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SPEAKERS

Intro Voice, Baruch Korman

Intro Voice 00:00

HOST, Shalom and welcome to via Israel, a Hebrew phrase, which means you shall love Israel. We hope you'll stay with us for the next 30 minutes, as our teacher, Dr Baruch, shares his expository teaching from the Bible. Dr Baruch is the senior lecturer at the Zera Avraham Institute based in Israel, although all courses are taught in Hebrew at the institute, Dr Baruch is pleased to share this weekly address in English. To find out more about our work in Israel, please visit us on the web@loveisrael.org That's one word, loveisrael.org Now here's Baruch with today's lesson,

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Even though Shaul was not a faithful King, we're going to see in this study, that he began in a most positive way. And the reason for that great success, initially is because he relied upon the Lord what God had provided to lead him in the direction of God's will. And there's a great message for us, and it's this, when we are believers, God will lead us, He will provide everything that we need in order to accomplish His will. In other words, as we've mentioned many times, God is always faithful. Take out your Bible and look with me to First Samuel and chapter 11. First Samuel and chapter 11, we're going to see that there is an evil one, and he is from the people known as ammonia, or the Ammonites. And what does he want to do? He wants to bring shame upon the children of Israel, and therefore he attacks what's known as a smaller group of people. And what happens? They are fearful, and they turn in order to find help, and ultimately it is King Sheol who comes and acts in their defense. So look with me to that section First Samuel, chapter 11, and we're ready for that first verse where it says and nachash, very interesting name, Nahash, the ammonite. He went up and he camped concerning yavesh Gilad. Now again, this is that people. They belong to the tribes of Israel, and we're going to see something. They are a smaller group of people, and because of their limited size, they are fearful of this evil individual by the name of nachash. Look again. It says that nachash the Ammonite, he went up and he camped concerning yavesh, Gilad and all the people of yavesh, said to nehash, make with us a covenant, and we will serve you now. The covenant that they were talking about. One is an agreement whereby the people of yevesh Gilead will serve Him, and therefore he will not attack them and bring them to death. It is a fear for survival. And notice what he says in response to this verse two and nachash, the ammonia, he said unto them with this meaning, in this way, I will cut with you a covenant, and that is, if I may, may gouge out your right eye and set upon you disgrace and disgrace upon all of

Israel. Now it's interesting because this word nachash, it is the same word for that serpent in the Garden of Eden that deceived Eve and brought sin among humanity. And what we're seeing here, in my opinion, is an example of how the enemy works, and one of his number one tools is fear. And notice, we find that because of that fear, that the people of yavesh Gilead, they're willing to serve nachash to serve this evil one. This is not God's will, and they're not concerned with God's will, and that's the problem. And let me say this, when you are not committed to the will of God, you can be assured that the enemy knows that, and the enemy is going to take. Advantage of that come against you in order to bring fear and to enslave you. This is what we're learning from this passage of Scripture. And again, what is nachash the ammonite? What is he wanting to do? Well, notice what it says that he wants to set upon this people kerpa, which is a strong word of disgrace, reproach, something in that line. Now move, if you would, to verse three. And the elders of yavesh, they said, and we have a word. It means, basically, to wait a moment. Now that word for moment is a brief moment. They simply say, wait for us seven days, and messengers shall be sent and throughout the all the the borders of Israel. And if, and the implication is, if, at the end, there is no savior for us, we will go out unto you, meaning we will go out and we will allow you to gouge out our right eye. Now notice this, they have no help. They feel that they are uncertain whether the rest of the tribes of Israel are going to respond to their need. We can be assured of something. There is a savior, those who walk by faith, those who trust in the Word of God, those who are committed to the purposes of God, we can be assured that we have a defender, and ultimately that defender is our Lord and Savior, the Messiah. And what we find here is that they are sending throughout the borders of Israel to see if anyone will come to their aid. Verse four says, and the messengers, they came and notice they came to Gibeah, sure, meaning, this is where Shaul resided. This is where he was. And we see the providence of God Shaul is called to be the leader of the children of Israel, the king. In other words, and therefore providentially, we find that this message of help went through these messengers directly to Shaul. And notice what it says. Look again at verse four.

