

# Tarrying At Jerusalem

2 Samuel 11:1



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**FOCAL** 2 Samuel 11:1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

We know that our father Abraham was saved because the Bible says:

**Genesis 15:6 {Abraham} believed in the LORD; and {the LORD} counted it to him for righteousness.**

The **just are saved by faith (Habakkuk 2:4)**, by believing in the LORD Jesus Christ. Abraham believed in the coming Messiah and was saved. David was also a saved man. He was a believer in the coming LORD Jesus. We know this because of David's history. When King Saul denied the Lord our Master **rejected him from reigning over Israel**. The Lord sent the Prophet Samuel to the House of Jesse. One by one Jesse's children were paraded before the Prophet, and one by one the Lord rejected them. The Lord said:

**1 Samuel 16:7 ... the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

The Lord looked at the heart of each one of those boys, but none were right in the eyes of God. You see, the Lord looks for the saved heart, the believing heart, the heart that loves the Lord.

**God uses the willing believer, the believer who wants to show his love to the Lord by faithful service.**

The Lord blesses those who seek His glory. He equips those who will serve Him. I have often been blessed by the words of the Apostle Paul, who wrote:

**1 Corinthians 1:26-27 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: {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;....**

God uses the willing and surrendered. It was a willing and surrendered David who watched his father's sheep in the fields. It was a willing and surrendered David who loved King Saul. David was anointed King over Saul, but he was willing to be Saul's armor-bearer (**1 Samuel 16:21**) and was willing to love Saul. He left the matter in God's hands as to when he would ascend to the throne. He did as Scripture said:

**1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**

Saul sought glory for himself and had none. David sought glory for God and was blessed. It was David who stood before Goliath the giant Philistine, saying:

**1 Samuel 17:45-46 ... Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. {46} This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand .... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.**

David's assurance and motivation wasn't his own power. David stood up for God. He was a willing worker who stepped out on faith to served the Lord. David willingly stepped up for God's glory a giant Philistine lay dead.

There are two places in the Scripture that tell us that **David tarried in Jerusalem**. It is not only in our focal text of **2 Samuel 11:1**, but also in **1 Chronicles 20:1**. Between these two verses we can determine that **David started tarrying at Jerusalem when his General Joab beseiged Rabbah. and kept on tarrying until Rabbah was destroyed.**

David didn't take a one day break from battle, or even a week off. He *stopped doing God's will for a long period of time.*

There's an old saying that's very true: **Idle hands are the devil's workshop**. When Christians become complacent, apathetic, lazy, or slothful, then the devil can get into the Christian, into the Family, and into the Church.

The Church of Jesus Christ - while serving the Lord -

cannot be destroyed by Satan. Jesus said:

**Matthew 16:18 .... upon this rock I will build MY church; and the gates of hell SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.**

The people of God *cannot be defeated by Satan*. Our Lord said **the gates of hell SHALL NOT prevail against it**. Jesus is the Builder of the Church and the Power of the Church. Jesus has said:

**Matthew 28:18-20 ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

Jesus has said **all power is given unto Me - GO!** The Church and the Christian is to be on the move. We are to carry the Gospel of salvation out into all the world. Jesus said **teach all nations**, which could be translated **tell everyone, regardless of their origin**. Jesus has said "**all power is given unto Me - and I am with you ALWAYS**".

Our God is not a triple A battery. He has ALL POWER and tells us to GO!

Christ's people have ALL POWER to do what we are

called to do. God equipped David, and He equips every believer to do what he's suppose to do. We are to go for the Lord.

### **1. There Are Times When Kings Go Forth To Battle - And Times When They Train**

**FOCAL 2 Samuel 11:1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle ....**

There are seasons when armies train for battle, and seasons when they battle. You have to train. God must equip you before you can do His work. **Jesus told His disciples before He ascended into Heaven:**

**Luke 24:49 ... I send the promise of my Father upon you: but TARRY YE IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM, UNTIL YE BE ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH.**

They had to be equipped. The **disciples were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God (Luke 24:53).**

As believers we come together at regular intervals to love God and love one another. We come together in Bible study to be fed the good Word of God. What we hear we *meditate on* so that we can use it in our lives.

