

II Samuel 5:1-12 (tx: 6-10)

THE LAME AND THE BLIND

- I. The historical story
- II. The spiritual significance

INTRODUCTION

How well do you know your **American** history?

- do you remember the great & decisive Battle of Quebec in the French & Indian War in the 1750's?
- you see, Fort Quebec was located on top of a high hill with steep, almost unscalable walls.
- & there the French with General Montcalm thought they were safe & secure from any enemy attacks.
 - so they posted only a few guards.

But the **British** under **General Wolfe** attacked **Fort Quebec**.

- one night they scaled the steep hillside by a small, forgotten path they had found.
 - & they defeated the poorly guarded fort with a surprise attack.
- & that was the turning point for the British gaining control of Canada & winning the war.

Now in a way that event was similar to the one we just read in **II Samuel 5**.

- the story of David & his defeating the Jebusites in Jerusalem against all odds.
 - against a seemingly impregnable fortress.
- & both events were significant events in history.
 - the Battle of Quebec was significant in the history of Canada & America.

But the battle between **David** & the **Jebusites** has far greater significance for time & eternity.

- it is significant in the history of God's OT. covenant people.
 - & it is for the Church of Jesus Christ of all ages too.
- th'fore, it is significant in the history of God's saving revelation & redemptive work for His people.

So we look today at this event of how **David's** rule was established over **Israel**.

- & we will see what it's message is for us today.
- we consider: THE LAME AND THE BLIND: 1st, the historical story, & then the spiritual significance.

I. THE HISTORICAL STORY

Now, with this incident recorded in **II Samuel 5** we see how God in His providence & grace sovereignly continued to carry out His plan of salvation.

- how He did it by fulfilling His promise that David would be king over all of Israel.
- you see, it took some time for David to actually become king after he was anointed by Samuel.
- so David totally depended on Lord's way & work, & patiently waited in obedience to His will.
 - he did that to let God establish David's rule over His people at His appointed time.

Th'fore, after **Saul's** death, 1st **David** only ruled over **Judah** for 7 ½ years in **Hebron**.

- Saul's son Ishbosheth ruled over the rest of Israel.
- but then, Lord acted to unite all of Israel under 1 king: David.
- Ishbosheth died, & all the tribes came to make David king.
- & David then set out to secure a capital for his kingdom: the city of Jerusalem on Mt. Zion.

Now that was an act of real statesmanship & an important military move on **David's** part.

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- for it was very strategic & significant, because he saw Jerusalem to be a great political & military advancement as capital of the kingdom of Israel.
 - it would be that because it was a well-fortified city on a mountain with steep sides.
- & it was also centrally located on the border between Judah (his own tribe) & Benjamin (Saul's tribe).
 - so with the capture of Jerusalem the 2 tribes would be united under David's rule.
 - & that would eventually lead to uniting all of the tribes into 1 kingdom.
- then too, David, no doubt, thought it was a disgrace to Israel & a dishonor to God to have the wicked Jebusites remain in the land.

But **David's** action isn't just to be explained as a clever political & military move.

- behind & beyond this is the evidence of God's grace & guidance in making David's rule over all His people to unite & save them.
 - & to gather & build His Church & Kingdom.

You see, Lord chose **Jerusalem** to be a prominent city in **Israel's** & the Church's history.

- to be the City of God where He dwells with His people & reveals His name & salvation.
- & from where He rules them through His anointed kings.

So **Jerusalem** was also to be as figure of the Church of Jesus Christ where God now lives & reigns & saves.

- & it was also to point forward to the New Jerusalem of eternity in the coming new universe.
- & point to God & Jesus reigning & living with His people forever in the new heavens & earth.

But to be all that **Jerusalem** had to be taken from the **Jebusites**, those people who live in that well-protected fort on **Mt. Zion**.

- so well-fortified were those Jebusites on this steep-sided mountain that they were confident of their safety & security against all & any attacks.
- for vs.6 says, when they saw David advancing with his army, they ridiculed & boasted:
 - “Hey there, David, who do you think you are! You will never get in here & defeat us!
 - “Look at our strong fort! Even the lame & blind can defend us & ward you off!”

But **David** wasn't afraid, & why should he?

