

## First and Second Samuel

*(Words in Italic are not part of the original scripture and are added for explanation.)*

*The books of 1 and 2 Samuel made up one book originally. It remained so in the Hebrew text until the publishing of the Hebrew Bible in A.D. 1517 where it appeared as 1 and 2 Samuel. The Septuagint and other translations of the Old Testament that followed divided the books of Samuel and Kings into First Kings through Forth Kings. The principal characters of 1 Samuel are Samuel, Saul, and David.*

*Furthermore, the Book of 1 Samuel presents in detail the transitional phase between the period of the judges and the period of the kings. During this time God instituted the offices of prophet and king, the latter replacing the office of the judge as Israel's political leader. It is important to note that the prophetic function did not originate at this time. Moses and Deborah are examples of those who were both political leaders over Israel and prophets (Ex. 3:11-22; Judg. 4:4,5). These should be distinguished from the prophets from this time forward who were not rulers used in a prophetic capacity, but those who held the office of prophet. It is not until Samuel organized the "company of the prophets" (1 Sam. 19:20) that the office seems to have been formally established in Israel. Samuel bridged the gap between the periods of the judges and kings in that he was the last one to serve as a judge in all Israel and that he anointed the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.*

*The book is divided into two sections: the first seven chapters outline the life and ministry of Samuel, and the remainder of the book describes the events during the reign of Saul. The climax is reached when God rejects Saul from being king for disobeying His command, and instructed Samuel to anoint David, the son of Jesse, as the next king (1 Sam. 15:26). (Key Word Bible, page 373)*

### First Samuel

#### Chapter 1

##### ***Samuel's Birth***

**1** Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

*Ramathaim-zophim; (ra'ma-tha'im-zo'fim) [the twin heithts (of the) Zophites]. The residence of Samuel's father; (Davis, page 509)*

*Ramathaim-zophim 7436 Raw-maw-thah'-yim tso-feem': from the dual of 7413 and plural of the act. part.of 6822; double heitht of watchers, a place in Pal.*

*Interesting the watchers mentioned. Daniel 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most*

*High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*

**2**And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

*At that time, it was not unusual to have more than one wife.*

**3**And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

*Exodus 23:*

*14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.*

*15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)*

*16 And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.*

*17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.*

*18 Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread; neither shall the fat of my sacrifice remain until the morning.*

*19 The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.*

*20 Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.*

**4**And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

**5**But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

*As with Genesis 30:1 And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.*

*2 And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?*

**6**And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

*Provoked 3707 Ka'as, kaw-as'; a primitive root; to trouble; (by implicataion) to grieve, rage, be indignant: -be angry, be grieved, take indignation, provoke (to anger, unto wrath), have sorrow, vex, be wrath*

**7**And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

*She was being constantly provoked by someone because she could not have children, most likely it could have been Peninnah, who as mentioned early had children.*

**8**Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? *am* not I better to thee than ten sons?

*He was trying to comfort her.*

**9**So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

**10**And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

*One has to be careful when praying to the Lord that it is not in bitterness and anger.*

**11**And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

*The outward sign of not shaving Samuel's head was associated with the Nazarite vow (see Num. 6:2-21). Apparently, Samuel, like Samson (see Judge 13:4, 5), was t be a Nazarite The difference was that Samson was a Nazarite by God's instruction and Samuel's mother made the vow for her son. As a result of he faith toward God, Hannah's prayer was answered. (Key Word, page 374)*

**12**And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

*Marked 8104 shamar, shaw-mar'; a primitive root; (properly) to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; (generally) to protect, attend to, etc.: -beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep (-er, self) mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch (-man).*

*Most likely was paying attention to what she was saying.*

**13**Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

**14**And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

*She was not drunk, but rather in grief.*

**15**And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

**16**Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

**17**Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

*Petition 7596 sh elah, sheh-ay-law'; or Shelah, shay-law'; (1 Sam 1:17), from 7592; a petition; (by implication) a loan: -loan, petition, request.*

