

Friday 1st Feb. 2008.

CHALLENGING YOUR GREATEST CHALLENGE

Text: 1 Sam. 17: 1-58

Introduction:

There are always the time when it is necessary to take your enemies head on and challenge the challengers in your life and just say enough is enough. Imagine in the case of David, he must have heard or read that, indeed, Schoch was an historic and strategic place in the life of the descendants of Judah. If you remember, Schoch was part of the inheritance of Caleb and of Judah.

Going down memory lane, you would discover that in Numbers 14: 24 in Kadesh-barnea the Lord promised the land for the children of Caleb and of Judah. It took him 45 good years of waiting to get the delivery of the land to him in Joshua 14: 14. Now in 1 Sam. 17: 1 that was where the Philistines pitched themselves against Israel. It was an unwarranted assault against people of God. Everyone standing against you where the Lord has put you is the challenging the Lord and the Lord will not treat it lightly. He will surely grant you victory as David was victorious against Goliath. The Lord will grant you the courage to challenge your challenge tonight in the name of Jesus.

Think about what it has cost you to get to where the Lord has promised you. This can be likened to the way the Lord delivered his people from Egypt in Exodus 15: 1-19

15:1 Then Moses and the Israelites *sang* this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously, the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea. 15:2 Yahweh is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. This is *my* God and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. 15:3 The Lord is a **man of war**, the Lord is his name. 15:4 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has thrown into the sea, and his chosen officers were drowned in the Sea of Reeds. 15:5 The depths have covered over them, they went down to the bottom like a stone. 15:6 Your right hand, O Lord, was **majestic in power**, your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. 15:7 And in the **greatness of your majesty** you have overthrown those who rise up against you. You sent forth your wrath; it consumed them like stubble. 15:8 And by the blast of your nostrils the waters were piled up, the waters stood upright like a heap, and the deep waters were congealed in the heart of the sea. 15:9 The enemy said, "I will chase, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire will be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them." 15:10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea

covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. 15:11 Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

Who is like you? - **majestic in holiness, fearful in praises**, working wonders? 15:12 You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them. 15:13 By your **loyal love** you will **lead the people whom you have redeemed**; you will **guide them** by your **strength** to your holy habitation. 15:14 The people will hear and be afraid; anguish will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia. 15:15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, and the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away. 15:16 Fear and dread will fall on them; by the greatness of your arm they will be as still as stone until your people pass over, O Lord, until the people pass over, which you have bought. 15:17 You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance, in the place, O Lord, you made for your residence, the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands have established. 15:18 The Lord will reign for ever and ever! 15:19 For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his footmen into the seas, and the Lord brought again the waters of the sea on them, but the Israelites went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

The Bible says the Lord is the one that opens a door and no man can shut (Rev. 3:7). Therefore, the enemy has no *locus standi* to challenge you. Hence, tonight is the night to face him head-long and draw the battle line. In the book of Esther, Esther went into the King and she did not care whether she was to perish or not (Esther 4: 16)

We shall look at the story of moving to the next level by Elisha: 2 Kings 2: 14.

1. Elisha had a dramatic calling – he burnt the bridge behind him – 1 Kings 19: 19-21.
2. He had gone after Elijah for many years remaining faithful to him and ministering to him.
3. Elisha had faithfully remained with Elijah and abided in his ministry taking a long journey from Gilgal (the place of communion, the place of meditation) to Bethel, Bethel to Jericho, and Jericho to Jordan. He fought to the end.
4. He faced the mocking of the sons of the Prophets and he silenced them and continued with his journey to destiny.
5. He also prayed the right prayer by asking for the double portion of the anointing of Elijah.

6. He was attentive enough to know exactly when the chariot appeared and he got the anointing that he prayed for in a solitary place.
7. The Lord answered his prayer by receiving the double portion of the anointing.
8. His challenge came in moving to his place of glory. The place of fulfillment was at the other side of the Jordan River – 2 King. 2: 13. At the side of River Jordan where he was interred, River Jordan was standing between him and his destiny. There he would have been facing isolation, hunger, shame, powerlessness, etc. He was faced with a tough challenge; but he faced the challenge.
9. He called upon the Lord God of Elijah! Where is the Lord God of Elijah?
10. The Lord showed up and the water parted into two and Elisha went over to the place of fulfillment. The sons of the Prophets were on hand to receive him. The Lord will answer you as you call upon Him tonight and take you to the place of Glory where the ‘Sons of the Prophets’ will have to bow to you. All your challenges and enemies will bow to you after this night in the name of Jesus.

You need to challenge your challenge tonight in prayer.

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