

1 Chronicles 14:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they came up to Baal-perazim; and David smote them there. Then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like the breaking forth of waters: therefore they called the name of that place Baal-perazim.

Analysis

David's naming the place 'Baal-perazim' (Lord of breakthroughs) memorializes God's intervention using water-breakthrough imagery. The statement 'God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like the breaking forth of waters' attributes victory to God while acknowledging human instrumentality. This theological balance - divine sovereignty and human agency - characterizes Reformed thought. David doesn't say 'I broke through' but recognizes himself as God's instrument. The water metaphor suggests overwhelming, irresistible force, echoing prophetic promises about God's Spirit being poured out. This points to Christ's decisive victory over Satan, sin, and death.

Historical Context

Ancient warriors often memorialized battle sites with names reflecting theological interpretation (cf. Ebenezer, 'stone of help' in 1 Samuel 7:12). These place names served as permanent testimony to God's faithfulness, teaching subsequent generations about divine intervention in Israel's history.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can you better memorialize and testify to God's 'breakthroughs' in your spiritual battles?
2. Where do you need God to 'break forth like waters' against enemies (spiritual, not physical) in your life?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַר	זֶה יְד	שָׁם	בְּבָעֵל	פְּרָצִים:	וְקָם	זֶה יְד	זֶה יְד
So they came up	H0	Baalperazim	smote	H8033	and David	said	
H5927		H1188	H5221		H1732		H559
and David		God			upon mine enemies	by mine hand	
H1732	H6555	H430	H853		H341		H3027
like the breaking forth		of waters			therefore they called	the name	
H6556	H4325	H5921	H3651		H7121		H8034
of that place	H1931	H0	Baalperazim				
H4725			H1188				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 28:21 (Parallel theme): For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

Job 30:14 (Kingdom): They came upon me as a wide breaking in of waters: in the desolation they rolled themselves upon me.

Exodus 14:28 (Parallel theme): And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

2 Samuel 5:20 (References David): And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim.

Psalms 144:10 (Kingdom): It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.

Psalms 144:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:

Matthew 7:27 (Parallel theme): And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.