Baal Perazim

“The Lord of the Breaking Forth” or "Lord of the Breakthrough"

“*So, David came to Baal-Perazim, and defeated them there;*

*and he said, “the Lord has broken through my enemies*

*before me like the breakthrough waters.*

*Therefore, he named the place Baal-Perazim.”*

2 Samuel 5:20 (See also 1 Chronicles 14:11)

The spring of 2019 brought one of the most devastating floods in the history of the United States. Flood waters tore through the land with a force that was almost inconceivable. Torrents of water and blocks of ice smashed through all barriers. These mighty rushing waters found every weakness in all dams and levees designed to prevent flooding. Nothing could stand in its path! This experience gave us a picture of the power of our Mighty God who is the compared to the break through waters of a flood! While we think of flood waters in terms of their destructive effects, God’s power is released to bring healing and restoration.

We face times when our only hope is for the LORD to enter the situation in a miraculous way…when there is absolutely no other direction from which deliverance may come! Baal Perazim, our Mighty God is our hope and deliverer when the enemy comes in like a flood and we are helpless to stand in the face of the onslaught. Isn’t it comforting to know that God is the God of the Breakthrough and the Possessor of the gaps and weak places in our lives?

Isaiah cried out to the LORD, “Oh, that Thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down, That the mountains might quake at Thy presence-- As fire kindles the brushwood, as fire causes water to boil-- To make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Thy presence! When Thou didst awesome things which we did not expect, Thou didst come down, the mountains quaked at Thy presence. For from of old they have not heard nor perceived by ear, neither has the eye seen a God besides Thee, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.” Isaiah 64:1-4 (NASB77)

The Hebrew word for ‘rend” used in this passage is ‘qara’(Strong’s #7167) and this word means, ‘to tear, break out, break through, to make wide or large, to rip open the heavens and split or tear asunder with sudden violence or force.’

The name ‘Baal Perazim’ has its roots in the Mideastern languages. It is introduced after David captured the impenetrable stronghold of Jerusalem and settled himself in what he considered to be a secure place. The Lord of Hosts was with him and had established him as king for the sake of the people of Israel. Yet when the Philistines heard they had anointed David as king over Israel, they went up in full force to destroy David along with the nation of Israel. The passage says that the Philistines spread themselves out in the valley of Rephaim. The valley of Rephaim (“spirits of deceased” or “giants or aborigines”) typically symbolizes death and/or demonic beings. 2 Sam. 5:1-25

**David’s response to this attack provides us with wisdom to know how to respond when the enemy attacks us or places us in an impossible situation.**

* **vs. 19 “Then David inquired of the LORD.” The Hebrew word for ‘inquire’ is ‘sha’el’ (Strong’s #7592). This word means to earnestly pray, request or ask. It is the word used to describe a beggar making a petition of one stronger and more influential. The Bible uses this word over and over when describing the prayers made by God’s people when asking for guidance.** David did not panic or act rashly. David demonstrated a life of seeking God’s counsel and direction before taking action, especially in time of war. (1 Sam. 23:2; 30:8; 2 Sam. 2:1; 5:19; 1 Chron. 14:10,14) This is in contrast with the leaders of Israel who did not seek God’s counsel. (Isa. 30:1-2) In this same family of words, ‘mishala’ speaks of God’s fulness in granting the prayerful petitions of those who love His name amid evil doers and troublesome times. (Ps. 20:5; 37:5)
* **“LORD”** is translated from the Hebrew name for God, ‘Jehovah or Yahweh.’ Jehovah is the great “I AM,” the name by which He established His covenant with His people. It represents the essence of His commitment to His people. The very name gives an assurance of acquiring God’s ear and entering into the promises He has made for those who belong to Him.
* **vs.17 “When David heard of it [the onslaught of the enemy against them], he went to the stronghold.” A stronghold is** a place of safety and refuge in the LORD. Throughout the Psalms, David continually praised the LORD as his stronghold! Ps. 18:2; 31:2; 46:7,11; Ps. 59:9, 16, 17
* **vs. 19 “Shall I go up against the Philistines?”** David sought the LORD to know how He wanted David to respond! He waited before the Lord until he heard God’s instructions! David was showing wisdom and great humility in not taking action presumptuously. How often do we take time to really seek the LORD and ask Him how He wants us to respond in times of trouble? Ps. 19:12-14
* **vs. 19 “The LORD said, ‘Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.’” By waiting upon the LORD,** David now had the assurance of God’s support and promise of victory upon which he could rely during the battle. David listened to the LORD and obeyed His directions. It does little good to ask the LORD if we do not intend to obey His counsel. In each case, when David inquired of the LORD, He gave David specific instructions and the assurance of victory before he even entered into the battle.
* **vs. 20 “So David came to Baal Perazim and defeated them there; and he said, “The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters. Therefore, he named the place Baal Perazim.”** David confronted the Philistines under the leading and guidance of the Lord who gave him a great victory. David said, “The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters. Therefore, he named the place Baal-perazim.”

