

THRU THE BIBLE EXPOSITION

The Books Of The Chronicles: God's Preservation Of His Davidic And Levitical Covenants

XII. Relying On God's Deliverance For Challenges Of The New Year

(1 Chronicles 18:1-17)

Introduction: (To show the need . . .)

As we believers in Christ prepare to enter the New Year, we stand in need of help regarding our security:

(1) We need help with our security due to problems in the executive branch of the federal government: a report to Congress by U. S. Department of Justice inspector general Michael E. Horowitz shows the "DOJ and the FBI, which ultimately reported to then-President Barak Obama, had it in for the Trump campaign. The misconduct is too glaring and consistent to draw other conclusions," and the Washington Examiner in its December 18th editorial called the situation "horrifying." ("FBI invaded by politics," Republican-American editorial, December 17, 2019, p. 6A)

(2) We need help with our security due to problems in the legislative branch of the federal government: the editorial, "Impeachment train rolls on," Ibid., December 20, 2019, p. 10A, reported that after the vote in the House of Representatives to impeach President Trump, George Washington University Law School professor Jonathan Turley said on "CBS This Morning" December 18, "The problem I have is that . . . judging by how they define these two articles [of impeachment], you could impeach every living president on this type of allegations (sic)."

(3) We need help with our security due to problems in evangelical leaders: on December 19, 2019, Mark Galli, a self-professed "'elite' evangelical" and Editor in chief of Christianity Today magazine that evangelist Billy Graham began decades ago, wrote an editorial titled, "Trump Should Be Removed From Office." Progressives exulted over the editorial and the Christianity Today website got so many hits, it crashed. (christianitytoday.com; Elana Schor, "Evangelicals close ranks around Trump," Ibid., December 23, 2019, p. 6A; Caleb Parke, "Franklin Graham slams Christianity Today for invoking his father's name in call for Trump's removal," December 20, 2019; foxnews.com)

Billy Graham's son Franklin and other evangelical leaders closed ranks around the President, supporting him, with Mr. Graham saying his "father would have been 'disappointed'" by the editorial, that "'My father knew Donald Trump, believed in Donald Trump, and in the last election, he voted for Donald Trump.'" (Ibid., Schor; Ibid., Parke)

Many evangelicals voted for Mr. Trump in spite of his imperfections because he better defended religious liberty. However, actions by progressive evangelical leaders like Mr. Galli unnerves many evangelicals over what their influence can do to dissolve the President's evangelical political support base just as the Senate prepares for his impeachment trial and a potential removal of the president with a possible resulting loss of religious liberties.

Need: *So we ask, "How do we gain the help we need to face our challenges of security for the New Year?!"*

I. God promised to give Israel security from her enemies in the Davidic Covenant, 1 Chronicles 17:9.

II. 1 Chronicles 18:1a then notes that "it came about" (*wayehi*) "after this" (*ahare-ken*) presentation of that covenant that several battles occurred in David's reign by which God began to fulfill His promise of providing national security and rest from oppression for Israel (Bible Know. Com., O. T., p. 465):

- A. To Israel's **west**, David so greatly defeated Israel's long-time Philistine enemies that where the Philistines had invaded and occupied Israel's towns even east of the Jordan in Saul's era (1 Sam. 31:1-7), David defeated Gath and its villages in the heart of Philistia. (1 Chronicles 18:1b; The MacMillan Bible Atlas, 1968, map 118)
- B. To Israel's **east**, David defeated Moab, subjugating the Moabites into paying him tribute, 1 Chronicles 18:2.
- C. To Israel's **north**, David defeated the Arameans on an extensive military campaign, 1 Chronicles 18:3-11:
 1. David attacked Hadarezer's territory that was located north of Damascus when Hadar ezer had left for the Euphrates further north to recover lost territory, 1 Chronicles 18:3; Ibid., Bible Know. Com., O. T. David captured 7,000 of Hadarezer's charioteers, 20,000 of his foot soldiers and 1,000 of his chariots and David hamstringed all but 100 horses so they could be used only for farming, not to drive chariots in battle, Ibid.
 2. The king of Damascus then attacked David while he was up in Hadarezer's land, but David defeated him, killing 22,000 men and putting garrisons in Damascus and receiving tribute from it, Ibid.; 1 Chr. 18:5-6a.
 3. In this entire military campaign in Aramea, David took great amounts of spoil (1 Chronicles 18:7-8) and king Tou of Hamath chose to make peace with David, bringing him gifts, 1 Chronicles 18:9-11.
- D. To Israel's **south**, David's men routed Edom, killing 18,000 and leaving an occupational force there, v. 12-13a.

