

Following After God's Heart

2 Samuel - Chapters 3 & 4

Looking Back...

Upon returning to Ziklag David is given sad news... Saul and his beloved Jonathan are dead. Even though Saul had sought David's life and heavily pursued him for 10 years, David holds to his convictions... God's anointed must be honored and respected.

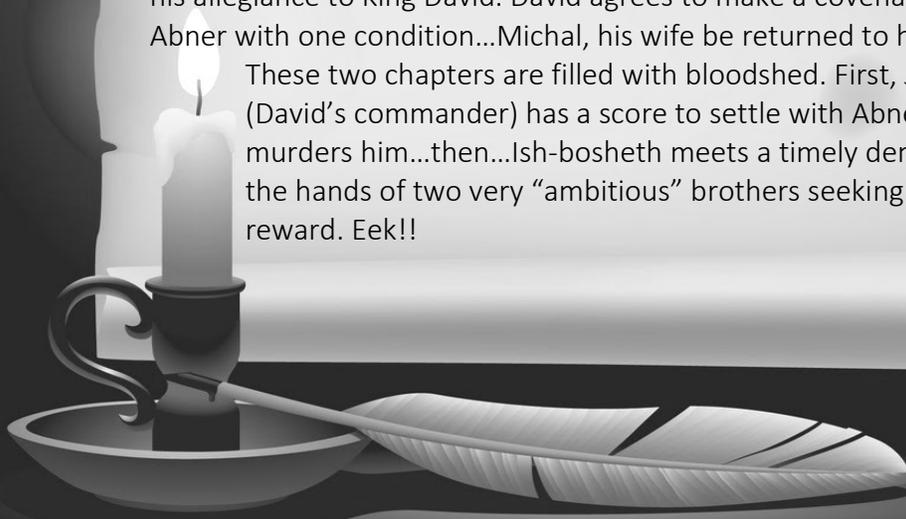
Out of a deep love and sorrow, David writes "the song of the bow" and instructed the people to teach it to the sons of Judah. David had loved Jonathan "as his own soul" and that relationship would not easily be forgotten.

Saul is dead, but David must wait a little longer to sit upon the throne of Israel. He is anointed king over Judah, but Saul's son Ish-bosheth would reign over Israel as a 'puppet king" under the direct rule of Abner. God is setting things in order.

Looking Ahead...

As time goes on, the house of David grows stronger as the house of Saul grows weaker. Ish-bosheth and Abner have a strong disagreement this week...so much so that Abner decides to give his allegiance to King David. David agrees to make a covenant with Abner with one condition...Michal, his wife be returned to him.

These two chapters are filled with bloodshed. First, Joab (David's commander) has a score to settle with Abner and murders him...then...Ish-bosheth meets a timely demise at the hands of two very "ambitious" brothers seeking a reward. Eek!!



This week's Memory verse is Proverbs 14:11. Begin memorizing the verse(s) today. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you memorize this passage and for opportunities to apply it...

"The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish."
Proverbs 14:11

Write out Proverbs 14:11: _____

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 3:1-5**

1. As the long war between the house of David and the house of Saul continued, what was becoming very evident? (v.1b) _____

A. Was this a "new" development? (See 1 Samuel 16:13-14) Explain _____

2. During this time, David's family was growing as well. Fill in the chart below:

	David's Wife's Name	Their Son's Name	The Meaning Of the Son's Name
v.2			
v.3			
v.3			
v.4			
v.4			
v.5			

A. According to 1 Chronicles 3:1, Abigail's son has another name. What is it? _____

♥ Speaking of Names... do you know what YOUR name means... if not, **google** it!! Share it with the ladies.

My name, _____, means _____

3. Up to this point, the Bible only records David as having two wives... NOW he has accumulated SIX! Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20. In regard to the laws pertaining to kings, what is stated clearly in v.17a, and why is this so important? (v.17b) _____

John Trapp's bottom-line: "By six wives he had but six sons. God was not pleased with his polygamy."