“And he named the place "Baal Perazim." Baal Perazim, means literally “"Lord or Master of the Breakthrough” or “Possessor of the Breaches.” (1188, 128b from 1167 and 6556). He filled every available gap with Himself! Knowing the LORD as “Baal-Perazim” releases faith that God will fill every breach or area of weakness in our fortifications with Himself in a mighty, powerful manner. He tears down our enemies’ fortifications and fills those vulnerable places with His Spirit.

Baal Perazim comes from two Hebrew words, “Baal” and “Perazim”.

**“Baal”** means husband, master, figuratively owner, captain, chief, confederate, lord, married, possessor. The word also refers to a partner or ally. It is used as an idiom to indicate mastery or ownership. In the essence of this word is the possession of dominion and authority over another person, territory or kingdom.

**“Perazim”** refers to a breach, a breaking or bursting forth. It carries with it the idea of incredible force or violence. to break in pieces.

* This word is used in reference to tearing down the walls of fortification built for military protection. It does not mean just to break through or break a hole in but to completely flatten or raze.
* Some suggest that the word has two roots, one of which means "to break" and the other "to increase."
* Perazim also has the characteristic of a sudden and complete overthrow.
* It is descriptive of the floods or rivers of waters when they break the banks and overflow the land, overturning everything that stands in its way. The best way to picture this is to imagine a mighty flood of raging waters hitting a dam. If there is any point of weakness in the wall, the water will break through, creating a breach or opening by enlarging even the smallest cracks in the wall’s defenses. When the openings are created in the walls of fortifications, there is a loosening that causes the waters to overflow their boundaries and fill every available space.
* Perazim comes from the primary root “parats” which means to break out, to spread abroad, breach, break away, break forth, burst out, spread abroad, compel, disperse, grow, increase, open, press, scatter, urge. It carries with it the concept of an increase achieved through the assistance of a friend resulting in great plentitude. Ex. 1:12; Isa. 54:3 (Strong’s #1188, from 1167 and 6556)

There are times when the enemy has a strong fortification and it seems impossible to touch him, but God is a God who is able to breakthrough every defense of the enemy. Baal Perazim impresses us with the knowledge of our God’s power and ability to suddenly enter a situation with great power and ability to destroy enemy strongholds. When we pray, we can take confidence in this name of the LORD to breakthrough.

*“So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west,*

*and His glory from the rising of the sun.*

*When the enemy shall come in like a flood,*

*the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.”*

*Isa. 59:11*

Some Bible scholars indicate that this passage might more appropriately be interpreted, “…*When the enemy shall come in, —like a flood the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."*

The term “break forth” (perazim) is used also in Isaiah 54:2,3 “Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your pegs. For you will *break forth* to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations, and they will resettle the desolate cities.” The LORD is our breaking forth. He will break through before us and as water fills all available spaces, He will expand and fill us with His Spirit as we enlarge ourselves in Him. He will cause us to break forth in victory for His Kingdom purposes.

***“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge,***

***and stand in the gap before me for the land,***

***that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”* Ezekiel 22:30 (KJV)**

**The name Baal Perazim, is of particular interest** for those who pray and intercede for others. An intercessor is one who stands in the gap!We have the authority in the name of Jesus through prayer to stand in the vulnerable places in the lives of others, so that the enemy will not overtake His people. We also pray for those who are vulnerable through sin to find God’s mercy and conviction of sin so that He will not bring His judgment upon them. We may take great comfort in knowing that in Jesus Christ, we have One who will fill every gap in their defenses and who will rush upon our enemies with the force of flood waters in order to level their strongholds. Isn’t it comforting to know that He is constantly making intercession for us? 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25

Lord, break forth in a mighty way to bring deliverance and healing!

Lord break through every enemy fortification and destroy the enemy’s chains.

Cut through the iron bars of this prison.

Lord, break through the stony covering of hearts hardened against You,

Breakthrough with restoration and wholeness!

Grant a new heart and put a new spirit in them, one that is soft and pliable.

