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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Intro Voice, Speaker 1

Intro Voice 00:03
Shalom, and welcome to Via Haftah Israel, a Hebrew phrase which means, 'You shall love Israel. We hope you'll stay with us for the next 30 minutes as our teacher, Dr. Baruch, shares his expository teaching from the Bible. Dr. Baruch is the senior lecturer at the Zara Avraham Institute, based in Israel, although all courses are taught in Hebrew at the institute, Dr. Baruch is pleased to share this weekly address in English. To find out more about our work in Israel, please visit us on the web@loveisrael.org that's one word, loveisrael.org Now here's Baruch with today's lesson.

Speaker 1 00:40
Again, what can we expect? Because there's two kings. The answer is conflict. More and more people are going to lose their life. Why? Because you have one group, and of course I'm speaking about the son of Shaul, that is a man by the name of Ishbosha. He is not the legitimate king. What did God promise? God spoke to his father and said, I am going to rip away the kingdom from you and give it to another who is worthy. Who is that worthy one? It is David. So, over and over, what we can expect is conflict, death, and war. Why? Because we have one group of people who are outside of God's will. Let me just say one thing before we begin, and that is this: when you are not in the will of God, what can you expect? Problems, hardships, catastrophes, disappointment, sorrow, and shame, but when you submit to God's will, all of that is going to change. Well, take out your Bible and look with me once more to Second Samuel, chapter two, and now we're ready for verse 24 Now remember, we saw that there were three sons of Surya. This is Yoav, and then he had a brother who was named Avshai, and then he had a third one that was put to death by Avner, and that is Asael. So these three brothers, only two of them are still alive, and what are they going to do? Well, let's begin. Look with me to verse 24 of Second Samuel, chapter two, where it says Yoav and Avi Shai, they pursued after Avner. Why they wanted to put him to death, they wanted revenge. And notice it says that the sun was going down, and they came unto Gevat Amma, which is the hill called Amma, which was before Giach a way of the wilderness of give own, so they're traveling, and we've seen that Give On has played a significant role in this chapter. It is a place where we see that this conflict is going to originate from, and again it's only going to get worse and worse and worse. Let's press on to the next verse, verse 25 We read here, and the children of Benyamin, that is the tribe of Benjamin, they were gathered together after Avner, and they become, and it says here one unit, and they stood upon the top of a hill, one hill, that's literally

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what it says, verse 26 and Avner called to Yoav, and he said, Shall the sword devour forever? Now I believe that is a very prophetic statement, because that is exactly what's going to happen if people will not submit to God's plan, God's order, God's king, then what's going to happen. There's going to be this continuation of what there's going to be a continuation of conflict, and more and more individuals are going to lose their life again when God's will is not being honored by an individual. What's going to happen again. There will be conflict. That conflict can grow and become most intense, and it can lead to death any time that we are not committed to the purposes of God. We can expect bad things to happen. So ask yourself a very. Important question, and that's this: Are you committed to the will of God? Do you want to serve God and accomplish His plans, His purposes, His priorities? If you do, then you're going to find that God is going to be actively involved in your life. He is going to be providing for you. You will experience his presence in your life. You will know his power, and you will also have - and this is probably the most important thing - you will know the perspective of God, meaning this: you will be able to see things as God sees them. Why? Because God loves you, and when you pray to Him, you should be willing to expect a response from him. That's what prayer is. We've talked about that a few times. This word for praying as a verb, lehit paelel, it's a reflexive word. What does that mean? Something goes out and then something comes back. What goes out are prayers, our supplications, our requests before God. What comes back, God's answer.

