



David

 LifeGroups
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God Fulfills His Promises in His Timing

The Lord's Timing

- Godly people wait for the Lord's timing
- 2 Samuel 5:1–5 and Psalm 78:67–72
- David had been waiting decades to receive the throne God had promised him when he was a “young lad.” He was now 37.
- He had spent more than seven years ruling over just Judah and fighting with the house of Saul.
- Before that, he had spent eight years running from Saul, hiding out in caves and Philistine cities, gathering his army of “mighty men.”

The Lord's Timing

- Before that, it had been seven to 12 years since he had been anointed. For a total of at least 20 years, maybe closer to 30, David had waited for God's promises to be fulfilled:
- Ages 8–15: a shepherd boy in his father's house; Samuel anointed him king
- After his anointing: was brought to the palace to play music for Saul to soothe him; became one of Saul's armor-bearers; traveled back and forth from the palace to his father's house to tend the sheep
- Ages 16–19: fought Goliath

The Lord's Timing

- After he fought Goliath: became best friends with Jonathan; was promoted to general; married Michal, lived in Saul's house
- Ages 20–22: grew in strength and power in Saul's house
- Ages 22–28: fled from Saul, lived on the run in the wilderness
- Ages 28–30: lived in Gath, then Ziklag as a vassal of Achish
- Age 30: became king of Judah
- Age 37: became king of all Israel

The Lord's Timing

- Now that Saul, Abner and Ish-bosheth were gone, there was no longer any opposition to David's claim to kingship.
- And yet, instead of standing up and declaring himself king, he waited for the elders of the tribes to come to him.
- The elders of all the tribes of Israel came to David with three reasons they wanted him to be king: 1) unity of the tribes, 2) his military strength and leadership skills, and 3) God's anointing.

The Lord's Timing

- First, they said, “We are your bone and flesh,” claiming brotherhood. They wanted to reunite the tribes.
- Second, they admitted that even when Saul was king, it was David who was really leading Israel (5:2).
- Finally, they recognized that God had promised David that he would rule over all of Israel (5:2).

The Lord's Timing

- David had waited. He had been patient.
- He had been honorable and faithful, even to Saul, who had so badly mistreated him.
- He didn't do everything right at every step along the way, but in general, he showed great patience and trust in God as he waited for God's calling on his future to come to fruition.
- God used each of these periods in David's life to prepare him to fulfill that calling.

The Lord's Timing

- The time in the wilderness taught him to trust in the Lord as his refuge and strength.
- The time in Saul's house helped him to grow in military strength and wisdom.
- The time as a vassal of the Philistines helped him to better understand his enemies.
- Most importantly, his early years as a shepherd taught him what it means to lead God's people the way He does, as our Shepherd (Psalm 23).

The Lord's Timing

- God used the imagery of good and bad shepherds to describe the leaders in Israel: good shepherds tenderly cared for their flocks (Ezekiel 34).
- He intentionally chose a literal shepherd to rule over His people. Like God our Shepherd, David guided the people in the right direction, provided for them, and protected them (Psalm 23).
- Just as God commanded His leaders to do, David saw his role as that of a servant-leader, thinking of what he could do for the people rather than what they could do for him (Deuteronomy 17:14–20). He led them with an “upright heart” and “skillful hands” (Psalm 78:72).