Breakthrough the enemy lines and defenses to establish Your beachhead in this place!

We announce the victory of Jesus Christ over this person and

Proclaim the truth that Satan’s power is broken.

He will go no further in his wicked schemes to kill, steal or destroy!

Jehovah Sabbaoth, LORD OF HOSTS!!

Send Your heavenly armies to contend with those who contend with us

And save our children from the hands of the enemy.

Tear down every enemy banner that arrogantly claims what belongs to You,

Overcome every independent, demanding rebellious spirit seeking to usurp Your authority

Breakthrough with Your Light and Truth

Sweep away lies, discouragement and despair in the flood of Your Living Water.

Send the bright dawn of Your Glorious Light to break through the darkness covering Your people

Let Your Light flood this person/situation like the sun breaking through the clouds

And dispelling the fog and gloom of the enemy.

Breakthrough all bonds of despair, hopelessness and discouragement,

Loose faith, encouragement and hope for the future.

Breakthrough every stronghold of the enemy that holds us captive to his lies,

Loose the prisoners from the chains holding them from true freedom in Christ.

**As a child of God, we rejoice with David, who knew God as the “Possessor of the Breaches.”** Pray that by His grace, He will fill each place of vulnerability in our lives and those for whom we pray with His living waters. **We must hold fast to His promises**, that He will come to our rescue and bring release and freedom from our afflictions in even the most impossible situations. He states, “Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captives of the just be delivered? For thus says the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty will be taken away, and the prey of the terrible will be delivered, for I will contend with him who contend with you, and I will give safety to your children and ease to them. And I will make those who oppress you consume themselves [in mutually destructive wars] …” Isa. 49:24-26a (AMP)

Baal Perazim is One who loosens the chains and frees the captives from their bonds. When the Lord spoke life into Lazarus, He directed those who were with Lazarus to “unbind him and let him go.” Even though he lived, it was necessary to remove the grave clothes that bound him. He has secured our freedom, but we need to remove our old garments in order to walk in the fullness of life the LORD has promised us as believers. Zech. 3:1-7; John 11:1-46

One of the key words for “break” is “lyo” (Strong’s #3089) which is a primary verb. It is also translated “loose, unloose” or “destroy” in the New Testament. This word conveys the idea of “to break up or break down, break forth, destroy, Destroyer, Dissolve, Loose or Unloose, take off or remove.

God has given us the keys to His Kingdom, to bind and to loose, to set the captives free. And Jesus answered and said unto him, “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:17-19 (KJV)

The keys to the Kingdom of God represent authority and the ability to open and close doors. Jesus has given us the authority to pray in His Name. He proclaimed from the cross, “It is finished!” It is now our responsibility to pray and proclaim His finished work! Isa. 22:20-24

**PRAYER STRATEGY:** Read Isa. 52:1-10 and pray in the knowledge and confidence of His completed work! As His watchmen, let us break forth and shout with joy together!!

* **Awake, awake:** [5782-Through the idea of opening the eyes, to rouse oneself, to stir up, incite, to be excited, to be triumphant, to act in an aroused manner, to be alert, to be watchful, as opposed to being asleep, passive or idle. To rouse up one’s strength, to raise up or brandish a spear. To be one wakeful and one answering.]

Jesus has the power to our eyes and brings us to a place of seeing clearly to see and understand the spiritual battles we are facing. In Luke 24:31, 45 He opened both the spiritual eyes and minds of His followers and gave them spiritual understanding to truly understand His Word. This word for “opened” (1272) means to open what before was closed, to open ears, eyes, understanding, to open the heart, to make able and willing to understand and receive, to rouse in oneself the faculty of understanding. When the prodigal son “came to his senses” or literally came to himself, he turned back to his father’s house. See Phil. 2:12-13, Ps. 80:3; Isa. 60:1-4; Luke 15:11-32

