

## Day 60

- Good Morning! Well, I have something for all of us today, and although the enemy tried to make me feel guilty yesterday for not posting a devotional, I'm glad I didn't. I'm glad because, if I had, it would have just been me trying to stay consistent with doing these devotional days for religious or legalistic reasons, and it would not have been me sharing what Holy Spirit has placed in me to share.
- Let's start today with 2 Samuel 11. Remember when I shared about the Israelites wanting a king, and after much seeding for one, the LORD gave them what they asked for, even though that meant they were rejecting Him as their King? Okay, good. So, now they had what they asked for, King Saul, who physically stood head and shoulders above all in the 12 Tribes of Israel. He looked like exactly what they wanted. And almost everyone was excited about him, and they shouted, "Long live the king!" Yet there were those rebels who said, "How can this man save us?" So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he [Saul] held his peace." 1 Samuel 10:27.
- Let's look at a few things here. God wasn't surprised when the Israelites rejected the LORD as their King and asked for a human one. Saddened, grieved even, more so for the people than Himself; He knew what it would mean to them to have a human over them as opposed to the LORD. And because He is so relational and loves to be with us, He had to have been sad for Himself too, but He was not surprised. He knew they were going to ask for a king before they knew they would, which means Saul was always set within the woven intricacies of God's amazing tapestry. Saul was chosen because he was the best person to be king in all of Israel. God had planned for Saul in the time before the beginning of the earth, just as He has for each one of us. He put in Saul all He would need, to be successful as the first king of Israel. Now, it was up to Saul to choose to be obedient and rise up to the call on his life. God even planned for and sent with him valiant men, "whose hearts God had touched." 1 Samuel 10:26.
- God wanted Saul to be a great king, a good shepherd to the people, and a righteous leader before the LORD.
- And just like everything, whatever God gifts us with and sets in us to do here on earth, the enemy of our souls, satan, comes in to first steal, then to kill, and then to destroy. As I look at those rebels who spoke bad seed over Saul before he even began, I wonder if they were the first to seed for the harvest to come. It is obvious they opened a door to the enemy with their words because Saul was barely pronounced king and a human enemy came into the borders of Israel and set up an encampment.
- "Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you." 1 Samuel 11:1.
- Well, we have to pause here and look at a few things. First, Nahash is actually the Hebrew word nachash (naw-khawsh), which means serpent or viper. It is the word used in Exodus 4:3 when the LORD told Moses to throw down his rod, and it became a serpent, a nachash. So, right away, we see that the moment Saul is pronounced king over Israel, a nachash comes into her borders and sets up an encampment. Yes, I am making a connection to Adam and the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:1, where a nachash came in and set up an encampment in the boundaries of the Garden.
- Second, we see that the people of Jabesh immediately wanted to make a covenant with Nahash the Ammonite, the serpent who had come in and set up an encampment against them. They came up with the idea, not Nahash. There are so many routes we can go here, one of which is it shows us how much the people of Israel had forgotten their LORD. They had forgotten their covenant relationship, their First Love, so probably out of fear or maybe because they were so blinded by their sin, they instantly wanted to make a covenant with an infidel, a nachash.

