

Sermon ~ Sunday, September 27, 2020 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: I Samuel 17: 37 (Read I Samuel 17 in its entirety)

Title: "Facing Tomorrow"

DON'T BELIEVE, the Dalai Lama who said,

"There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called 'yesterday', and the other is called 'tomorrow'. So 'today' is the right day to Love, Believe, Do and mostly Live."

DON'T BELIEVE, the quote (from June 12, 2016),

"Today was tomorrow yesterday." Meaning, that no matter what one *did*, 'today' arrived. To this quote, this means the 'future' is going to come anyway, no matter what one *does*. Put it all together and it means one should not worry about the 'future', because it's going to come anyway, no matter what one may *do* to escape it."

"Facing Tomorrow"

This Year 2020... US Presidential Impeachment Trial—Acquitted; Stock Market Crash; the Corona Virus, Pandemic—200,000 plus deaths; Unemployment; Senseless Killings/Criminal Crimes; Massive Protests; Earthquakes in divers places; Raging Fires; Disastrous Hurricanes/Tropical Depressions; Evil Politics; Failures in our Education Systems; Health Care Support destroyed; Homes/Families jockeying for positions; The Church-house vacant and The Church, turning to Social-Media, while, Evangelism is rocked to sleep...

"Facing Tomorrow"

I Samuel chapter 17, records the confrontation between the Philistines—people of Philistia, and, **GOD** and **HIS** Children—the Nation of Israel.

The Philistines—the people of Philistia, was on one Mountain threating War. **GOD** and **HIS** Children—the Nation of Israel with their King, Saul, was on an opposite Mountain, facing them. (I Samuel 17: 1-3)

In verses 4-8, there's this suggestion that rather have an all-out War, that both sides might pick a representative: a strong man, from each side and send the two, to battle it out in the valley below. If the one who represents **GOD** and **HIS** Children—the Nation of Israel with their King Saul, win, then, they won the battle. But if the one who represents the Philistines—people of Philistia, win, then they won the battle.

The Philistines—people of Philistia, selected a 'giant of a man' – a tall, muscular, skillful warrior, named Goliath (in the Hebrew language '*Golyat*' means '*uncover*'). **GOD** and **HIS** Children—the Nation of Israel with their King Saul, chose David, a young shepherd (in the Hebrew language is '*dod*' means '*beloved*'). Goliath presented himself 40 days, morning and evening— (verse 16).

In verse 11 we read, “When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistines, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.” [They murmured and whimpered... In verse 24, “And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man (Goliath), fled from him, and were sore afraid.”

The Children of **GOD**—the Nation of Israel with their King Saul, did not have enough courage to fight Goliath, the Philistine—and the people of Philistia. They lacked the *freshness* to remember, what **GOD** had done during their ‘yesterdays’. Thus, it did not occur to them, what **GOD** would do, could do, NOW.]

‘When you lose from your memory banks, what **GOD** *has done*, you will *doubt*, what **GOD** *will do*!’

I use too... I said, I use too, say this, before I thought—The Devil is doing his work... spoiling and tarnishing our recollections of what **GOD** has done... The Devil is robbing our minds of the Victories **GOD** has given us in the past... The Devil has brought us another problem, another sickness, another storm, another burden, another doubt, another fear... I use too... I said, I use too, be quick to say, what the Devil is doing. But *when I look back over my life*... from the Projects (not knowing we were the projects) and where I am today... I must declare, ‘Look where **The LORD** has brought me from!!!’

You must ask, as I did, ‘Why was the Children of **GOD**—the Nation of Israel with their King Saul, so afraid of Goliath, the Philistine—and the people of Philistia? What’s wrong with me (us), in these ‘trying/troubling’ times of which we live. *Surely*, the same **GOD WHO** passed through Egypt at midnight, as an Death-Angel, slaying all the first-born; *Surely*, the same **GOD WHO** led **HIS** Children, across the Red Sea and Jordan River twice, on dry land; *Surely*, the same **GOD WHO** mercifully responded to their murmuring at Marah, about no water, and quenched their thirst out of a dry rock; *Surely*, the same **GOD WHO** with a gentle wind, while in the wilderness if Sin, guided quail to their camp-ground for protein; *Surely*, the same **GOD WHO** caused their clothes/shoes to never wear out and drove their enemies out from in front of them...

Surely, this same **GOD** would handle this situation!!! But when you let yourself, ya’ll, them and they, circumstances of life, set on the throne of our minds, so there is nothing but that before you, you will *freeze-up*. But if you can just open-up your heart and think back, on how you got where you are; **WHO** fought the battles; **WHO** won the Victories; **The Providential** ‘yesterdays’; your painful but *Productive* ‘today’, and, *surely*, our **Promising** ‘tomorrow’—we can make it!

“Facing Tomorrow”

Let me make one more round... the Children of **GOD**—the Nation of Israel with their King Saul, stood in fear to the point, they were paralyzed. Verse 32, “And David said to Saul, let no man’s heart fail because of him (Goliath), thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

GOD’S Children—the Nation of Israel with their King Saul, said “David, come here,” look at this giant: over 9 feet tall; he wears a bronze helmet and a coat of mail that weighs 125 pounds; bronze leggings. See that bronze javelin over his back? The shaft of his spear is as heavy and thick as a weaver’s beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed fifteen pounds.