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The messengers, they came to Gibeah of sheul, and they spoke in the ears of the people these things. And notice when it was heard, all the people lifted up their voices. And what did they do? Weep. Now. Why is that because of the enemy. And what I want you to see is this, the enemy is always a source of sadness. He is always a source of frustration. He wants to bring doubt and uncertainty into your life, but when we understand God and who he is and how God works, God is the rock of our salvation. Let me say that differently. When we rely upon the word of God, God positions us on a sure foundation. Nothing uncertain. We shouldn't doubt we are on a good ground, a proper foundation, and this is where even the people of yavesh Gilead are. Why? One simple reason, because they have a covenant. They don't need to make a covenant with nachash. They need to realize the covenant blessings that they have being part of God's covenant, the one that he made with Abraham, which is a covenant that leads to blessing. This is their position, spiritually. What's the problem? They don't understand it, and they're not living in light of God's covenantal promises. So they have this fear once again. Notice what it says. All these things were told to the people and what happens? Well, it says here at the end of verse five, and they told him, meaning the people told Shaul these words, who told the men of yavesh, so Now Saul is aware of the situation, and it's very significant what happens in this next verse. Again, what I've emphasized for the last several weeks is. That God, he did not set up Shaul to fall. But what did he do? He provided everything to him, provided, as we saw, valiant men, to be with Him, to be his counselors,

to be his assistants, to help him in his leadership. And what was another blessing from God? Well, remember, the Spirit of God came upon Shaul and he prophesied. Now, prophecy is God's communication, and God was speaking, and God was leading, and God was providing for Shaul in order that he would have a successful rule over the people. God doesn't set us up for failure. God wants us to triumph over the things of the enemy, and this is what we're learning in this passage of Scripture. Look now to a most significant verse, verse six of our chapter, where it says Ruach Elohim, that is the Spirit of God. It landed upon Shaul when he heard these words. So the Spirit of God, he came upon Shaul when he heard this situation. What are we learning from that very simply. When King Shaul heard these things, what happened? He understood something. He understood that there was a need and who was there to assist him. Well, we don't have to guess. It tells us the spirit of God. Now it's interesting, it doesn't say the Spirit of the Lord. Doesn't say the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit of God. Why is that in sport important the Ruach Elohim? Well, this word, Elohim is the the most common word for God in the scriptures, at least in the Old Testament, in the Hebrew Bible, Elohim. And what does basically, that word Elohim means? Well, if we do a good study of it, we find that it's connected to judgment. Now God in the most general sense. Who is he? How should we think of him? He is our judge, meaning this, everyone, no exception, everyone is going to have to give an account to God about what we have thought, what we have said, how we behaved, everything. And we know biblically, we see this, for example, in the book of Revelation, every thought, every word, every action, has been written down in these books. And there is coming a judgment day. And who is that judge? Ultimately, we know it is God. So what we find here is that it's the Spirit of God, Ruach Elohim, the spirit of this one who is judging. Now, what is he doing? He is going to give to Sheol biblical truth. Let me say it differently, the right perspective, spiritually, so that Shaul makes the right action responds in a proper way. So Look again at verse six, the Spirit of God. He came upon Shaul when he heard these words. And what was Shaul's response? Well, it says vaha, apo mayo, which means he became very angry. And the word that's emphasized here is that word, very meud in Hebrew, he became, we might say, exceedingly angry. Why? Well, I believe that this is a righteous anger, because he understood that nachash. Remember that connection to that serpent in the Garden of Eden. We see that nachash, this man, this ammonite, he is coming to do what? To bring shame, to bring disgrace, to bring reproach upon all the children of Israel. That's what the enemy wants to do. And therefore, when he understood the spiritual battle here, and Shaul did. He became exceedingly angry, and this is indeed the right response. Let's look to verse seven. How did Shaul respond to all of this, not just with anger, but notice what he did in verse seven. And he took a yoke of of cattle. Now this could be a pair of cattle, or it could be even a larger number, and it says that he did something. He cut them up. So they were cut up this cattle. And notice something very. Important, and he sent it throughout all the border of Israel, how, through the hand of the messengers, saying,