Trust in the Lord

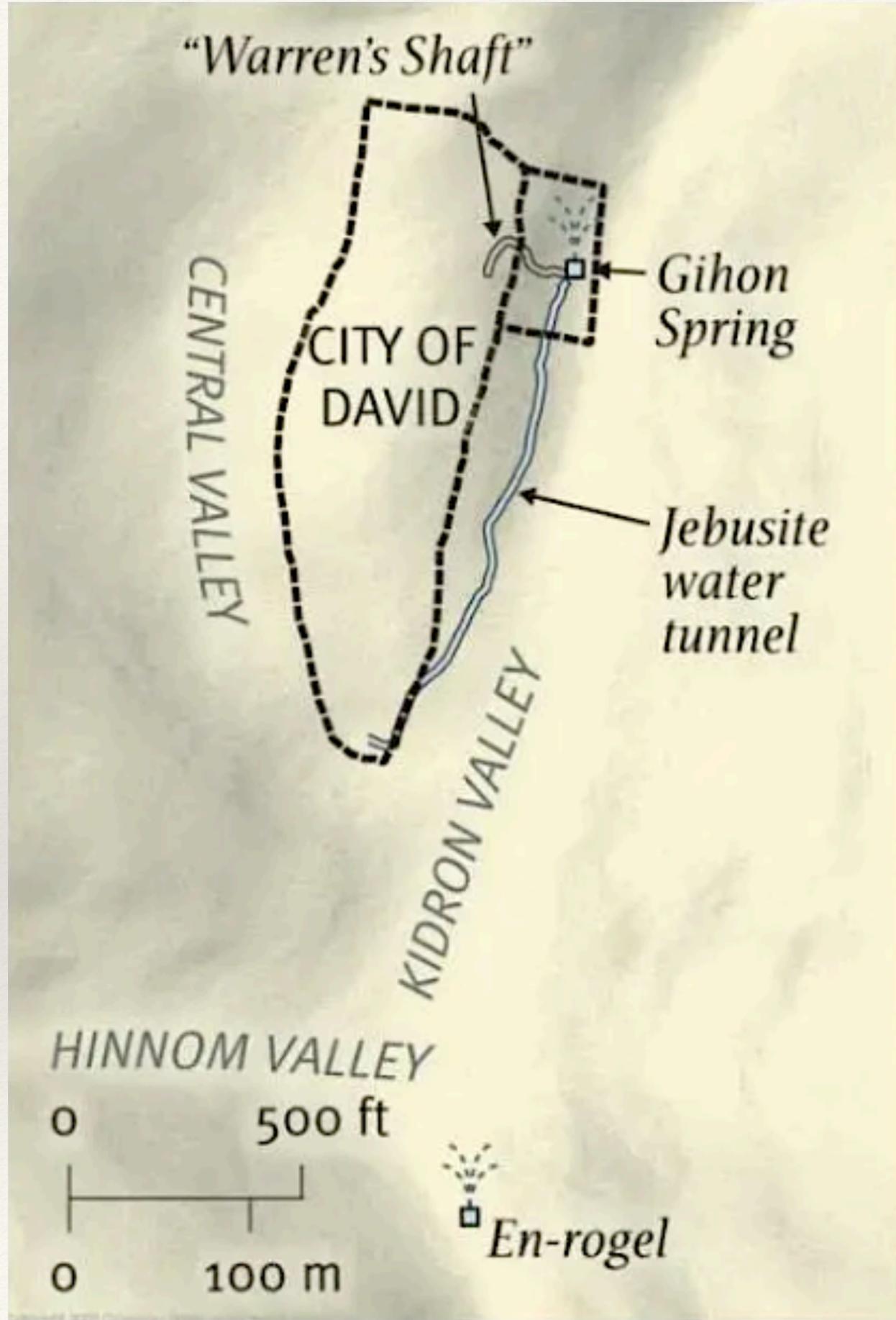
- Godly people trust in the Lord
- 2 Samuel 5:6–16 and Deuteronomy 17:14–20
- The story tells us David became “greater and greater” because “the God of hosts” was with him.
- This is specifically talking about David’s military strength; “hosts” means army.
- The term “heavenly host” doesn’t just mean a group of angels; it means an army of angels.

Trust in the Lord

- In the ancient world, nations believed winning a battle proved their god was stronger than the god of the defeated army. Over and over in the Old Testament, God proved He was stronger than any other “god.”
- When God parted the Red Sea and destroyed Pharaoh’s army, Moses sang, “The Lord is a man of war” (Exodus 15:1–6).
- Throughout Israel’s history, Scripture always gives credit to the Lord for Israel’s victories. The book of Samuel makes it clear that David’s success wasn’t because of his own strength, power or wisdom but because the Lord was with him (5:10).

