



Big Problems, Bigger God July 10-11, 2021

God's Surprising Solutions to 1,000 Years of Big Problems:

- When there were giants, God had trumpets. (Joshua)
- When there were no leaders, God had a widow. (Judges & Ruth)
- When the king failed, God had a loner and a shepherd. (1 & 2 Samuel)
- When the government was in chaos, God had thousands still faithful. (1 & 2 Kings)
- When time marched on and on, God was always working. (1 & 2 Chronicles)
- When all seemed lost, God was just getting started. (Ezra)

My Big Problem:

7 Big Lessons from 1,000 Years of Watching God Work:

- 1** I can be strong and courageous because God always keeps his promises. (Joshua)

Joshua 1:5, 9 (NIV)

"...As I was with Moses, so I will be with you... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

In My Big Problem:

- Stay faithful – my little decisions make a big difference.

- 2** Doing things my own way will just make life worse. (Judges)

Judges 21:25 (NLT)

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

In My Big Problem:

- Trust God's wisdom more than my own ideas.

- 3** There is always opportunity to do the right thing. (Ruth)

Ruth 1:1 (NIV)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.

In My Big Problem:

- Do the next right thing.

- 4** Great people often come from unexpected places. (1 & 2 Samuel)

1 Samuel 3:1-4 (NIV)

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am."

1 Samuel 16:10-13 (NIV)

Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

In My Big Problem:

- Learn from outsiders and children – they often see what's really important.

- 5** Power and success don't fool God; humility is what he wants. (1 & 2 Kings)

2 Kings 22:18-19 (NCV)

"Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to ask the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says about the words you heard: When you heard my words against this place and its people, you became sorry for what you had done and humbled yourself before me... This is why I have heard you.'"

In My Big Problem:

- Resist the temptation of power and prestige.

- 6** God cares about the details because he wants me to trust him fully. (1 & 2 Chronicles)

1 Chronicles 18:1-6 (NIV)

In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Gath and its surrounding villages from the control of the Philistines. David also defeated the Moabites, and they became subject to him and brought him tribute. Moreover, David defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah, in the vicinity of Hamath, when he went to set up his monument at the Euphrates River. David captured a thousand of his chariots, seven thousand charioteers and twenty thousand foot soldiers. He hamstrung all but a hundred of the chariot horses. When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down twenty-two thousand of them. He put garrisons in the Aramean kingdom of Damascus, and the Arameans became subject to him and brought him tribute. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went.

In My Big Problem:

- **Ask questions and probe my doubts – God asks for a thoughtful, informed faith.**

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This isn't the end of the story. (Ezra)

Ezra 3:10-13 (NLT)

When the builders completed the foundation of the LORD's Temple, the priests put on their robes and took their places to blow their trumpets. And the Levites, descendants of Asaph, clashed their cymbals to praise the LORD, just as King David had prescribed. With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the LORD: "He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!" Then all the people gave a great shout, praising the LORD because the foundation of the LORD's Temple had been laid. But many of the older priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple wept aloud when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were shouting for joy. The joyful shouting and weeping mingled together in a loud noise that could be heard far in the distance.

In My Big Problem:

- **Expect God to come through, no matter how hopeless it looks.**

Memory Verse for July, 2021

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.



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