

# “THE MONUMENTS MEN”

## REVELATION 3:1-6

### I. FOUR QUESTIONS ALL PEOPLE ASK

- A. WHAT SHOULD I DO? (WHAT IS MY DUTY?)
- B. WHO SHOULD I BE? (HOW CAN I BECOME THE PERSON WHO DOES RIGHT?)
- C. WHERE SHOULD I GO? (TO WHAT SHOULD I DEVOTE MY ENERGY?)
- D. HOW CAN I DISTINGUISH TRUTH FROM ERROR? (BE DISCERNING?)

### II. SARDIS: THE “DUTY-FREE” CHURCH

“MANY CHURCHES BEGIN WITH A MAN, REACH OUT WITH A MISSION, BECOME A MOVEMENT, AND EVENTUALLY END UP A MONUMENT.”

### III. JESUS’ WORDS TO A DEAD CHURCH

- A. JESUS GAVE THIS CHURCH NO COMMENDATION, ONLY CONDEMNATION.

1. “I KNOW YOUR DEEDS, YOU HAVE A NAME THAT YOU ARE ALIVE, AND YOU ARE DEAD.”  
**SARDIS HAD THE LOOK OF LIFE AND A REPUTATION FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY, BUT IT LACKED EVIDENCE OF TRUE SPIRITUAL LIFE.** (*REVELATION: HEARING THE LAST WORD*; D. LEVY)  
 MANY MODERN-DAY CHURCHES LIVE ON THE SPIRITUAL REPUTATION OF THEIR PAST, BUT HAVE BEEN SPIRITUALLY DEAD FOR YEARS.

- B. JESUS’ COMMENDATION TO A FEW

1. “A FEW HAVE NOT SOILED THEIR GARMENTS” = GODLY CHARACTER IN AN UNGODLY WORLD; MATTHEW 5:1-16; GALATIANS 5:19-25.
2. “THEY WILL WALK WITH ME IN WHITE, FOR THEY ARE WORTHY”

HOLINESS AND PURITY BELONG TO THE REDEEMED; WASHED AND MADE WHITE IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, JESUS CHRIST. ABSOLUTE PURITY IS NOT POSSIBLE IN THIS LIFE, BUT IS OURS IN THE MERIT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST (REVELATION 6:11; 7:9, 13; 19:8, 14). THOUGH MOST IN THE SARDIS CHURCH WERE CONTENT TO LIVE AS CHRISTIANS IN NAME ONLY, THESE FEW COULD NOT. THEY WERE ALIVE TO THE TRUTH AND TO THEIR CHRISTIAN CALLING, AND CONTINUED STEADFAST IN IT. THEY HAD NOT “DEFILED THEIR GARMENTS” IN THE WORLD.

#### STOP AND REFLECT

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO THINK?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO DO?

## 3. "FOR THEY ARE WORTHY"

TO BE NUMBERED SO FEW AMONG SO MANY, WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WERE THEY? WHAT WAS THEIR LIFE LIKE? AND YET, JESUS VINDICATES THEM, CALLS THEM "WORTHY." WORTHY OF WHAT? WORTHY TO "WALK WITH HIM." THOUGH WE MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FRIENDSHIP AND SOCIETY OF THE PROUD AND CONSEQUENTIAL ON THE EARTH, IF WE KEEP OUR GARMENTS UNSTAINED, WE WILL HAVE THE COMPANIONSHIP OF JESUS AND BE GIVEN THE SPOTLESS ROBES OF DIGNITY AND HONOR IN HEAVEN. (JAMES 4:4)

## 4. "HE WHO OVERCOMES WILL BE CLOTHED IN WHITE GARMENTS"

AN OVERCOMER IS A TRUE CHRISTIAN (REVELATION 2:7).  
 JEWISH SCRIBES WERE AMBITIOUS TO WALK IN LONG ROBES.  
 ROMAN PATRICIANS WERE AMBITIOUS TO WALK IN WHITE ROBES.  
 THEIR ROBES SIGNALLED THEIR RANK AND IMPORTANCE.  
 IF A PROSPECTIVE PRIEST WAS FOUND TO BE IMPERFECT IN HIS GENEALOGY, HE WAS VEILED IN BLACK AND SENT AWAY, BUT IF ALL WAS RIGHT, HE WAS CLOTHED IN WHITE AND CAME INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE MOST HIGH FOR PRIESTLY SERVICE.  
 TRUE BELIEVERS WILL SPEND ETERNITY IN SERVICE OF THE KING.

