

## 1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 30

VS 1. SERVING AS A TEMPORARY PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR DAVID AND HIS 600 MEN, ZIKLAG WAS LOCATED IN THE NEGEV AND GIVEN TO DAVID BY ACHISH, KING OF GATH (27:6) DAVID USED IT AS THE BASE WHERE HE WOULD MAKE RAIDS ON NEIGHBORING TRIBES. ( AMALEKITES, A NOMADIC PEOPLE OF THE DESERT AND DESCENDANTS OF ESAU, BECAME A MARKED PEOPLE WHEN THEY ATTACKED ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS AFTER LEAVING EGYPT. IN 15:3 GOD GAVE SAUL AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDEEM HIMSELF WITH OBEDIENCE, THE JUDGMENT ON THE AMALEK WAS TO BE COMPLETE AND TOTAL ANNIHILATION OF ANYTHING THAT BREATHED. GOD'S JUDGMENT WAS SEVERE ON THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY HIS PEOPLE. 15:9 TELLS THAT BOTH SAUL AND THE PEOPLE GREEDILY SPARED THE CHOICE SPOIL OF THE LAND, DISOBEYING GOD'S WORD AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR FAITHLESSNESS.) REAPING THE CONSEQUENCES OF SAUL'S FAILURE TO UTTERLY DESTROY AMALEKITES, DAVID AND HIS MEN WERE THE VICTIMS OF A SUCCESSFUL RAID. IN VS 1-2 WE ARE TOLD OF FOUR THINGS THE AMALEKITES DID. WHAT IS THE FIRST THING WE ARE TOLD? 2. WHAT HAD THEY DONE TO ZIKLAG?

VS 2. 3. THEN THEY TOOK? 4. AND THEN?

VS 3-5 TRAGEDY- WHAT DO THEY FIND?

VS 6 WHAT DO THEY SEE? DAVID MEYER DESCRIBES THIS SCENE,"IN THE DREAD HOUR, WITH THE CHARRED EMBERS SMOKING AT HIS FEET; WITH THE COLD HAND OF ANXIETY FOR THE FATE OF HIS WIVES FEELING AT HIS HEART; WITH THE SENSE OF DUPLICITY AND DECEIT WHICH HE HAD BEEN PRACTICING, AND WHICH HAD ALIENATED HIM FROM GOD, ON HIS CONSCIENCE; WITH THIS THREAT OF STONING IN HIS EARS, HIS HEART SUDDENLY SPRANG BACK INTO ITS OLD RESTING-PLACE IN THE BOSOM OF GOD." HAVING NOT INQUIRED OF THE LORD BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO SUPPORT ACHISH IN BATTLE, DAVID DESPERATELY NEEDED GOD TO GET HIS ATTENTION. DO YOU THINK GOD GOT DAVID'S ATTENTION? WHY DO YOU THINK WE KEEP GOD AS OUR LAST HOPE INSTEAD OF SEEKING HIS WILL IN THE BEGINNING? HOW DOES DAVID STRENGTHEN HIMSELF? THIS WAS THE KEY TO DAVID BEING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART (1 SAMUEL 13:14)

VS 7 OUT OF THE MIRY PIT OF HIS OWN MAKING, DAVID STEPPED INTO THE REFRESHING POOL OF GOD'S MERCY AND CLEANSED HIMSELF OF ALL PRIDE. THEN HE DID WHAT HE SHOULD HAVE DONE IN THE FIRST PLACE-WHAT DID HE ASK FOR? SERVING AS A SOURCE THROUGH WHICH ONE COULD MAKE DIRECT AND SPECIFIC INQUIRY INTO THE WILL OF GOD, THE PRIEST'S EPHOD WAS SOUGHT BY DAVID. HE HAD LEARNED HIS LESSON. NO MORE STEPPING AHEAD OF THE LORD. HAVE YOU EVER REACHED THE LIMITS OF YOUR ENDURANCE? WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH? OUR FEET MY SLIP IN THE MIRE OF DESPAIR; OUR FRIENDS MAY SCATTER LIKE DRY LEAVES; BUT HELP IS NEVER FAR AWAY, AS LONG AS WE KEEP LOOKING UP TO THE LORD.

VS 8 WHAT DOES THE LORD TELL DAVID? WHAT IS THE PROMISE? WHAT DO YOU THINK THE LORD WAS TEACHING DAVID (US) THROUGH THE ZIKLAG EXPERIENCE?

### **THE RESCUE VS 9-20**

VS 9-10 DAVID PROBABLY ENCOUNTERED THE BROOK ABOUT 13 MILES SOUTH OF ZIKLAG. IT CONSISTED OF SEASONAL RIVERS FROM THE AREA OF BEERSHEBA THAT RAN NORTHWEST AND EMPTIED INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN. LIKELY, THIS WAS DURING THE LATTER RAINS (JANUARY-APRIL) AND THE BROOK WAS FILLED WITH A RAMPAGING RUNOFF THAT WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE UNABLE TO CROSS OVER.

VS 11-14 HOW TO TREAT OUR ENEMIES? WITH KINDNESS! HOW IS THIS EGYPTIAN TREATED BY DAVID? WHAT DOES VERSE 14 TELL US? THIS IS ONE OF THE MEN WHO HAD BURNED ZIKLAG AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE DAMAGE, BUT DAVID OFFERED HIM MERCY INSTEAD OF DEATH. DO YOU THINK THIS WAS AN EASY THING FOR DAVID TO DO? DO YOU THINK IT WAS THE RIGHT THING FOR DAVID TO DO? THIS IS THE LAND THAT WAS GIVEN TO CALEB WHEN ISRAEL ENTERED THE LAND. REMEMBER CALEB WAS ONE OF THE 12 SPIES. REMEMBER WHAT CALEB'S VOTE WAS ABOUT TAKING THE LAND?

