

David was an awesome warrior, but as he became older and got into more dangerous encounters with the enemy, his army prevented him from going into battle. They were afraid that he would get hurt or killed, and they swore to him that we would never again let him go out with us into battle, so that the lamp of Israel would not be extinguished<sup>1</sup>.

When it was time for Jesus to go to Jerusalem, we also tried to stop Him from going because we were certain that He would be killed. We tried to dissuade him by reminding him that it was not long before that the Jews in that city had tried to stone Him and that it was not good to return<sup>2</sup>. But Jesus went anyway, offered Himself to them, and thus died to save us all.

I find it interesting to note that David's army protected him, and won the battle without him. But those of us who were Jesus' disciples had no power to do the same for Him, especially with our meager armament of only two swords. Our Christ knew that only He could win the victory over Satan and death. His kingdom was won<sup>3</sup> through His apparent defeat on the cross.

1. "Then David's men swore to him, saying, 'Never again will you go out with us to battle, so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished.'" 2 Samuel 21:17.
2. "'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?'" John 11:8.
3. "Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'" John 18:36.