



# Battles

## God of the Breakthrough

### 2 Samuel 5:17-25

<sup>17</sup> When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. <sup>18</sup> Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; <sup>19</sup> so David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you." <sup>20</sup> So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them. He said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." So that place was called Baal Perazim. <sup>21</sup> The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off.

<sup>22</sup> Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; <sup>23</sup> so David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. <sup>24</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army." <sup>25</sup> So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

## The battle of the breakthrough

### ▼ David was targeted

#### ▲ The enemy came at him

2 Samuel 5:17 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold.

- ▶ David was God's appointed king
- ▶ David was God's anointed king

#### ▲ The enemy camped against him

2 Samuel 5:18 Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim;

### ▼ David was triumphant

#### ▲ He asked for the LORD's counsel

2 Samuel 5:19 so David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?"

#### ▲ He attacked at the LORD's command

2 Samuel 5:19 The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you." <sup>20</sup> So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them.

#### ▲ He acknowledged the LORD's conquest

2 Samuel 5:20 He said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." So that place was called Baal Perazim.

### ▼ David's triumph was temporary

#### ▲ The enemy was defeated

2 Samuel 5:21 The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off.

#### ▲ This enemy was determined

2 Samuel 5:22 Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim;

## The battle in the balsams

### ▼ The enemy returned

#### ▲ They came with the same purpose

2 Samuel 5:22 Once more the Philistines came up

#### ▲ They came to the same place

2 Samuel 5:22 Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim;

### ▼ The engagement reoccurred

#### ▲ David repeated his inquiry

2 Samuel 5:23 so David inquired of the LORD,

#### ▲ David received his instructions

2 Samuel 5:23 David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. <sup>24</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army."

- ▶ The LORD provided specific strategies
- ▶ The LORD provided supernatural support
- ▶ The LORD provided signaling sounds

#### ▲ David reconquered the invaders

2 Samuel 5:25 So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

1. The LORD is the God of breaking out and breaking through, striking out and striking down, driving out and driving off — so don't lose hope when the LORD is on your side.
2. Getting God's guidance in the midst of the battles of life is critical to fighting strategically — so consult the Scriptures — pray for wisdom — and listen to the Holy Spirit.
3. Some enemies we may fight repeatedly — so learn from every battle — sharpen your spiritual skills continually — and determine to trust the LORD for greater victory.
4. We'll keep fighting battles till the last enemy is defeated and we make it home to heaven — so tighten your armor — fight the good fight — and run the race to win.