

“HIS HAND STUCK TO THE SWORD”

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You may not immediately recognize the name of Eleazar, the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, but he was one of the three mighty warriors of King David who stood with him against the Philistines (2 Samuel 23:9). We are told by the divine record that Eleazar “arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and *his hand stuck to the sword*. The Lord brought about a great victory that day” (v. 10).

That his hand “stuck to the sword” indicates a muscle cramp, as described by one commentator: “It is not uncommon for one engaged in strenuous activity requiring the tension of muscles to incur a muscle cramp which must be gradually relaxed before it can be normal again. Eleazar gripped the sword so tightly and so hard as he battled the Philistines that his muscles tightened so that he could not readily release his grip on the handle” (*Eddie Whitten, “The Ending of David’s Reign,” Studies in 1, 2 Samuel, ed. Dub McClish, p. 313*). Though Eleazar’s hand became weary in the heat of battle, he did not drop his sword or quit. He continued the fight with his hand “stuck to the sword!”

Our battle against Satan and his false ways is an ongoing struggle that can bring great weariness at times. Satan never stops seeking to destroy the cause of Christ and devour us. The constant need to wield the “sword of the Spirit” is made difficult by the onset of spiritual fatigue. Discouragement becomes a real threat. Distractions are all around enticing us to drop our sword and walk away from the fray.

Shall we quit? NO! We must be like Eleazar and tighten our grip around our sword, the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). We must fight through our weariness with determination to win the battle for the cause of righteousness. Every soldier is needed to achieve this victory for the Lord. There will be no compromise or surrender. Is your hand “stuck to the sword” of God’s indestructible word? Soldiers of Christ, arise and fight on to victory!