VS 15 WHAT DOES DAVID ASK OF THE SLAVE? WHAT DOES THE SLAVE WANT IN RETURN?

VS 16 WHAT DO WE SEE? THE AMALEKITES HAD NOT ONLY WHAT THEY TOOK FROM ZIKLAG, BUT MORE PLUNDER FROM ALL THEIR RAIDS. DAVID RECOVERED EVERYTHING SUBSTANTIAL THAT THE AMALEKITES HAD TAKEN PLUS BOOTY FROM HIS ENEMIES. HOW DOES SCRIPTURE IDENTIFY THEIR WINNINGS?

VS 17 WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT THE BATTLE? WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE CALL IT? SINCE 400 OF THE AMALEKITES ESCAPED AS MANY AS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DAVID'S SOLDIERS (VS 10), THEY OBVIOUSLY HAD A MUCH LARGER ARMY THAN DAVID DID. BUT WHO DID DAVID HAVE ON HIS SIDE? LOOK AT VERSE 8. HOW DO THEY ESCAPE? THE CAMEL WAS THE ANIMAL OF CHOICE FOR ESCAPING QUICKLY AT THIS TIME, IT WAS THE FASTEST MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION. PROBABLY DAVID WAITED UNTIL DAWN AND THEN ATTACKED, FOR IF HE HAD ATTACKED AT NIGHT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO EASY TO KILL HIS OWN FAMILY OR FOR THE AMALEKITES TO ESCAPE UNSEEN.

### **OUR GRACIOUS GOD VS 18-20**

VS 18 WHAT ARE THE FIRST THINGS RECOVERED?

VS 19 THEN WE LEARN?

VS 20 AND WHAT ELSE? REMEMBER WHY ALL THESE THINGS WERE RECOVERED? LOOK AT VS 8. WHAT LESSON DID THE LORD TEACH DAVID? WHAT ABOUT US? DOES THIS CHAPTER REINFORCE OUR FAITH? HOW? WHAT DO THE PEOPLE WANT DAVID TO HAVE?

### **GOD'S LESSON**

VS 21-25 THE REST OF THE CHAPTER DESCRIBES THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLUNDER FROM THIS BATTLE. THE AMOUNT OF SPACE THE WRITER DEVOTED TO THIS REVELATION SHOWS THAT HE INTENDED TO STRESS IT.

VS 21 HOW DOES DAVID RESPOND TO THOSE WHO DID NOT FIGHT?

VS 22 WHO DO YOU THINK THIS VERSE IS DESCRIBING? FROM THE BEGINNING OF DAVID'S FLIGHT FROM SAUL, HE BECAME CAPTAIN OF THOSE WHO WERE IN DISTRESS, DISCONTENT AND IN DEBT (22:2) THE LEAST LIKELY TO EXERCISE KINDNESS AND GRACE TO OTHERS. THIS IS A GREAT TIME THE LORD PROVIDED DAVID TO LIVE OUT HIS WALK WITH GOD.

VS 23 WHAT IS DAVID'S REPLY? DAVID DRAWS THEIR ATTENTION TO THE REAL STORY OF THEIR VICTORY- THE LORD. HE SAW THAT GOD HAD GIVEN THEM THIS VICTORY. THE SPOIL WAS NOT WHAT THEY HAD WON, BUT WHAT THE LORD HAD GIVEN HIS PEOPLE. YAHWEH WAS THE REAL DELIVERER. HIS GENEROUS POLICY OF DIVIDING THE SPOILS OF WAR WAS IN HARMONY WITH THE MOSAIC LAW (NUMBERS 31:27). THIS POLICY ALSO PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE JUDAHITES' ACCEPTANCE OF DAVID AS SAUL'S SUCCESSOR. WHAT THREE THINGS DOES DAVID WANT THEM TO KNOW?

VS 24-25 WHAT IS DAVID'S FINAL DECISION? DO YOU THINK DAVID WAS RIGHT IN THIS STAND? WHY?

VS 26-31 MANY VICTORIOUS KINGS HAVE USED SURPLUS PLUNDER TO ENRICH THEMSELVES AND TO BUILD GRANDIOSE PALACES; DAVID USED THESE FIRST SPOILS TO SHOW HIS GRATITUDE TO THE CITIZENS OF THOSE AREAS AND TOWNS IN JUDAH WHERE HE AND HIS MEN HAD WANDERED WHEN BEING PURSUED BY SAUL.

### **THOUGHTS:**

THIS CHAPTER PRESENTS MANY QUALITIES THAT MARK STRONG, EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP. THESE INCLUDE: EMPATHY (VS 4), FAITH (VS 6,8,23,26), DECISIVENESS (VS 10), KINDNESS (VS 12), PERSISTENCE (VS 17), INTEGRITY (VS 23), FAIRNESS (VS 24), AND GENEROSITY (VS 21-31).

"ONE OF THE STRONGEST EMPHASES IN THIS CHAPTER IS DAVID'S GENEROSITY. WHEN GOD GIVES BLESSINGS, WE SHOULD VIEW THEM AS HIS GIFTS TO US. WE SHOULD SHARE THEM WITH OUR FELLOW SPIRITUAL WARRIORS AND WITH OUR FELLOW SPIRITUAL CITIZENS." DR. CONSTABLE