- for after all, Lord was with him.
- he trusted Him as he did before.
 - when he was a teenager & killed a bear & a lion single handed.
 - & he even killed a giant with a single stone from a slingshot.

Th'fore, with the Spirit of Lord working in & with **David** & his men,--

- aroused in anger against those who mocked the God of Israel, vs.7 says: “Nevertheless David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David.”
 - he did it without much a battle, for vs.10 says: “The Lord Almighty was with him.”
- & there was one weak spot to the Jebusites' defense: a waterway from the foot of the mountain into the fort.
 - so, with the cry of confidence & victory, David ordered his men up the shaft & the Jebusites were soundly defeated.
 - Jerusalem was captured, & made the capital from which David & future kings ruled God's people.

Th'fore, at last Lord's kingdom & rule was finally & fully established over His OT.people by His power & grace through this act of **David**.

- & now God was with David so that he became more & more powerful, & his fame spread everywhere.
- & Israel became a nation to be reckoned with, for II Samuel 5 says Hiram, king of Tyre sent David congratulations for his victory.
 - even the Philistines saw Israel as a threat so they went to war against them, but they were defeated by David.
- David also increased in material possessions.
- & II Samuel 6 says he then brought God's ark of the covenant to Jerusalem.

But why did **David** increase spiritually & materially & was strong & successful militarily?

- well, of course, it was not because of his own might & wisdom & cleverness.
- it was only because, Bible says, he believed & trusted & obeyed God.
 - he realized Lord gave him the strength & the savvy or the know how to defeat the Jebusites.
 - & made him king over all Israel.

II. THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Now you may be wondering & asking:

- “But why in the world is such a story recorded in Bible?”
- “What does it have to do with you or me for our salvation & life?”

Well, this story does have **SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE** for us.

- & the 1st truth we see here is that the Jebusites trusted in their own power & prowessness.
 - they were self-confident & complacent, thinking their own strength & smarts would gain them all they wanted, but they fell.
- however, David put his trust only in God, realizing without Lord’s strength he would fail.
 - & he was victorious & successful.

Th’fore, we are warned, as in **ICor.10:12** : “If you think you are standing firm—that you have it all right in your own strength, then be very careful lest you fall.”

- & take note: that’s exactly what the proverb in II Sam.5:8, “The lame and the blind will not enter this palace”, is saying to remind us of the disastrous consequences of pride.
 - of being so sure we will never fail or fall because of our own efforts & energies & ingenuities.
- it is saying: “Remember the Jebusites & their blind & lame.”
 - “They thought with all their power & possessions & protection they would never be defeated.
 - “And yet they were.”

So remember the lame & the blind of the **Jebusites!**

- we must never, ever trust our own wisdom & ways & works, for then our guard will be down.
 - we will be vulnerable & weak to the attacks of the enemy, Satan & sin.
- there will always be a waterway, some weak spot we have forgotten in our pride & self-complacency.
 - & we will be caught off guard & unarmed so that we will surely be defeated.

Th’fore, we must always be alert & armed in Lord’s strength.

- have on His armor of righteous & faith, truth & peace, & Scriptures, Eph. 6 says.
 - we must humble ourselves under God’s hand in faith & obedience to His will.
 - & stand strong only in His presence & power.
- then we will be winners against all the fierce forces of wickedness & wrong trying to undo us.

But now this incident of **David’s** capture of **Jerusalem** isn’t just a nice, moral, practical story of how to live our Christian faith & life.

- it also has a much deeper & greater spiritual significance for us.

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- for the 2nd truth we see here is another important step in God accomplishing the salvation of His people & gathering & building His Church down through the ages.

That's because behind this event is the age-old battle between God & Satan—between good & evil.

- you see, ever since man fell into sin & God promised salvation through His Savior,--
- ever since that time Satan has been trying & continues to try to stop that work of salvation.

So we see in **II Sam.5** Satan's opposition through the **Jebusites** opposition to **David's** rule over all **Israel**.

- we see devil's opposition to Lord's saving plan & work of rescuing His people from sin & death.
- devil is trying his level best to keep Jerusalem from becoming God's city where He would dwell with His people, & save & rule them through the kings He would raise up.

Th'fore, really this event is part of that whole picture of Satan's attempts to stop God from establishing & extending His Kingdom & Church in this world through Jesus Christ.