**18**And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*.

**19**And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

*Knew 3045 yaw-dahf'; a primitive root; to know (properly to ascertain by seeing); used in a great variety of senses, figurative, literal, euphemism and inference ( including observation, care, recognition; and causative instruction, designation punishment,, etc.) [as follow]: - acknowledge acquaintance (-ted with), advice, answer, appoint, aassuredly, be aware, [un-] awares can [-not], certainly, for a certainty, .....*

*“Knew Hannah” is a sexual connotation since she will have a child.*

**20**Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

**21**And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

*Gives an idea of the time of year this was by a time of going up to the Lord.*

**22**But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

**23**And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

**24**And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was young*.

**25**And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

**26**And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, *I am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

**27**For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

*She is thanking the Lord for hearing her prayers and is going to dedicate the child to the Lord.*

**28**Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

## Chapter 2

### *Hannah's Prayer*

*It speaks for itself.*

**1**And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

**2***There is* none holy as the LORD: for *there is* none beside thee: neither *is there* any rock like our God.

**3**Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

**4**The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

**5***They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

**6**The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

**7**The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

**8**He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

**9**He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

**10**The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

**11**And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

### *Eli's Corrupt Sons*

**12**Now the sons of Eli *were* sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

*Belial* 1100 *bel-e-yah' al*; from 1097 and 3276; with profit, worthlessness; (by extension) destruction, wickedness (often in connection with 376, 802, 1121, etc.): -*Belial, evil, naughty, ungodly (men), wicked.*

**13**And the priests' custom with the people *was, that*, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;

*Leviticus 3:*

**3** And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards,

**4** And the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.

**5** And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

*And goes on to say in Leviticus 3:;*

**16** And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD'S.

*It is the priest who are to do this, not the servants. The priest have gotten lazy.*

**14** And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

*The priest is taking unto themselves and not giving to God the first part.*

**15** Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

*It was all to go to the Lord as mentioned above in Leviticus 3.*

**16** And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force.

*Turning to treats and violence to have their way and not the Lord's. We see this today in the politics of this country.*

**17** Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

*Malachi 2:8 But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.*

**18** But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

*Exodus 28:4 And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broided coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office*

**19**Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought *it* to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

**20**And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.

*Is lent 7592 sha'al, shaw-al'; or sha'el, shaw-ale; a primitive root; to inquire; (by implication) to request; (by extension) to demand: -ask (counsel, on), beg, borrow, lay to charge, consult, demand, desire x earnestly, enquire, + greet, obtain leave, lend, pray, request, require, +salute, x straitly, x surely, wish.*

**21**And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

**22**Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

*They sinned against God.*

**23**And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

*People talked of their sins, gossip.*

**24**Nay, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress.

**25**If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

*Numbers 15:*

**27** *And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering.*

**28** *And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.*

**29** *Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.*

**30** *But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

**31** *Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.*

**26**And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

**27**And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

**28**And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel *to be* my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

*Exodus 28:1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.*

**29**Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in* my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

*They, priest, are not doing as God had commanded them in their service instead getting fat off the sacrifices and putting their son's before serving God. Recall Abram and his sacrifice of his son.*

**30**Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

**31**Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.

*This is not a literal cutting off of the arm, but symbolic of being cut off from God.*

**32**And thou shalt see an enemy *in* my habitation, in all *the wealth* which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.

*Or, the affliction of the tabernacle, for all the wealth which God would have given Israel. (Key Word, page 3760*

**33**And the man of thine, *whom* I shall not cut off from mine altar, *shall be* to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

*Not a literal consumes eyes, but they will see what others receive and not have it for themselves, and they will die at a youthful age.*

**34**And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.

*A prophecy that they will die on the same day.*

**35**And I will raise me up a faithful priest, *that* shall do according to *that* which *is* in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.