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one who does not go forth after soul, meaning one that does not follow Him. In this one who rejects, one who ignores what Shaul is going to do that does not follow after Him and not just show notice who else he brings in and after Samuel. Now, Samuel is known as a man of God, and we see here something wonderful is being taught to us, and that is, we have the king. He will be king, King Shaul. He is working hand in hand with Samuel, the prophet, and this is how it's supposed to be, that a king does not sit back. And because he king, he makes his own decisions, he looks at the situation and he exercised his own human discernment for decision making. That is a formula for failure. What is a

righteous king to do? He is called to rely upon prophetic revelation. And we see that that Samuel's mentioned as a source of that. But God is blessing Sheol because he himself, the Spirit came upon him, and he was able to directly receive revelation from God and how to respond. So what did he do? His first response, a righteous anger. And then secondly, he's calling the nation of Israel to come together in unity against this attack of the enemy. Look again at verse seven, and he, that is Sheol. He took a yoke of cattle, and he cut them up, and he sent in all of the border of Israel, so throughout Israel, by the hand of these messengers, saying, who does not go out after Shaul and after Samuel, thus will be done to his cattle. Now, cattle meant something. Whenever we talk about livestock in that general way, whether it was a flock of sheep and goats, or whether it was oxen, or in this case, cattle, this represented something, and that is money. And what he's saying is this, if you don't respond, if you do not participate in what I'm going to do as the leader of Israel, you are going to find that you are going to suffer a financial loss. Now, the enemy wants to bring defeat and shame and disgrace upon us, but there's something else being taught here, and that's this, when we do not obey the purposes of God when we're not participating in the work of God, when we're not led by prophetic truth, what are we doing? We're going to experience a loss, and this is what the Word of God is teaching us when we stand idly by and we don't do the things that God would have us to do, it is going to cost us a great deal. And therefore, show is revealing that when he says such will be done to anyone who doesn't go out after me and after show Samuel, one who does not do that, who sits idly by, this is going to be done to his cattle? And what happened? Well, something good, it says. And the fear of the Lord fell upon the people and they went out. Ke ish, achad, what does that mean? As one man now, another important principle is being taught. Now all of this came about not at the initiative of Shaul. We need to remember the trigger event, and what was that? Well, we go back to to verse six, where we are told that the Spirit of God that he landed upon show when he heard these words. So the key source of this revelation is the Spirit of God to give clarity, to show, to know what to do. And he wanted to bring unity. And here's the key when we are submissive to the will of God, that submissiveness, that that obedience, is going to produce unity among God's people. And when God's people are unified with the purposes of God and God Himself, they will be a. Force that are that is undefeated. So we need to see that we need to find prophetic truth. We need to submit to prophetic truth. We need to apply prophetic truth to our life in order that we are on the side of victory, and that is God's victory that he shares with us. So look again at our text, what it says here. And the fear of the Lord fell upon the people, and they went out as one man, unity, ish achad, one man. Now let's look at our last verse, verse eight. Now, something was done here, and this is to show us an important biblical truth. Now we know, in a general sense, that we don't rely upon a census. Why is that? Well, we see a few times where and one was done by David himself, whereby he received some wonderful, expensive plunder by defeating some some enemies. And what was the first thing that David did? He took that crown of the defeated king, and he waited. What does that mean? He waited, well, very simply, he wanted to discern its wealth. How much was that that crown worth? He wanted to know how wealthy these people were, and he found out that this crown was exceedingly valuable. And what did he do? He then moved the people to take a census, and you might recall that one of his generals said, Don't do such a thing. We don't go out to battle because we're stronger than another people. We don't go out in order to plunder, in order that we get wealthy. That's not how the children in Israel respond. What do they do? They go out to war when God leads them out to war. So God makes that decision, not the people, but David. He was being faithless. He was being disobedient, and he was led by about accumulating wealth, rather than walking in obedience to God, and it certainly did not end well with him. Now here's the truth. We need to be people that

