

WHICH WAR ARE YOU FIGHTING (THE DECLARATION OF WAR)

1 Samuel 7:7 AMPC

[7] Now when the Philistines heard that the Israelites had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

Entrepreneur and imperialist Cecil Rhodes masterminded one of mankind's greatest phenomenons in Africa's free enterprise.

- He imposed apartheid on African colonies in pursuit of massive wealth through the mining of blood diamonds.
- In the late 1800's and early 1900 hundreds he took the Dutch land to control the diamond minds of South Africa.
- This is why one historian associates the great bloodbath of Dutch people dying in the turn of the century in the 1900's.
- Cecil Rhodes became famous and so rich that a country was named after him called Rhodesia.
- He started wars and suppressed African tribes with the specific intent to control all diamond profits in South Africa.
- Cecil Rhodes diverted world attention from the control and seizure to diamond profitability to race issues of apartheid.
- This caused people to fight the wrong war.
- The world attention was on the racial injustice of apartheid.
- While governments like Cecil Rhodes built immense financial empires on blood diamonds.

This diversion of war is happening today:

- Our media wants you and I focusing on the problems of racism and Trump's tweets and social injustices.
- While our world scene for power is shifting against the American people.
- We see this in my opening text in 1 Samuel as well.
- Vs 1-2 tells us The Ark of the covenant like blood diamonds is what Satan is really after

Samuel 7:1-2 AMPC

[1] SO THE men of Kiriath-jearim came and took the ark of the Lord and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to have charge of the ark of the Lord. [2] And the ark remained in Kiriath-jearim a very long time nearly 100 years, through Samuel's entire judgeship, Saul's reign, and well into David's, when it was brought to Jerusalem. For it was twenty years before all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

The Ark was missing for over 100 years in the hands of the Philistines. This is the equivalent of South African blood diamonds.

This is what Satan wants. He doesn't mind you getting rich or famous. The devil doesn't mind you prospering with your job or material things. He wants the blood diamonds of your heart and intimacy towards Jesus Christ. So the devil diverts your attention to other wars like domestic with your family, or with your job. He wants you staying angry depressed and full of anxieties all the time. His goal is to wage war against you so he can control the profitability of the intimacy of your heart and passion for something or someone.

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The real deal and the real war you are really apart of today WHETHER YOU REALIZE IT OR NOT. It's found in **1 SAM. 7:3-14.**

1 Samuel 7:3-14 AMPC

[3] Then Samuel said to all the house of Israel, If you are returning to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth female deities from among you and direct your hearts to the Lord and serve Him only, and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

- God is saying make sure you are fighting the right wars in your day. You only have so much energy and hours in a day.

[4] So the Israelites put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only. 5] Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpah and I will pray to the Lord for you. [6] So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and Poured it out before the Lord and fasted on that day and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the Israelites at Mizpah.

This kind of praying put fear in the enemies heart because Israel was getting their family priorities in order. The enemy had Israel in war over the cares and self centered activities of their day. But when the Philistines heard Israel was getting their hearts right and expanding into new territory they became afraid.

7] Now when the Philistines heard that the Israelites had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel.

Many of you are fighting the wrong battles and cannot hear God's voice and will for your lives. But when you understand the blood diamonds of the heart intimacy with God, you then can prepare for the right war. We are at war whether you want to agree with me or not. The question is which war are you fighting? Let's keep reading. And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

8] And the Israelites said to Samuel, Do not cease to cry to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines, and the Lord answered him.

[10] As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. This is where we are right now.

We have started a war and our declaration is causing some attacks from the enemy. Attacks such as relational rejection that is overtaking some of us. Attacks like finances. The enemy declares war to divert your attention with hitting you with sickness and communication misunderstandings, or he tries to way you down with multiple matters you have to deal with all at one time.

But the Lord thundered with a great voice that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel. [11] And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and smote them as far as below Beth-car. [12] Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and he called the name of it Ebenezer stone of help, saying, Heretofore the Lord has helped us. [13] So the Philistines were subdued and came no more into Israelite territory. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. [14] The cities the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel rescued the cities' territory from the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites.

So the devil has declared war on us for expansion and trying to get our Ark back.

Declaration of war:

- Stand still and see God's glory come down for his people (Jehoshaphat said this).
- After you have done to do stand. But then be still in your spirit, but open your mouth and declare I am strong and will be of good courage.
- To stand still means get your praise clothes on. Stand at attention with worship with expectation of God's power will be demonstrated. Until that happens I will operate in my yoke of worship. **2 Chron 20:17, Ex. 14:13, Zec. 2:13, Ps. 46:10-11, 1 Sam.12:16**
- Satan has declared war against us for expanding territory.
- The demons ran into the pigs with lost ranked.
- The prince of Persia left one territory to help another Demon fight Daniel.
- To declare war means to wear your armor for the devil but take it off for each other (bring armor out and harp)
- Leave your armor on for Satan but take it off for each other. Use your harp with each other.
- This act of war requires the perseverance of our attitudes relationally.
- Perseverance is the pregnancy of the miracle.

Perseverance

- Relational problems and spiritual warfare are indicates God wants to help you practice perseverance **Romans 5:3-4**. Perseverance produces character. Read **Eph. 6:18**
- Love is shown through our perseverance in **1 Cor. 13:7**.
- You cannot receive what God has designed you for and predestined you for without perseverance in **Heb. 10:36**. We fight with perseverance.

- Perseverance means to go deeper in His love.
- Perseverance against laziness.
- Sloppiness and sloppy work on the job.
- Time management and money management.
- Being accountable
- Giving your time and patience to others.
- Returning love for the unkindness of others-not withholding your love.
- Perseverance against fear and anxieties that overtake you.
- From relationship rejection by familiar spirits.
- From Satan's lies and mockeries your family won't be saved.
- From the rejection of david's family and go fight your Goliath anyhow.

We don't fight in the call to war because:

1. Unbelief/double mindedness
2. Unwilling to pay the price for what God said is mine. Because of unsealed wounds and past experiences.
3. Ignorance to our mansion identity
4. We hold onto the unworthiness of Gideon in our lives. He was a man that fought this in the Bible.

Revelation 2:2-4 AMPC

[2] I know your industry and activities, laborious toil and trouble, and your patient endurance, and how you cannot tolerate wicked men and have tested and critically appraised those who call themselves apostles (special messengers of Christ) and yet are not, and have found them to be impostors and liars. [3] I know you are enduring patiently and are bearing up for My name's sake, and you have not fainted or become exhausted or grown weary. [4] But I have this One charge to make against you: that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first you have deserted Me, your first love. Take off your armor to go deeper within yourself.

What does perseverance look like in the declaration of war?

DLR/ag