- “And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, “On this condition I will make a covenant with you, that I may put out all your right eyes, and bring reproach on all Israel.” 1 Samuel 11:2.
- So literally, not too long before this, the people of Israel rejected the LORD as King over them, a covenant keeping LORD, who understands the meaning of covenant, that there is an agreement between two parties, who mutually have only good to give to the other covenant partner. Does it sound like Nahash is wanting to make a “covenant” with the people of Jabesh? For his part of the covenant, he wants to gouge out their right eyes to bring shame on all of the people of Israel. And so it goes, here is Saul’s wall in his face, right at the moment he stepped into his destiny. The enemy comes in to steal, to kill, and to destroy.
- By now, many of you may be thinking, um, what are you trying to say here, Heidi? Well, I’m glad you asked. Remember when I asked you, “What is God calling you to do? What is He saying to you?” Well, every time we set out to walk into our destiny, the enemy of our soul, satan, the old serpent the devil (Revelation 12:9) will come to set up an encampment against us to discourage us, challenge us, cover us in his fear, that we may ask him for a covenant, not realizing all he wants to do is cripple us, blind us to what is set inside of us and before us. His goal is to make us serve him, even though we are free, just as the Israelites were free in their own country, but those men of Jabesh were quick to want to make a covenant with a nachash, to become his servants, slaves really. These people had forgotten their freedom, their First Love covenant with the LORD their God. In the spirit, they had already been blinded.
- I share this because the old serpent the devil came at me in a huge way yesterday. Just as I have challenged you all to hear what God is saying to you, to walk forward in your destinies, to use your gifts and talents in the way God set them in you to be used, I have also challenged myself to do the same. I have taken stock of my talents and gifting inventory, and have declared I will use them as God intended for them to be used, to be a blessing to me and to those around me. I don’t want to bury them in the ground, thinking God is a hard taskmaster, “reaping where [He has] not sown, and gathering where [He has] not scattered seed.” Matthew 25:24.
- For I know that God is Absolutely Good, and He only has good planned for me. And I also know that God is faithful to all He set in motion. He does not cheat His own laws because He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13.
- God has GIVEN each of us gifts and talents; they are ours to use to bless us and to bless others. The first two servants in Matthew 25 understood that, so they went out and doubled their talents the Lord had given them. The third servant never saw the talent as a gift from his Lord, so he went and buried it to preserve it, so that he could give it back when his Lord returned. God gives us gifts and talents to use to bless ourselves and bless others. Why? Because He is absolutely good, and He is our Provider. He gives us gifts and talents, in part, to help us provide for ourselves.
- So, yesterday, I joyfully embarked further down the road to use the gifts and talents God has given to me, and I ran head on into an old, familiar brick wall. And I will be honest, it rattled me for about half a day. I sadly came into agreement with the lies of the enemy of our souls, satan, by believing the old discouragements, the old lies and word vomits.
- I set out to be productive, and I hit wall after wall after wall, until discouragement (a nachash) came into my borders and set up an encampment against me. And for awhile, I let it blind me. I could feel the old ways try to wash over me. I continued throughout the day to dialog with God, questioning if I had heard from him or if it was the enemy. And then, as I was walking up the stairs last night, it hit me. God IS Absolutely Good, and He only has Good planned for me. So, if I am doing what Matthew 25 says, which was said by Jesus Himself, then I am on the right path. If God is absolutely good, and I am just feeling discouragement and wanting to quit nearly before I start, then God is not the one setting up walls. The enemy of our souls, satan, does not want me to walk forward in the ways I am; and he used old tactics to try and stop me, and for half a day, I fell for it. But, PRAISE GOD, it was only half a day instead of half of my life — because I have already walked that road.

- So, I kicked out the nachash, thanked the LORD for His incredible wisdom and insight, broke all agreements I had come into with that nachash, and I went to sleep with peace in my heart.
- I ask you all, has that nachash set up an encampment against you, wanting to blind you to your destiny? Has he used his word vomit, his discouragement, his fear, his doubt against you? If he has done this to you as he tried to do to me, we need to take our lead from King Saul when he discovered a nachash in Jabesh Gilead.
- “Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was greatly aroused. So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, “Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen.” 1 Samuel 11:6-7.
- I believe the yoked oxen are a symbol of the covenant agreement those men were willing to make with Nahash the Ammonite, and Saul was calling the people out by his actions of cutting the yoke of oxen up, saying, all of your agreements with the enemy need to be destroyed. And do you know what happened after Saul did what he did? “The fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.” 1 Samuel 11:7.
- So, the covenant was not just broken with the enemy, it was destroyed. And right after the destruction of the covenant with the enemy, spiritually, the fear of the LORD fell upon the people, and they were UNIFIED! I love how God brings everything full circle. Could it be that today’s devotional if followed will actually bring about Day 59, the unity of the Body of Christ? I do believe so. And when we break all covenants with the nachash, the old serpent, the devil, we will be set free to walk in our destinies and become of “one consent.” And how will we walk in that “one consent”? When the fear of the LORD falls upon us. And remember, the fear of the LORD is one of the seven Spirits around the throne of God, one of the seven Spirits who came upon Jesus, so He could accomplish all He was set to do here on earth, so He could carry out His destiny. (Isaiah 11:1-3; Revelation 4:5; Revelation 1:4).
- So, I encourage you, drive out the nachash who has encamped against you; break all agreements you willingly or unwillingly made with him. Thank the Lord for showing you His perfect purpose in your life; use each gift and talent the Lord has given you, to bless your life and the lives of others around you. Repent for coming into agreement with your enemy, and put your eyes firmly on Jesus, and keep moving forward in your destiny. Don’t look back; don’t look to the left or to the right; keep your eyes on Jesus with your God given destiny set before you, and be a world shaker, just like He is!!
- I bless you with the courage to face all the areas where you have come into agreement with the nachash, and I bless you with the strength to destroy him, and I bless you with the ability to consecrate to the destiny set before you, which includes the use of all your gifts and talents.
- And as you walk in His ways, may the God of peace wash over you, guarding your hearts and your minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7).