

I Samuel 29-31 – 31 March 2022

“Good Promises & God’s Providence”

Introduction

- *David was anointed king to replace Saul almost 15 years ago, but God hasn’t dethroned Saul yet
- *David has been on the run from Saul thru Judea but recently set up shop in Philistia – God’s enemies
- *David has 2 real low points in his life
 - *Sins w/ Bathsheba, kills Uriah & his baby dies
 - *Right here: spends 1.5 years compromising his life, living among God’s enemies
- *We too sometimes find that we’re living a compromising life
 - *God’s made us promises, but they seem so hard to get to, or so long in coming
- *God by His providence knows how to move things all around to make His promises come to pass
- *Today let’s look at 4 aspects of God’s providence**

1st aspect of God's providence: He knows how to move others to fit His plan (Chap 29:1-30:6a)

Read Vs 1

1. Would have been great nostalgia around Aphek b/c this is where Philistines 1st beat Israel and took the Ark of the Covenant

Read Vs 2

1. David's having a real identity crisis, when these lords start putting pressure on Achish

Read Vs 3

1. Achish defends David for his loyalty over yrs
2. It's good for your friends to find no fault in you, but when enemies say that...you're in sin

Read Vs 4-5

1. Princes of Philistia want David to stay back at his Philistine home so he doesn't betray them
2. God is stirring up these princes to put, not just their plan, but God's master plan in motion

Read Vs 6-7

1. Achish asks David to go to his Philistine home
2. David was handed by God a way out of his backslidden condition

Read Vs 8-11

1. David protests but is still sent away
2. Later on, one of David's descendants would be forced of a Roman Caesar to return to Bethlehem
 - a. Seemed that it was all of Caesar
 - b. But it was God, moving the hand of kings and nations to accomplish His will!

Read Vs 1-2

1. God sent David away from the battle w/ Israel b/c He knew of the Amalekites attacking Ziglax
2. This's like manager going back to store at night, only to find it robbed by some kids that left a trail

Read Vs 3-6a

1. Seems so low, but this will resolve well – it's really to get David away from the battle w/ Israel

2nd aspect of God's providence: He knows how to move us on the inside (Chap 30:6b-15)

Read Vs 6b

1. In great grief & misplaced anger from others, David finds comfort in the Lord
2. When God wants our attention to adjust our course, do we know how to listen to God humbling us?
 - a. Isaiah was commissioned (Isa 6:5) saying, “Woe is me, I’m a man of unclean lips”
 - b. Peter was commissioned (Luk 5:8) saying, “Depart from me, I am a sinful man”

Read Vs 7-10

1. David asks the Lord for guidance & receives it
2. He also gets comfort of knowing He will win

Read Vs 11-15

1. David nurses this Amalekite castaway who decides to help them
2. David would be humbled even by seeing himself in this castaway – David was castaway to Saul

3rd aspect of God's providence: He knows how to move us on the outside (Chap 30:16-31)

Read Vs 16-20

1. David recovered everything AND took spoil
2. This is exactly what God said in vs 8
3. The providence of God to guide David, whom he had taught his finger to battle, into victory

Read Vs 21-25

1. Principle that David has learned is that offence AND the defense should receive equal reward
2. God has moved on David thru past experiences
 - a. Just like David has already experienced this watching Nabal's sheep
 - b. David just saw Ziglag attacked b/c they didn't leave a defense

Read Vs 26-31

1. Since some of the Amalekites goods came from raiding Judah, David returns them (>13 cities)
2. God's moved him to give to all what is due them

4th aspect of God's providence: He works within His timing (Chap 31:1-13)

Read Vs 1-3

1. Saul did have other sons by a concubine
 - a. We'll see him try taking the throne later
2. But this is just the providence & timing of God
 - a. It's been about 15 years David has waited
3. Remember when David was coming to avenge himself of Nabal for not paying him?
 - a. Nabal's wife Abigail taught David that vengeance is the Lord

Read Vs 4-6

1. Saul mortally wounded so he hastens process
2. Armorbearer committed suicide, not Saul

Read Vs 7-10

1. Saul's armor now sent around as a trophy
2. What abuse if they had caught him alive?

Read Vs 11-13

1. A proper burial for Saul and his sons
2. Later David returns their bones to their home tribe of Benjamin for burial (II Sam 21:12-14)

Conclusion

Just as God made David a promise that he'll take the throne, He's promised us that He'll come again for us! Don't be discouraged as you wait. Live today as you wait for God's promises of tomorrow

- 1. God knows how to move others to fit His plan**
 - a. As God moved Philistines to send David back, & moved Caesar to send Mary back, God can move others to set your life into motion
 - b. Are we ready to respond to what God wants?
- 2. God knows how to move us on the inside**
 - a. When hard situations come, let God mold you on the inside to seek His will thru it
 - b. Circumstances are God's chances toward us
- 3. God knows how to move us on the outside**
 - a. Learn from past experiences to follow the heart of God in practice and lifestyle
- 4. God's timing is already assigned, he knows**
 - a. This takes trust & trust takes building of relationship and experience