*They aren't doing the work of priest God demands, so He will take that role from them and give it to someone who will serve Him the way He commands.*

**36**And it shall come to pass, *that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.*

*They will become beggars.*

### Chapter 3

#### *Samuels call*

**1**And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was no open vision.*

*Open 6555 parats, paw-rats'; a primitive root; to break out (in many applications, direct and indirect, literal and figurative): - x abroad, (make a) breach, break (away, down, -er, forth, in, up), burst out, come (spread) abroad, compel, disperse, grow, increase, open, press, scatter, urge.*

*Vision 2377 chazown, khw-zone'; from 2372; a sight (mentally), i.e., a dream, revelation, or oracle: -vision.*

**2**And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was* laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see;

**3**And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God *was*, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep*;

**4**That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am I*.

*There is a Hebrew response to be used only when the Lord calls, it is sounds like Hay Nah Nue Adonai or "Here am I Adoni" and Samuel did not say that, but rather a response to his father..*

**5**And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am I*; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

*It was real enough he thought someone had called him, so he went to Eli thinking it was him.*

**6**And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am I*; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

**7**Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

*Samuel was not knowledgeable of the word of God and so did not know He would call him.*

**8**And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

**9**Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

**10**And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

**11**And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

*This is to be a prophecy.*

**12**In that day I will perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

*Eli had probably spoken to his sons about their bad behavior, but he had failed to discipline them effectively. The proper thing would have been for him to have administered correction in love at an early stage in their lives. (Key Word, page 377)*  
*A prophecy is about to come to pass for Eli.*

**13**For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

*God will judge us all, Eli's is coming now.*

**14**And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

*They cannot make sacrifices now to get forgiveness, because their sins were too great.*

**15**And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

*Rightly so, the vision was the death of Eli.*

**16**Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I.

**17**And he said, What *is* the thing that *the LORD* hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

**18**And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, *It is the LORD*: let him do what seemeth him good.

**19**And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

*Fall to the ground is to not hear and learn the words.*

**20**And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel *was* established *to be* a prophet of the LORD.

**21**And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

## Chapter 4

### *The Philistines Capture the Ark of God*

**1**And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.

*God did not tell Israel to go to battle against the Philistines.*

**2**And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

**3**And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

*The Israelites were treating the ark as a kind of magic charm instead of the testimony of God's power and presence. The mere presence of the ark would not bring victory in the battle. (Ksy Word, page 377)*

**4**So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth *between* the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, *were* there with the ark of the covenant of God.

*Man cannot just move God around to where he wants Him.*

**5**And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

**6**And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What *meaneth* the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp.

**7**And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

*They are aware of God's power and of the Ark.*

**8**Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these *are* the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

**9**Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

*Judges 13:1 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.*

**10**And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.

**11**And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

*As was prophesied of their death earlier in Chapter 3.*

**12**And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

*As in Joshua 7:6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. This was a way to show you are in mourning.*

### ***Eli's Death***

**13**And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told *it*, all the city cried out.

*The Ark is probably the most valuable item then, and even today.*

**14**And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What *meaneth* the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli.

**15**Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

**16**And the man said unto Eli, I *am* he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

**17**And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

**18**And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

*Eli was 98 and overweight.*

*He seems to have been a judge to do justice only, and that in southwest Israel. (Key Word, page 378)*

**19**And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, *near* to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

**20**And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard *it*.

**21**And she named the child I-chabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

*Ichabod 350, ee-kaw-bode'; fro 366 and 3519; (ther is) no glory, i.e. inglorious; Ikabod, a son of Phinieas: -I chabod.*

*Son of Phinehas and grandson of Eli. The name commemorated the fact that the glory had departed from Israel, for the Ark of God was taken. (Davis, page 262)*

**22**And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

## Chapter 5

### *God Judges the Philistines*

**1**And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod.

*Ark 727 arown, aw-rone': from 717 (in the sense of gathering); a box: -ark, chest, coffin. A common noun meaning a box, chest, or ark. It is treated as masculine in some passages and as feminine in others.*

**2**When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

*Dagon (da'gon) [dagan, grain; cf dag, fish]. The national god of gteh Philistines. At Gaza, at Beth-dagon, and especially at Ashdod, he had a temple (Judg. 16:21, 23; I Sam 5:1-7; I Chron. 10:10). (Davis, page 124)*

**3**And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon *was* fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.

