

No Weapon Shall Prosper

Isaiah 54:11-17

Israel is a land where the ground is full of artifacts of ancient history.

Did you hear about the archaeologist who was digging in the Negev Desert in Israel and came upon a casket containing a perfectly preserved mummy? After examining it, he called the curator of the prestigious Israel Museum in Jerusalem. "I've just discovered a 3,000-year-old mummy of a man who died of heart failure!" the excited scientist exclaimed.

To which the curator replied, "Bring him in. We'll check it out." A few weeks later, the amazed curator called the archaeologist. "You were right about the mummy's age and even the cause of death. How in the world did you know that he died of heart failure?"

"Easy," said the archeologist. "There was a piece of paper still in his hand that said, I bet all my shekels and all my land on Goliath over the kid."

How many times have our enemies boasted they would defeat us, but didn't?

Communist leaders (Khrushchev/Stalin) said they would walk over American graves; that someday our children would all speak Russian. There were moments it looked like they might succeed. They build up their military, launched their ships and submarines and placed their nuclear missiles as close as Cuba.

But God had different plans.

In 1988 we all watched as the Berlin wall, the symbol of Communist domination fell. It's fall represented the very fall of communism.

Church, never forget that someday we will see Satan's empire fall as well.

I believe some here today have some spiritual walls that God wants to knock down. Read this morning's passage with me.

Isaiah 54:11-17 (NKJV)

This passage tells us that the fight we're involved in has been "fixed". God has destined us to win no matter how hard the devil fights or how ingenious he seems. All we have to do is keep holding onto Jesus and we'll be alright. So, fear not! "No Weapon Formed Against You Will Prosper"

I. PROMISE TO GOD'S PEOPLE

THE AFFLICTED CHURCH WILL BE COMFORTED

God begins by telling the Israelites -- the Church of the Old Testament -- that He is distressed with them and in all their afflictions.

Some of you are experiencing tough times and may be devastated this morning. Know that God is hurting with you! He is "touched with the feelings of our infirmities."

But God doesn't stop there. He begins to prophesy how He will turn everything around for them/you in verses 11-14.

In verses 15-16, He speaks of our enemy's liabilities and to His ability to control those enemies. The term "blacksmith" is the One who makes the weapons. The "Destroyer" is the one who takes the weapons out to fight.

Since God created the one who forges the weapons and the one who uses the weapons, He knows how to defend against and defeat them for us.

So, say with me that, THE FIGHT IS FIXED. God assures us of victory. With God's help, we can't help but win. Right? "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

In the boxing world where there's always a lot of gambling, there have been times when the obvious favorite somehow lost the fight. That's when charges would surface that the fight had been fixed!

What that means is that someone had paid a large amount of money to the favored boxer to get him to lose the match on purpose. Those who bet on the weaker boxer, with big odds, were sure to make a fortune! So, when it's said that a "fight is fixed," it means that one combatant is guaranteed to win before the fight even starts!

The exciting thing is, our fight for Christ is fixed! With God on our side we can't lose! This means your adversary the devil is predetermined to be defeated! Your victory is guaranteed!

It may not be in the first round, or the second round or the third round, but my faith in Gods promise tells me the devil is going down!

Luke 10:19 (NKJV)

Victory is assured: "No weapon formed against you shall prosper!" Glory, Hallelujah!

II. TWO THINGS IMPLIED BY VERSE 17 TO BE AWARE OF

YOU HAVE A DETERMINED ENEMY WHO IS OUT TO DESTROY YOU

There is a real enemy who seeks to destroy us. That is why we can't be lackadaisical, or get too comfortable.

When you're in a conflict, you cannot forget there's an enemy out there trying to knock you off. Can you imagine a soldier in the battle, putting his gun down and taking off his helmet to comb his hair? No! He'd be one dead soldier! Quickly!

We must always be on guard.

THE ENEMY HAS FORGED WEAPONS SPECIFICALLY AGAINST YOU

The weapons that the enemy forms are uniquely crafted for each one of us. Our weaknesses are studied; our vulnerabilities are observed.

Which people close to us can fail us?
What situations can shake our faith?

The enemy designs weapons best fitted to penetrate our defenses or most effective in causing us spiritual confusion and damage.

(Esther 7) Haman schemed and plotted to destroy Mordecai and all the Jews. Haman imagined Mordecai swinging from a lofty gallows, and so had one built 90 ft. high, just for him! Why 90 ft. high? So all the surrounding city could see it! The devil wanted to shame the people of God! But there is a God in heaven available to an Esther in the Palace of Shushan.

Instead of Mordecai hanging on the gallows, it was Haman!

Pharaoh pursued Israel to the Red Sea. Pharaoh said to his men, "Do you fear to tread were mere slaves are bold?"

And his men boldly drown between walls of water. Moses relied on God and spoke; "Israel! Don't fear the uplifted spear or rattling chariots; their weapons will not prosper!"

