup>st</sup> Jashobeam, is mentioned in v. 11.
- b. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was Shammah, who's not mentioned here but is in 2 Sam 23.
- c. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is found here in vs. 12-14.

**<sup>12</sup> After him [Jashobeam] was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men.**

3. In ancient Israel, they didn't have last names. You identified yourself by your given name & who you were the son or daughter of. Eleazar's whole name was *Eleazar ben Dodo*.

4. So can you imagine the ribbing this poor guy got? Eleazar the son of Dodo!

5. Maybe that's why he became such a good fighter.

6. Johnny Cash had a hit called *A Boy Named Sue*. It was about a low-life dad who gave his son a girl's name because he knew it would make him tough.

7. When *Eleazar ben Dodo* grew up, no one *dared* make fun of him!

8. He was from the tribe of Benjamin thru his son Ahoah.

**<sup>13</sup> He was with David at Pasdammim.**

9. Pasdammim means "Border of Blood."

- a. It was called this because though it was in Israelite land, it was close to their border with the Philistines who'd often battled for it.
- b. In fact, just a short way from there several years before, David had squared off with the Philistine champion Goliath.

10. The battle that followed Goliath's fall saw the Philistines *removed* from the area. But now they're back.

**Now there the Philistines were gathered for battle, and there was a piece of ground full of barley. So the people fled from the Philistines.**

11. A large raiding party had come to lay claim to this rich land.

12. The army of Israel under King Saul was off somewhere else & the Philistines thought this would be an easy victory.

13. When they arrived, the Israelites who lived there ran off.

**<sup>14</sup> But they [Eleazar & David] stationed themselves in the middle of that field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.**

14. Though everyone else ran away, David & Eleazar took a stand in the middle of a field, determined to keep it.

- a. They surely remembered the miraculous victory God had given David not far from there a few years before.
  - b. When he faced Goliath, the odds were even worse.
  - c. But the God Who gave David victory *that* day was the same God *this* day.
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15. Take note where they positioned themselves.
    - a. This wasn't a grape vineyard or an apple orchard.
    - b. It wasn't where golden heads of wheat grew. It was a field of *lowly barley*.
    - c. Barley was cheap & plentiful, used for animal feed & the coarsest bread & cereal.
  16. Yet that's where they took their stand because they stood for *principle*, not property.
  17. The land *belonged to Israel* & the Philistines were not to have an inch of it.
  18. When they attacked, David & Eleazar defeated them.
  19. The loss was so great, the Philistines left this area alone for years.
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### **C. Responding to the Attack**

1. In the same way the Philistines tried to take God-given territory away from the people of God, the devil tries to steal God-given *spiritual* territory away from believers.
2. Jesus called him the thief who comes to steal, kill, & destroy.
3. The question is – *how* will we respond to his attack?
  - a. Will we be like the cowards of Pasdammim who ran away?
  - b. Or like David & Eleazar who stood their ground?
4. Christian: Listen to me – if you're a follower of Christ, then you're at war!
  - a. There's no room for conscientious objectors & opting out of battle.
  - b. There are only victims & victors in spiritual warfare; there are no noncombatants, no refugees, no neutrality.
  - c. You can't negotiate a *compromise* with Satan; there are no truces.
  - d. He wants to see you bound in chains of addiction & sin that are so sick it isolates you from everyone & leaves you enjoying nothing.
  - e. Then he wants you to die a slow, painful death, *all alone*.
  - f. And he's at work night & day trying to get at you. Times of calm are only a tactic to distract you.
  - f. There's only one thing that keeps him at bay – God's protecting grace!
  - g. You see, God has a plan for you *too* –
    - a. A plan to bless you; to fill your life with purpose & joy,
    - b. To bring you love & truth that will set you free from anything that would get in the way of the glory you were created for.
5. Now that we're reconciled to God, there's *no* reconciling with the devil! **It's all out war.**
6. This is why in Ephesians 6 we read –  
**<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

### **D. 2 Ways to Apply It**

1. There are 2 important ways to apply the lesson of Pasdammim to our lives.
2. **First**, is the *personal* application of defending those areas of our lives God has already given us victory in.
  - a. God had returned that barley field to Israel in the battle that followed Goliath's fall.
  - b. Eventually, the Philistines returned to see if they could get it back.

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  - b. Christian, realize the spiritual victory you just won is going to be tested.
  - c. The enemy will come round again to see if he can lay claim to what he once controlled.

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- d. I want to share a personal story with you that illustrates this. When I was younger I had a habit of buying things I didn't really need & couldn't really afford. So I got into debt.
  - 1) I knew it was wrong but couldn't stop.
  - 2) Perplexed, I asked God to help & show me **why** I was compelled to buy stuff.
  - 3) Not long after, I realized the temptation to shop always came when I was feeling low.
  - 4) Buying myself something made me feel better for a while.
  - 5) As I thought back I realized that growing up, my dad showed his love by buying me toys.
  - 6) He worked a lot & wasn't around much. He never **said** he loved me – buying me stuff was his **way** of saying it.
  - 7) So when I got older, whenever I felt insecure or unlovely, I medicated the pain by buying something.
  - 8) Once I realized the root of the problem & that God loved me unconditionally, every moment of every day; the temptation to buy stuff diminished.
  - 9) God planted new grain in that field. I knew my Real Father was always loving me
  - 10) And I went several months without feeling the need to **buy comfort**.
  - 11) But you know what happened don't you? A day came that was filled with some especially difficult things & it left me feeling especially wretched.
  - 12) A Philistine-thought came – that I'd feel a whole lot better if I went out & got myself something nice.
  - 13) I started making plans, but the Holy Spirit reminded me of the truth of God's unchanging love & that buying something wouldn't meet my real need.
  - 14) So I resisted, I fought - & God gave the victory.
- e. Don't allow the devil the least foothold in your life.
- f. Stand guard over the spiritual territory God gives you. The enemy will be back to see if you're standing guard.

