

## This is Bigger Than Me

*Num 10:33-36*

*33 And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.*

*34 And the cloud of the LORD was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp.*

*35 And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.*

*36 And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.*

I. Introduction

1. After God gave Moses the law on Mt. Sinai, the camp of Israel was now equipped with the Word of God. That was such an empowering day for them.

2. This morning, we spoke about this event in how God giving them His commandments was a great source of power because it defined them as a people, it established rules for what was right and wrong, and importantly, that law was engraved in stone.
3. Sometimes when we are discussing plans and if we are flexible about something, we will say, “It’s not like it’s engraved in stone.”
4. So while that is often the case with our words, that is not the case with God’s Word.
5. The 10 Commandments were engraved in stone due their permanence as a moral force. Not just for Israel, but for the world.
6. But something else that was important about God’s Word given to Moses, was it was their covenant between God and His people. It established some promises that if God’s people would keep their side of the

covenant, God promised to keep His part of the covenant.

7. But something was important about this day. It was time to leave the mountain and put into practice what it meant to be God's people equipped with God's Word engraved in stone, equipped with the many promises of the covenant, and equipped with a mission to go conquer a land as God's ambassadors.
  8. Instead of thinking of this as just their mission, God sent them with the understanding **this is bigger than just you**. You are going to have successes that don't match your strength. **This is Bigger than Me**.
- II. The chosen people and mission
    - A. Let enemies scatter
      1. *Num 10:35 And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, **Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered;***

*and let them that hate thee flee before thee.*

2. The victories Israel would win were not going to come from their strength as a multitude of people, but from their position as God's chosen people, which we will look at in a moment.
3. When God was ready to send His people marching to collect on His promises, He prepared the way before them. Let the enemies be scattered!

B. A chosen people

1. God had told Moses:

*Deut 7:6-10*

*6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: **the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself,** above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*

*7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in*

*number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:*

*8 But **because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath** [God is a promise keeper] which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

*9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, **the faithful God**, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;*

2. Their success depended on a faithful God who keeps promises. That is a great assurance.
3. Yet to those who fight against God and the purposes He set for His called and chosen children, God is the one who will repay them for their deeds:

*10 And repayeth them that hate him to their*

*face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.*

4. Those who take it as a light thing to rise against God's kingdom, His purposes, and His children with vicious and vile words of attack are setting themselves in a dangerous position.
5. All I can say to this, is, that in my limited years of observation, those who have risen up against the work of the Lord in bitter attack, God did repay.

c. Vengeance is God's

1. We will leave the vengeance to God. It is not in my job description.
2. Let's look at Psalm 68, a psalm of David, that recalls the words in Numbers 10:35.

*Ps 68:1-2*

*1 Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.*

*2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.*

3. We need to consider how important the kingdom work is to God when we see such passages as this.
4. When satan rose against Jesus through the apostle Peter, Jesus said, “Get behind me Satan.”
5. When the Apostle John encountered one named Diotrephenes who had slandered them with malicious words, John said to cast him out and not follow that which is evil.
6. Paul wrote of Alexander the coppersmith who did him much evil and greatly withstood his words. Paul said the Lord reward him according to his works (2 Tim 4:13-15)
7. And back to Moses’ day, men rose up and rebelled against Moses when Israel was in a critical position to move into the Promised

Land. And the Lord did take vengeance on them when the earth opened up and swallowed them.

8. All we are saying by this is that This is Bigger Than Me—this is God’s work, not my work.
  9. If God has sent us on a mission, we can pray that God will arise and scatter His enemies and those that hate Him and us.
  10. When it was time for the Lord to move Israel on their mission, Moses prayed that the Lord would scatter His enemies before Israel moved forward.
- D. It is spiritual warfare
1. We are part of spiritual warfare. Front line soldiers with our work with children and addicts.
  2. There are spiritual wickedness in high places that are arising to assault us, so let God arise and assault them.
  3. Notice how the passage in Psalm 68 continues:

*Ps 68:3-4*

*3 But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.*

*4 Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.*

4. If there is spiritual wickedness in high places, don't fret. God is riding the heavens as well and will scatter the enemies.
5. You might think this crazy, but there have been recent reports where Navy pilots are sticking by their words in reporting UFOs, or now called aerial phenomena.
6. That doesn't need to spook anyone.
7. We've known of the reality of spiritual warfare for at least 2000 years.
8. But where we are in the battle is siding with the One who always wins.
9. So let God arise, and continue to arise against spiritual wickedness.
10. Continue to arise against His enemies.

11. Continue to arise against them that hate Him.

III. Conclusion

1. That is just how God prepares the way for His purposes to be fulfilled.

2. He chose us.

3. He gave us His Word.

4. He armed us with His promises.

5. He gave us a mission.

6. And He assured us that He would take down and scatter the enemy before us.

7. Listen church, we need to gain assurance that this is bigger than me. This is bigger than you. This is bigger than us.

8. We are on God's mission and it will be accomplished.

9. And something really assuring about how God accomplished this for Moses and the children of Israel, was that when the cloud rose and moved forward the people moved forward as well.

10. That is when God scattered the enemy.
11. But then there came time when the cloud rested. And where did it go?

Num 10: 35-36

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