Speaker 1 06:07
And let me assure you, when we approach God wanting to serve Him, wanting to do His will, wanting to carry out the will of God, there will most certainly be a response from him. Well, look, if you would, to verse 26 where it says, and Avner called to Yoav, and what did he say? He said, Will the sword devour forever? Surely you have known that bitterness, it will be at the end. Now, what he's saying is this: if there's not a change, if this conflict continues, it's going to bring about one thing, and what is that? Bitterness. Learn a very important principle: when you are not committed to the things of God, what can you expect? Your life will be very, very bitter. That's what's going to happen to you. Do we want a bitter life? No. Then how do we have a life that's very different, a life that is pleasing, a life that is satisfying? It's only found when we say yes to God. Why is that so difficult for people to say, God knows all things. God has all power. Therefore, when we agree with God, we're going to have access to His knowledge. He will teach us things, show us things. And you say, how is that actually carried out? Very simply, when we look at the Holy Spirit, He is a very important one to lead us and guide us and direct us. How in the order of God, that's what we need. We need God's order in our life, and it's specifically the Holy Spirit that brings about the order of God. So, ask yourself, is that what you desire? Is that what you're wanting? Is that what you're seeking? Is that what you're praying for? Is that what your life is bearing witness to, that you want to obey God? You want to serve Him, and you want to be used by Him for what purpose, in order that God might be glorified. That is what a true disciple of Messiah Yeshua, that is Jesus of Nazareth, desires. There's no other way to behave. So look again in this scripture, it talks about here, middle of verse 26 Surely you know that bitterness shall be at the end, and unto when, meaning how long until you will say to the people to return from after their brethren. Now, what's happening? Well, this is one family, the family of Avram, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, the patriarchs, this one family has grown, God's blessing has been upon them, even while they were in Egypt in exile, the presence of God was seen, it was testified that they are the people of God, and now what's happening. Well, because there is a defiance to the purposes of God. What God has stated, what He wants, because of that defiance, what's going to be the outcome? Well, just what we saw, it says bitterness

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shall be at the end. Do you want to end your life in a bitter way, or would you rather have a totally different experience? What experience? One of blessing, one of joy, one of the promises of God, one of the blessings of God. God is able and desiring to bless you. That is the nature of God. God delights in blessing. His people, but in order to receive that blessing, what would we be? We must be faithful. Faithfulness always leads to blessings. So, just ask yourself a question. When God looks at me, and God knows everything about you, He knows every thought, He knows every word that you speak, and he knows every action that you take, and more than that, he knows the reason behind these things. And God, he desires to bless us. He desires to work mightily in our life. He wants us to be a recipient of his promises, of his blessings, but again, we receive that not from doing what we want or doing what we think is right in our own eyes, all of that is going to lead to sorrow. It is going to lead to just what it says here. There shall be bitterness at the end. Don't live in a way that's going to make you bitter. And unfortunately, there are many believers today who are bitter, and why are they bitter? Well, another word that we could say is frustrated. Why are so many believers frustrated?

Speaker 1 11:11
Because they read the scripture, a right thing to do, and they see how God was so active in some of these individuals' life, and they think that God's not active in my life, and therefore they become frustrated. There's a solution when you agree with God, when you submit to His purposes, His plans, His priorities. Things are going to change, and they are to change quickly, and they are going to be a change that is pleasing to you, and first and foremost, pleasing to God. That's what we're called to do. God wants to do mighty things, wonderful things, blessed things in our life, but we have to approach Him humbly. We have to approach Him submissively. We need to approach Him in an obedient way. Let's move now to verse 27 where it says, and Yoav said, as God lives, if only you would have said that, then from the morning the people would have given up a man from after his brother, meaning this, they wouldn't have gone up anymore for this battle, and what would have happened, lives would have been saved, we would not have seen as much bloodshed. Now we're going to learn in a very clear way that in this passage there were numerous deaths, and we're going to talk about that in a very specific way. So, let's press on. Let's look at the next verse. Look with me, if you would, to verse verse 2028 where it says, and Yoav, he did something. What did he do? He sounded the shofar. Now, remember something. The purpose of the shofar is very, very significant. When the shofar is heard, what should we remember? We should remember the provision of God. What God provided for, what life? Not a life of bitterness, not a life of sorrow, but a blessed life. That's what the sounding of the shofar represents. So, look again at verse 28 and Yoav sounded the shofar, and by the way, that word shofar comes from a very significant word in the Hebrew language. It is derived from the word for an improvement. That's what God wants to do. When we take hold of God's provision, we can expect something. We can expect that that provision is going to do something, and what is that? It is going to rot a change in our life, that provision is exactly what we need in order that we can accomplish the purposes of God. But again, if you're not interested in God's purposes, if you're not committed to those things, then that provision you're not going to experience. But when we do desire to obey God, submit to Him. When we're committed to His plans, His purposes, His priorities, things are going to change very significantly. Again, verse 28 And Joab, Joab sounded the shofar, and all the people stood, and they did not pursue any more after Israel, and they did not continue any longer to fight. Notice that shofar, and what does the shofar remind us of? God's provision through that provision that God desires to give to us. When we do what happens, well, immediately there was a change. We see once more. Look at it again. It