*The false god falls before the real God.*

**4**And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon *was* fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands *were* cut off upon the threshold; only *the stump of* Dagon was left to him.

*Genesis 3:*

*14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above*

*all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

*15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

**5**Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.

**6**But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, *even* Ashdod and the coasts thereof.

*Emerods 6076 ophel, o'-fel; from 6075; a tumor, also a mound, i.e. fortress: -emrod, fort, strong hold, tower.*

*I think tumor or hemorrhoids would fit better here.*

**7**And when the men of Ashdod saw that *it was* so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god.

*Strangely they still keep their own god after seeing power of the only God.*

**8**They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about *thither*.

**9**And it was *so*, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts.

*Yep, they need Preparation H for their hemorrhoids.*

**10**Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.

*The surrounding areas all knew the power of God.*

**11**So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

**12**And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

## Chapter 6

### *The Philistines Return the Ark to Israel*

**1**And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

**2**And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.

**3**And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.

**4**Then said they, What *shall be* the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, *according to* the number of the lords of the Philistines: for one plague *was* on you all, and on your lords.

*They are making gold idols of the emerods they have as a tribute to God.*

**5**Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.

*They all were very aware of what God had done in Egypt to free His people.*

**6**Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?

*Exodus 8:32 And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.*

**7**Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:

**8**And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him *for* a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.

**9**And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, *then* he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that *it is* not his hand *that* smote us: it *was* a chance *that* happened to us.

**10**And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:

**11**And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.

**12**And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, *and* went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside *to* the right hand or *to* the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh.

*Normally, it is difficult to drive even the best trained cows straight on a road when their calves have just been taken away from them. In this case, the cows did follow a straight line, carrying the ark back to Israe, which revealed that their behavior was being controlled by God (cf. Num. 22:22-31). God is all-powerful and is able to use all facets of His creation to accomplish His will. (Key Word, page 380)*

**13**And *they of Bethshemesh were* reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see *it*.

*This gives a time of when this occurred, harvest. Israel should be having the feast of harvest around that time.*

**14**And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where *there was* a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.

**15**And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that *was* with it, wherein the jewels of gold *were*, and put *them* on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.

*The Levites are the priest tribe and are the ones who should be serving the Lord as priest and performing the sacrifices.*

**16**And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen *it*, they returned to Ekron the same day.

**17**And these *are* the golden emerods which the Philistines returned *for* a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askalon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;

**18**And the golden mice, *according to* the number of all the cities of the Philistines *belonging to* the five lords, *both* of fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great *stone of* Abel, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD: *which stone remaineth* unto this day in the field of Joshua, the Bethshemite.

*That much gold is an expensive offering.*

**19**And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten *many* of the people with a great slaughter.

*Exodus 19:*

*21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.*

*22 And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.*

*23 And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.*

*24 And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.*

**20**And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?



*Bethshemesh; [house of the sun]. A town in the vale of Sorek (Wadi es-Sarar), identified with Tell er-Rumeileh, near the Byzantine ruins of Ain- Shems, on the main road from Ashkelon and Ashdod to Jerusalem, from which it is about 23 ¾ miles distance. (Davis, page 72)*

**21**And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, *and* fetch it up to you.

## Chapter 7

**1**And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

**2**And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

### *Samuel Leads Israel*

**3**And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, *then* put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

*This still holds true today, if you return to the Lord with all your hearts then he will deliver you>*

**4**Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.

*Judges 2: 13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.*

**5**And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

**6**And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured *it* out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

**7**And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard *it*, they were afraid of the Philistines.

**8**And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

*If we obey the Lord he will save you.*

**9**And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered *it for* a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him.