FYI: Brief Overview of David's son's legacy:

Amnon ~ He raped his half-sister and was murdered by his half-brother (2 Samuel 13)

Chileab ~ (Daniel) He is mentioned only here and in 1 Chronicles 3:1

Absalom ~ He murdered his half-brother and led a civil war against David with the intent to murder him (2 Samuel 13-18)

Adonijah ~ He tried to seize David's throne and David's appointed successor. He also tried to take one of David's concubines. Adonijah was ultimately executed for his arrogance (1 Kings 1-2)

Shephatiah ~ He is only mentioned here

Ithream ~ He is only mentioned here

 Time to practice our memory verse: "The _____ of the wicked _____, but the _____ of the _____." _____ : _____

DAY TWO

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 3:6-21**

1. As the house of Saul *grew weaker continually*, what was Abner accomplishing *in the house of Saul*? (v.6) _____

2. What did Ish-bosheth confront Abner with? (v.7) _____

A. Carefully examine their verbal exchange in v.7-8. Do you believe Abner was guilty as charged? ____
Why or Why not? _____

1. Whether or not Abner was guilty, he was definitely **not** threatened by Ish-bosheth! How did he turn the whole situation around? (v.9-10) _____

a. What was Ish-bosheth's response? (v.11) _____

"A deceased king's harem belonged to his successor, in this case, Ish-bosheth, and any man who even asked for one of those women was asking for the kingdom and guilty of treason. This is what led to the death of Adonijah (1 Kings 2:13-15). It's possible that Abner did take Rizpah just to precipitate a quarrel with Ish-bosheth and to declare his change of allegiance. If so, he succeeded. Of course, the king wasn't strong enough to oppose Abner, who now announced that he was on David's side." Warren Wiersbe

3. What condition did David place upon making a covenant with the house of Saul? (v.12-14) _____

A. According to v.15, was Ish-bosheth faithful to Saul's original agreement? ____ Describe the sad scene and how it was accomplished: (v.15-16) _____



David was betrothed to Michal for 100 Philistine foreskins (1 Samuel 18:25) Do you remember how many he actually presented to Saul? (1 Samuel 18:27) ____ Share why **you** believe that David brought back more than Saul requested: _____

B. V.17 says that *Abner had consultation with the elders of Israel...* what *hope* did he remind them all of? (v.18) _____

1. Why do you think Abner spoke to the Benjamites in person? (v.19) Share your resource. _____

a. What do you believe Abner may have hoped to gain through this covenant? _____

4. What did David do for Abner **and** the twenty men that he brought with him? (v.20) _____

A. During their meal together, what "intentions" did Abner reveal to David? (v.21) _____



PERFECT segue to practice Proverbs 14:11: _____

DAY THREE

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 3:22-30**

1. When Joab was told about Abner's "consult" with David and the elders of Israel, and that Abner had gone peace, why was he so angry? (v.25) _____



Peek back at 2 Samuel 2:18-23; 3:27... what was Joab really angry about? _____

A. David had chosen not to act upon “feelings” of revenge... but Joab gave into this temptation. What are we taught about this in Proverbs 24:29a? _____

2. Intent on revenge... what did Joab “do” behind David’s back? (v.26) _____

A. Joab set out to get even! Stop and consider for a moment the way Asahel died (2 Samuel 2:18-23) and the way Abner died (2 Samuel 3:27). In light of the circumstances, which of these killings was an “act of war” rather than a cold-blooded murderer? _____

3. Upon hearing of Abner’s death, what did David declare in v.28? _____

A. David placed much importance upon a clear conscience and in doing what was right in the sight of the LORD. Record what he says in Psalm 19:13. _____

Define: PRESUMPTUOUS _____

♥ Perhaps you have been tempted to sin against the LORD in this particular area of **revenge**. Confess it to Him. Ask for His forgiveness, and now THANK Him for His forgiveness. Continue to listen to and obey Him in regard to how He will complete this particular work in you. Read & rejoice in 1 John 1:9!

4. Let’s look a little closer at David’s curse on the **head of Joab and all of his father’s house...** (v.29)

** and may there not fail from the house of Joab _____

** or who _____ ** or who _____

** or who _____ ** or who _____

“The strong curse uttered by David indicates that he did not consider Joab’s actions in the least justified. Hebron, where Joab slew Abner, was a city of refuge (Joshua 21:13), and in such a city not even a blood avenger could slay a murderer without a trial (Numbers 35:22-25).” Ryrie NASB Study Notes

A. By the way... did you notice who was in agreement with Joab? (v.30) _____

“Joab did, but not without the privity and consent of his brother Abishai. Now there is little difference, *faveasve sceleri, an illud facias*; to hold the bag is as bad as to fill it.” John Trapp

♥ Although Joab murdered Abner, his brother, Abishai was “guilty by association”. Has the Lord reminded you of something that, although you did not “commit the sin”, you were aware of it and had full knowledge of it – and did nothing to stop it, or intervene? It is time to be forgiven and never allow that sin raise its ugly head against you again. Confess this “thing” to the Lord. He is completely aware of it, and He wants to deliver you from the guilt of it! Repent... and walk in forgiveness and gratitude today! ♥ Read Psalm 32:5!!