Trust in the Lord

- David's first move once he was declared king over united Israel was to establish a new capital city.
- Staying in Hebron would have made the other tribes feel as though they were just adding on to Judah. So David chose Jerusalem, a city that bordered Judah, but was technically in territory allotted to Benjamin. It had not been controlled by any Israelite tribe, so it was somewhat neutral territory.
- It was occupied by the Jebusites, one of the people groups God had commanded them to drive out of the land (Exodus 23:23–24).



Trust in the Lord

- In conquering it, David could establish his own centrally located capital city and himself as a king devoted to the Lord's commands.
- Jerusalem means "city of peace" but would also be called "the city of David."
- It is also called Zion because that was the name of the stronghold (5:6–7).
- Zion can refer to Mount Zion, the city of Jerusalem, the whole nation of Israel, the people of Israel, or, eschatologically, the future kingdom of God in the age to come.

Trust in the Lord

- But as David became more successful and more honored by other nations, he began to take more concubines and wives, which was typical for a king in the ancient Near East but banned by God's law for Israel's kings (Deuteronomy 17:17).
- Kings typically acquired many wives as a show of prowess but also to build alliances with foreign nations through marriage.
- But Israelites were forbidden to intermarry with foreigners so their hearts would not be led astray from the Lord.

Trust in the Lord

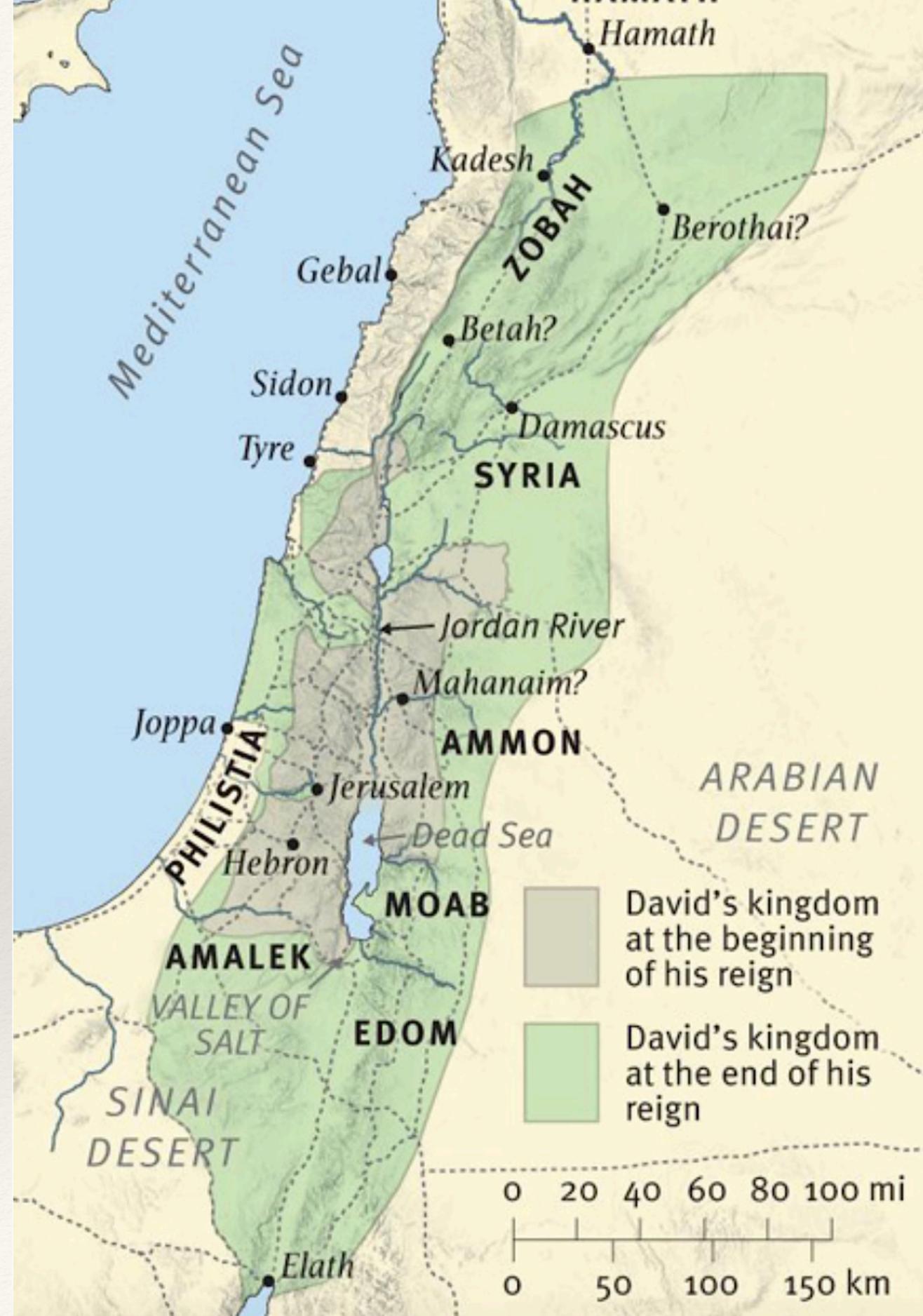
- While David trusted God and followed His commands in many ways, this was an area of weakness for him, one that would lead to his greatest sin, which would then multiply in his children's generation. No matter how committed we are to the Lord, we all have blind spots. We all have weaknesses and temptations.
- That's why we must keep coming back to the Lord and asking in prayer, as David did in Psalms, "Search me, O God and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23–24).