*Today Christ is the lamb, John 1: 36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!*

**10**And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

*Thunder 6963 kole; or qol, kole; from an unused root mean. To call aloud; a voice or sound: -+ aloud, bleating, crackling, cry (+out), fame, lightness, lowing, noise, +hold peace, [pro-] claim, proclamation, +sing, sound, +spark, thunder (-ing), voice, +yell.*

*Joshua 10:10 And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makedah.*

**11**And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until *they came* under Bethcar.

**12**Then Samuel took a stone, and set *it* between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

*Ebenezer, that is the stone of help (Key Word, page 381).*

**13**So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

**14**And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

**15**And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

*Judges 2:16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.*

**16**And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.

**17**And his return *was* to Ramah; for there *was* his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

## Chapter 8

### *Israel Asks for a King*

*Comment: The Lord had given them laws to rule over them and judges to decide the laws with the people. Now they want a king, like in this countries creation, not a king, as refused by Washington, but a president with a judicial branch (judges) and a legislative branch to make laws represented by the people. Not a democracy of majority rule, but a republic made up of*

*states with equal representation in the house and population representation in the congress. A nation ruled by laws.*

**1**And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

*Judges 8199 shaphat, shaw-fat'; a primitive root; to judge, i.e. pronounce sentence (for or against); (by implication) to vindicate or punish; (by extension) to govern; (passive) to litigate (literal or figurative): -+ avenge, x that condemn, contend defend execute (judgement), (be a) judge (-ment), x needs, plead, reason, rule.*

**2**Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: *they were* judges in Beersheba.

**3**And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

*Like Eli, Samuel neglected to discipline and teach his sons properly. Perhaps, like servants of God today, he was away from home too much and too occupied with helping others. Just as the personal failures of individual ministers' lead man to reject the whole concept of the Church, and the failure of Samuel's sons led the people to reject their authority as judges, as well as to reject God, who in His sovereignty set them up to rule over His people. (Key Word, page 382)*

**4**Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,  
**5**And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

**6**But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

**7**And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

*In this passage, the Israelites' request for a king is condemned by God. What is it that made this request a sin? It seems clear that there was nothing wrong with the desire for a monarchy. God knew that someday Israel would desire a king. In Deuteronomy 17:14-20, He had given guidelines that were to be followed by the people and be the kings that would reign over them (f. Gen.17:6, 16; 35:11). It seems equally clear that there was nothing wrong with the time of their request. Though some have suggested that the kingdom was not proper until the coming of the Messiah, there is nothing in the context of the passages in question that supports the view. Hence, it seems that the motive of the people in making the request was what made their actions sinful, though on the surface their motives seem to be justified. They wanted to avoid further military losses (1 Sam. 8:20) and to be rid of the corrupt leaders of the future, the sons of Samuel and of Eli.*

*Samuel saw their request to be a rejection of himself, but God affirmed that they had actually rejected Him. The people were no longer satisfied with the system of judges that had been established. They improperly attributed the failures during that time to the system itself, not to their sin. They rejected God because they wanted to be like the other nations, not a peculiar people, set apart as the chosen ones of God. What the people wanted to walk by sight, not by*

*faith. In so doing, they thought to escape the moral demands of the Law by doing away with the theocracy under which they had been living. (Key Word, page 382)*

**8**According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

*It appears that over and over the people forget the miracles of Exodus and turn from God.*

**9**Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

**10**And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

**11**And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots.

**12**And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

**13**And he will take your daughters *to be* confectionaries, and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers.

**14**And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, *even the best of them*, and give *them* to his servants.

**15**And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

*Taxes and servitude.*

**16**And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work.

**17**He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

*Everything becomes the property of the king.*

**18**And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

*Because you want a king the Lord will not hear your cries when the king puts you into bondage.*

**19**Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

**20**That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

*Like today people think it is better someplace else and not grateful for what they have. Today the cry is again for change.*

**21**And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.  
**22**And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

## Chapter 9

### *Samuel Anoints Saul King*

**1**Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name *was* Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

*Power 2428 chayil, khah'-yil; from 2342; probably a force, whether of men, means or other resources; an army, wealth, virtue, valor, strength: -able, activity, (+) army, band of men (soldiers), company, (great) forces, goods, host, might, power, riches, strength, strong, substance, train (+) valiant (-ly), valour, virtuous (-ly), war, worthy (-ily).*

**2**And he had a son, whose name *was* Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and *there was* not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward *he was* higher than any of the people.

