

Biblical Asymmetry

From 1 Samuel 23. BIBLICAL ASYMMETRY, PART 1.

"And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God" (v. 16.)

1. ASYMMETRY: The reality of God is larger than circumstance. His power dwarfs all, every TEMPORAL thing. The Lord's will is perfectly determinant in time.
2. This asymmetry governs all things! Jonathan believed just such propositions fully.
3. Biblical asymmetry affects faith, our language manifold and behavior.
4. Biblical symmetry is to be reenacted in our circumstance.
5. THE IDEOLOGY OF SYMMETRY: This is a worldly, godless idea: the concept that the reality of God and worldly circumstances are somehow equal, alike, balanced. It has become a measure of justification for what Scripture calls sinful behavior. Beyond all of that, it is a form of reasoning.

Here is the key to understanding this ideology: Difference without change. Example: the world argument goes that heterosexuality and homosexuality are just different perspectives on the same phenomenon, or sexuality in the general case. This worldly view would say there is a symmetry between the two (heterosexuality and homosexuality); the two practices are equivalent.

But The Word of God delivers an asymmetrical judgment against this invented symmetry. Thereafter the asymmetrical biblical ruling is nominated as intolerant, totalitarian. The current age demands that we in the churches accept *the ideology of symmetry* in which no particular view has any privilege over any other particular view. Application is made to multiculturalism, pluralism, etc. However, encouragement in God is the essence of asymmetry!

From 1 Samuel 23. BIBLICAL ASYMMETRY, PART 2

It happens that some readings of scripture impose artificial constraints upon it. There two regular constraints that are employed:

1. TIME CONSTRAINTS. Under this constraint, the Bible is seen as only history; and what is written is the province of the remote past. Thus, the meanings in the Text are without bearing on the present.

2. RATIONAL CONSTRAINTS. The imposition of man's reasoning upon textual meaning demands agreement with the dictates of human reason. But this begs the question: Why? Answer: Because to follow the unconstrained revelation would, or must, inevitably lead to alarming asymmetry! We just might not stand for it. Others did not: Numbers 13, 14; Genesis 16; Luke 24; 2 Samuel 24; and especially Genesis 3.

An UNCONSTRAINED SCRIPTURE --> teaches AN ALARMING ASYMMETRY --> which means the subversion of the world's accepted reading of Scripture. Jonathan essentially said all of that to David in 1 Samuel 23.

Alarming asymmetry will result in profound changes in thought, speech and behavior. However, the world would demand the following construal or understanding: That Scripture and its teachings must exist in a state of symmetry with human lived experience.

Unfortunately, most of the doctrines that we espouse do not disturb this symmetry. Thus it is believed that there are, and should be, multiple perspectives on Scripture and on Christianity.

On the other hand, Jonathan encouraged David by telling him that he was in a fundamental true state of affairs: revealed asymmetry. That's good to know when the world crashes through the front door!

From 1 Samuel 23. BIBLICAL ASYMMETRY, PART 3.

THE BATTLE OF KEILAH:

#1. David was instructed by the Lord to attack the Philistines and to deliver Keilah (v. 1, 2.) Prayer preceded that: "David inquired of the Lord" (v.2.) His prayer was an inquiry into the Lord's will for history.

#2. David's men were "afraid" (v. 3.) These hardened men of war were afraid in their present circumstance. Going to Keilah would have been even worse-- "out of the frying pan into the fire," so to speak. So, yes things can get imaginably worse for believers; imaginably worse. We must expect this. Without faith, fear overrules the Word of God!

#3. To go to Keilah required a full and complete reversal of comprehension of the relation between God and time. The Reversal: There are two configurations of experience: a) The Battle of Keilah will rest upon a spiritual foundation; or b) It will rest upon a material foundation. David's men thought it difficult to make this belief reversal which would have affected behavior. This necessary behavior was-- by all means, do jump into the fire! This is also our present state of affairs in fully trusting the Lord with our very lives.

#4. Generalization: Once the will of God is made known, then there must be a reversal of personal will and understanding. There are no imaginable exceptions -- regardless of the circumstance!

#5. David prayed again, and the Lord reaffirmed His will (v. 4.) These men of battle overcame their doubts and one of our main problems: the fear of trusting the invisible God (v. 5.)

#6. Biblical Asymmetry works its way in these timeless human circumstances. Scripture, then, is linguistically preserved moments in time.

From 1 Samuel 23. BIBLICAL ASYMMETRY, PART 4.