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says, and they did not pursue any more after Israel, and they did not continue any more to fight. Why is that? Because a change when we are a recipient of God's provision, what can we expect? We can expect a marvelous change. What God gives to us, He gives freely, He gives generously, He gives abundantly, and all of that has one primary purpose: to bring a God-pleasing change into our life. God's able to make that change, that change that you desire, that you need, that you want, but only God's provision can bring that change, not our will, not what seems right to us, not what we desire. None of those things are going to be the solution that we truly need. Look now to verse 29 and Avner and his men went through the plain all that night, so they traveled, and it says they went through the plain all that night, and the plain that we're talking about is probably in the southern portion of Israel, in the area called the Arava, and that's exactly what the word is here, which is in the southern portion of Israel, not far from the Dead Sea, but below, south of the Dead Sea.

Speaker 1 16:39
So it says here Avner and his men went through the plain all that night, and they pass over the Jordan, and it says they went all of Bitrom, so they passed through all of Bitron, and they came to Mechanaim, so a very significant place. Now, what's happening? The people are returning back to where they began, but look now to verse 30, where it says, and Yoav, he returned from after Avner, and what happens? It says here, and all the people were gathered, and it was found. Look on to the middle verse 30, that there was missing from David. Notice this: David and his men, they all for suffered also suffered loss. How many? It says Tish A Asar Ish, meaning 19 men, and also this would bring it to 20, also Asahu Asa El, so this one was also missing, and again missing in this context, meaning they died, so bloodshed was experience. Let's move now to verse 31 but that means in contrast to this, there were 20 people killed from from the kingdom of Ishbosha, but notice this, and from the sons of David they struck Benjamin and the men of Abner, how many? Well, we find that that David, he was missing a total of 20 men, but notice the other side it says here that they were missing how many, 360 men, and it says they had died. Now they just didn't die of old age. How did they die? They died from battle. What we see is once more that David is being victorious. Why? Because David is committed to the purposes of God. And I need to ask you a very important question. What about you? Are you committed to the purposes of God? Don't you realize something? You're not going to know joy, you're not going to have access to God's provision, you're not going to know the power of God. You won't know the joy of the Lord through His presence in your life until you commit, until you say no to your selfish desires, and let me just share with you, we all struggle with this. This is all about one thing, and what is that? Well, when we talk about the fruit of the spirit, and of course I'm talking about the Holy Spirit, one of the key fruit of the spirit is self control, and that's what you need, and that's what I need. We need to order our life no longer based upon how we see things, because when we make our own decisions, I can guarantee it, you will be deceived by the enemy when you do what is right in your. Eyes, you have already been deceived by the enemy. It's not going to end well for you. You are going to suffer, you are going to be sad, you are going to experience shame and humiliation. Nothing is going to go well for you until you say yes to God. And let me share with you another important point. Once you say yes to God, and you're sincere, your life is going to experience very soon a major change. We can say it differently, a very big transformation. That's what God wants to do. God's looking at us, and he sees that we're frustrated, he sees that we're unhappy, that we lack joy, and therefore, because we lack joy, we also lack that strength, that endurance, that spirit to overcome, and because of this, we're not able to do the things that God would have us to do, and therefore, what does God want to do? God wants to bring

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about a marvelous change. He's able, he's desiring, he wants to do something, and what is that? As I've said numerous times, God desires to bless his people, but in order to receive that blessing, you need to be committed to, and hear this, you need to be committed to the will of God, and acknowledge something. My will isn't good, my will is evil, meaning this: it is in opposition to the things of God. When I choose how it seems to me, when I make the best decision I can, it is evil in the eyes of God. God's not going to bless it. God's not going to receive it, and that's why so many people today are frustrated spiritually because they're not experiencing what they think they should based upon the word of God.

