

# FIRST SAMUEL STUDY

## CHAPTER 23:1-29

TAPE NUMBER WN-347    JANUARY 29, 2003

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“WHEN THE LORD IS IN THE LEAD”**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

***Hearing the Voice of God, Divine Counsel, Guidance***

**INTRODUCTION**

***to the text***

***I Samuel 23:1-29***

If I were a captain today in any one of our military branches that are at this hour standing ready for war. I would take them to the bible and to the battles of David...

- Because of the courage that is displayed there
- Because of the military tactics that he used against the enemy
- Because of the skill that Israel showed in combat

***But by Far  
I would teach them that God would be their  
ultimate hope for victory!***

**MAKE SURE THAT YOU HEAR FROM GOD  
BEFORE GOING TO BATTLE**

Independent of the U.N.  
Independent of the Arab World  
Independent of France, Germany or Russia  
Independent of World Opinion

If God is Leading President Bush and His Forces to Battle

Then let God **LEAD US ONWARD!**

And may God have His perfect will be done – whatever His will may be!

## **WHEN THE LORD IS IN THE LEAD**

**1.) Lord, Prepare us for war**

**vv. 1-8**

*Lord, Prepare us for war*

**1a.) There must be battles in life - always**

### **Verse 1**

*Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."*

Why did these men come to David,  
While Saul was still in Office?

**Because Saul Had Failed to Protect the Nation!**

And so what should have been handled by the previous  
administration,  
Another one (David) has to take of it.

**SAUL HAD ABANDONED HIS THRONE A LONG TIME AGO  
(NO INTEGRITY, NO BACKBONE, NO VISION...)**

Ecclesiastes 3:8

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war,  
and a time of peace.

*“We’re Living in the Day’s When the Spirit of Antichrist is Advancing”*

I John 4:3

“and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

I Believe

That the Antichrist himself is alive today and is being satanically prepared for his unveiling.

I John 2:18

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

## **God says there is a time for war**

Physical war is just the manifestation of what is happening in the spiritual realm.

The Spirit of the Ancient Assyrian Empire is Stirring Again  
(Iraq and Iran Against Israel)

***“There must be battles in life – always”***

***There are Spiritual Battles That We’re Engaged In***

Ephesians 6:12-18

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. 13 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. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer...

Being in Bible Study Tonight  
Is great spiritual boot camp

## **Lord, Prepare us for war**

### **1b.) There will be internal struggles - always**

#### **Verse 3**

*But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?"*

## **They Needed a Leader, Desperately!**

REMEMBER

They had a lot of baggage to get rid of

1 Samuel 22:2

And everyone who was in **distress**, everyone who was in **debt**, and everyone who was **discontented** gathered to him. **So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.**

John 16:32-33

"Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

## **There Doesn't Have to Be...**

- Because of Fear
- Because of Doubt
- Because of Lack of Experience
- Because of Knowledge

***Internal Struggles can get the Best of us  
If we are not careful!  
Lord, Prepare us for war***

**1c.) There will be His faithfulness to trust in - always**

**Verse 2 & 4**

*Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" **And the LORD said to David,**  
"Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah."*

(I wonder if God has spoken to President Bush, "Go and attack Saddam, and save Israel." – what if?)

*Then David inquired of the LORD once again.  
**And the LORD answered him and said,**  
"Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand."*

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Psalm 119:106

I have sworn and confirmed that  
I will keep Your righteous judgments.

**The Victory  
Is Something That We – Walk Into!**

Walk into the Victory

But Jack, How Do I Walk into the Victory?

Take Any Fear *you may have* and make it **look** at the battle  
Take Any Doubt *you may have* and make it **listen** to the plan  
Take Any Lack of Experience *you may have* and make it **Lean** upon His power  
Take Any Lack of Knowledge *you may have* and **Learn** His ways

***His faithfulness  
can be trusted upon – always!***

Jeremiah 1:7-9

But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD. 9 Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

***God is Faithful  
to Confirm His Word***

***Verse 5-8***

*And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. 6 Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod in his hand. 7 And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." 8 Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.*

***Verse 8***

*Then Saul called all the people together for war,*

Wait – Maybe Saul is Going to Battle the Philistines or the Edomites or the Assyrians or some other enemy of Israel?

*to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.*

Carnel, Wicked Competition is in Saul's Heart  
Because success, power and control is all he can think about.

Jeremiah 45:5  
And seekest thou great things for thyself?  
seek them not...

