

Following After God's Heart

2 Samuel - Chapters 1 & 2

David's life as a fugitive has now ended, but not before several trials had manifested within his life and within the Nation of Israel.

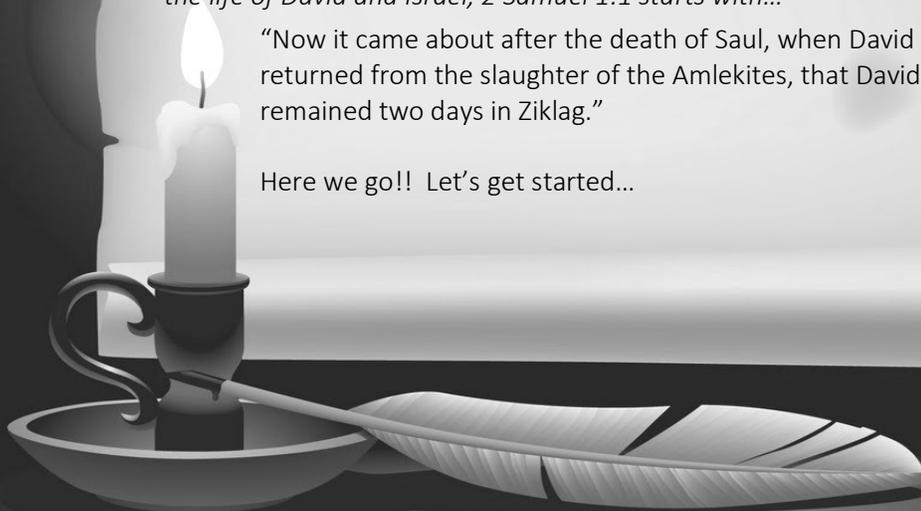
Let's take a quick look back at 1 Samuel 30-31...

- * Ziklag was attacked and burned
- * David's people were taken into captivity
- * Embittered soldiers displayed mutinous intentions
- * Israel's king, Saul, is dead, and
- * David loses Jonathan, a soul that was once knit together to his own.

In the midst of all these things, we can only be encouraged as we saw David strengthening himself in the LORD. He sought the LORD God and set out to rescue his people! We watched as David divided the spoils... his great mercy, generosity, and wisdom, proving to us all...that truly, David was a man after God's own heart. Now, we will see him being molded into a king after God's own heart! *As we continue on in the life of David and Israel, 2 Samuel 1:1 starts with...*

"Now it came about after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amlekites, that David remained two days in Ziklag."

Here we go!! Let's get started...



This week's Memory verse is Proverbs 10:12. Begin memorizing the verse(s) today. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you memorize this passage and for opportunities to apply it...

"Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions."

Proverbs 10:12

Write out Proverbs 10:12: _____

Write this verse(s) on your index cards... keep one with you and post the other one in a prominent place.

DAY ONE

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 1:1-16**

1. According to v.2, what happened on the third day after David returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites? _____

A. In vs.4-5, the man responds to David’s question, “*How did things go...?*” What news did he have? _____

1. How did this young man know that Saul and Jonathan were dead? (v.6-10) _____

a. In light of v.10a, re-read 1 Samuel 31:3-6. How does that seem to “conflict” with the Amalekite’s story? _____

“Amalekite. It is not necessary to conclude from v.3 that this Amalekite was a member of Saul’s army. His statement that he “happened to be on Mount Gilboa” (v.6) is probably not as innocent as it appears. He may have been there as a scavenger to rob the fallen soldiers of their valuables and weapons. It is ironic that Saul’s death was reported by an Amalekite. (1 Samuel 15) NIV Study Note

2. It is amazing that after all that David had suffered at the hand of Saul, he chose **not to rejoice** over his death. Describe David’s reaction (*and those with David*) to the news (v.11-12a). _____

A. For years, King Saul pursued David in order to kill him, yet David mourns at his death. What does Proverbs 24:17 say? _____

♥ Is there someone in your life that you dislike, or consider them your enemy? _____ If yes, consider your response when they succeed... or when they fail. Use your concordance to find at least one verse on how we are to treat our “enemy” ... and how the verse ministered to you. _____

B. Did they mourn and weep for Saul only? Explain. _____

3. Why did David order the Amalekite be “cut down”? (v.13-16) _____

A. What treatment do you believe the Amalekite was hoping to receive? _____



Time to practice our memory verse: _____ stirs up _____, but _____ all

_____ : _____

DAY TWO

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 1:17-27**

1. What did David do to honor Saul and Jonathan? (v.17) _____

Define: LAMENT (noun) _____

A. What is this lament named in v.18, who was it to be taught to? _____

2. List all the "faults" David mentioned in regard to Saul: (v.19-27) _____ ☺

A. List some of the "glowing" things David says about...

** Saul _____

** Jonathan _____

1. What phrase is repeated in v.19, 25, and 27? _____

"How the mighty have fallen! David doesn't say it, but we understand that Saul *fell* long before this. He fell when he hardened his heart against God, against the word of God through the prophet, and against the man after God's own heart. Saul's death on Gilboa was the sad conclusion to his prior fall." David Guzik

♥ Perhaps you are quick to notice (*and even point out*) the faults in the lives of others... or do you choose to look at that which is good, and rejoice in that instead? Be honest. If you have difficulty in this area, confess it to the Lord right now and begin practicing Proverbs 10:12. In fact... write it out right now: _____