III. To manage this growing empire, David organized it under capable leaders, 1 Chronicles 18:14, 15-17.

IV. However, the KEY to all this success is noted in the repeated phrase in 1 Chronicles 18:6b and 13b KJV, that "the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went," and we explain (as follows):

- A. The verb the KJV renders "preserved" in this phrase is *yasha'*, it actually means "salvation, deliverance," and applied to Israel's wars meant victory as the delivering work of God. (B. D. B., A Heb. and Eng. Lex. of the O. T., p. 446-447; H. A. W., Theol. Wrdbk. of the O. T., 1982, vol. I, p. 414-415; cf. Deuteronomy 20:1-4)
- B. Accordingly, David's great and repeat victories and his taking of vast spoils of war in every direction he turned, be it west, east, north or south, was God's work to **deliver** David **from defeat** and thus fulfill the Lord's Davidic Covenant promise to provide Israel security from her enemies, 1 Chronicles 17:9.

Lesson: *After stating His Davidic Covenant promise to give Israel security from her foes, God began to save David from defeat in battle wherever he turned, be it west, east, north or south, all in fulfillment of that Covenant.*

Application: *(1) May we trust in Christ for salvation, John 3:16. (2) In view of the security issues we face in the New Year, may we heed God's promise to deliver US in OUR era, what we explain in our "Conclusion" below!*

Conclusion: (To illustrate the message . . .)

(1) We before noted that Christ's prophecy on our era of Church History at Revelation 3:21 implies we will face rulers in the world who function in intrigue and oppress. We know this since Christ offers to set the overcomer(s) "in" (The N. T. Greek term is *en*, U. B. S. Grk. N. T., 1966, p. 845) His earthly Davidic throne, which preposition is used of Christ Who is "in" (also *en*, *Ibid.*) His Father's heavenly throne, and in that position, Christ will nurture believers with the truth as they come out of the Great Tribulation where antichrist oppressed them, Rev. 7:17.

Thus, just as Christ's coming rule on earth in His earthly Davidic throne will be worldwide in influence, so the overcomer(s) in our era being similarly seated "in" His earthly throne will have huge, nurturing influence via Bible exposition for those oppressed by rulers in the world religio-economico-politico-governmental complex.

This all implies two realities for our era: (a) oppression will continue and possibly increase from the evil world complex, but (b) God will preserve some order for believers in Christ amid the oppression of such leaders for the overcomer(s) in the true Church to be able to nurture needy people through Bible exposition.

We are thus left with the following applications relative to the issue of our need for security:

(i) First, we believers need to handle the afflictions we face from the threats to our security that arise from godless leaders in the world complex by immersing our minds and hearts in Scripture's teachings. For example, Psalm 1:1-6 notes the blessings of the man who separates from godless counsel, from godless theological stands and from godless offices, but who meditates in the Word of God as a way of life: he will be "transplanted" (*shatal*, *Ibid.*, B. D. B., p. 1060; Psalm 1:3) onto a garden of "irrigation ditches of water" (*palge mayim*) by Scripture's Author, God, and live immune to the spiritual defeats the world faces like a tree that keeps its foliage even in drought, Psalm 1:3.

(ii) Second, we must live **affirmatively** with a **positive** outlook grounded in a spiritual rest and trust in God that can direct and encourage troubled people who come our way to find peace in Christ, Matthew 11:28-30.

(iii) Third, we must trust God's Matthew 16:18 promise that Christ will keep building His **true** Church regardless of opposition from the gates of Hades against it.

(iv) Fourth, we must trust the power of the Holy Spirit in us believers and Who is active in the world to be greater than the power of Satan, the god of this world, 1 John 4:4b with 2 Corinthians 4:4a. The Spirit of God will continue to keep life a workable, livable experience in our last era of Church History until the rapture of the Church!

(2) As for Mark Galli, Editor in chief of Christianity Today and author of the "Trump Should Be Removed From Office" editorial, he wrote another Christianity Today editorial on July 15, 2010 titled, "Divine Drama Queen" where he stated, "This [Scripture's] God knows nothing about being a non-anxious presence. This is a very anxious God indeed. I'd rather have a God who takes sin in stride . . . Why can't God almighty chill out and realize we're just human? . . . He's such a drama queen." (David J. Stewart, "Christianity Today Accuses God of Being a 'Divine Drama Queen,'" [jesus-is-lord.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/julyweb-only/38-41.0.html), citing <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/julyweb-only/38-41.0.html>) This created a backlash of charges of blasphemy, so Mr. Galli withdrew that editorial from the magazine's website, and in its place asserted he had been misunderstood, a fact one can currently verify by looking up the site cited above. (*Ibid.*)

Thus, Mark Galli and Christianity Today magazine no longer speak for conservative evangelical Christians!

(3) On the other hand, we must recall that President Trump's marital record and character weaknesses show we cannot follow him as a spiritual leader of the Church, but rather support him as an elected secular official who has **best** among others in power in the current era displayed protective concern regarding our religious liberties.

The Scriptural basis for supporting the **best** man out of an **imperfect** field of options is Nehemiah 7:2-3 where Nehemiah put Hananiah in charge of Jerusalem because he was faithful and he revered God more than many others.

May we trust in Christ for salvation. May believe and heed God's Word regarding issues of security.