

2 Samuel 1 - Thursday, October 30th, 2014

- We'll begin 2nd Samuel having completed 1st Samuel last week however; you should know that both books were in one book at one time.
- When the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into the Greek language, about 150 B.C., both the books of Samuel and Kings were united.
- Samuel and Kings were later separated again, but the divisions of the Greek translation prevailed, which resulted in 1st and 2nd Samuel.

- While these books were originally written as a continuing narrative of Israel's monarchy, we do turn a corner of sorts as it relates to David.
- By that I mean, instead of David running from Saul his king, David will now, many years later, take his rightful place as Israel's second king.
- Be that as it may, 1st Samuel ended with Saul's death and 2nd Samuel begins with more details as the narrative fills in some of the blanks.

1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag, 2 on the third day, behold, it happened that a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. So it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself. 3 And David said to him, "Where have you come from?" So he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." 4 Then David said to him, "How did the matter go? Please tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."

- This is interesting right out of the shoot for a number of reasons chief of which is David up until now doesn't know the outcome of the battle.
- This because he's still back in Ziklag after God delivered him from having to fight with the Philistines against his own people the Israelites.
- As we'll see next, David is about to find out he will no longer have to run from Saul, and as such he can return home to his people as king.

- The point being is had David but waited upon the Lord just a little while longer, he could have saved himself a year and a half of difficulties.
- To me, this speaks to the importance of patiently waiting on the Lord to do that which we have been promised in His Word that He will do.
- In our impatience we take matters into our own hands by running away from God or ahead of God, and in so doing cause many problems.

- I think of Abraham and Sarah, who in their impatience took matters into their own hands by running ahead of God and creating an Ishmael.
- While God in His infinite mercy and grace blessed Hagar and Ishmael working it for good, look at all the problems it caused for generations.
- I think the lesson to be learned from this is to wait on the Lord for your Isaac a type of the Spirit, instead of creating an Ishmael, in the flesh.

Oswald Chambers, whom I'm a big fan of, in My Utmost for His Highest, for January 4th, wrote this concerning waiting for God to move, "There are times when you cannot understand why you cannot do what you want to do. When God brings the blank space, see that you do not fill it in, but wait. The blank space may come in order to teach you what sanctification means; or it may come after sanctification to teach you what service means. Never run before God's guidance. If there is the slightest doubt, then He is not guiding. Whenever there is doubt—don't. In the beginning you may see clearly what God's will is—the severance of a friendship, the breaking off of a business relationship, something you feel distinctly before God is His will for you to do, never do it on the impulse of that feeling. If you do, you will end in making difficulties that will take years of time to put right. Wait for God's time to bring it round and He will do it without any heartbreak or disappointment. When it is a question of the providential will of God, wait for God to move."

5 So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?" 6 Then the young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance to be on Mount Gilboa, there was Saul, leaning on his spear; and indeed the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. 7 Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' 8 And he said to me, 'Who are you?' So I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' 9 He said to me again, 'Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still remains in me.' 10 So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."

- Because we addressed this last week, concerning what appears to be a Bible contradiction, we won't spend too much time on this matter.
- More specifically, in the 1 Samuel 31 account we're given the impression that Saul committed suicide and died by falling on his own sword.
- Conversely, here we're told that this Amalekite was the one who had killed Saul. So, which one is it? I would suggest that it's sort of both.

- Let me explain, I'm of the belief Saul was still alive after he fell on his own sword when this Amalekite came upon the scene and found him.
- Then, when Saul saw him, he begged him to finish the job and put him out of his misery. There are no less than two reasons I believe this.
- First, the Amalekite presents David with Saul's crown and bracelet, and second, as we'll see next, David has this man killed for killing Saul.

11 Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

- I can't even begin to imagine what the Amalekite must have thought when he sees the reaction from David. It had to have blindsided him.
- The reason I say that is because one would think had he known David would react in this way; he would've never come in the first place.
- In other words, he probably thought that David would be delighted to hear the news that Saul, who had been trying to kill him, was dead.

- I'll take it a step further and suggest that David, to his credit, is not rejoicing at the news of Saul's death, because Saul wasn't his enemy.
- Rather, David was Saul's enemy. Lest you think this is a play on words let me hasten to say that David could have killed Saul at least twice.
- The point being is; were Saul David's enemy, not only would he have killed him, he would have likely rejoiced when his enemy had fallen.

Proverbs 24:17–19 (NKJV) — 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; 18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him. 19 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked;

13 Then David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite." 14 So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" 15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died. 16 So David said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.' "

- The last person on earth that I'd want to be right about now is this Amalekite who is probably wondering why David won't wear the crown.
- You've got to know that he sees where this is going, and that it's not going to end well. You've also got to know that he doesn't know David.
- By that I mean, he did not fear to do that which David himself did fear, namely, the putting forth of his hand to destroy the Lord's anointed.

- Can you imagine what must be thinking right about now? He went from thinking, "I'll be rewarded for this," now it's "I'm a dead man for this."

Actually, we know this because of what David said in 2 Samuel 4:10 - when someone told me, saying, 'Look, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag—the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news.

17 Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, 18 and he told them to teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher: 19 "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! 20 Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon— Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. 21 "O mountains of Gilboa, Let there be no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. 22 From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty. 23 "Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions. 24 "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. 25 "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places. 26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. 27 "How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!"

- So the chapter ends with a song dedicated to Saul and Jonathan written in a book that we have no record of. It's called the book of Jasher.
- We saw the first mention of the Book of Jasher, and with it the book of Wars, back when we were studying through the book of Joshua.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for the remainder of our time together in God's Word, as I attempt to point out a take away by way of application.

- Before we look for the application let me first address the information we're given about this reference to the Book of Jasher. Where is this?
- Why isn't it included in the canon of scripture? The short answer is; God in His sovereignty deemed it fit to not include the book of Jasher.
- I'm of the belief that the Book of Jasher along with the Book of Wars, though a tremendous need for them then, was not needed for us now.

Charles Spurgeon offers us some really good insight on all of this, "The book of Jasher was probably a collection of national songs and records of heroic acts; it is now lost, for it was not inspired and therefore no special providence preserved its existence. David not only mourned over Saul and Jonathan personally, but he composed a eulogy to be sung by the whole nation, and especially by his own tribe. This he entitled 'The Bow,' in allusion to the skill in archery for which Jonathan was famous, which is alluded to in the dirge itself. David in thus lamenting over the discarded house of Saul, reminds us of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, whose house is left desolate because it knew not its day."

- This brings us to the take away from all of this. Simply put, it's that of guarding ones heart against bitterness towards those who hurt us.
- I can't get over how justified David could have been in his righteous anger towards Saul for trying to kill him, yet he's neither angry or bitter.
- I think of Joseph, who, like David, could have also been justified were he to be angry and bitter towards his brothers who tried to kill him.

- I suppose the question becomes what was their secret? Perhaps better asked what was it about these men that kept them from bitterness?
- First, I'm of the belief they knew how dangerous bitterness could be, and as such, they kept their hearts from bitterness and resentment.

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV) — 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

Hebrews 12:15 (NIV) — 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

- Another reason they were able to keep their hearts from bitterness was because they were keenly aware it would grieve the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30–32 (NIV) — 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- Lastly, they kept their hearts from bitterness because then were committed to the Lord, and knew it would be worked for good by the Lord.

As it relates to David, One commentator said it best this way; "Such a magnanimous attitude on the part of one who had suffered so much at Saul's hand is incomprehensible apart from a deep commitment to the Lord."

As it relates to Joseph, Genesis 50:20 records it this way; But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.