

III Kings VIII – Focus of the King

The one question that must have gone through the minds of Eleazar and Shammah, as they took their stand with the rest of Israel having run away, must be this: "What am I doing this for?"

To risk it all against suicidal odds, with no human hope of redemption or even glory, for if they had fallen in battle... would Israel have thought kindly of them? Would they have been heralded as fallen heroes or as fools who did not know what was good for them?

So likewise, to learn to take the stand of the King, one must ask the question of the King, "What am I doing this for?" for even David asked, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel?"¹ For even David sought to do something for a reason and a reward. However, it is not recorded that this was asked by Shammah and Eleazar. Perhaps they did not ask it as perhaps they had already answered it. For indeed, there is no mention of reward for those two nor did they ask about a reward like their king did. So then, if they did ask as David asked, what was the answer that they had within them that permitted them to remain and take their stand? A stand that permitted God to move on their behalf and give them the victory, and allowed the Philistines to be struck down by the sword. A display of 'favouritism' by God of the life of two men over the lives of others who, a humanist would argue, were as precious as Shammah's and Eleazar's?

For what could the answer be that permitted God to act through them? Courage? The Philistines might have been just as courageous. Loyalty? The Philistines might have been just as loyal. For glory? The Philistines might just have been as glory seeking as they were.

The answer is simple... because it is the right thing to do. It is the right thing to defend what God has given you. Canaan was not conquered by Israel because Joshua was a megalomaniac psychopath hell bent on conquest like Napoleon and Hitler. Canaan was conquered because God gave Canaan to Israel. And for Eleazar and Shammah, the reason they took a stand was because it was the right thing to do. To defend what God has given you.

When Jesus took His lone stand on that manmade tree, He was not out to conquer somebody else's creation, but merely defending that which His Father had given Him as He said, "All that belongs to the Father is Mine."² He did not go anywhere that His Father had not given Him and the Father did not give Jesus anything that did not belong to Them in the first place. Even when Jesus went to preach in the prison to the spirits held there when He was dead in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, He did not go into a creation of Satan's, but went into that which was made by God to hold the angels that rebelled.

Even the definition of what sin is belongs to God, for the law comes from God and by the law we know what is sin. As such, when Jesus became sin that we might become the righteousness of God, Jesus did not become something that was not 'created' by the Father. It is just that Satan was the first to sin when sin was found in him because he trespassed into the area defined by God as sin. So even though Satan was the first to sin... what is sin still belongs by right to God who defined it.

Since sin is defined by God's law, it is only right that Jesus became sin to redeem all those who are under its power. Sin was never defined by the sinner, but rather, by God's law. As such, being the original sinner did not entitle Satan to own the sin, merely to become its victim... and it is just that his evil nature is such that he shared it with us rather than kept us away from it since he already knew the consequences of disobeying the law God has given us.

God gave Adam one law – "You are free to eat..."³ But we do not know what law God gave Satan. We know he was "...anointed as a guardian cherub..."⁴ perhaps to even guard the Garden of Eden, but somehow he disobeyed the law God gave him, the law that defined for Satan what sin is, as Adam's law defined for him what sin is, as Israel's laws defined for them what sin is, and likewise, the command of the Father defines for the disciples of Jesus what sin is.

Even though for Shammah and Eleazar it was a sin to kill, as God's law for them was "Thou shalt not kill,"⁵ yet they were ordered by God Himself to kill as they took Canaan. As such, it was right to kill to defend Canaan, which was given to them, even though it is written: "Thou shalt not kill." In fact, as they killed that day, both Shammah and Eleazar defended God's law – "Thou shalt not kill" – no...

¹ 1 Samuel 17.26

² John 16.15

³ Genesis 2.16

⁴ Ezekiel 28.14

⁵ Exodus 20.13 KJV/ASV

enforced God's law. This is exactly what God said to Cain, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."⁶

So the stand of Eleazar and Shammah took place because it was the right thing to do to defend God's gift and to enforce His law – "Thou shalt not kill" – against those who wanted to kill and steal God's gift... Canaan for themselves. Had God not given Pas Dammin or that field of lentils to Israel, then their stand would never have been right, and certainly in killing those Philistines they would have been guilty of the sin themselves. That is why they were accepted.

Likewise, the stand of Jesus on Calvary was the right thing to do and that is why His sacrifice was accepted, because He became sin in order to defend what belongs to God and what God had given Him. Just as Shammah and Eleazar killed those who had no right to kill... so Jesus took the right to accuse and judge from those who would accuse and judge by becoming the very thing they had no right to accuse and judge – sin, which no sinner has the right to accuse and judge, for sin is not defined by the sinner but by God's law. In becoming sin, Jesus defined what sin is according to the law and so allows all who admit to the truth, that they too are sinners because of God's law, to become the righteousness of God. The righteousness of God because we agree with God's law, that which is defined as sin by the law is right.

Satan is a sinner, yes, but he does not define what sin is... God does. Adam was a sinner, yes, but he did not define what sin is... God does. And Jesus, in becoming sin, became the very fulfillment of God who defines what sin is, and as we agree with Him as well as believe in Him, we become God's righteousness. That is, we are the proof, yes, the proof, the testimony that what God has done is right... hence, the righteousness of God.

Shammah and Eleazar, in taking their stand, declared that God was right in giving Canaan to them in the first place and that His law – "Thou shalt not kill" – is right. You see, elect, it is not the sinner who defines the sin by God's law and it is not what men say is right that is right, but rather, **it is what God says. And it is when we defend God's gift to us and God's law for us that we have done right in God's eyes.**

Shammah and Eleazar defended God's gift to them and His law against those who wanted to break it – the Philistines who had come to kill them – when God had said, "Thou shalt not kill."

