



bloodline network newsletter

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“IN THE GAP”

The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath ...He stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us ... I defy the armies of Israel this day: give me a man that we may fight together.

1 SAMUEL 17

Opposition often marks the doorway to opportunity. It'll remold our lives by creating a breakthrough point that defines our character and further refines our purpose. Opportunity is the witness of WHO WE CAN BE in Christ!

We applaud David's self-confidence! He had the inner knowing "I can do this!" and did it—that made him courageous. What's even more extraordinary is that his experience was with a slingshot!

In David's testimony we uncover the SECRET to his success—he looked at situations as an OPPORTUNITY to do whatever he could to make things RIGHT! Because of his ability to sense what needed to be done and act upon it—David recognized an opportunity that transformed his life from shepherd boy to a mighty man of war!

= OPPOSITION SIGNALLED OPPORTUNITY

God drew a striking illustration for understanding the necessity of opposition. Using the palette of human emotions and fears, God contrasts the stark struggles between strengths and weaknesses. Similar mountains frame the silhouettes of competing armies, but one man seems drawn out of proportion—Goliath stands well above the height of any Philistine.

Yet in comparison, another man (if he ever came out of his tent) is also drawn above measure. Of King Saul it is written, *"there was not a more handsome person than he among*

the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people." Imagine the visual contrast of handsome King Saul against the fearsome Goliath.

With the backdrop of weakness and limitation contrasted by the stature and strength of its leaders, the armies of both sides array for battle—army against army. The champion Goliath challenged one man to fight for the fate of their nation. No one comes forward and when Goliath spoke again, "*the men of Israel fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.*" Goliath was a formidable opponent and there was not a man there that dared face him alone—as an entire army maybe, but never individually.

= **IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?**

Into the composition walks a young man whose purity and innocence significantly contrasted the men of war. The Creator's brush already balanced Saul and David by anointing them both as kings. But the ruling king felt inadequate to fight against Goliath. It was the young, privately anointed king that fearlessly overcame any obstacles because he had just cause, "*for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*"

Young David came up to the war camp to bring provisions for his brothers and witnessed the abominable threats of Goliath against the armies of Israel. His angry brothers tried to belittle David by calling him a youth boasting the courage of a seasoned soldier, yet not reliable enough to take care of a few sheep in the backyard.

Questioning David's motives actually emphasized the extraordinary weight that his character lends to the composition. The brothers scale a large army against a few sheep and pride and insolence against a daring boy.

Young David visited the camp by his father's request. He spoke out in righteous indignation only after hearing the defiant Goliath. He justifies his position for fighting Goliath saying, "*Is there not a cause?*"

= **EXPERIENCE COUNTS**

"You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all the assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with the sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give it into our hands." 1 SAMUEL 17

Saul's battle raiment was offered to David but declined because he had not personally tested it. David knew he could kill Goliath with a stone. EXPERIENCED means he's been in situations before and learned valuable lessons. Along with it comes the ability to 'not panic'—to trust in that inner sense that he knew was God. David didn't wait for someone else to fight Goliath because he knew it's what he was capable of doing.

Fearless in his pursuit of righteousness he spoke to King Saul, *"Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."* King Saul and his armies are willing to lay the providence of Israel into the hands of a youngster! Who would send a boy into harms way unless they felt completely hopeless?

Yet David focused on principle—not measuring opposition by outward appearance but against the truth of God’s Word. He believed GOD DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE and courageously ran forward to position himself to kill Goliath. He felt his whole life had been in training for this moment.

= **GOD DEFEATS THE ENEMY**

And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the philistine cursed David by his gods. **1 SAMUEL 17**

David stood in the gap with the confidence that God was with him to defeat any enemy he faced. He was oblivious to the insurmountable odds against him. He never saw himself as too young and inexperienced to kill Goliath but rather Goliath too big a target to miss! David didn’t see Goliath as a giant—he saw the uncircumcised Philistine as an animal. Since God already helped him kill a lion and a bear that threatened his little flock, then surely God would empower him to prevail over a VILE DOG attacking the sheep of the House of Israel!

The scripture portrays the giant Goliath with a sword, spear and javelin fighting against a boy racing towards his destiny with only a sling and five smooth stones. It was the unseen arsenal of the Divine that secretly tipped the scales into young David's favor. The weight of his CONVICTION made him victorious. He raced towards Goliath in *"the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel"* and killed him!

David saw opportunity—what he could do—what he trained for when shepherding his father’s sheep. His fearless nature is fueled by the miraculous power of God. It caused a tremendous victory that spilled over into a new life for him. David never went back to his few sheep behind his father’s tent but instead *"Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people."* Women danced in the streets and sang songs praising his great accomplishments!

=**ALIGNED TO THE FATHER**

David was fearless because he relied on God and his relationship with God made him mighty. He testified of his all consuming passion for fulfilling his purpose writing, *"Zeal for Your House has eaten me up."*

Jesus has similar zeal causing His disciples to remember Psalms when they witnessed the passion of the Son of David for establishing His Father's House. Consider also how similar the taunt of Goliath that ONE MAN should decide the fate of the nation compares to the counsel of Caiaphas advising *"the Jews that it was expedient that ONE MAN should die for the people."* Each stood in the gap for the kingdom.

Spread before us is not only a new canvas, but another page in his-story. God has boldly drawn on the horizon contrasting lines between godliness and lawlessness. Yet in the dawning of this new day we glimpse the many-membered Body of Christ emerging with each distinct brush stroke. Through struggle and conflict comes forth the full measure of the manchild—it's who we are in Christ that stands in the gap.

= **THE GAP**

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. **EZEKIEL 22**

- A GAP is a break or opening—an assailable position or opportunity;
- A GAP is a complete absence of something—like the Ark from Herod's Temple;
- A GAP is an interval or pause in time or continuity—a transitional moment for your participation in a God-caused intervention;
- A GAP is the significant difference between two situations, attitudes or perceptions—godliness verses lawlessness.

Last time you sensed you should do something—did you? Some feel that what they have to offer is too trivial to make a difference, yet its God's strength that empowers your gifting and ability to do the impossible. If you sense a transitional moment, a GAP then act accordingly—believe *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

God paints on the canvas of your life His strengths in you—drawing you on His Mountain. The Prophet Daniel saw a stone cut without hands from the Mountain of the Lord and it struck the Image—destroying the lawless kingdoms, structures and institutions of the world. That Rock was Christ. Collectively you are part of His Christ! You courageously stand in the gap between heaven and earth and manifest His Spiritual Tabernacle in the Kingdom.

= **JESUS STOOD IN THE GAP**

After that I will return and will rebuild the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up. **ACTS 15**

Jesus stood in the gap and bridged Moses' Tabernacle and David's Tabernacle by making the two one as the Spiritual Tabernacle of the Kingdom Age. We all become joint heirs through alignment with Him.

Never stop believing in Divine Intervention! Miracles happen! And if you're in a situation consider how you can move forward—what you can do! "The moment one commits oneself, then Providence moves too." God often 'saves the day' through man's willingness to act—to stand in the gap!

Your experiences trained you to do amazing exploits in God. Be confident to walk in the synchronicity of unfolding events and watch everything just seems to fall into place.

Great things happen the moment you STAND IN THE GAP to do the finished works of Christ—Providence moves in extraordinary ways to bring it to pass!

Roger and Karen Roth are the set ministry of a local church in Northeastern Wisconsin. They are a ministry son of Dr. Hanby, and along with writing the Bloodline articles each month, they are directors of a portion of Dr. Hanby's ministry called THE FATHER'S HEART.

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