Wait on the Lord

- Godly people wait on the Lord
- 2 Samuel 5:17–25
- During the seven-year period when David was just king of Judah, the text tells us only about fighting between David and Saul's house, not about any warring with the Philistines.
- Perhaps they felt David wasn't much of a threat, being the king of but one small tribe. But now that he was king of all Israel, the Philistines decided to attack (5:17).

Wait on the Lord

- The text doesn't tell us which of the Philistines were involved, but it couldn't have been all of them because David continued to fight with them throughout his reign (8:1; 21:15; 23:10).
- It says that he struck down the Philistines "from Geba to Gezer," which was a large portion of the land from Jerusalem to the west but not all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.
- This area was all north of Gath, so it's unlikely Achish was involved in any of this fighting.



Wait on the Lord

- In this passage, we see David inquiring of the Lord before making any moves.
- Instead of going to his human advisors and doing what made the most sense according to human wisdom, he went straight to God every time.
- The “Rephaim” were giants, and they were “spread out” in the valley – there were a lot of them.
- This valley was southwest of Jerusalem, and David could see them from “the stronghold” (Zion).

Wait on the Lord

- But when David asked God, the Lord said He would “certainly” give them into his hand.
- So David went and defeated them. He named the place “Lord of breaking through” because the Lord broke through his enemies “like a breaking flood” (5:20).
- This imagery of a huge army spread out in formation that God just busted through and washed them all away reminds us of Pharoah’s army in the Red Sea when Moses called God our Warrior.

Wait on the Lord

- But then more Philistines came up again, in that same valley.
- This time when David asked, the Lord told him not to “go up” but gave him very specific instructions about going around behind the army because the Lord Himself would go before David to strike them down.
- These instructions were so detailed, they were likely given through a prophet or a vision rather than just the ephod, which just answered yes/no questions.
- This strategy was much like what God asked Joshua to do in the battle of Jericho, letting the Lord be the One to do the fighting.