Speaker 1 21:58
So, again, notice what it says, verse 31 and the servants of David struck from Benjamin, and the men of Abner, 360 men, and they died. Verse 32 our last verse, and it says that they lifted up Asael, and they buried him in the tomb of his father. Now this says something. Now normally in this this culture there would be a family burial place, and what we see here is that it should be that the father precedes his son in death, but because we see that Asael was not in God's will, not supporting the man of God, but supporting one that God had rejected, and of course I'm talking about Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, because he was committed in the wrong way for the wrong purpose, committed to the wrong individual. What happens? Well, we see something. He died, and he died. Notice what the scripture says. Very important, it says he was buried, or they buried him in the tomb of his father, meaning this is where his father will be buried, but he's still alive, and it says this tomb was where in Bethlehem, that is Bethlehem. Now, what's important to know is this: when we look at at Bethlehem, that term Bethlehem means something. It's the house of provision. It's what God supplies, and what the scripture is showing us is this: these individuals, they weren't relying upon God's provision. Why didn't they rely upon God's provision? They didn't have access to it because they were not committed to the will of God, so it always comes back down to this. Whose will are you trying to accomplish? For many believers, and this should not be the case, but it is for many believers. They are interested in their will. They pray, how do they pray? They pray, God, this is my heart's desire. I believe that this is my destiny, and I want you to bless it. God will never bless what you think is your destiny. God only will bless His will. So, let's be wise, let's be humble, and let's be committed to the things that God would have us to be committed to, which is His plans, his purposes, his priorities summarize everything. His will, God's will, it is good. My will, it's displeasing to him. God will never hear this. God will never bless my will. He's not interested in that. Why? Because. Says God has a perfect plan for my life, that's what God's committed to. He wants to give us the very best, so we need to be committed to His will. And when we are again, we are going to notice almost immediately a transformation. We are going to begin to experience God's moving in our circumstances, our situations, in our problems, and what is God going to do? He's going to take us out of our order, how we ordered our life, and God is going to bring us into His order. What's good? The order of God. What is frustrating? What is depressing? What is empty of joy and gladness and happiness. My will, so we need to be brought out of that. God's able, God's desiring, God wants to do that, but again, until you say yes to God, nothing's going to change in your life. Look at verse 32 and they lifted up Asael, and they buried him in the tomb of his father, which is in Bethlehem, or Bethlehem, and it says, and they went all the night, Yoav and his men, and it says, and there was light unto them, where at Hevron, what did they do? They returned back to that, that capital of the southern kingdom, this town called Hevron. And again, I want to repeat what we learned already. Hevron is a very special place. Why? Because that term, Hebron, speaks about a connection being linked together with God, and that's what we need. That's why we find, and many people will use the word justification. That's

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fine. We have been justified by faith, but when we do a good study of that word, justification, it is the same Greek word for righteousness. So, when it says, "You have been justified by faith, what it really means is this: you have been made righteous by faith. And why have we been made righteous? Because through righteous living. And what are we through Messiah? We become the righteousness of God. Why is that?

Speaker 1 27:26
Well, righteousness, when we are behaving in a righteous way, when we are demonstrating the righteousness of God, it is going to manifest God's glory. And again, that's what God wants us to do to live a life that manifests His glory, that's pleasing to Him, that shows that we have a very, very different witness than the rest of the world, because we no longer belong to this world, but we belong to the kingdom of God, that is that new Jerusalem.

Intro Voice 27:58
Well, we hope you will benefit from today's message, and share it with others. Please plan to join us each week at this time, and on this channel for our broadcast of loveisrael.org Again, to find out more about us, please visit our website, loveisrael.org There you will find articles and numerous other lectures by Baruch. These teachings are in video form. May download them or watch them in streaming video. Until next week, may the Lord bless you in our Messiah Yeshua, that is Jesus, as you walk with Him.

28:30
Shalom from Israel.

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