Notice his armor bearer walking ahead of him carrying a huge shield.

But David said, 'you see a man; a man's armor; how a man fight; a man's strategy; you hear a man's words and voice... You must remember, we are **GOD'S** Children! Our **GOD is The ONE WHO** fights our battles! *Surely*, you have not forgotten....

In verse 28, Eliab, David's *elder* brother, when he heard David talking to the men and King Saul, he got anger... Eliab belittled David as a shepherd-boy. He spoke about David's pride, and the naughtiness in David's heart... But David said, "I have had some victories that I can testify of ... **GOD** can handle this matter!!! So, King Saul and the whole army of men, consented to let David go to battle.

Verse 38, "And Saul armed David with armor, and he put a Helmet of brass upon David's head; also, he armed David with a coat of mail. And David girded Saul's sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go..." And David said unto Saul, [I wanted to respect you King Saul, by not rejecting your offer of this armor, but King, I never used any of this stuff before. This won't win.

First of all, it won't win because it won't be me! I don't fight with this.

I have "a **Name—EL—SHADDAI, GOD Almighty**", that I call that fights for me. I don't fight with swords, helmets of brass and coats of iron. I have "a **Name— EL—SHADDAI, GOD Almighty**", that I call, that fights for me.

Secondly, If I went out and won with this stuff, then all praises would go to your armor, your sword, your coat. But don't be fearful, because we've already won!

Verse 39g, "And David took off the armor." Verse 40, "And he took his staff in his hand, and choose him 5 smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine."

From King Saul, the army of men of Israel, the Children of **GOD**, there was silence, sadness, spirits of helplessness, for this little shepherd, who approached this giant Goliath. They shivered and pantingly shied, in every step David took.

There was shock and dismay from the Philistine—the people of Philistia side. They laughed and jeered behind Goliath, who in anger said, "He's *but* a youth, ruddy and fair countenance... am I a dog, that you come to me with a stick? Goliath cursed David by his gods... He said, "I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air and to the beast of the field." (verses 42-44)

But David said different, "All the assembly shall know that **The LORD** saveth not with sword and spear. For the battle *is* **The LORD'S**. And **HE** will give you into our hands." (Verse 47)

I come in **The Name of The LORD**... And I'm going to take your head back to my King. I have a sling shot, and I have 5 smooth brook *stones*. But I'll only need one, because **The GOD** I serve don't need but one. **HE** doesn't need any more. **HE'S** able to put speed behind this *rock*. It's not my might, nor my power! I can't throw a *rock* that hard, but **GOD** *is* able to put speed behind this *rock*!

David wound it up. He let it go, and **GOD** guided that *rock* past the shield, past the coat of iron, past that helmet and got that one spot that was uncovered. That *rock* hit the big old giant in the head, and he dropped dead! The rest is **HIS-Story...**

On a Hill called **CALVARY—The ROCK, Named JESUS**, hung—bled—died... They crucified our **LORD... HE** said, “And **I**, if **I**, be lifted from the earth, will draw all men unto **ME**. **HE** died—paying sin’ penalty of unbelief; buried—**The ROCK** in a *rock*, covered by a *rock*, so that whosoever believed in **HIM** would never be condemned. And early, Sunday morning, **GOD** raised **JESUS—The ROCK** from the dead!

“**ROCK** of ages, cleft for us, Let us hide ourselves in **THEE**;
Let the water and the blood, From **THY** wounded side which flowed,
Be for *sin* the double cure, Save from wrath and make us pure.”

“Facing Tomorrow”

Is how you face ‘today’ and ‘yesterday’...

David said, “A few days ago a lion came up to the sheep, and I (I mean) **GOD** in me, took my hand and smote the lion. A bear came to me, I took (I mean) **GOD** took my hand and smote the bear.” Our **GOD** is able...

Surely, surely, surely, surely
HE’S Able to carry you through!
Surely, surely, surely, surely
HE’S Able to carry you through!

As pilgrims we sometimes journey; And we know not which way to turn;
But there is **ONE WHO** knows the road, (**HE’LL** Help you) carry, carry
Your heavy load.

Don’t you know **GOD** is Able; **HE’S** Able, **HE’S** Able; Yes, **GOD** is Able!
Clouds may gather, all around you, so dark and sable.
HE’LL be a mother, for the motherless; a father, for the fatherless
HE’LL be your Joy, when you’re in sorrow; **HE’LL** be your Hope for tomorrow.

HE’S my Strong Tower, my Strong Tower; My Bow and Arrow, My Bow and Arrow,
JESUS, JESUS; JESUS, JESUS
Surely, Surely, Surely, Surely,
HE’S Able, **HE’S** Able, **HE’S** Able, **HE’S** Able,
HE’S Able to carry you through!
(Kurt Carr)

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