Wait on the Lord

- Most of us don't fight literal physical battles against enemy armies, but we are all involved in daily spiritual battles.
- Ephesians describes our lives as a battle against the “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” and commands us to put on “the full armor of God” to stand against “the schemes of the devil” (Ephesians 6:10–18).
- We may not always feel as if we are fighting a battle, but there is a constant battle raging in the heavenly realms every single day, and we need God's wisdom and power to fight.

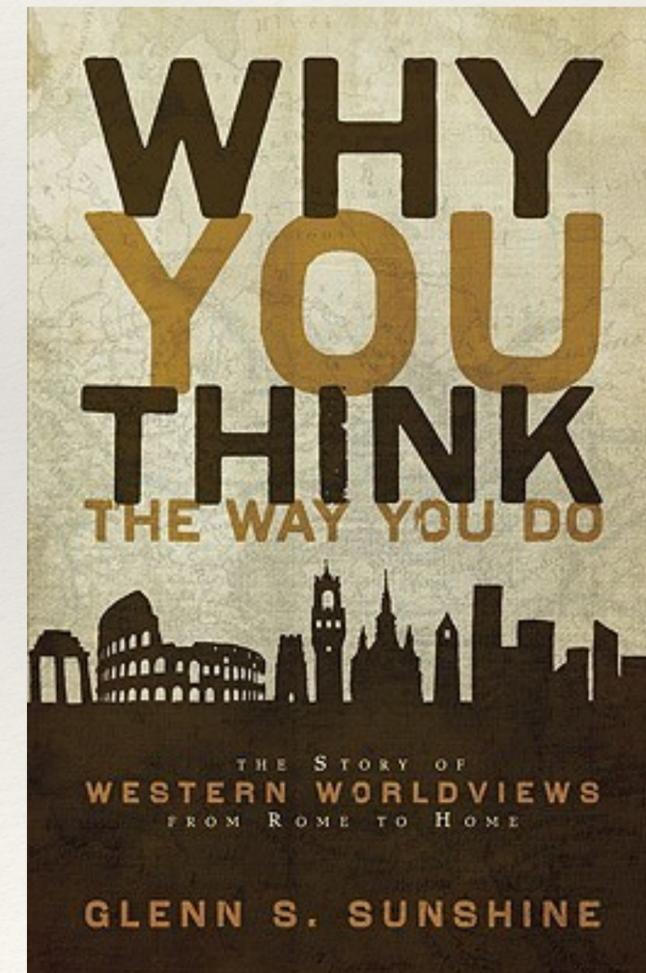
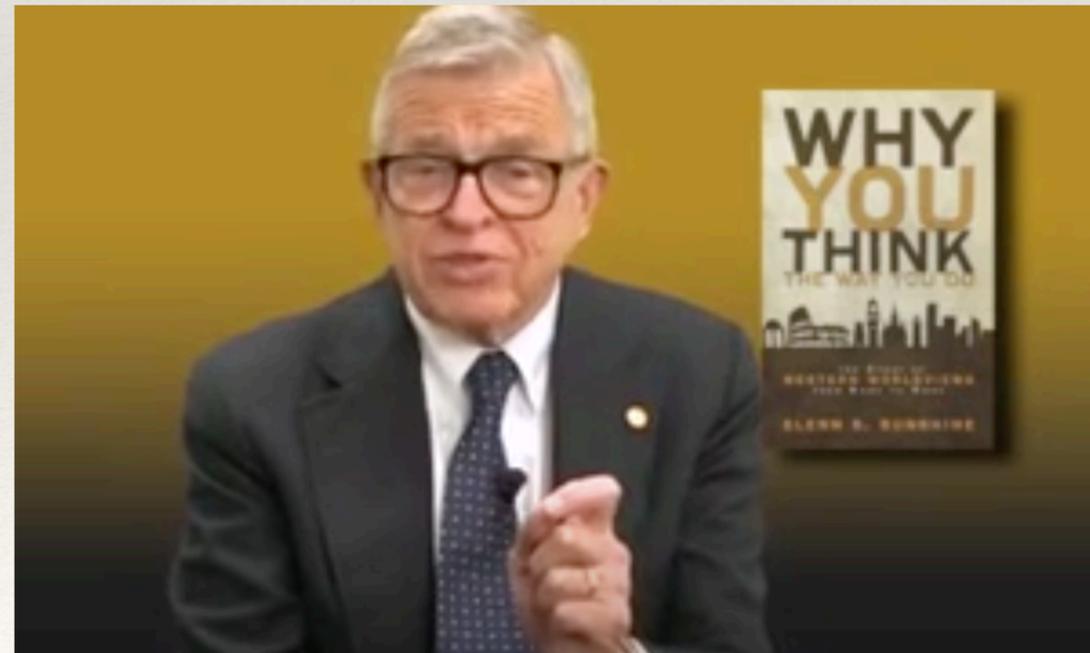
Wait on the Lord

