

**Open with only verses 1-8**

**I. David Reaps What He Has Sown (1-5)**

**A. The unforeseen events (1-2) - “Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire 2 and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way.”**

**B. The unanticipated shock (3) - “And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.”**

**C. The unbearable pain (4-5) - “Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. 5 David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel.”**

**II. David Returns to His Gracious God (6-9)**

**A. He found himself utterly alone (6a) - “And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters...”**

**B. He humbled himself in the presence of the Lord (6b) - “...but David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.”**

**C. He began seeking the Lord's ways again (7-9) - “And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “Bring me the ephod.” So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 And David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?” He answered him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue.” 9 So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed.” **Remembering to seek the Lord first, David is instructed to pursue the captors****

**III. David Begins Again to Fight the Lord's Battles (10-17)**

**A. He finds favor with God (10-15) - “But David pursued, he and four hundred men...11 They found an Egyptian in the open country and brought him to David. And they gave him bread and he ate. They gave him water to drink...15 And David said to him, “Will you take me down to this band?” And he said, “Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band.” **Now David was running toward the will of God!****

**B. He finds his enemy celebrating (16) - “And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.”**

**C. He finds strength to finish the task (17) - “David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled.”**

**IV. David Reclaims What the Enemy Stole (18-19)**

**A. David reclaimed what he had lost (18a) - “David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken...”**

**B. David was reunited with those he failed (18b) - “...and David rescued his two wives.”**

**C. David was restored to begin anew (19) - “Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all.”**