**3**And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.

**4**And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found *them* not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and *there they were* not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found *them* not.

**5**And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that *was* with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave *caring* for the asses, and take thought for us.

**6**And he said unto him, Behold now, *there is* in this city a man of God, and *he is* an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.

**7**Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, *if we go*, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and *there is* not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?

**8**And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: *that* will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.

**9**(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for *he that is* now *called* a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)

**10**Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God *was*.

**11**And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?

**12**And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, *he is* before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for *there is* a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:

**13**As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the

sacrifice; *and* afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.

**14**And they went up into the city: *and* when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.

**15**Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

*The Lord does give us messages, sometimes we do not realize or accept it as so.*

**16**To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him *to be* captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

**17**And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.

*The Lord had told him this man would be the king the people wanted to rule over them. The Lord picked him because he was worthy of the job.*

**18**Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house *is*.

**19**And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I *am* the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that *is* in thine heart.

**20**And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom *is* all the desire of Israel? *Is it* not on thee, and on all thy father's house?

*This was all most likely planned and organized to happen by the Lord.*

**21**And Saul answered and said, *Am* not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

*At one point the tribe of Benjamin had been reduced to only six hundred men (Judg. 20:47). (Key Word Bible, page 384)*

**22**And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which *were* about thirty persons.

**23**And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

**24**And the cook took up the shoulder, and *that* which *was* upon it, and set *it* before Saul.

And *Samuel* said, Behold that which is left! set *it* before thee, *and* eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.

**25**And when they were come down from the high place into the city, *Samuel* communed with Saul upon the top of the house.

**26**And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad.

**27**And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.

*The word was just for him to hear and no one else, so he sent the servant away. God's words to us are like that at times.*

## Chapter 10

**1**Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured *it* upon his head, and kissed him, and said, *Is it* not because the LORD hath anointed thee *to be* captain over his inheritance?

**2**When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

*Genesis 35:*

*19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.*

*20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.*

**3**Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:

*Genesis 28:22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.*

**4**And they will salute thee, and give thee two *loaves* of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

*Hebrew ask thee of peace.*

**5**After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where *is* the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:

**6**And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

*Numbers 11:25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.*

**7**And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, *that* thou do as occasion serve thee; for God *is* with thee.

*Hebraic it shall come to pass that when these signs.*

*Hebraic for thee as thine hand shall find.*

**8**And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, *and* to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

### ***Saul Prophesies***

**9**And it was *so*, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

**10**And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

**11**And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, *What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?*

**12**And one of the same place answered and said, *But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets?*

**13**And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.

**14**And Saul's uncle said unto him and to his servant, *Whither went ye? And he said, To seek the asses: and when we saw that they were no where, we came to Samuel.*

**15**And Saul's uncle said, *Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you.*

**16**And Saul said unto his uncle, *He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.*

*He left out the part that he was to be king.*

### ***Saul Becomes King***

**17**And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh;

**18**And said unto the children of Israel, *Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you:*

**19**And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, *Nay*, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

*As repeated over and over in time the people forgot about the miracle of the exodus and turned away from God.*



**20**And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken.

**21**When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.

**22**Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

**23**And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

**24**And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that *there is none like him among all the people?* And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

*That Saul was “taken” (lakad [3920]) means that lots were drawn, probably out of an urn. The selection was carried out by process of elimination, beginning with the selection of the tribe of Benjamin and ending with the selection of an individual of the clan of Matri and family of Kish. The lot fell upon Saul. The Jews understood the drawing of casting of lots to be a means of discovering God will. As to the necessity of the procedures carried on at Mizpeh, it may be observed that neither Saul nor Samuel had informed the people of Saul’s prior anointing (v. 16) making this action necessary to show the people that Saul was to be their king. It is likely that the days between the anointing and this ceremony at Mizpeh were intended for mediation and instruction (v. 8, cf. 1 Sam 13:7, 8).*

