

## **Encouragement for the battle**

Deuteronomy 20:1-4, 8 NKJV

**[1] “When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. [2] So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. [3] And he shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; [4] for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.’**

**[8] “The officers shall speak further to the people, and say, ‘What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, lest the heart of his brethren faint like his heart.’**

When we see the battle, we start counting in our head. Are they more numerous than us? Are they stronger than us? all these questions lead to one thing fear. The Dread of our enemy.

**The command in the first verse "do not be afraid of them".** But Lord I counted I assessed I assumed?

We believe more in our numbers and in The God who is with us. The command is “do not be afraid of them”.

**The promise is "for the Lord your God is with you".**

We have the command now we have the promise. What does this promise teach us? The promise is not that the Lord wants to hang with us and that is possible. the promise is not God is with us. the promise is God is all the Lord God is. It is not who he will be or what he may be. No, the promise is who God is. If we remember back to our fundamentals of faith we were taught about the Omni of God. That the Lord God is omnipotent the Lord God is omniscience and lastly the Lord God is omnipresent. The very attribute of God is the very promise of God because it speaks of his attributes and his attributes are eternal and never change. even one of his attributes which speaks of the principle of the attribute that the Lord God does not change. he is in the technical saying that he is immutable. The etymology or the word origin of the word immutable is unchanging, unalterable.

Seeing that the Lord God is and does not change the promise is him not a promise to do something but a promise to depend upon him and him alone.

We have the promise we have the attribute attached to the promise. Now we can safely say that the Lord God is with us. they shall call his name Emmanuel which means God is with us, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever, And behold, I am always with you, to the end of the age, Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? and The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth

**We have the command do not be afraid, we have the promise the Lord God is with you and lastly, we have the testimony.**

**The testimony is "who brought you up from the land of Egypt".** the testimony to the children of Israel was to remind them of what God has done in the past. the Lord God dwells in eternity the attribute he is eternal, so the Lord was present in Egypt to deliver them he did not give them weapons he delivered them without weapons. He saved them from a mighty army. He brought them out as slaves, and they left in freedom with riches with their cattle with their little ones they left with everything. Not one time in the account of the deliverance from Egypt do the children of Israel raise a weapon. The only thing they raised was Moses's staff that was it. what he did in Egypt he will do in the battle he will fight for you he is on your side.

Truth be told there are few Jewish people in this congregation. **What is the testimony for you?** the testimony to the believer is Jesus Christ defeated the cross the grave and death through his resurrection power. we have a greater testimony a greater Deliverance then been being delivered from Egypt we were delivered from our sins iniquities transgressions we died with him we were buried with him, and we will rise with him. Jesus Christ is the Lord God of heavenly armies, and he will fight against our enemy because he has defeated the devil. We already know the ending he has defeated because he inhabits eternity we are freed we are delivered we have redemption we have forgiveness.

So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. **[3] And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them;**

**Who speaks to them the general or the king?** No not at all but a priest the priest shall approach and speak to the people. why the priest? Because the priest is the one who is supposed to be intimate with the Lord, he's the one that makes intercessions for the children of Israel, and he is the one who works in the temple or the Tabernacle doing sacrifices as the people bring the sacrifice the priest completes the sacrifice.

You're on the verge of the battle you have your sword in your hand you have your armor on and outcomes a priest how are feeling right now? But he is doing by the obedience of the word of God to push away fear and anxiety so that you may be strong in the battle. So that you do not coward or run away.

Here is what he will say **[3] And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them;**

The priest will speak against fear he will remind them as he blessed the people he would say here O Israel. He was not to ignore their problem he was to be with them in the problem. He was to be a priest not a monk but he was

called to feel their problem to be with them and to encourage them. He warned them do not let their hearts faint to not be afraid and tremble will be terrified because of them. He painted the picture the way God ordained the picture to be painted no longer afraid but now don't look at them the way the way 8 spies looked at them rather look at them the way God sees them. another battle. **A battle makes up many skirmishes, the war is the totality of all battles put together.** How many times have we looked at stuff and say I can't beat this. I try over and over and over and every time I do not win. The priest is blessing the people the priest is blessing the battle.