understand the will of God. And how do we understand the will of God prophetic truth, and that's why we see going again to verse six. This is all triggered by the Spirit of God coming upon soul and leading him to put this in order. Now let's look at our last verse, verse eight, and it says at a certain place. At that place is bezek. Now, bezek means something that is quick, something that is fast. And what we find here is this that they were counted. That is, there was a census taken at basic meaning, there was a census taken, and it was taken quickly. And what happens? Well, notice it says, And the children of Israel, they were 300,000 a large number, and the men of Judah. Now, why is Judah singled out? Well, we know that Messiah comes from the tribe of Judah, and therefore there are scholars that would offer that Judah is being singled out, because this is how we find Messiah's influence. What do we do? Well, we put things in order. We understand our strength, not for the purpose of doing what we want, but for the purpose of obeying God. We take an inventory of who we are, where we are spiritually, and we then go out in obedience to the king's decision. And the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, is indeed Messiah, and we fight the battles that God leads us to it. So it says here, a census was taken at bezek, and the children of Israel, they were 300,000 and the men of Judah were 30,000 now what do we see here? Well, we see 330,000 now I would say that when we look at that, we see that number, 33 course, 30 330,000

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but what stands out is 33 and that is in agreement with the life of Messiah. And what this is telling us is a very important truth, and that is this, if we want to have Messiah's life leading us, guiding us, providing for us. Us, then what do we do? We need to follow the spiritual truth that is being outlined for us in this passage, which is this, there is an enemy. There's always that nachash, that serpent, and he wants to bring shame and disgrace and reproach upon the people of God. But if we submit to a righteous leader. And here we see that this righteous leader was Shoal, under the the team of Shoal and Samuel. And what happens? Well, we'll see next week that something good came about. Why? Because they were following the revelation of the Spirit of God, the truth of God, the purposes of God, in order to live in a way that brought about the glory of God. And that's what God is leading his people to do, to behave in a way that manifests His glory. So when we look at this passage from First Samuel, chapter 11, we see a highly spiritual passage that teaches us many important principles in order to know how to encounter and respond to the enemy. Now, the enemy is going to encounter us, but we need to know how to respond, and we do not respond based upon our own intellect, our own perspective, what we think, what seems right, in our own eyes. All of that is a formula for failure, defeat and shame. But when we listen to God, when we are led by a spirit, and when we do the wise thing, and we take a spiritual inventory, and we remember what God has provided his leadership, what God has brought about in our life, in order that we can serve Him and accomplish His Will, when this is at the heart of our thinking, God will lead us, guide us, direct us, in order that we will experience victory. What we need to remember is this, God loves us, and God does not set us up for failure if we remain submissive, obedient and relying upon him and instituting and implementing his truth into our life, we can expect God to provide and God to move mightily in order that we also share in the Lord's victory. That's what God loves to do. He is a victorious God, and He loves his covenant people to share in that victory with him. Well, with that said, We'll close until next time. Shalom from Israel.

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Well, we hope you will benefit from today's message and share it with others. Please plan to join us each week at this time and on this channel for our broadcast of love israel.org again, to find out more about us, please visit our website, love Israel. Dot O, R, G, there you will find articles in numerous other lectures by Baruch. These teachings are in video form. May download them or watch them in streaming video until next week, may the Lord bless you in our Messiah, Yeshua, that is Jesus, as you walk with Him, Shalom from Israel. You.