Moses waved the rod and God caused the mighty waters crashing upon the Egyptians!

TEMPTATIONS AS WEAPONS

The devil uses some things you wouldn't expect -- things difficult to detect -- like a stealth bomber is hard to detect. The enemy uses these things against you to hinder you, and throw you off track.

Your Past

Sickness Disease Death
 Friends, family betrayals
 Depression
 Finances

If the enemy can't stop you, he wants to make you ineffective and unproductive for the kingdom. But you don't have to allow that; "No weapon formed against you shall prosper!"

III. GOOD NEWS: YOU'RE INVINCIBLE IN JESUS CHRIST

WEAPONS WILL NOT PROSPER AGAINST YOU

What does the Hebrew word translated "prosper" mean? The root meaning means to "push forward." It is similar to the ocean waves crashing against a mountain of rock; the waves break unheeded and the rock stands firm.

In the same way, we will be unmoved by the attacks of the enemy.

This doesn't mean it won't hurt, or that we won't be momentarily stunned and confused, but keep holding onto Jesus, the Rock of our Salvation!

John 10:27-30 (NKJV)

Nothing the enemy can throw at us will succeed if we're walking with the Lord. We can only self-destruct!

(Numbers 23)

Balaam a sorcerer, tried to curse the Israelites, but couldn't: his curses were turned into blessings!

STORY of the MISSIONARY & THE WITCH

Glenn Thompson was an AG missionary to Lat. America, went to Cuauhtémoc, Veracruz, Mexico (Island) to begin a big crusade. On the second day, a witch confronted him; "You won't build a church here. I am the oldest and most powerful witch -- we are going to cast a spell on you!"

Thompson replied, "I've had a spell on me since I was 10 years old -- when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. Nothing you can do can influence my life." The witch danced around him, chanting and sprinkling salt and pepper.

Thompson replied, "Save your salt and pepper for your supper! Were covered by the blood of Jesus; you can't stop us."

On the very last night of the campaign, that same woman was saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit. She burned all her paraphernalia. She eventually won 22 other witches to Christ.

Matthew 16:18-19 (NKJV)

YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE

"NO Weapon."

You are PERFECTLY SAFE!

You should have no fear; you should rest in perfect peace.

IV: CONCLUSION

In his book, *Intercessory Prayer Dutch Sheets* says, "We had been ministering in Guatemala for one week with very few people coming to Christ. The people were listening, but not responding. I was to preach on the final night of our trip. Just as the service was about to begin, a team member told me about something he and others had found on the far side of the village, a little girl, six or seven years old, tied to a tree.

Not believing what they were seeing, they asked the family that lived there, "Why is this small girl tied to that tree?" It was obvious she lived there, much like a dog, in the back yard -- filthy, helpless and alone.

"She is crazy," the parents replied. "We can't control her. She hurts herself and others and runs away if we turn her loose. There is nothing else we can do for her so we just have to tie her up."

A voice said to me, "Tell them you are going to pray for the little insane girl across the village tied to the tree. Tell them you are going to do it in the name of this Jesus you've been preaching about. Tell them that through Him you are going to break the evil powers controlling her-that when she is free and normal, they can then know that what you are preaching is true."

I responded to the voice in my heart with fear and trembling. I believe the words were something like, WHAT DID YOU SAY???

Same instructions came.

Then I prayed. On that moonlit night in a tiny, remote village of Guatemala with a handful of people as my audience, my life changed forever.

A "hidden" Jesus emerged from the cob-webs of theology.

A yesterday Jesus became a today and forever Jesus.

A Galilee Jesus became a Guatemala Jesus.

For the first time I understood the heavenly pattern: Jesus is the Victor-we're the enforcers; Jesus is the Redeemer-we're the releasers; Jesus is the Head-we're the Body.

Yes, He set the little girl free.

Yes, the village turned to Christ.

Yes, Jesus prevailed through a sent one. So the partnership goes on -- God and humans.

DON'T IGNORE YOUR PROBLEMS

"Maybe if I ignore the devil, he'll go away." No! You cannot peacefully coexist with the devil! God wants you to see How Big He is.

STORY OF DAVID & GOLIATH

David -- young and small and not trained. David said he'd kill Goliath with a sword although he had no sword.

Goliath - A giant, strong and a battle trained warrior, who years before, had a sword made just to kill Israelites.

It was unique; David remarked that there was no other sword like it!

David used Goliath's own sword which had been forged against him, to cut off Goliath's head.

What a victory!

That's the victory God has for us today!

Do you have a battle in your life that you want to get victory over? It's time for you to be set free!

Like Dutch Sheets learned, Do you want to begin the partnership with Jesus to be one of His workers? This morning if you need Victory, stand and let's pray together and receive the promise in Jesus Name.

If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, these altars are open and Jesus is calling you.