

Ecclesiastes 9:11

In 1980 Winter Olympics @ Lake Placid, New York, the US Olympic Hockey Team played the Soviet Olympic Hockey Team in a game that would make history. The Russian Olympic Hockey Team was far superior in every way over the US Olympic Hockey Team.

They were faster, stronger, smarter and more experienced and skilled as a team than any hockey team in the world.

In February 1979, they defeated the NHL All- Star team 2 out of 3 games @ Madison Square Garden. (3rd game 6-0). This NHL Team featured an astounding 20 future hall of famers, they were destroyed by the Soviets.

The USSR Won Gold in: 1956, 1964, 1968, 1972, 1976.

Herb Brooks, (US Coach) in his pre-game speech to his players (the US team was made up of college and a few minor league players); Coach Brooks told his 20 players; if we play (10) games against the Soviets, they might win (9) of them, but not tonight. Little did he realize that he would be right.

Looking at the skill and experience of both teams, there was no way that the American team should have beat the Soviet team. But in 1980, US Hockey team pulled off what is now called the greatest sporting feat in the history of the 20th Century. To this day it is still called the Miracle of 1980.

Now turn to a Biblical Miracle: Young David who (to our sense and reason) had no earthly business facing down and challenging the Philistine Champion Goliath.

Goliath's sole business was war; he was not only a seasoned warrior, he was stronger, more experienced, and most significant was his physical size in comparison to David.

No, David had no earthly business in that fight, but this wasn't earthly business, it was God's business, and God determined THAT DAY to teach the children of Israel, and us, a lesson in true strength, in those, (no matter their disadvantages), who wholeheartedly trust the strength of the Almighty, AND NOT in their own strength and experience and capabilities! *1 Samuel 17:32-51*

Every one of us have individual capabilities and strengths. Solomon sets before us some of these (God Given) "strengths, capabilities, or advantages" given to some of us.

There are those who are the fastest among sprinters who lose the race. There are the strong who fall in battle. There are wise men whose wisdom (at times) does them no good. There are highly intelligent people in the world who possesses a high degree of understanding and knowledge in their business who fail. And last, there is the craftsman who cannot undertake his craft.

I think what Solomon is teaching us, **(is what he himself learned)**, that although we might possess great strength, a high degree of wisdom &

understanding; talents and skills to be able to achieve success....yet, things under the sun often don't turn out the way we think they should.

Ecclesiastes 8:17-9:2

Not only do we NOT KNOW the OUTCOMES of all of our individual endeavors; WE CANNOT DEPEND on our capabilities and abilities, but we MUST TRUST the LORD and DEPEND upon Him for the outcomes; but more than that, we MUST acquiesce and submit ourselves to God's governing providence in our lives and in that which He brings to pass.

Listen; there will be times when WE HAVE TRAINED and PREPARED and PRAYED for good success, but NOTHING will go the way that WE PLANNED!

“Time and Chance happeneth to them all”

EVERYTHING is going to fall out the way God ordered it for your good I don't believe Solomon is teaching us to NOT be prepared and to NOT grow in wisdom and knowledge and understanding, but what he is teaching us is that THE OUTCOME of everything that we do in this life is in God's hand, not yours. Don't trust in your strength or your resources and capabilities, but (Christian), whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with ALL thy strength and might, and leave the outcome to the Lord.

Psalms 33:16-22, 147:10-11, Proverbs 21:7, 30-31, Isaiah 31:1

This is how you rest in the Lord; this is how you may Be Still!

Brethren, every aspect of your life falls under the providence, government, and the good hand of our God.

So when you've done all that you can and SHOULD DO to prepare for your day; step out by faith in your God, but know and trust that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. Your wisdom, understanding, and skill may all fail you in that day; but know that good hand of God is working in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. *Jeremiah 9:23-24*

Ecclesiastes 9:12: READ:

Just as no one can forecast or know the mind of God, in his providence, so no one knows the day when they shall die.

To the wicked, those who do not concern themselves with their Creator and God, and who do not concern themselves with life and death and the judgment to come that day will come as a snare, or like fish suddenly caught in fisherman's net. *1 Kings 22:29-34*

Luke 21:35, 12:19-20

The righteous WILL NOT be snared in an evil time.