## 5. "AND I WILL NOT ERASE HIS NAME FROM THE BOOK OF LIFE"

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR TRUE BELIEVERS TO LOSE THEIR SALVATION; IT IS SECURE; THEREFORE WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE OF FAITH IN THIS LIFE. (REVELATION 3:8; 17:8; LUKE 10:20; PHILIPPIANS 4:3). THIS IS THE DOCTRINE OF DIVINE ELECTION.  
**PERSEVERANCE IS NOT THAT I HOLD ONTO JESUS, BUT THAT HE HOLDS ONTO ME!**

## 6. "I WILL CONFESS HIS NAME BEFORE MY FATHER AND BEFORE HIS ANGELS"

MATTHEW 10:32-33; 13:20; MARK 8:34-38; LUKE 12:9; 2 TIMOTHY 2:10-13; 1 JOHN 2:19

A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS PUBLICLY OWNS THE NAME OF JESUS FOR HIMSELF IN THE MIDST OF A DOUBTING AND HATEFUL WORLD. HE IS NOT ASHAMED OF JESUS.

**STOP AND REFLECT**

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO THINK?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO DO?

IV. UNASHAMED LOVE

DAVID AND GOLIATH: A STORY OF GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_.

A. THE THEME OF THE EPISODE: "***THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S.***" (1 SAMUEL 17:47).

DAVID IS ISRAEL'S WARRIOR KING (1 SAMUEL 16:18). GOD GIVES DAVID STRENGTH AND VICTORY (1 SAMUEL 2:10; 2 SAMUEL 22:51). DAVID IS GOD'S ANOINTED (1 SAMUEL 16). DAVID IS KING-IN-WAITING AND A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART (1 SAMUEL 16:13; 13:14). DAVID DEMONSTRATES WHAT GOD CAN DO THROUGH A FAITHFUL SERVANT.

## B. OBSERVE THE STORY THROUGH THE EYES OF BELIEVERS (DAVID), UNBELIEVERS (GOLIATH, PHILISTINES), AND SUPPOSEDLY NEUTRAL PARTIES (SAUL, ISRAELITES, DAVID'S BROTHERS).

C. **1 SAMUEL 17:1-25**. THE PHILISTINES INVADE JUDAH, DRIVING DEEP INTO HER TERRITORY UNTIL AN ISRAELITE ARMY MEETS THEM, CREATING A MILITARY IMPASSE. A GIANT GOLIATH OFFERS TO SETTLE THE CONFLICT THROUGH A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO CHAMPIONS AND

TAUNTS THE QUIVERING ISRAELITES DAILY. *KING SAUL AND HIS ARMY SEEM TO BE NEUTRAL BYSTANDERS, BUT THEIR \_\_\_\_\_ PROVES THEIR \_\_\_\_\_*. SAUL AND THE ISRAELITES ARE GOD'S ARMY AND KING, YET THEY DO NOTHING WHILE A PAGAN SHAMES THEM AND THEIR GOD. THEY LACK DAVID'S ZEAL AND FAITH. THEY CANNOT SEE THE SITUATION GOD'S WAY. WITH WORLDLY WISDOM, THEY ARE AFRAID AND WONDER WHO WILL DARE FIGHT THE GIANT (17:25).