- Paul said we have the power to demolish strongholds when we “take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:1–6).
- The battles we fight are in our own minds, hearts and souls against evil and darkness in the world around us.
- Like David, we must inquire of God, at every single step, what He wants us to do.
- We need to put on the armor of God daily and pray “at all times” in the Spirit, without ceasing (Ephesians 6:18). That is how we stand firm.

Worldviews Through History

Worldviews Through History

- Professor Glenn Sunshine gave a lecture, and Chuck Colson invited him to teach the Centurion's program.
- His talk about “How We Got Here” was turned into this book.



Worldviews Through History

- He begins by discussing the worldview of Rome.
- By the end of the book we return to that same worldview.
- Western civilization is essentially a product of ancient Roman civilization plus Christianity.
- Glenn Sunshine argues that once you removed Christianity, modern society reverted back to Roman society and a recovery of the ancient pagan worldview.

Worldviews Through History

- Like Rome we value toleration as the supreme virtue.
- The Romans lived in an oversexed society. So is our society.
- Rome practiced abortion. So does our society.
- Rome made a deliberate attempt to prevent pregnancy. In our modern world, birthrates in most of the western democracies are plummeting.

Christian Influence

- As Christian ideas began to flow through Roman culture so much changed.
- One of the most important ideas was that human beings are created in the image of God. This idea has a profound impact. First, it meant that people are fundamentally equal to each other.
- He writes that, “Christians were the first people in history to oppose slavery systematically.”

Christian Influence

- Christians (who believed that all are created in the image of God) treated the sick differently. They believed that even those who were deathly ill still deserved care.
- Dionysius of Alexandria reported that Christians (often at great risk to their own lives) “visited the sick fearlessly and ministered to them continually.”
- They would rescue babies abandoned in an act of infanticide. They would oppose abortion.

Christian Influence

- In economics, we can also see the influence of Christianity. The idea that God created the universe and then rested showed that God worked. That would mean that human beings (made in the image of God) are expected to work as well.
- Contrast this with the Roman world where physical work was seen as something that only slaves would do. Christians saw labor as something that was intrinsically valuable.

Christian Influence

- Labor is good; drudgery is bad. Drudgery is a result of the Fall (Genesis 3).
- Christians were the first to develop technology to remove drudgery from work.
- Other civilizations had technology, but the West uniquely applied such things as water power to make work more valuable and worthwhile by eliminating the drudgery and repetitive nature of certain tasks.

Worldview Today

- Glenn Sunshine argues that once you removed Christianity from modern society, it has reverted back to Roman society and an ancient pagan worldview.
- So how should Christians live in this world?
- We should live out a biblical worldview. Every generation is called to live faithfully to the gospel, and our generation is no exception.

Worldview Today

- We face a challenge similar to the early church, though not as daunting.
- The early church lived faithfully and transformed the Roman world. Christians produced a totally new civilization: western culture.
- We will increase our credibility and earn the respect from those who are around us by living according to those same biblical principles.

Resources

