

# Lessons from Wilderness of Ziph

1 Sam 23:13-29

1 Sam 23:13-14 Saul gave up search.

*...but God delivered him not into his hand...*

God can protect his people.

God can give up a person to pressure

1 Pet 1:6-7

Mountainous and isolated wilderness region.

Acropolis or fortified height and surrounded by woods.

2, 882 ft. above sea-level

Surrounded by forest.

1 Sam 23:15-16 Jonathan simply appeared

*and strengthened his hand in God.* Helped him find strength in God

Encouraged him in Lord.

1 Sam 23:17

Jonathan's approach. **How to treat a friend in midst of trial of his life.**

- Encouraged him--have a right spirit
- Gave hope for future
- Talked of his potential
- Reinforced friendship & loyalty

**How encourage friend who really down?**

1. Draw attention toward God
2. Focus on attitude
3. Assure that God in control.
4. Remind of potential and future
5. Reinforce friendship.

1 Sam 23:18 **Covenant: agreement of solemn and binding force.**

Strong's: *in the sense of cutting; a compact made by passing between pieces of flesh. To cut a covenant.*

*It is a life and death agreement which expresses the ultimate commitment which can be made between two people, between a person and God, and between God and a person.*

Gen. 15:8-18

1 Sam 23:19 **Ziphites –tribe of Judah—strangers Psa 54:3**

From hill of Ziph-panorama of whole surrounding district seen.

They spotted him when he showed himself on hill of Hachilah

They quickly sent someone to tell Saul

1 Sam 23:20 *We will take the responsibility of handing David over to you.*

1 Sam 23:21 *God bless you. You really care about me.*

1 Sam 23:22 *Check it out again.*

*Find out where staying and who has seen him there.*

*He is very subtle and cunning.*

**1 Sam 23:23** *Come back with all facts.*

*Then, I go with you.*

*If s anywhere near area you said we will find him*

*Even if have to search every hiding place in all Judah.*

David wrote Psa 54:1-7

Request

Gives situation

Emphasis on character of God:

Request

Commitment

Reference to history of God's protection.

Reason for the promise: you have delivered me out of all trouble

*You have caused me to triumph over all my enemies.*

**1 Sam 23:24-26** *Saul and David on opposite sides of mountain.*

David hurriedly leaves area to get away from Saul.

Saul and men surround David

**1 Sam 23:27** *Urgent message--Philistines invading land.*

**1 Sam 23:28** *Saul goes home to protect people.*

***Selahammahlekoth***, the Rock of Escape.

**1 Sam 23:29** ***God's sovereign protection!***

God oftentimes has to bring us to end of selves to get attention.

The Tribulum

*In the pictures of the ancient Roman method of threshing grain, one man is always seen stirring up the sheaves while another rides over them in a crude cart equipped with rollers instead of wheels. Sharp stones and rough bits of iron were attached to these cylinders to help separate the husks from the grain. This simple cart was called a tribulum -- from which we get our word "tribulation." When great affliction comes to us, we often think of ourselves as being torn to pieces under the cruel pressures of adverse circumstances. Yet as no thresher ever yoked up his tribulum for the mere purpose of tearing up his sheaves but to disclose the precious grain, so our loving Savior never puts us under the pressure of sorrow and disappointment needlessly.*

2 Cor 12:7 *Thorn: point or prickle; stake, sharpened wooden shaft*

*Messenger of Satan: errand-boy, emissary, carrier from Satan*

*Buffet: knock me around with fist.*

Present tense: permanency

*lest I should be exalted above measure. Become inflated in my pride; haughty, caught up with how great I am.*

2 Cor 12:8 *... besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me*

Begged Lord 3 times that thorn might leave.

Barnett: ...*The 'thorn' from God kept Paul from imagining himself as a spiritual superman, and revealed to him the reality of his human mortality and weakness despite his extraordinary revelations., The 'thorn' also kept Paul pinned close to the Lord, in trust and confidence.*

2 Cor 12:9 All you need--my grace. Adequate

Grace: *The energizing power and supernatural desire to do the will of God.*

*Paul, I won't heal you, but there is one thing I will do for you. I will give you the energizing power and supernatural desire to do the will of God. I will give you more power to witness, I will build you up and give you victory over sin. I will give you strength to serve me and I will give you an effective ministry. I will give you power in prayer.*

Reasons for infirmity in the flesh:

1. Humble us
2. Give more grace
3. Have more power

*Strength: miraculous power; ability, abundance, might, mighty work.*

*Perfect: complete, accomplish, consummate, finish, fulfill,*

*Weakness: feebleness, malady; frailty, infirmity, sickness,*

*My power and dynamic force in your life is only brought to its 100 % effectiveness by your frailties.*

My power shows up best in weak people

Barnett: *The grace and power of God interlock with human lives at the point of mortal weakness.*

Hughes: *Indeed, the abject weakness of the human instrument serves to magnify and throw into relief the perfection of the divine power in a way that any suggestion of human adequacy could never do. The greater the servant's weakness, the more conspicuous is the power of his Master's all-sufficient grace.*

*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory ...*

Because of this, with great pleasure I choose to boast concerning the weaknesses that I have been experiencing.

Reason: So that God's supernatural, explosive, effective, mighty miracle-working power might overshadow everything I am and everything I do.

*Rest upon me: Tent upon me.*

Ref. to Shechinah glory of God (Ex.40:34).

That the power of God might create a canopy, a tent above me as the Shechinah dwelt in the tabernacle of the O.T.

2 Cor 12:10 *Take Pleasure: Think well of; approve of; think very highly of in: While I am experiencing ;*

*infirmities: Sickesses, maladies, infirmities*

*reproaches: insult, injury, harm*

*necessities: distressing things; needs not being met*

*persecutions*: Torments and tortures at hands of others

*distresses*: Anguish, backed into corner. Times when I am caused strain and anxiety.

*for when I am weak, then am I strong*. When brought to end of resources I realize God's strength made obvious in me.

God's attitude about suffering: James 1:2-4 Phil 3:3

**Engedi**--*Rocks of the Wild Goats*:

**1 Sam 23:29** *Fountain of the kid*, a place in the wilderness of Judah (Josh. 15:62), on the western shore of the Dead Sea

Considered oasis

Bordered on west by limestone cliffs approximately 2,000 ft high.

### **The Fire:**

*I've been through a fire that has deepened my desire, to know the living God more and more.*

*It hasn't been much fun, but the work that it has done in my life has been worth the hurt.*

*You see sometimes we need the hard times to bring us to our knees, otherwise we do as we please and never heed him.*

*For he always knows what's best and it's when we are distressed that we really come to know God as he is.* Kristine Wyrzten