So likewise, for all who seek to take the stand for the Kingdom of God, it is not what men say, not even what the 'church' says is right that is truly right, but rather, **your stand must be settled by this question and this answer – that it is the right thing to do, to take the stand and defend the Kingdom of God and establish its sovereignty on Earth. The righteousness of such a stand comes from defending God's gift to us and the upholding of His law to us.**

For those whom the Lord has chosen as His disciples, there is only one command – "Listen to Him!"⁷ – and as such, our defence of this command to us means that we ourselves must listen to Him... like Shammah and Eleazar who were not allowed to kill, but were permitted to kill those who wanted to kill... so we are permitted to make those who want to cause the disciples of Jesus to listen to anyone else as indisposed, as panic stricken and as defeated as the Philistines were by Eleazar and Shammah.

As Shammah and Eleazar killed Philistines who could then no longer return to their own kind, so likewise, we are allowed to put to the 'word', which is sharper than a double edged sword, everyone who seeks to cause a disciple of Jesus to not listen to Jesus in such a way that they themselves can never return to their own camp.

As Shammah and Eleazar shamed the surviving Philistines in their own nation, so likewise, we are permitted to bring shame upon those who come or have come seeking to turn the disciples of Jesus from listening to Jesus, from the first of them to the last of them, from the least of them to the greatest of them, we are permitted because it is right to defend God's gift and to uphold His commandments... whatever they may be.

It is this lone stand then that allows you to stand apart, like Shammah and Eleazar stood apart, no longer a part of Israel and certainly no friend of the Philistines. Just like Jesus stood apart, no longer a member of Israel, but certainly no friend of those who accused Israel. Neither – the first word of the Commander of the army of the Lord said to Joshua when Joshua asked Him, "Are You for us or for our enemies?"⁸ but

⁶ Genesis 4.7

⁷ Matthew 17.5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35

⁸ Joshua 5.13

rather, the Man answered Joshua, saying, "Neither, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."⁹

So likewise, it is for the elect... when asked by the people of God, even their commanders, if we are on their side... the answer is the same... the first word is the same... "Neither..." and for us who have been shown the truth... the answer is... "But as the elect of the Lord we are now here."

As surely as Shammah and Eleazar were no longer with Israel's army because they fled, then neither are we with those who belong to Christ but do not listen to Him. Certainly not with those who are disciples who are of the fivefold ministry, but yet for whom the defence of these three words – "Listen to Him!" – is as far from their heart and mind as defending the land was for the army of Israel on that day when Shammah took his stand and the day when Eleazar took his stand... even though what Shammah and Eleazar did benefited them. If they had failed, Israel would not have mourned them... even if they had succeeded, Israel would not be interested in them, for it is written: *The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead.*¹⁰ They were not interested in Eleazar... and for that matter, Shammah, even with the victory.

And as surely as Eleazar and Shammah were no friends of the Philistines, then neither are we friends of those who would not even believe in Jesus, much less listen to Him. And as Eleazar and Shammah stopped the Philistines from fulfilling their desire and so put them to shame, likewise, it is our work to stop all who do not believe in Jesus and have no desire to listen to Him from fulfilling their plans... no matter who they are.

If they are atheists... we will not permit them to escape coming face to face with God. Indeed, it is our joyful work to live as gods before them. If they are religious, we will not permit them to indulge in their fantasies, but rather, confront them and the powerlessness of their gods who are not God, by being more of a god before them than even their own gods.

As for those who believe in Christ yet do not listen to Him, we will confront them with God's promises for those who refuse to listen to Him, who do not obey His commands, decrees and laws, but violate His covenant... as by our obedience, the whole word of God is allowed to be made manifest and people of God, each according to his respective covenant, are caused to testify to the truth of God's word for them. For those who are under the law, we uphold the law. For those who are under grace, we uphold the grace.

For the elect... those whose love of the Lord permits the Holy Spirit to show them what God's gift was on resurrection morning and who would stand and defend that gift, even when all desert them and the enemy is overwhelming in numbers, these words of Paul to the Corinthian church will be lived and made manifest: *But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.*¹¹

For it was God's gift to the disciples that they should go to Galilee that morning with Jesus so that they could see for themselves the Kingdom of God in all its glory and having seen as well as heard, so that they might be given the keys to the Kingdom of God.

You see, dear friends... to Peter, Jesus only gave the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven...¹² but not the **keys to the Kingdom of God**. They did not go... and the keys have been left on the Mount of Transfiguration... waiting for those who would go... those who would stand to defend God's gift... alone if need be and those who would prevent God's law to be broken even if it means they have to break it whilst preventing others from breaking it.

Such is the focus of the King as He takes His stand. The defence of the realm against all comers, no matter what is thought of Him.

For the parables may contain the knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of God... but what good is the knowledge of the secrets unless that knowledge is translated into power? And what are the keys to that power... the keys to the Kingdom of God in the hands of the elect?

⁹ Joshua 5.14

¹⁰ 2 Samuel 23.10

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 2.14-17

¹² Matthew 16.19

That is why it is written: "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.'"¹³ And as Jesus has said, "If He called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—what about the One whom the Father set apart as His very own and sent into the world?"¹⁴ And what about those whom the Son calls His brothers and sisters?

So do not be surprised that you will live as gods before men, for Scripture cannot be broken... but now see the focus of the King and be one with Him.

Do what is right and we will be accepted by God and not by men.

¹³ Psalm 82.6

¹⁴ John 10.35-36