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3. The **Second** way we ought to apply this is in the same way David & Eleazar did – **on behalf of others**.

- a. That field of barley wasn't theirs; it belonged to others, their spiritual kin.
  - b. The **owners fled** but David & Eleazar understood that more was at stake than just barley –
  - c. The land belonged to Israel & all of the nation's safety & welfare were at stake.
  - d. David & Eleazar fought because it was the **right thing** to do.
  - e. The odds against them were overwhelming from the earthly perspective.
  - f. But they understood it wasn't **primarily** a **physical** fight, it was **spiritual**.
  - g. The battle in the field of Pasdammim was a shadow of the greater struggle going on in the heavenlies.
  - h. Since they knew God would prevail in **that** battle, **they** would prevail on Earth.
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- i. Satan not only attacks us on a **personal** level, he wages war **on the human race** on a global & national scale.
  - j. Some people are unknowing allies in his diabolical plans to steal, kill, & destroy.
  - k. He works through politics, economics, education, the media; he even works thru religion.
  - l. The point is, when we see him rallying his forces to launch an assault on some field that doesn't belong to him & ought not be under his control, what are we going to do?
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- m. Abortion was legalized in January 1973 because the Supreme Court removed **personhood** from the unborn.
    - 1) They said an unborn child is not a **person**; it's the **property** of the mother & her "right to privacy" means she can do with it as she wills.

- 2) The Supreme Court said the same thing about slaves in the Dred Scott case of 1856.
  - a) They said slaves weren't persons,
  - b) They were property.
- 3) They were wrong then & they were wrong in '73 about the unborn.
- 4) If the Court had ruled in *favor* of Scott instead of denying slaves personhood, how many lives might have been saved in the Civil War? [625,000 died in that war!]
- n. A little over 3 weeks ago, the California Supreme Court overturned Prop 22, where the people *affirmed* the traditional, Biblical definition of marriage as being exclusively between a man & woman.
  - 1) With a stroke of their judicial pen, the 4 judges who voted to allow same-sex marriage usurped God's right to define marriage! Since He created & ordains marriage, He alone possesses the authority to define it!
  - 2) These robed buffoons are Modern Philistines intruding on territory that doesn't belong to them.
  - 3) There comes a time in the cultural & moral war raging in our land when we have to ask ourselves when & where we'll take a stand.
  - 4) Others may flee in the face of the onslaught of godlessness, but I for one cannot!
  - 5) My sons are adults now & my daughter is well set on her course – I don't have to worry about them.
  - 6) It would be easy to remain quiet & go along with the tide of unrighteousness sweeping the land.
  - 7) But if I do that, if *we* do that – retreating into a mentality that says “Be quiet. Be nice. Don't make waves. Play church & hope for the Rapture to be soon” – what if . . .
  - 8) What if Jesus *doesn't* come back for a hundred years?
  - 9) What kind of a world will we have made for our grandchildren & great-grandchildren by our inaction?

### III. CONCLUSION

#### A. Matthias Burnett

1. Listen to the words of Matthias Burnett, Pastor of a Baptist Church in 1803.
2. This kind of sermon was common in that day; it was an *Election Sermon*; one offered on the Sunday before people went to the polls.
3. Christians understood their citizenship in terms of *stewardship*.
4. So their pastors reminded them of their duty as *Christian citizens*.

Consider well the important trust which God has put into your hands. To God and posterity you are accountable for your rights and your rulers. Let not your children have reason to curse you for giving up those rights and prostrating those institutions which your fathers delivered to you. Look well to the characters and qualifications of those you elect and raise to office and places of trust.

Think not that your interests will be safe in the hands of the weak and ignorant; or faithfully managed by the impious, the dissolute and the immoral. Think not that men who acknowledge not the providence of God nor regard His laws will be uncorrupt in office, firm in defense of the righteous cause against the oppressor, or resolutely oppose the torrent of iniquity. Watch over your liberties and privileges - civil and religious - with a careful eye.

#### B. Take A Stand

1. We live at a time when the Philistines are massing on the borders of our fields.
2. When & where will you take a stand?

3. Let me end with this – It was written by Pastor Martin Niemoller about the refusal of Germans to stand against Hitler & the Nazis.

When the Nazis came for the communists, I remained silent; I was not a communist.

When they locked up the social democrats, I remained silent; I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out; I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews, I remained silent; I wasn't a Jew.

When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.

4. It's time to speak out! It's time to take a stand for what's right & true.

5. [Call the governor]