The Bible says:

**1 Corinthians 3:9 ... you are God's garden and God's building.** (Contemporary English Version)

**You are God's Garden.** A garden has to be planted by a Gardener. God is your Gardener. Plants are put in a Garden to be used by its Master. God is your Master. Plants are watered, nourished, and protected by the Gardener. God is your Gardener. Beloved of God, each one of you are all somewhat different with somewhat different gifts, but each and every one of you are bound together under the **blood of Christ** and the **love of God**. Love gave you birth. You are special, and are - every believer - **kings and priests unto God (Revelation 1:6), Sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus:**

**Galatians 4:4-7 ... God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. {6} And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. {7} Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

There are seasons where kings go forth to battle, and seasons when kings train.

We who believe gather to worship the Lord. We gather to study the blessed Word of God under the guidance of God's anointed Pastor. We listen intently to our teachers, knowing that:

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is {the very breath of God}, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: {17} That the man of God may {reach maturity, and be completely equipped to do good works}.**

We train, and seek God's face, and pray diligently - and **grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)**. As we do these things - worship, give, love, and study the Word - we do so knowing that *we will go in the Spring*. We will move and do as our Lord bids us, and advance with His Gospel through every door that He opens.

**Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16)**. There is now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1). The righteousness of God is fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:4).

You were not saved to sit, but to stand and to walk. A walking Christian is a serving Christian. No Christian is to be an i-d-o-l worshiper, nor is he an i-d-l-e worshiper. Saved by faith in Christ, indwelt by the Spirit of God, we may tarry to train, but then we obediently GO for the glory of God!

During seasons of rest, rest in the Lord and in His Word. During our season of training the Lord has promised

that:

**Isaiah 40:31 ... they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

God has promised to be with you. Love one another. Lift one another up. Glorify the Lord your Savior. Worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Then GO as He has said. When you are equipped:

**Acts 1:8 .... ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Be the Light that God wants you to be. Stoke the fire within you, then GO!

## **2. The Danger of I-D-L-E Worship**

Some people think it is a small thing to do nothing for Christ. That's not true. I-D-L-E worship serves no purpose, and can lead to other greater sins.

God wants us to worship Him with the intent of putting our faith into action. The Apostle Paul - one of the greatest warriors of our faith - said:

**Philippians 3:13-15 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting**

**those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, {14} I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. {15} Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded....**

Our calling is a **high calling of God in Christ Jesus**. What a great thing it is to BE a Christian. The Apostle Peter said many foolish things when he walked with Jesus, but he also said many great things. Jesus was preaching one day and the Bible says "**many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more**". Jesus asked the twelve who remained, "**Will you also go away?**" Peter said:

**John 6:68-69 ... Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. {69} And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

Our Savior **has the words of life**. We are called to GO and TELL others about Jesus. The great preacher **C.H. Spurgeon** said (Sermon: An Exhortation, #450, May 18, 1862).

**"I find in Scripture that most of the great appearances that were made to eminent saints were made when they were busy. Moses kept his father's flock when he saw the burning bush; Joshua is going round about the city of Jericho when he meets the angel of the Lord; Jacob is in prayer and the angel of God appears to him; Gideon is threshing, Elisha is plowing .... idle Grace would soon become active corruption."**

**As Jesus was about the Father's Business, so should His people be.** God's Grace is not meant to be idle. Grace is founded in Love, and moves in Love.

**ILLUSTRATE** I heard a story about a foolish goose. As he and the other geese were migrating he looked down and saw a barnyard, and the chickens peacefully feeding on what the farmer's wife had thrown out. The goose left his brethren and, going down to the barnyard, he began to feed. He stayed in the same place day after day eating all that he could, and slept in the soft hay at night. A few months later the geese began to migrate. When his brothers passed over head he tried to reach them, but had become so heavy and weak that he was like a chicken. He couldn't get where the geese were. After a few tries he said, "forget it", and went back to the joy of the barnyard. In time this became his downfall, for the farmer's wife discovered the silly goose and on Thanksgiving morning "invited him to dinner".

**FOCAL** 2 Samuel 11:1 .... **David tarried still at Jerusalem.**

What did David's tarrying do to him? It made an honorable and Godly man into somewhat of a monster. The devil is always looking for an opportunity to shame the Christian that Jesus shed His Blood for. David sends everyone else - including Joab - into a battle that he should have been at. Then the Bible says that David:

**CONTEXT** 2 Samuel 11:2 .... **arose from off his bed,**

**and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.**

The David in service of the Lord would have averted his eyes. In fact, if David were serving the Lord he would have never been wandering the palace late at night.

Satan will always provide an opportunity for idle hands and idle eyes.