_____ ♥

3. According to v.26, what was David's heart toward Jonathan? _____

A. What do you believe is meant by "*Your love to me was more wonderful than the love of women.*"?

"David truly loved Jonathan because he was noble, unselfish, and loyal. Even though Jonathan was the heir apparent, he was willing to take second place for the sake of David, his friend." Key Word Study Bible
"David's own experience of love with women was not according to God's will. His multiple marriages kept him from God's ideal – one man and one woman in a one flesh relationship." David Guzik

🕊 Time to practice Proverbs 10:12: _____

DAY THREE

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 2:1-11**

1. Upon *inquiring* of the LORD, what instructions are given? (v.1) _____



Do you remember **HOW** a man “inquired” of the LORD? If not, read Exodus 28:30, 1 Samuel 2:28; 23:9, and then answer. Also, take a moment to praise and thank the LORD God for the personal, and intimate access you now have... because of Jesus Christ! _____

A. Who *went* with David to Hebron? (v.2) _____

1. Who else did David “*bring*” with him? (v.3) _____

2. According to v.4a, what did David’s men “do” to him? _____

Define: ANOINT _____

A. What does *anointing* “represent”? (Share your resource) _____

1. Following his anointing, what “news” was David given? (v.4b) _____

3. After being told that the men of Jabesh-gilead had buried Saul, David immediately sent a message of blessings saying...(v.5-6)

* May you be blessed of the LORD because _____

* Now may the LORD show _____ ;

* and I also will _____

A. David also declares an appeal in v.7, write it out: “Now therefore, let _____ ; for Saul your lord _____ , and also the house of _____ .

1. In doing this, David expressed his sincere appreciation, while at the same time, displaying “wise” strategy as well. Share your thoughts: _____

4. While the men of Judah were proclaiming their support of David, describe what is taking place in v.8-9.

Challenge: What does the name ISH-BOSHETH mean? _____

5. Review the events of 1 Samuel 26:3-20. How had David strongly exhorted Abner and how may this encounter have affected Abner’s present decisions? _____

A. For what other reason(s) do you think Abner wanted Ish-bosheth on the throne rather than David? _____

6. How long was the reign of ...

** Ish-bosheth over Israel? (v.10) _____

** David over Judah? (v.11) _____

The difference in lengths of reigns (Ish-bosheth 2 years; David 7 ½ years) may be because Ish-bosheth did not take the throne immediately, but required five years to recover the northern territory from the Philistines.” Ryrie Study Bible



Time to practice Proverbs 10:12: _____

DAY FOUR

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 2:12-23**

1. Using verses 12-17, briefly describe what happened at the pool of Gibeon: _____

A. Who was in charge of David's men? _____

1. According to 1 Chronicles 2:15-16, how was he related to David? _____

(v.14) "Abner said to Joab, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. Some think that the proposal was only for an exhibition of a little tilting match for diversion. [The Septuagint takes this view, because it has rendered the original word by *paixatoosan*, *let them sport*.] Accordingly, others suppose that both parties being reluctant to commence a civil war, Abner proposed to leave the contest to the decision of twelve picked men on either side. This fight by championship instead of terminating the matter, inflamed the fiercest passions of the two rival parties; a general engagement ensued, in which Abner and his forces were defeated and put to flight." J. F. B. ~

2. How is Joab's brother, Asahel described in v.18? _____

A. Why do you believe Asahel was **not** willing to stop his *pursuit* of Abner? (v.19-23) _____

1. Rather than STOP! Asahel *pursued*. What was the outcome? _____

a. V. 23c says: ... ALL who came to *the place* where Asahel had fallen and died "stood still". What do you believe this says about Asahel? _____



Speaking of "pursuing" ... what are you and I told **to** "pursue"?

** Psalm 34:14 _____

** Proverbs 21:21 _____

** Hebrews 12:14 _____

** 1 Peter 3:11 _____

♥ Which one of these verses challenges you the most and why? _____

Take a minute and ask the Lord to give you a more ***fervent pursuit of*** those things listed above. He will!!



Time to practice Proverbs 10:12: _____

Ask someone if you may share Proverbs 10:12 with them. If you did... share with your group 😊

DAY FIVE

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 2:24-32**

1. As Joab and Abishai pursued Abner, what happened at the hill of Ammah? (v.24-25) _____

A. Write out the three very specific questions that Abner called out to Joab (v.26):

- ** _____
- ** _____
- ** _____

B. Was Abner’s challenge heeded? _____ What was the result? (v.27-28) _____

“Had Abner not issued a challenge (2:14), the conflict would have been avoided altogether.” Ryrrie

C. Where did Abner and his men “end up”? (v.29) _____

2. According to v.30, how many of Joab’s men died? (v.30) _____

A. How many of Abner’s men died? (v.31) _____

1. Why do you believe Joab’s men did so well in this battle compared to Abner’s? Give a verse to support your answer. Share your resource. _____

“The increasing strength of David, and increasing weakness of Saul’s house did not begin when Saul died; it began when God first chose David and withdrew His Spirit from Saul.” Ryrrie Study Bible Note

3. In this battle between Abner’s men and Joab’s men, how did we see:

- ** God’s Judgment _____
- ** God’s Mercy _____

♥ Aren’t you so glad that God is a Faithful JUDGE and yet abounds in MERCY?!! How have YOU experienced His MERCY lately?? _____

 Time to practice & write out your memory verse: _____

*"I waited patiently for the LORD;
and He inclined to me and heard my cry.
He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay,
and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
Many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD."*

Psalm 40:1-3