## WHEN THE LORD IS IN THE LEAD

**2.) Lord, Grant us the wisdom**

**vv. 9-23**

**Lord, Grant us the wisdom**

**2a.) Wisdom to consult God first**

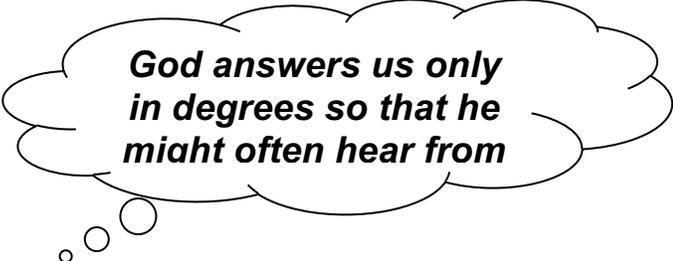
### **Verse 9-13**

*When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." 10 Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. 11 "Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down."*

It Appears That;  
God had led David to What Looked Like  
a Very Bad Place – *it "looked" wrong!*

Kings and Leaders are never "Established" in the Shadows.  
They must be called out into the Battle...

"God Answers us Only in Degrees  
So that he might hear from us often"



**God answers us only  
in degrees so that he  
might often hear from**

## “The Ephod”

a special priestly apron that was designed to cover the clothes of the priest from blood that would splash upon their chest while ministering.

### This Ephod was Probably

The Ephod of the High Priest  
Urim and Thummim  
(Exodus 28)

Possibly a one BLACK and WHITE stone  
Inside the pouch of the Ephod.

The Priest would ask God a yes or no question.  
Then he would reach inside and pull out a stone.  
Black No / White Yes

Jack – That’s Weird  
IT’S MORE THAN WHAT A LOT OF CHRISTIANS DO

To Consult the Urim and Thummim was to Consult God’s Will  
To Consult the Bible is to Consult God’s Will

## Consult the Word – Bible!

Isaiah 8:19-20

And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead-on behalf of the living? 20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

### **Verse 12-13**

*12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will deliver you." 13 So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.*

## Lord, Grant us the wisdom

### 2b.) Wisdom to know when to stand still

#### Verse 14-15

And David **stayed** in strongholds in the wilderness and **remained** in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. **Saul sought him every day**, but God did not deliver him into his hand. 15 So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

David had to learn how  
to write the great psalms for us...

Psalm 39:7

"And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.

Psalm 130:5-6

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning-- yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

**Saul (the flesh / Satan) sought him every day**

Satan Never Sleeps

## Saul was Hunting David

When You're Being Persuaded It Can,  
It Will Wear on You

the Wilderness of Ziph  
A land just south of the Dead Sea

## It's In The Wilderness

"David was a man after God's own heart in the shepherds Fields,  
**But it was in the wilderness that he became a king"**

# What was David Thinking About?

Psalm 91:1-16

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust." 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; his truth shall be your shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.....

....14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."

***Lord, Grant us the wisdom***

***2c.) Wisdom to remember God's calling***

### ***Verse 16-23***

*Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. 17 And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that." 18 So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.*

### ***I Think Saul is A Pathetic Man Here, Self Deceived, and Lost***

19 Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? 20 "Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand." 21 And Saul said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, for you have compassion on me. 22 "Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his hideout is, and who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty. 23 "See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides; and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it shall be, if he is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans of Judah."

## **WHEN THE LORD IS IN THE LEAD**

### **3.) Lord, be mighty on our behalf vv. 24-29**

Last Night President Bush announced to America and the World  
That no preparation would be adequate unless the Lord Blessed America with  
His Success!!!

### **3a.) We can only be at our best**

#### **Verse 24-25**

*So they (the men of Ziph) arose and went to Ziph before Saul. But David and his men were in the Wilderness of Ma'on, in the plain on the south of Heshimon. 25 When Saul and his men went to seek David, they told David. Therefore he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Ma'on. And when Saul heard that, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Ma'on.*

***We can only be at our best  
Our Best Will Never Be Enough  
"When we Need the LORD"***

### **3b.) We can only do our best**

## **Verse 26**

*Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them.*

# It's Seemingly the End

*(it looked absolutely hopeless for David here)*

***Lord, be mighty on our behalf***

***3c.) We must leave Him the rest***

## **Verse 27-29**

*But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hasten and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land!" 28 Therefore Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape. 29 Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.*

## In All Thy Ways...

Lets Pray Now for This Church...  
for Our Soliders, Saliors and Airmen  
For Israel and the Iraqi People.  
For President Bush and Congress...