

If It Had Not Been

Psalms 124:1-8 *If it had not been the LORD* who was on our side, now may Israel say; **2** *If it had not been the LORD* who was on our side, when men rose up against us: **3** Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: **4** Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: **5** Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. **6** Blessed *be* the LORD, who hath not given us *as* a prey to their teeth. **7** Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. **8** Our help *is* in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Here we find the people of God praising the LORD for his deliverance! Based upon the circumstances they should have lost... BUT GOD prevailed!!!

1. They were Outnumbered

(2) *If it had not been the LORD* who was on our side, when men rose up against us:

Here in our text we find the people being surrounded and outnumbered, yet they won the battle because the LORD was on their side!

Psalms 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

As we look into the Old Testament we find that this happened more often than not.

The Kingdoms unite against Joshua:

Joshua 9:1-2 And it came to pass, when all the kings which *were* on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard *thereof*; **2** That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord.

Five Kings now ready for battle...

Joshua 10:5 Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it.

Outnumbered... but for the LORD!!!

Joshua 10:8 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

2 Chronicles 20:15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, **Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.**

There are many battles all throughout the OT to which the people of God were outnumbered, BUT GOD!!!

IN FACT there are moments in American history that we too can say the same... We were surrounded and outnumbered, BUT GOD!

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

David with Goliath:

1 Samuel 17:47 And all this 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.

It NEVER WILL BE POPULAR TO SERVE GOD!

Matthew 5:11-12 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **12** Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

There is coming a future battle where we will be outnumbered again: ARAMAGEDON

Revelation 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

But let me tell you loud and clear: We ARE outnumbered? But that is okay, we've got God!

This world is trying to stop you. It is not some popularity contest. If so, we lose. OUTNUMBERED, yes, BUT WE HAVE THE LORD!

Matthew 27:62-66 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, 63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise

again. 64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. **65** Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. 66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch. **BUT ON THE THIRD DAY!!**

This ole world is not sure what to do with us Christians. We are being outnumbered more and more as each day goes on. BUT GOD!

Not only were they outnumbered, but they were...

2. They were Outsmarted

(5) Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.

Psalms 35:15-18 But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: *yea*, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew *it* not; they did tear *me*, and ceased not: 16 With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth. 17 Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions. 18 I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.

The world is putting all their stock in education, when the best education in the world in nothing if don't have GOD!

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

We are outnumbered, and now we find ourselves outsmarted...
BUT GOD!!!!

The scholars have spoken, the professors had declared.... BUT GOD!!!!

1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: 21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace *be* with thee. Amen

(8) Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

For Just about every doctrine in the Bible there is a over educated college professor out there who has outsmarted God.

- **Creation**
We have teachers and scholars day in and day out trying to outsmart Genesis 1. I may not have all the answers...
BUT GOD!

Romans 1:21-22 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

- **The KING JAMES BIBLE**
How can there be a perfect translation out there? There is no way humanly speaking to have the preserved, inspired words of God today....**BUT GOD!**
- **The Red Sea**
Impossible! (must have been the REED SEA)
BUT GOD!!!!
- **Jonah in the Whale**
I believe that the was a man named Jonah that lived in the belly of a whale...

1 Corinthians 4:10 We *are* fools for Christ's sake...

As we get closer to the end times, we can see this world plotting against the church, God, the Bible. One world government is just around the corner. We are being outsmarted, but don't you worry one little bit, WE HAVE GOD!!!!

Psalms 2:1-4 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? **2** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, **3** Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. **4** He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Some things just out to be believed on according to the Scriptures! For no other reason than, because God said so!

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

3. Outvoted

(2) *If it had not been* the LORD who was on our side,
when men rose up against us:
BUT FOR GOD!

God has asked us to do the unpopular for HIM. Will you?

Psalms 69:7

“Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face.”

Christians today are all too willing to share the glory of Christ when all is well but far too many Christians are not willing to

share in the reproach of Christ. We see here in this Psalm the writer is expressing himself as he bears the reproach of Christ.

He tells us that it is as if he is drowning in the midst of a raging sea. He is overwhelmed with those who hate him.

Hebrews 13:13 tells us that we are to bear his reproach “WITHOUT THE CAMP”. It is easy to share the Glory of Christ within the camp while everyone claps and says “amen”, but here we are compelled to go without the camp and bear His reproach.

1 Peter 4:12-14 tells us to rejoice when we are able to share in the sufferings of Christ. When the world reproaches us for Christ’s sake we are to rejoice!

Without God, we lose. We ARE outnumbered. We ARE outsmarted. We are outvoted... But we HAVE GOD!

Romans 8:31-39 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? **32** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? **33** Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? *It is* God that justifieth. **34** Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as

sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 1. It's not an easy road we are trav'ling to Heaven,
For many are the thorns on the way;
It's not an easy road but the Savior is with us,
His presence gives us joy ev'ry day.**

**CHORUS: No, no, it's not an easy road,
No, no, it's not an easy road.
But Jesus walks beside me and brightens my journey,
And lightens ev'ry heavy load.**

- 2. Tho' I am often footsore and weary from travel,
Tho' I am often bowed down with care;
A better day is coming when Home in the glory,
We'll rest in perfect peace over there.**