

# ***“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy***

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## **Study # 16 – 2 Samuel 1**

***“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”***

### **I. DAVID INFORMED OF THE DEATH OF SAUL 1-16**

#### **A. THE SOON ARRIVAL OF THE AMALEKITE v1-4**

- David and his men had been “dismissed” from the battle between the Philistines and Israel, and had returned to Ziklag after pursuing and defeating the Amalekites who had plundered the city.  
- cf. 1 Sam. 29:1-11; 30:1-31
- A young Amalekite (mercenary?) informs David of Israel’s defeat and of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. cf. 1 Sam. 4:12-17

#### **B. THE SELF-APPROVAL OF THE AMALEKITE v5-10**

- After being questioned by David, the Amalekite begins to tell his fictitious version of how Saul and his sons died. cf. 1 Sam. 31:3-6
- Perhaps seeking reward, or a way to endear himself to David, he was clearly telling his story to the wrong man.
- The inclusion of David’s dismissal from the fateful war with Israel (1 Sam 29), and the Amalekite’s presentation of the crown and ensign to David are important narratives, in that they release David from any culpability in Saul’s death; something he will be later accused of. cf. 2 Sam 16:7-8

#### **C. THE SORROWFUL RECITAL OF DAVID’S MEN v11-12**

- In a moment when David knew that the expectations of years were at the point of being realized and fulfilled, he has no thought for himself, but sheds tears for the fallen.
- Even though the circumstances seemed right for David to claim the throne, he still was in no hurry. He refused to take what the Lord did not give him. cf. 2 Sam. 11:4 > David will later “take” Bathsheba.

#### **D. THE SURE REMOVAL OF THE AMALEKITE v13-16**

- The Amalekite thought he was bringing David good news and was undoubtedly seeking personal gain. cf. 2 Sam 4:10
- David had refused to lift his hand against the Lord’s anointed and had prevented his men from doing the same. cf. 1 Sam. 24:3-7; 26:5-10
- This act by the Amalekite was swiftly avenged and he received his “due reward.” *“Your blood be upon your own head!”* cf. Josh. 2:12-21
- With the old order coming to an end; with Saul dead and the armies of Israel in disarray; with the Philistines once again taking over the land; and with Ziklag lying in ruin; a humbled Amalekite falls before David, presenting him with the symbols of royalty, and becomes the instrument by which God crowns the future King of Israel.

## **II. DAVID MOURNS OVER THE DEATH OF SAUL 17-27**

### **A. THE SORROW FOR SAUL AND JONATHAN v17-21**

#### **1. THE SONG OF DAVID v17-19**

- "The Song of the Bow" has passed into literature as a model of a passionate funeral dirge mourning a national leader.
- The eulogy is not intended to analyze the life and work of Saul, but to poetically bring tribute to his memory.
- "The Book of Jashar" may have been a collection of writings detailing the heroic exploits of Israel's warriors. cf. Josh. 10:12-13
  - Epic hymns of Israel's history were to be taught and applied from generation to generation. cf. Deut. 31:19, 22; 32:1-43

#### **2. THE SILENCE OF PHILISTIA AND CREATION v20, 21**

- Gath and Ashkelon are representative of the Philistine cities, and express David's fervent prayer that the humiliation of Israel not be magnified by her enemies. cf. 1 Sam. 18:6-7; 31:9
- Heaven and earth are called upon to mourn for the fallen king.
- Saul's shield, like Saul himself, is no longer anointed.

### **B. THE SUCCESS OF SAUL AND JONATHAN v22-24**

- David shows himself to be "a man after God's own heart," in that he refuses to take pleasure in the death of Saul. cf. Eze. 18:32
- Saul and Jonathan are each mentioned four times in the poem, being honored for their heroic courage and achievements.
- Refusing to slander the dead, David focuses on the ideals of Saul's early life. cf. 1 Sam. 11:1-11; 14:47,48

### **C. THE STANZA FOR JONATHAN v25-27**

#### **1. JONATHAN'S COVENANTAL LOVE v25, 26**

- "*The beauty / glory of Israel*" of v19 = "*A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel. How the mighty have fallen!*"
  - Note: "fell / fallen" - 2 Sam. 1:4, 10, 12, 19, 25, 27
- No homosexual reference is intended. (See Study #6)  
"*The love of women*" can include a mother's protective love for her children, and expresses God's love for His people.
  - cf. Is. 63:9; Jer. 31:1; Hos. 3:1; 11:4

#### **2. DAVID'S CONSUMING GRIEF v27**

- "*The weapons of war*" serves as a metaphor for Saul and Jonathan, who have been engaged in the Lord's battle.
- David's grief is heightened by the fact that Jonathan spoke of a day when he and David would reign together. cf. 1 Sam. 23:17
- Instead of reigning with David, Jonathan dies with Saul. v23