

OUTLINE

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A Study of II Samuel

The Life of David

Chapter One

An Amalekite's Tall and David's Lament

David's Inquiry (1-12): David, and all his company return to Ziklag following the victory against the Amalekites having recovered all that was taken (I Sam. 30 cf. II Sam. 1). Ziklag was burned with fire (I Sam. 30:1) however, there must have been much remaining for David abode their (1).

David was back at Ziklag for only 3 days when news from an Amalekite is brought to David (2-3). The news given by the Amalekite man is a fictional account given in the hopes that it would endear him to David, the new successor to the throne. However, the Amalekite could not be more wrong.

The tale that is told is as follows: Israel is fled from the battle and Saul and Jonathan are dead (4). The Amalekite stated he had come across Saul leaning upon his spear who said to the Amalekite "slay me" so the Amalekite smote Saul and took of his crown and bracelet (5-10).

The news concerning the Amalekites involvement though fictional the death of Saul and his sons was not, therefore David and all his men mourned and wept and fasted until evening (11-12).

David's Judgment (13-16): David had withheld from killing Saul numerous times as he did his men, for Saul was the LORD's anointed. Thus, David takes the life of the Amalekite that the truth of the principle might be publicly known, that no one would dare take the life of any king the LORD has anointed.

David's Lament (17-27): David, in memory of Jonathan have all the children of Judah to learn the use of the bow, Archery; the initial cause of Saul's death and the great inferiority they had to their enemies (18). David will also honor his word in taking care of all Jonathan's family (see II Sam. 9:7).

David's lament covers the remainder of this chapter. David begins with "tell it not in Gath and publish it not in the streets of Askelon", "lest the daughters of the Philistines

rejoice in triumph (20). The fields of Gilboa are where Israel fled from the enemies, casting their shields away as they fled (21); while Saul and Jonathan were slain in the mountains of Gilboa (21).

David's esteem of Saul and Jonathan is easily seen in the remaining verses (22-27). A lesser man would rejoice over the death of such a one as Saul, who continually hunted David for over 10 years, yet not David. *"Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth"* (Proverbs 24:17)

A Study of II Samuel

The Life of David

Chapter Two

David made king over Judah

This chapter will ignite the political intrigues that will plague David throughout his life. Even though David sought the LORD he could not escape the plots and plans of others.

Key People:

Abner: Abner is the commander of Saul's army, the brother to Kish Saul's father.

Ishbosheth: Saul's son made king over Israel by Abner.

Joab: Son of Zeruiah, David's half-sister. Joab's two brothers: **Abishai** and **Asahel**

David made King over Judah in Hebron (1-4): David inquired of the LORD about where his dwelling should be in Judah (1). The LORD chose for David and his clan, Hebron (1-3). David already anointed king over Israel by God some 10 years earlier is now anointed by the people of Judah as their king (4).

Hebron was the capital and center of Judah. It was also a Levitical city which was very loyal to David. Hebron is a collection of cities, approximately twenty miles south of Jerusalem. Hebron goes back to the days of Genesis. Hebron was the first place purchased by the Jewish people in the land of Canaan, Abraham purchasing a parcel of land for a burying himself, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah. David uses Hebron as his capital being anointed king there. David will reign in Hebron for 7 years and 6 months until he is anointed king over all Israel (2 Sam. 5:1-5).

The People of Jabeshgilead (5-7): David being told what the men of Jabeshgilead did unto the bodies of Saul and his sons gives the men of Jabeshgilead a message of a genuine thanks, and acknowledgement of appreciation. David affirms his loyalty towards them (4-6 cf. I Sam. 31:11-13).

Abner Makes Ishbosheth King over Israel (8-11): Abner the commander of Saul's army made Ishbosheth Saul's son king over the remaining tribes of Israel in the town of Mahanaim on the other side of the Jordan. This was done to protect himself and the new king from David and his men (8-9).

Ishbosheth reigned for 2 years over Israel. David was not willing to force the matter but rather trusted in God's timing. However, things would ignite between the two kings.

Abner and Joab before the Pool at Gibeon (12-17): The pool of Gibeon is about 6 miles northwest of Jerusalem. Joab, commander over David's army and Abner commander over Saul's army gather at the pool of Gibeon (12-13). Both leaders not desiring a civil war decide to settle the issue by allowing 12 men from each army to battle it out (14-15). However, instead of settling the matter it only inflamed the two parties and a conflict ensued in which Abner and his forces were put to flight (16-17).

Abner and Asahel (18-24): Zeruah, David's half-sister was the mother of the three brothers: Joab, Abishai and Asahel, thus they were David's nephews as well as valued men in the army.

Abner and his forces having put to flight are pursued. Asahel being "light of foot as a wild roe" pursues Abner. Asahel seeking the armor of Abner is rapidly gaining on the commander to which the command tells Asahel to turn after one of his men instead of pursuing him, for why should he kill him and in so doing infuriate Joab (19-22). Asahel however refuses both admonitions by Abner to stop pursuing him and is killed by Abner (23). Joab and Abishai also pursued Abner until the evening at the hill of Giah (24).

Abner and Joab's Respite (25-32): Abner having regained his troops at the top of the hill appeals to Joab's better feelings to stop the blood shed knowing that it would surely lead to a civil war. Joab concedes and both armies return to their respective cities (27-29). At the end of this skirmish Joab's men lost only 19 men and Asahel while Abner's armies there was lost 360 men (30-31).

Asahel, brother of Joab and nephew to David is buried in the sepulcher of his father which is in Bethlehem (32).

Abner's murder of Asahel was the prelude to the long war between the two kings (3:1). As we shall see the two remaining brothers avenged this death, much to David's grief.