- D. DAVID ARRIVES AT THE CAMP JUST IN TIME TO HEAR GOLIATH'S TAUNTS (17:23). DAVID IS INCENSED THAT "THIS UNCIRCUMCISED PHILISTINE" SHOULD DISGRACE ISRAEL, "DEFY THE ARMIES OF THE LIVING GOD," AND HEAP SHAME ON THEM (17:10, 26, 36).

*DAVID RECOGNIZES THE \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD* AND OFFERS TO FIGHT GOLIATH IN THE NAME OF HIS DISHONORED LORD (17:32, 45). BECAUSE THE OTHER ISRAELITES HAVE LOST SIGHT OF GOD'S HONOR, THEY CANNOT FATHOM DAVID'S MOTIVATION TO FIGHT (17:28-37). ELIAB ACCUSES DAVID OF ONLY WANTING TO SEE BLOOD, AND SIBLING JEALOUSY REARS ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN (17:28-30; 16:6-7).

- E. KING SAUL RELENTS AND SENDS DAVID ON A SUICIDE MISSION, ARMED WITH ONLY A STAFF AND SLING (17:31-40).
- F. THE VERBAL CONFLICT BEFORE THE BATTLE EXCEEDS THE BATTLE ITSELF (17:43-44)! GOLIATH INSULTS DAVID, CURSES HIM BY HIS PHILISTINE GODS, AND PROMISES THE ULTIMATE HUMILIATION BY PROMISING TO FEED HIS CARCASS TO THE BIRDS.
- G. BUT THE GIANT'S JEERS CANNOT MATCH DAVID'S (17:45-47)! NOW WE KNOW THAT THE CONTEST BETWEEN DAVID AND GOLIATH IS A CONTEST BETWEEN THE \_\_\_\_\_. WHICH ONE WILL BE VINDICATED? THE BATTLE ITSELF IS ANTICLIMACTIC. GOLIATH IS FACE-DOWN AND DEAD IN TWENTY SECONDS.
- H. THE MAIN IDEA: "THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD." THE OPENING AND CLOSING POEMS OF THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL SUPPORT THIS:

1 SAMUEL 2:9-10, HANNAH, "IT IS NOT BY STRENGTH THAT ONE PREVAILS; THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE LORD WILL BE SHATTERED. HE WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO HIS KING."

2 SAMUEL 22:2, 40, DAVID, "THE LORD IS MY ROCK, MY FORTRESS, AND MY DELIVERER. YOU ARMED ME WITH STRENGTH FOR BATTLE."

**BUT.....THERE IS MORE.**

- I. NOTICE THE PROMINENCE OF GOD'S HONOR AT THE BEGINNING (17:10), THE TURNING POINT (17:23-26), AND THE CLIMAX (17:45-46). GOLIATH INSULTS THE HONOR OF ISRAEL, HENCE GOD HIMSELF. *NO ONE RISES TO GOD'S DEFENSE, NOT REGAL SAUL THE ANOINTED, NOT IMPRESSIVE ELIAB. NO ONE STIRS UNTIL DAVID ARRIVES.*
- J. DAVID'S COURAGE IS NO \_\_\_\_\_. HE ALREADY KNOWS GOD AS HIS DELIVERER (17:34-37). HE IS ALREADY ANOINTED AS KING. *LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS HONOR GIVES DAVID DISCERNMENT THAT MAKES HIM BURN AT GOLIATH'S OFFENSE TO GOD.* THE STORY OF DAVID AND GOLIATH IS THEREFORE, THEOCENTRIC (GOD AT THE CENTER).

K. GOD RAISED UP AN ANOINTED, ZEALOUS SERVANT-KING, BROUGHT HIM TO THE BATTLE LINE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT, INSPIRED HIM TO SEE THE ISSUE AS IT WAS, AND EMPOWERED HIM TO DEFEAT THE FOE. THUS GOD DEFENDED HIS HONOR AND TURNED BACK THE INVADING ARMY.