Time to practice Proverbs 14:11: _____

DAY FOUR

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 3:31-39**

1. Who was required to “participate” in Abner’s funeral service? (v.31a) _____

A. What were they instructed to “do”? (v.31b) _____

1. V.31c says that King David walked behind what? _____

Define: BIER _____

2. As King David lifted up his voice and wept, **who wept** *with him*? (v.32) _____

A. The king chanted a lament for Abner in v.33-34. ***In your own words*** give the main message of this lament: _____

1. What did "all the people" try to *persuade* their king to "do"? (v.35) _____

a. Does David's response *surprise* you? ____ Why or Why not? _____

3. David wanted it made absolutely clear to the people that he was innocent and had nothing to do with Abner's death. According to v.36-37, was he successful? Explain your answer. _____

A. What did David say in regard to Abner when speaking to his servants in v. 38? _____

1. David could have dealt with Joab at this time, but he chose not to. When and how was this crime finally punished? (1 Kings 2:1-6, 28-35) _____

"This is the sad truth with many a man in high office. He is bound by the prejudices, vices, and ambitions of his subordinates, upon whom, in many instances, he is dependent for the continuation of his authority. So it was with David here. He could not afford to order the execution of Joab to whom the army most certainly was loyal. Furthermore, without the ability and loyalty of Joab, David's kingship might have been endangered. Only the providence of God could have brought out of this situation the glorious Israel that later developed." James Burton Coffman



Time to practice Proverbs 14:11: _____

Ask someone if you may share Proverbs 14:11 with them. If you did... share with your group ☺

DAY FIVE

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 4:1-12**

1. What happened when Ish-bosheth heard of Abner's death? (v.1a) _____

A. In your opinion, why do you think Ish-bosheth "instantly" *lost courage*? Read 2 Samuel 2:8-9 before answering: _____

♥ Ish-bosheth displayed a "weak" character! 2 Timothy 3:1-7 tells us that **difficult times will come...** declaring that we must be diligent to discern the difference between those "*holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied it's power*", rather than **weak women** *who give others access to their household, and are captivated because of their being weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* Perhaps you find yourself in this place today. If so, confess and repent of it and continue your pursuit of learning, knowing and applying Scripture, regardless of how you "feel". Let the Word of God dwell within you. Do not lose courage! Let the Word of God, the BIBLE, declare to you the TRUTH, with His POWER... to fully live for Him!

2. Who are we introduced to in v.4, and what brief details are we given? _____

“Mephibosheth is properly inserted here; for, as the murderers of Ish-bosheth wished to destroy the whole house of Saul, in order to ingratiate themselves with David, the flight of Mephibosheth is designedly mentioned to inform the reader, that he was not put to death with Ish-bosheth, because, after the slaughter of Saul and Jonathan, he was carried away, and did not dwell in the house with Ish-bosheth.” Thomas Coke

** *Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth’s life, purpose and privilege will unfold as we continue through 2 Samuel...*

3. Oh no! It’s Deja-vu from Chapter One!! Didn’t these guys hear what happened to the Amalekite that “claimed” to kill King Saul, *thinking he was doing David a favor*? Re-read v.2-3 along with v.5-8...

** What sin did Rechab and Baanah commit? (v.7) _____

** In your own words, according to v.8, how did they “feel” about what they had accomplished? Explain

A. Hoping for a reward, what treatment did these brothers receive instead? (v.12a) _____

“Execution done. The murderers were put to death according to law, and their hands and feet were hung up; not their whole bodies, the law forbade that; but only their hands and feet, *in terrorem - to frighten others*, to be monuments of David's justice, and to make that to be taken notice of which would recommend him to the esteem of the people, as a man fit to rule, and that aimed not at his own preferment, nor had any enmity to the house of Saul, but only and sincerely designed the public welfare.” Matthew Henry

1. What happened to the head of Ish-bosheth? (v.12b) _____

“Meanwhile the head of Ish-bosheth was treated with honour, and buried in the grave of Abner in Hebron. In death he and his mentor were united, and David’s honour was maintained.” Peter Pett



Time to practice & write out your memory verse: _____

*“The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance;
He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.
And men will say, “Surely there is a reward for the righteous;
Surely there is a God who judges on earth!”
Psalm 58:10-11*