*Only divine wisdom can fully understand the choice of Saul for king. Yet it should be noted that Saul fully satisfied the desires of the people. He was a man of great stature from the most military tribe in all of Israel. Who better, they thought, to lead the people in battle against their enemies? Saul was also a man whose own spiritual life mirrored that of the majority of Israel: he was a house built upon the sand, whose lack of saving faith was made clear when the storms came. Any life or nation built upon such a foundation will surely fall.*

*Nevertheless, the purposes and design of God are never circumvented by the wickedness of men (Job. 35:6). Soom after Saul’s failure, David was chosen. Saul’s reign revealed the motive of the people’s demand for a king. Even if Saul had been obedient, his reign was destined to be temporary, for the tribe of Judah was the royal tribe, from which the King of Glory would come (Gen. 49:10). (Key Word, pages 385-386)*

*Genesis 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*

**25**Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote *it* in a book, and laid *it* up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

**26**And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

**27**But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

*There are always those who will defy God and show disdain towards the good, even today.*

## Chapter 11

### *Saul Rescues Jabesh-gilead*

**1**Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

**2**And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this *condition* will I make *a covenant* with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it *for* a reproach upon all Israel.

*That is a major request, it would take extreme fear of them to do that. So they stall for time.*

**3**And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if *there be* no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

**4**Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

**5**And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What *aieth* the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.

**6**And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

*The Lord can move people in many different ways, in this case to anger.*

**7**And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

*It took a threat to move the people to act.*

**8**And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

**9**And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by *that time* the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed *it* to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

**10**Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you.

**11**And it was *so* on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

*Saul organized the men into an army of three companies of men. Somewhat like what we do in the military today. He was a military leader and knew military tactics.*

**12**And the people said unto Samuel, Who *is* he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

**13**And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.

**14**Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

**15**And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

## Chapter 12

### *Samuel Addresses Israel*

**1**And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

**2**And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons *are* with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

*Samuel is old now and is telling them he gave them a king which they wanted.*

**3**Behold, here I *am*: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received *any* bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.

**4**And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

*They agreed with Samuel's saying, he was just unto them.*

**5**And he said unto them, The LORD *is* witness against you, and his anointed *is* witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, *He is* witness.

**6**And Samuel said unto the people, *It is* the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.

**7**Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

*He is recalling to them the Lord's deliverance and guiding from Egypt.*

**8**When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place.

*The Lord heard their cries and sent a deliverer.*

**9**And when they forgot the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

*They forgot the Lord, which they do over and over when things go good for them. They forget who gave it to them and lose it and suffer again and then cry out to God again and again.*

**10**And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

**11**And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelled safe.

**12**And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God *was* your king.

*The people wanted a king.*

**13**Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, *and* whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.

**14**If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:

*The people will influence the king to obey God if they obey Him.*

**15**But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as *it was* against your fathers.

**16**Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.

**17***Is it* not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness *is* great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

*The LORD uses natural signs to warn the people to obey.*

**18**So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

*Samuel called upon the Lord and the Lord delivered, so the people would know it happened immediately upon his request. We will see the dragon to this in the last days but not calling upon the Lord but he has the power over the elements.*

**19**And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king.

*People seem to need signs and wonders to believe.*

**20**And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

**21**And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go* after vain *things*, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain.

**22**For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

**23**Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

*This is what our pastors should be doing today.*

**24**Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.

**25**But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

*If they go back to sinning then the Lord will punish them again.*

## Chapter 13

### *Saul's First Sin at Gilgal*

**1**Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

**2**Saul chose him three thousand *men* of Israel; *whereof* two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

*Saul set up military positions of his men to protect the land.*

**3**And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that *was* in Geba, and the Philistines heard of *it*. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

*The Philistines had garrisons around the land as well and Jonathan fought and won against them.*

**4**And all Israel heard say *that* Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and *that* Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

*The Philistines looked at Israel as an abomination to them, they would attack them to destroy or capture them.*

**5**And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven.

**6**When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

*Judges 6:2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.*

**7**And *some of* the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he *was* yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

**8**And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel *had appointed*: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

*1 Samuel 10:8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.*

**9**And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

**10**And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

*It usually takes an action on our part to receive God's blessings.*

**11**And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* thou camest not within the days appointed, and *that* the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

**12**Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

**13**And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

*Saul did not go the Lord first before he took action, he only went after Samuel did not arrive.*

**14**But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

*There will now be a limit to how long he will be king.*

**15**And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people *that were* present with him, about six hundred men.

