

Torah Musing, I Chronicles 18:6

וַיִּשַׁע יְהוָה אֶת־דָּוִד בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר הָלַךְ
The Lord Gave David Victory Wherever He Went

Looking At Life Through the Rear View

We all know people who dislike us and we may even know a few individuals whom we would classify as enemies. What would it be like to have hundreds of enemies? Despite David being the *אִישׁ כְּלִבְבוֹ* a *man after God's own heart*,¹ he had enemies. Yes, David דָּוִד was, as his name implies, *beloved*. but he had enemies. David had enemies from within his inner circle² and enemies from without. He literally had enemies everywhere for in the span of just one chapter the Chronicler lists seven nations and peoples that hated him. This *beloved* of God had to constantly look over his shoulder and sleep with one eye open. David enjoyed victory everywhere he went but how was he mentally able to withstand these constant threats to his being and yet remain fearless?

Throughout the Levant and Mesopotamia David's reputation as a fearless, winning and courageous warrior preceded him. He had formidable enemies everywhere, yet he was fearless and courageous! Yes, he was courageous because experience taught him to "*stare at life through the rear view.*" Tupac's iconic song lyric has come to mean that one can look at the world from behind. See where you have been and

then without worry or fear, rest assured that you will be successful. From the rear-view mirror, you are able to see the road that you have traveled and whenever David glanced at his rear view, it revealed a litany of battlefield victories. He approached every battle with the philosophical stance and mindset that he would prevail. Of course, he and his thirty-seven **הַגִּבּוֹרִים** mighty warriors³ prepared for the battles,⁴ as would any warrior, but David knew that he would triumph.

David enjoyed victory everywhere he went? Scripture informs us that his personal life was in shambles,⁵ so how is this assertion valid? If you carefully read I Chronicle 18, you will notice that this statement is only asserted in a military context. David enjoyed *military success* everywhere he went. When David glanced in the rear-view mirror of his military career, he only gleaned success. The rear-view picture of his personal life was quite a different story. Like David, we often enjoy success in one aspect of life but in other areas struggle. This has certainly proved true for me.

In all endeavors, yes glance ahead at your potential future but also take a long look into your rearview and even if you see detractors, if you also see successes then why doubt the outcome? Act like David and his valiant warriors and be courageous and fearless, all the while knowing that victory is yours. David was successful surrounded by enemies and you will be successful amid any of the forces that seek to suppress you,

if you approach life as David did. With each endeavor say with assurance "David was victorious everywhere He went." Do not doubt yourself. Just remember to first

Look Through the Rear View

שבת שלום מביתנו לביתך

Shabbat Shalom From Our House to Your House

Rabbi Malchah

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Endnotes

¹ I Samuel 13:14

² See Ahithophel and Hushai 2 Samuel 17:1-16

³ 2 Samuel 23:8-39 and I Chronicles 11:10-47

⁴ 2 Samuel 18:1-4 and Psalm 144:1 (MT)

⁵ Examples - The rape of Bathsheba, the planned murder of Uriah and his men, the rebellion of his son Absalom, David's son Amnon rapes his half- sister Tamar, Absalom kills Amnon.