

Defending the Ground of Lentiles

2Samuel 23:11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

Throughout the grand narrative of Scripture, God's people encounter numerous battles—spiritual, moral, and physical. The way they respond reveals much about their character, faith, and dependence on God. While many stories focus on the great leaders—Moses, Joshua, David—there are countless lesser-known figures whose quiet acts of faithfulness and courage serve as profound lessons for us today. One such person is **Shammah**, a man of humility and unwavering loyalty, whose courageous stand in a field of lentils echoes through generations.

The story of Shammah is brief but powerful, illustrating that victory in God's kingdom is often rooted in simple acts of obedience and faithfulness, trusting that God will uphold His promises. As we explore his story more deeply, we'll uncover principles that resonate deeply with our Christian walk and challenge us to stand firm in our own "battlefields" today.

A Deeper Look at Shammah's Biography

Shammah's only biblical mention is in **2 Samuel 23:11–12**, yet this brief passage reveals much about his character and the spiritual truth that endurance and loyalty in small things lead to divine victories. He was one of David's mighty men—an elite group of fighters chosen not only for their strength but for their unwavering loyalty and faithfulness to God's anointed king. These men were ordinary men who, through faith in God's power, performed extraordinary feats, often risking their lives in battles that seemed unwinnable.

In the specific event described, the Philistines had gathered a large troop to conquer Israel once again. **Their target was a small, seemingly insignificant piece of land—"a field of lentils"—a humble, unassuming crop.** The Philistines, representative of pagan enemies and worldly opposition, likely saw this as an easy conquest; yet Shammah, standing among other soldiers, refused to flee. He took a definitive posture: "He stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the Lord wrought a great victory" (2 Samuel 23:12). **There is nothing that is too insignificant for us not to defend – we will defend every lentil field the Lord has given us. Because if the enemy takes the smallest blessing,**

he will take bigger ones. Shammah's faith and courage turned a seemingly insignificant act into a divine victory. His act was not performed in isolation; it was rooted in the covenant faithfulness of Israel and exemplifies the biblical principle that divine victory often follows hours of faithful perseverance. It challenges us to consider the battles we face—whether in our spiritual walk, our families, or our communities—and encourages us to remain loyal and courageous in every situation.

The Context of Faith and Victory in Scripture

Shammah's story finds its larger context in the biblical theme of divine victory through faithful obedience. Consider **2 Chronicles 20:15**, when King Jehoshaphat faces an overwhelming enemy army and is reminded: *"Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's."* This truth is echoed in Shammah's act of defending the field: victory does not depend on human strength but on divine power. When Shammah stood his ground, he was embodying the biblical truth that faithfulness in small, seemingly insignificant battles prepares the way for larger spiritual victories. His stand reminds us that loyalty to God often requires risking our comfort and security, trusting that His power will prevail.

Additionally, the Apostle Paul, in **Ephesians 6:13**, urges believers to stand firm: *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."* This call to stand firm resonates with Shammah's example—he did not retreat. His act of courage models for us the importance of perseverance and unwavering loyalty in our spiritual journey. Not only are we called to defend our faith, but also the principles of righteousness, even when it costs us dearly.

Standing alone in the face of opposition is a recurring biblical theme that carries deep spiritual meaning. Shammah's courage was rooted in his trust in God's sovereignty, similar to the prophet Elijah's stand against false prophets (1 Kings 18) or Daniel's unwavering prayer life amidst persecution (Daniel 6). These stories demonstrate that obedience and courage in the face of overwhelming odds evoke divine power and result in victory—**God's victory**. Shammah's unwavering stand in the "field of lentils" is emblematic of a principle that runs throughout Scripture: faithfulness in the seemingly insignificant prepares the way for divine

empowerment in greater battles. In **Matthew 25:21**, the Lord commends the servant who was faithful over a few things: *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."* Shammah's act of defending that small piece of land exemplifies this truth. When believers are faithful in their daily duties—whether in their workplace, family, or church—they position themselves for divine victory. Faithfulness in small tasks is often a test of our loyalty and trust in God's sovereignty, preparing us for greater responsibilities and victories. The lesson here is that consistency and loyalty, even in the "little things," attract God's favor and enable us to participate in His larger divine plans.

The Courage That Comes From Relying on God

Shammah's courage was not rooted in personal strength but in reliance on God's power. His act shows us that human bravery alone is insufficient—true courage arises from trusting God's promises and power. Recall **Deuteronomy 31:6**: *"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."* When facing spiritual battles—whether temptation, persecution, or societal pressure—believers are called to depend on God's strength, just as Shammah depended on God to deliver victory. He believed that God's power was greater than the enemies arrayed against him. This reliance on divine strength is reiterated in **Philippians 4:13**: *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

Modern Christians face many daunting "Philistine" adversaries—addictions, peer pressure, moral compromise, or cultural hostility. Like Shammah, Christians are encouraged to stand firm, trusting that Christ empowers and sustains them. Such dependence transforms ordinary acts of obedience into divine victories. **Hebrews 10:23** exhorts believers:

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)." This consistency in faith and loyalty forms the foundation for divine strength and victory.

When believers commit to standing for righteousness, God is committed to honoring their faithfulness. Shammah's victory in defending the lentil field was not merely about the field itself but about God's affirmation that faithfulness leads to divine triumph. It teaches us that our courage and loyalty are never wasted—they advance God's kingdom and secure divine rewards.

The Promise of Victory—God's Power in Our Weakness

One of the most profound truths illustrated by Shammah's story is that divine victory belongs to the Lord. Our own strength is insufficient; it is God's power working through our faithfulness that guarantees triumph. This is echoed in **2 Corinthians 12:9**:

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Just as Shammah relied not on his own might but on God, believers today are called to depend fully on God's grace for their battles. Whether fighting for righteousness, integrity, or faith—God's divine power is available to those who stand firm, trusting Him to deliver.