**The question comes down to the children of Israel to us as well who should we fear?**

**Matthew 10: 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Fear God and him alone.

We have a high priest who understands our temptation, our fears, weaknesses because he became man and has the ability to sympathize with us.

**Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

**[4] for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'**

The priest will speak to those who are entering the battle. He reminds them that they go together but more important that the Lord your God is he who goes with you.

We see first of all the Lord your God. Do you possess the Lord your God do you embrace the Lord your God? He is your God.

Not only is he your God but we see that he will go with you. He's not against you he is not fighting with the enemy he is with you. He who David spoke of on numerous occasions for the battles he had went through.

Listen to what David is saying here he is not speaking of someone who has never seen fire he is Speaking of one who has been in battle that the women of the day sang the song of David and said David has killed his 10s of thousands.

**Psalm 18:39 For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.**

**Psalm 24:8 Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.**

**Psalm 55:18 He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me.**

**Ps 144 Blessed be the Lord, my rock, Who trains my hands for war,**

*And my fingers for battle;*

David is telling us here clearly that you can trust the Lord in your battle.

Verse 4 to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'

The Lord of host the Lord of heavenly armies is going to fight for you not against you. He is fighting against your enemies. Our biggest enemy was sin was the devil and Jesus Christ took the battle to the cross and defeated the devil and defeated death through the tomb you and I have someone who will never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus Christ is not AWOL Jesus Christ is with you fight for you fighting against your enemy fighting against your things that you have not conquered in your life.

But the problem is are you in the battle? Are we AWOL? Have we deserted when we should be in church? The Lord would say to us go to the battle I am with you in the battle. The battle is hard but Jesus is stronger than the battle. Jesus does not look to win a battle by allowing the enemy to roam free no he has him on a leash. He tells the devil you could go so far and no further. If the devil had free reign none of us would be alive none of us would be going to heaven no the sovereign Lord has control even over the enemy.

Our former president Franklin Delano Roosevelt coined the phrase the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. But that does not end the quote he goes on to say — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

Fear disables us from advance fear destroys us from going forth in victory. When we have the Lord on our side as the scripture teaches us if God be for us who can be against us! No one no not one God is for us let's lay aside every fear every anxiety and let's push forward in advancement towards the Kingdom of God.

**Lastly in the words he was to speak “to save you”.**

**Heb 7:25 Wherefore also he is able to save to the uttermost them that draw near unto God through him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

No matter where you are he is able to save you. The verse we just read saved to the uttermost. Uttermost what does that mean from the furthest you can be he will save you. There is no one no not one too far from the reach of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is able to save us no matter how far we are. We have created distance because we have hitting ourselves like Adam, walking in the paths of lust like the young man in the proverbs, denying our Lord like Peter and fighting against the Lord like Paul. He's able to save each one of them. To the uttermost to the furthest



point away he is able. He is the one who causes us to draw near to him through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Tell them about becoming demagnetized through sin and re magnetized through the cross.**

**[8] “The officers shall speak further to the people, and say, ‘What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, lest the heart of his brethren faint like his heart.’**

There is a sickness that is very contagious. It transfers to one another very easily. And it can destroy an army. It is called the disease of fear. There are many out there that like to spread this sickness to others. Because fear loves companions. You have a choice to face your fear and go into the battle. Or go back home?

I choose to go where God goes the Lord goes into the battle he's not looking to go home. The Lord Jesus went to the cross yes you may need to go through your garden of Gethsemane. You may need to get your will in order like Jesus did. You may have to pray the hard prayer not my will but your will be done. But if the Lord is going that way go with him. Follow the Lord wherever he may lead you.

Jesus Christ is our great high priest and every battle that you go through he has a word to tell us do not fear fight staying strong in the power of the Lord. Our high priest is encouraging us to the battle. But our high priest is also the Lord of host the Lord of heavenly armies. He goes with us.

You may be battling a fight of the flesh, a fight of the spirit, a fight of temptation and you have often lost. You have the pain of regret anger you are mad at yourself you are mad at the world. But I'm here to tell you to get a vision of your high priest encouraging your heart through the word of God to tell you to fight the battle. Don't give in. Never never never never never never never never never quit as Winston Churchill said.

**2 Kings 6:15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?**

**16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.**

**17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.**