* **Clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion… clothe yourself in your beautiful garments:** As we pray, we wrap ourselves completely in the strength of the LORD and lay down all of our earthly weapons and efforts. The word for “strength” is ‘oz’ and it carries not only the idea of force, boldness, firmness, security, great fortifications, but of power joined with splendor, majesty, glory and praise. When Gideon prepared to go forth into battle, “the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon with Himself.” Jesus is our beautiful garment and we wrap ourselves in Him as He wraps Himself around us! (Judges 6:34 AMP); Zech. 4:6-7; Ps. 28:6-9
* **Shake yourself from the dust:** The shaking here refers to the shaking of a lion’s mane as it accompanies his roar! It speaks of a shaking off and overthrowing of the dust of this world. Dust is lifeless in itself, but when God breathes His life into the dust, He makes us a new creation. We are no longer members of this world, but residents of the Kingdom of God. Remember when Jesus told his disciples to shake the dust from the cities that did not receive Him?
* **Rise up!** The King James Version says, “Rise up and sit enthroned [or sit on the throne].” Or rise up to sit in a dignified place. The Hebrew word carries with it the expectation that the hearer will take immediate and dramatic action! As we shake ourselves from the dust, the call to rise up entails gathering strength to take action. Rise and shine for the glory of the LORD is upon us! Isa. 60:1-3; Ps. 103:4, Dan. 11:32
* **O Captive Jerusalem…**captive daughter of Zion: Captives are prisoners who have been taken away into exile for the purpose of depopulating the land or spilling or pouring out their lives.
* **Loose yourself…:** The term “loose” is very closely related to break through or break out. Pathach means to open wide, to let loose, to be thrown open, to draw out, set free, put off one’s chains. It can refer to opening the eyes, opening a book, opening the mouth to eat, sing or speak, especially after a time of silence, to speak or utter words, to open anyone’s ears to hear or to reveal the LORD, i.e. Words spoken by God. To open one’s hands, to open the gates, to draw or let loose one’s sword. (Ps. 37:14, Ez. 21:30) It speaks of a captive being set free from a prison (Isa 14:17, Job 12:14) or to loose one’s bonds, to open oneself as a flower.
* **… from the chains around your neck….** The Hebrew word for chains used in this passage is ‘ghed’ (Strong’s #1416) which means literally a crowd, especially an army of enemy soldiers or band of robbers! The word comes from a primitive root that means to crowd, also to gash (as if by pressing into), to assemble by troops in order to cut. NOTE: In Isa 52:2, the chains have already been broken, the instructions are now on the need to remove them. The power of the enemy has already been broken. Jesus broke the chains!! The focus now is on being freed from the malicious intentions of the enemy. Through prayer we cut off the assignments of the enemy to destroy and call those back to life who are lying in the dust. Set them free from the robbers who seek to steal, kill and destroy.
* **O Captive daughter of Zion:** These words are spoken to His chosen one, the word daughter is spoken in terms of relationship and is figurative of the apple of His eye! He is convinced of the worth of those for whom we are interceding! Restore the hearts of the fathers toward their children and the children toward their fathers! Ps. 45:10-17; Mal. 4:1-6

*“But for you who fear My name,*

*the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings;*

*and you will go forth and skip about like calves [released] from the stall.”*

*Mal. 4:2*

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES FOR MEDITATION ON BAAL-PERAZIM:**

“Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out (break forth) to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 28:14) The picture of the flood helps us understand this meaning as we think of how the flood waters spread out to fill the land with water. This word speaks of increasing greatly, again in the context of every possible direction being possessed by this breaking forth. (See 1 Chronicles 4:38; Job 1:10)

This same word is used in Gen. 38:29-30 in which the son was named Perez with the exclamation of “What a breach you have made for yourself!” Perez meaning “Breach, bursting through or forging ahead.”

2 Samuel 6:8 also uses this word when Uzzah was killed for touching the ark while it was being transported. It is said, “David became angry because of the Lord’s outburst (perez) against Uzzah, and that the place was called “perez-uzzah” to this day.” This signifies that through David’s carelessness, a breach was made against Uzzah in which he was brought under judgment. Another example of this word being used in relation to God’s judgment for sin appears in case of Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:37)

Ps. 60:1 speaks of God’s judgment which had left the people rejected and broken (perez, full of breaches), but in which David cries out to the LORD to heal its breaches, display His banner of truth and bring deliverance and salvation. Thus, we can call upon the name of the LORD, Baal-Perazim to be the healer of breaches in which He places Himself in those vulnerable, broken down places in our lives and the lives of those for whom we pray.

Ps. 80:12 uses this word in reference to hedges which are become broken down, indicating the vulnerability to affliction when this occurs. “Why hast Thou broken down its hedges, so that all who pass that way pick its fruit?”

Tobiah declared the work of Nehemiah was not strong enough to stand up, even against a small fox who could jump on it and break their stone wall down. (Neh. 4:3)

1 Ki. 11:27 Amos 9:11 Ps. 106:23

1 Sam. 58:12 Ezek. 13:51 Chronicles 14:11

2 Sam 5:20 Ezek. 22:30 Neh. 6:1