THE INVISIBLE ASSET

#1. The *unseen asset* is always the Lord; Providence. King Saul sought to trap David and his 600 men within the walls of newly delivered Keilah (v. 7.)

#2. The King ordered Keilah besieged (v. 8.) Again David prayed and the Lord confirmed to him Saul's intention (v. 11, 12.) With this revealed knowledge, all escaped (v. 13.) The invisible asset "did not deliver him (David) into his hand" (Saul) (v. 14.) To help, Jonathan, King Saul's son, came to David in secret.

#3. Jonathan's analysis of circumstance:

- Overrule personal fear. "Do not be afraid" (v. 17.) Forget about "contingencies."
- Rely on the hidden asset. "My father will not find you" (v. 17.) David was protected, hidden by the Lord.
- The will of God is irreversible. "You will be king over Israel" (v. 17.) Circumstances are powerless against the determined will of God. David had already been anointed King of Israel by the Lord Himself (1 Samuel 16).
- Prove your faith. "And I will be next to you" (v. 17.) Both David and Jonathan knew that if you claim to believe the Word of God, then you have to prove it! And often in dangerous waters.

#4. Jonathan came to David and "encouraged him in God" (v. 16.) But his purpose was hollow without *the truth of biblical asymmetry*. As a believer, Jonathan had a full comprehension of temporal events. He did not delve into the measurement of events. Saul had every material advantage; David had none. But Jonathan knew, because of biblical asymmetry, that differential was meaningless! Christians do not live on "the general case" of anything! We live by faith.

From 1 Samuel 23. BIBLICAL ASYMMETRY, PART 5

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ROCK OF ESCAPE:

- #1. Events were continuing to unfold (v. 19.) This must never rattle us.
- #2. David and his 600 were discovered (v. 19, 24.)
- #3. King Saul held great political and material advantage (v. 20, 21.)
- #4. The forces of King Saul and David made contact in the Arabah (v. 25.)
- #5. A mountain separated these two forces (v. 26.)
- #6. A powerful encirclement was drawing tight around David (v. 26) -- growing hopelessness.
- #7. Suddenly there was a Philistine raid into Israel. Saul broke off the engagement with David (v. 27.)
- #8. The campaign against David collapsed.
- #9. Because of this unexpected, sudden, efficient development, that mountain was called "the rock of escape" (v.28.) No doubt, Providence had settled the matter.
- #10. "The Rock of Escape" is a symbol of the power of God. It is precedential: All Biblical symbols set precedents for the generations that follow.
- #11. Thus, there are human *versions of history, and there is biblical symbolism as precedent setting history. Biblical symbolism* is the basis for generalizing eternal truth into our circumstances.
- #12. This is a history fixed, determined by God and about His relation to Time. God is "the rock of escape" and He is precedential to the experience of those who trust in him. The Lord is asymmetrical to our circumstances. More, *biblical symbolism is asymmetrical to human reason.*

From 1 Samuel 23. BIBLICAL ASYMMETRY, PART 6

THE MANIFOLDS:

- #1. The "fear" evidenced by David's men (v. 3) tells us that initially these warriors chose a *number manifold above the revealed language manifold.* The number manifold, the counting of

things, taking measurements, weighing various risk values, is routine behavior for the human race in any set of circumstances. Major illnesses are grasped by "the numbers" that they generate. Examples: the number manifold generated by the reconnaissance mission from Kadesh-Barnea (Numbers 13, 14); Abraham's confidence in the number manifold generated by the biological conditions of him and his wife took; all took precedence over the promises of God (Genesis 16).

#2. Many in the churches prefer, and have more trust in, the indicated number manifold generated by whatever situation(s), than in the language manifold of scripture. Perhaps that is explained by the favored inclination of reading the Bible as a "dead letter" instead of the language manifold of precedence, governing all of time?

#3. But believers in the Lord eschew any number manifold in favor of the Word of God. Then or now, the symbolism of "the rock of escape" sets the precedence for this.

#4. To trust in the Lord means that believers do not rest comprehension of time, life, events and circumstance on the accounted physical properties involved. We assess, for instance, the number manifold generated by situation X (Genesis 16, 22; 2 Samuel 24; Exodus 13, 14; Luke 1; Matthew 8).

#5. Jonathan "encouraged him (David) in God" (v. 16.) To do that, Jonathan had to have detached David from the number manifold of the situation! "In God" --is the spiritual relation to the Lord, and is discontinuous from the circumstance.

There is a way to read the Bible that detaches us from the number manifold. That is correct, and proper, and it produces a perfected encouragement!