

Bible has a lot to say about OUR being prepared:

- Genesis Chapter 6... Noah prepares for the flood
- Genesis 41... Joseph prepares Egypt for the coming famine
- Joshua 10:7... Joshua prepared for war
- 2 Samuel 10:7... David prepared for war
- Matthew 3... John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah
- Luke 22:8... Jesus sent disciples to prepare for Last Supper

Bible also shows us how GOD prepares our way:

- “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)
- “The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.” (Psalm 37:23)
- “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” (Psalm 139:16)

Tonight, I want to show you what happens when BOTH work together!

WHY is this important?

- Because we have been sent on a MISSION... Matthew 28:18-20
- When we our preparations work in tandem with God’s, GREAT things can happen!

1 Samuel 17:38-40... *“Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.”*

WHY did he pick up FIVE stones?

- Did he lack confidence?
- NO. The answer is simple... because Goliath had FOUR brothers.
- David knew... might have to deal with all FIVE

But in this account... David kills just ONE – Goliath...

- But what happened to the other FOUR?
- As you see WHO they were, it will help you PREPARE for whatever enemy throws at you!

I have always believed that NAMES are important.

- What you name a child can literally set a course for their future.
- As you look throughout scripture, see that names are important to GOD as well.

2 Samuel 21:15-22... ¹⁵ Once again there was a battle between the Philistines and Israel. David went down with his men to fight against the Philistines, and he became exhausted. ¹⁶ And **Ishbi-Benob**, one of the descendants of Rapha, whose bronze spearhead weighed three hundred shekels^[a] and who was armed with a new sword, said he would kill David. ¹⁷ But **Abishai** son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, saying, "Never again will you go out with us to battle, so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished." ¹⁸ In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines, at Gob. At that time **Sibbekai** the Hushathite killed **Saph**, one of the descendants of Rapha. ¹⁹ In another battle with the Philistines at Gob, **Elhanan** son of Jair^[b] the Bethlehemite killed the brother of ^[c] **Goliath** the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod. ²⁰ In still another battle, which took place at Gath, there was a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—twenty-four in all. He also was descended from **Rapha**. ²¹ When he taunted Israel, **Jonathan** son of Shimeah, David's brother, killed him. ²² These four were descendants of Rapha in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his men."

Giant's names are important... so are men who killed them.

- WHY? Because we fight the same GIANTS today...

1. Ishbi-Benob = "one who lurks in ambush to take away"

Basically... "Thief"

- **John 10:10...** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; but I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
- Enemy wants your joy... health... victory... COURAGE

1 Peter 5:8... "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Scripture tells us that he "lurks"...

- He always hits where least expects it...

☛ **Man who kills this giant: ABISHAI**

- "My father is a GIVER... generous"
- God wants to **GIVE BACK** all the devil has stolen...
 - We have inheritance that is NOW rightfully ours...

(1 Peter 5:9-10) "Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

What is the KEY? RESIST him!

- The moment the thoughts come today... push 'em out
- "restore" = to complete thoroughly, repair, fit, frame, perfectly join together

2. Saph = "the tall one; one who blocks the way; a door"

We all know... enemy does this to us all the time...

- Sometimes it's subtle... a stumbling block
- Sometimes it's obvious... a wall
- Maybe it's a habit... relationship... practice at work... show on TV...

Know that even Jesus faced these things...

Matthew 16:23... "Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block (a trapper's snare) to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

☛ **Man who kills this giant: SIBBECAI = "to fold in half; a remover of obstacles"**

- God is the wall-remover in our lives... NOTHING too large...
- **Red Sea** (parted it)... **City** (crumpled walls)... **Giant** (provided boy and stone)... **Sin** (cross)...

Psalm 56:13... "For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life."

3. Lahmi (1 Chr 20:5)... "one who reveals, uncovers, reminds"

Rev 12:10 calls Satan "the accuser" ...

- Day and night... constant accusation... "Look what _____ did NOW..."
- Reminds us of our sin – **Prosecuting Attorney**

☛ **Man who kills this giant: El-hanan = "God has been gracious"**

- The memories of sin... destroyed by the grace of God..

1 John 4:10... "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

James 2:13... "Mercy triumphs over judgment." **BOASTS, GLORY OVER**

There are 131 verses in New Testament alone about God's grace!

- We all struggle... all have things reminded of... But can say as Paul... "Your grace is sufficient"

Colossians 1:21-23... ²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant."

This is God's grace – FORGIVENESS – explained...

- Just as a judge in a court of law declares "Not Guilty!"
 - The person has been acquitted of all charges... AND – all accusations of charges...
 - **LEGALLY** – as if they had never been accused of it...

HOW do we get loose of accusations... reminding?

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (**James 4:7**)

- Submit to His grace... DAILY
- Revelation 12:10 tells us... "come and see.."
- "overcame by blood of Lamb / word of testimony"...

And FINALLY...

4. Giant, descendant of Rephah = "to cause to fail"

Satan wants nothing more for... YOU / ME / CHURCH in Tallahassee to fail...

- He has set himself against us... he has claimed Tallahassee as HIS...
- No coincidence many churches have failed...

This is why Paul challenges us to not do it ALONE...

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?" (**2 Cor 13:5**)

- We CAN'T do it ourselves... we WILL fail...

★ Man who kills this giant: Jonathan = "gift from God; Jehovah has given"

WHAT is it that God has given us?

- Ps 73:26... strength when our heart and flesh fail
- Acts 3:16... faith that will make us strong
- Acts 1:8... the gift of the Holy Spirit – POWER
- The power of His blood to plead in every situation... the use of His name to overcome the enemy...

Revelation 12:11... "Overcame him by the BLOOD of the Lamb and the WORD of their testimony..."