- that's what David's victory & living & ruling in Jerusalem would signify & promise.
- but Satan didn't want that so he opposed it through the wicked Jebusites.

But, you see, God was victorious against Satan's attempts.

- Jerusalem was captured from the wicked Jebusites, & made the capital of Israel.
 - from there Lord's anointed king, David, ruled His people.
- th'fore, Jerusalem became a special city, the place of Lord's presence.
 - the place where His salvation & glory were revealed,
 - where He ruled over His own & gave them His saving gifts.

And so **Jerusalem** became the hope of OT.Christians that pointed them to the promised Savior who would come to save them & gather them into His Church & Kingdom.

- for when He would come, the earthly Jerusalem would fade away.
- then God would dwell directly with His people.
- & they would be members of His eternal Kingdom & Church.
 - be heirs of the new Jerusalem, the eternal city of joy & peace & life forever with Lord.

So **David's** capture of **Jerusalem** & his rule in it over **Israel** is a foretaste of the spiritual **Jerusalem**.

- of God's Kingdom & Church, the place of life & fellowship with Him & Jesus Christ.
- the place where Lord would live & reign for the salvation & glory of us believers.

So too **David's** defeat of the enemy & rule in **Jerusalem** pointed forward to the greatest king of all: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- for here we see how God worked to bring salvation in the coming Savior.
- we see in this incident how Jesus Christ came to earth, climbed the hill of Calvary onto a cross.
 - & there He defeated, once & for all, the enemies of devil & evil & error.
 - & He established His kingdom of salvation with His resurrection from the dead.
 - & with His return to heaven to rule over all.

Now, as the mighty Conqueror & King, Jesus continues to build His Church & extend His Kingdom by His Word & Spirit.

- He is working to apply the salvation He earned to sinners everywhere.
- & as Lord, He rules over the hearts & lives of those who believe & love & live for Him.

Then someday King Jesus is coming back to judge & reward all peoples.

- then all will confess Him to be Lord of all; & He will reign forever.
- & those who love & serve Him will live with God forever in perfect, joyful fellowship of the new, eternal Jerusalem.

Th'fore, as those who by faith receive Jesus & His cross & resurrection & ascension seriously,--

- receive it as the only way of salvation & the only way to live,--
 - & they surrender their all to King Jesus & serve Him as the only Lord of their being & behavior,-
- they then are members of His Church & Kingdom, the spiritual Jerusalem.
 - & they are heirs to the new Jerusalem, the eternal city of God.
 - the new heavens & earth which will be ours when He will bring in the new age of eternity at the end of time.
- & there we will possess & experience our full & final salvation & life with our God.

CONCLUSION

So, **Christians**, our only hope & comfort in this life & in the life to come is we look for the new Jerusalem.

- but in the meantime as we wait, we must march on in this world under Christ's rule & with His power.
 - & we must live & work for Him here & now.
- like David & Christ we must constantly fight against Lord's enemies in our lives & in society around us.

We must stand against & stop the forces of wickedness & wrong so Christ's Kingdom & Church will be built everywhere.

- we must be the light of the world to show people the way out of the darkness of sin & death into the light of salvation & eternal life & glory.
- we must be the salt of the earth to penetrate every square inch of society & pulverize all the evil & error found there.

- & do all we can to preserve all that is good & true, pure & holy, & the like.
- we must be doing that so Jesus' saving blood & sovereign rule seen in every area & aspect of life.

And we can surely do it no matter how fierce & formidable & fortified the enemy is.

- we can, if we remember the proverb of the lame & the blind.
 - & we don't in pride think we can win in our own strength & with our own wisdom.
- but we can stand & win no matter how great & strong the enemies of Satan & sin are.
 - we can, if like David, & Christ too, we fight in the name & power of Lord.
 - if we prayerfully use His weapons: His Word & Holy Spirit.
 - & we proclaim & practice His good news of salvation everywhere.

If we are faithfully doing that, then we will win.

- we will experience God's abiding presence & almighty power in all we say & do.
- but we will eventually really win when, as His faithful servants, we will live & reign with God in the new Jerusalem.
 - in that place of perfect peace & joy-filled rest for all eternity.

AMEN