**CONTEXT** 2 Samuel 11:3-4 ... **David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? {4} And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.**

David thought that no one would know. But Bathsheba "was purified from her uncleanness". She had passed her monthly cycle, and was very fertile. The Bible says that David's action - which he thought would be hidden - led to disaster. How many times has a well known Christian fallen, and how many times has Satan scored a great affliction on the cause of Christ because of it? How many times has a Pastor or a Bible Teacher or a well respected Sunday School worker been involved in a scandal? David tried his best to cover it up. He sent Uriah home, but that good man would not go into his house while the Army of God was in the battlefield. Listen to his words when he was questioned by David:

**CONTEXT** 2 Samuel 11:11 ... The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

Uriah knew that there are seasons for tarrying, and seasons for service. While God's Army was fighting the unbeliever Uriah would not relax.

Oh, that David had learned from Uriah's example! If only David had confessed his sin before God and before Uriah. Uriah had his job to do and was doing it, but David wasn't. What did David do?

He plotted with his general, and deliberately put Uriah in a place where he would be killed. When Uriah was killed David - now a terrible hypocrite - waited until

**2 Samuel 11:27 ... the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. ....**

But he didn't get away with it. The Bible says "**the thing that David had done displeased the LORD**". His sin would come out. David would be shamed. The child born to his household would die. The Lord told David:

**2 Samuel 12:11-12 ... I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives**

**before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. {12} For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.**

God punishes His children for sin, but rewards His children for obedience.

David's tarrying in Jerusalem not only caused him to commit adultery with Bathsheba and murder Uriah, but David also **began to gather glory to himself rather than God.**

**ALTERNATE CONTEXT** 1 Chronicles 21:1 ... **Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.**

David would not have been open to Satan's promptings if he were out doing God's work in God's way. David's sin with Uriah and Bathsheba ruined his immediate family. David's sin of numbering the people *hurt the nation*. The Bible says that:

**ALTERNATE CONTEXT** 1 Chronicles 21:14 ...**the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.**

When God's people do not do God's work in God's way there is a ripple effect that spreads outward into the land. Jesus said:

**Matthew 5:14-16 ... Ye are the light of the world. A**

city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. {15} Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. {16} Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

We are God's lights, and our local Churches are God's Great Light. We can reclaim America from whence its fallen, but only if we GO and DO as our Lord has commanded.

### 3. Our Motive To Service

We have many great motives that should spur us to GO and DO. **We are to fight for our King Jesus.** He is

**Matthew 1:23 .... Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**

Dear friends, we have God with us.

**Romans 8:31-32 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?**

**God delivered up His own Son for us all!** See His wounds. See the nail scars in His hands. Do you not remember when you were lost and without hope, and Jesus reached out to save you? **The love of Jesus Christ constrains - presses downward - on every believer.**

You may have become cold in your love toward Him - **He stands at the door and knocks (Revelation 3:20).** You may have failed Him, as the Apostle Peter failed Him. Confess your sin, then GO and DO. Jesus told Peter **"If you love Me, feed My sheep"**. You have a job to do for your King. Go! You fight under the **banner of the Blood of Christ.** You're part of the Kingdom of God, Kings and Priests before God. GO!

Go and do because the enemy will not stop. We fight an evil angelic foe who is taking captives every single day.

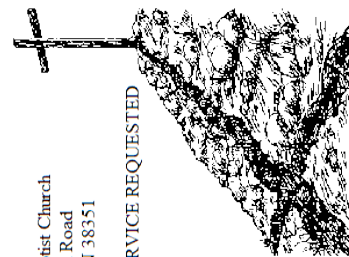
**We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against Satan's forces.** God has promised that Satan shall not win. Go. God has many promises for His children. He said:

**Galatians 6:9 ... let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

We shall reap the harvest. Trust God, and keep on doing His good. He has said:

**Isaiah 55:10-11 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: {11} So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

The Gospel of God has the power to save. The Word of God created the Heavens and the Earth. It can and will create life. Keep sowing the good Word of God. Keep preaching the Gospel. Keep telling all that **all have sinned and come short of the glory of God**. Tell them that **they shall never enter Heaven of their own power, but must come to the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved**. They must **believe on Him Whom God hath sent**. There may be some here tonight that do not know for certain that they are "kings and priests before God". Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Have you FULLY TRUSTED in His Grace this hour? If not, may the blessed Spirit of God move on your hearts to do so this very night.



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