L. APPLICATION.

1. EXPECT GOD TO DEFEND HIS HONOR. *"THOSE WHO HONOR ME I WILL HONOR, BUT THOSE WHO DESPISE ME WILL BE DISDAINED" (1 SAMUEL 2:30).* DAVID WAS WILLING TO "STEP UP" AND REDEEM GOD'S NAME AND RESCUE GOD'S PEOPLE.
2. GOD ALWAYS DEFENDS AND PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE. IN VICTORY, DAVID FORESHADOWED JESUS' DEFEAT OF SATAN. ZEAL FOR GOD'S HONOR CONSUMED BOTH DAVID AND JESUS. BOTH DELIVERED GOD'S PEOPLE FROM A DESTROYING FOE. BOTH DELIVERED WHILE BEING IN A POSITION OF WEAKNESS. BOTH DISPLAYED GOD'S POWER.
3. GOD'S REDEMPTIVE WORK LEADS SOME TO FAITH BUT LEAVES OTHERS IN UNBELIEF. GOLIATH AND THE PHILISTINES WERE UNBELIEVERS, AND THE REST WERE DOUBTERS. DAVID'S HEROISM ELICITED DIVERSE RESPONSES, AS GOD AND HIS AGENTS ALWAYS DO. ELIAB WAS SKEPTICAL. SAUL WAS SUSPICIOUS. JONATHAN WAS ACCEPTING. SEE ALSO LUKE 5:1-26, AND THE VARIOUS RESPONSES OF THE PHARISEES, THE CROWDS, AND THE PARALYTIC AND HIS FRIENDS. DAVID IS AN ACTIVE BELIEVER. SAUL AND HIS ARMY WERE NOT MERELY NEUTRAL; THEY WERE COWARDS.
4. UNBELIEF BREEDS CULPABLE INACTION AND COWARDICE IN EVERY ISRAELITE AGENT BUT DAVID. IT FREEZES SAUL AND THE ARMY. IT AROUSES JEALOUSY IN ELIAB. FAITHLESSNESS DEPRIVED THEM OF THE INSIGHT THAT THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD. THE FAILURES OF SAUL, ELIAB, AND THE ARMY ILLUSTRATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNBELIEF. *THEIR INACTION PROVES THAT NEUTRALITY TOWARD GOD IS NOT A GENUINE OPTION. WE ARE FOR GOD, OR WE ARE AGAINST HIM.*
5. WE ABUSE THE NARRATIVE IF WE MERELY SAY "CHRISTIANS MUST FIGHT GIANTS AS DAVID DID." WE MUST SEARCH FOR DAVID'S MOTIVATION TO FIGHT. PRAISING MAN MISSES THE POINT. WE SHOULD SEE THAT DAVID'S MOTIVATION IS HIS RELENTLESSLY THEOCENTRIC (GOD AT THE CENTER) OUTLOOK. HIS \_\_\_\_\_ FOR GOD LIBERATES HIS COURAGE! DAVID BURNS TO REMOVE ISRAEL'S DISGRACE BECAUSE THE WORLD MUST KNOW THERE IS A GOD IN ISRAEL! HE FIGHTS IN GOD'S NAME, IN GOD'S STRENGTH, AND FOR GOD'S HONOR (1 SAMUEL 17:45-47; PSALM 69:7-9).
6. DAVID'S ZEAL TO GUARD GOD'S DIGNITY PROBES US. WHAT STIRS OUR PASSIONS? WHAT MAKES US ANGRY? WE ARE QUICK TO ANGER AT PERSONAL OFFENSES, BUT CALM OVER OFFENSES TO GOD'S NAME AND HOLINESS. THERE IS A PLACE FOR INDIGNATION OVER SIN (PSALM 101:3, 8; 119:136). ELIAB SHOWS US THAT A PERSON WHO LOSES SIGHT OF GOD'S HONOR CAN FALL INTO A MISGUIDED CONCERN FOR HIS OWN. THIS IS NOT A CALL TO DUTY TO ACT AS DAVID DID, BUT THAT VICTORY RESTS IN GODLY CHARACTER, FIDELITY TO GOD, AND WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT FOR GOD'S HONORABLE NAME.