**16**And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people *that were* present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

**17**And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned unto the way *that leadeth to* Ophrah, unto the land of Shual:

**18**And another company turned the way *to* Bethhoron: and another company turned *to* the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

### ***Israel's lack of Weapons***

**19**Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make *them* swords or spears:

**20**But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.

*Instead of someone learning the trade, they went to an enemy for weapons.*

**21**Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.

**22**So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that *were* with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

**23**And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

## **Chapter 14**

### ***Jonathan's Daring Attack***

**1**Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that *is* on the other side. But he told not his father.

**2**And Saul tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which *is* in Migron: and the people that *were* with him *were* about six hundred men;

*It was a considerable force, which leads to a question of why?*

**3**And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.

**4**And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, *there was* a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one *was* Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

*Bozez 949 shinning; Botest, a rock near Michmash:*

*Seneh 5573 thorn; Seneh, a crag in Palestine:*

**5**The forefront of the one *was* situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.

**6**And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there is* no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

*He is going off on his own and not at the direction of his father or others.*

**7**And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that *is* in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I *am* with thee according to thy heart.

**8**Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto *these* men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.

**9**If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.

**10**But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this *shall be* a sign unto us.

**11**And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.

**12**And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.

**13**And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.

**14**And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, *which a yoke of oxen might plow*.

**15**And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.

### ***Israel Defeats the Philistines***

**16**And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down *one another*.

**17**Then said Saul unto the people that *were* with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armourbearer *were* not *there*.

**18**And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.

*This passage states that Saul desired to know God's will by seeking the "ark of God." However, there is some controversy as to whether Saul was calling for the ark of the covenant to be brought from Kirjath-jeraim (see 1 Chr. 13:5, 6), or simply asking he priest wearing the ephod to step forward. Some manuscripts have the word for "ark." There are certainly cases in Scripture where the ark of the covenant was taken along with the children of Israel when they went to battle (1 Sam.4:3). It contained the Urim and Thummim and was used to receive guidance from God (1 Sam. 23:9, 30:7), Some speculate the phrase "withdraw thy hand" is mor*



*appropriate in regard to the ephod (see 2 Sam. 6:6, 7). Still other Hebrew texts imply that Saul may have sought guidance through both methods. (Key Word, page 391)*

**19**And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that *was* in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand.

**20**And Saul and all the people that *were* with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, *and there was* a very great discomfiture.

**21**Moreover the Hebrews *that were* with the Philistines before that time, which went up with them into the camp *from the country* round about, even they also *turned* to be with the Israelites that *were* with Saul and Jonathan.

**22**Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves in mount Ephraim, *when* they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.

**23**So the LORD saved Israel that day: and the battle passed over unto Bethaven.

### ***Jonathan and Saul's Oath***

**24**And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eateth *any* food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted *any* food.

*This order is going to come back against him.*

**25**And all *they of* the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.

**26**And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath.

**27**But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that *was* in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.

*He was tired from the previous battle and was hungry and weak. The honey renewed him, but he broke his fathers command.*

**28**Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eateth *any* food this day. And the people were faint.

**29**Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.

**30**How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

**31**And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon: and the people were very faint.

**32**And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew *them* on the ground: and the people did eat *them* with the blood.

*They were so hungry they didn't even cook the food before eating it.*

**33**Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the LORD, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have transgressed: roll a great stone unto me this day.

**34**And Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, and say unto them, Bring me hither every man his ox, and every man his sheep, and slay *them* here, and eat; and sin not against the LORD in eating with the blood. And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night, and slew *them* there.

**35**And Saul built an altar unto the LORD: the same was the first altar that he built unto the LORD.

**36**And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.

*Exodus 28:30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.*

**37**And Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.

**38**And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day.

**39**For, *as* the LORD liveth, which saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. But *there was* not a man among all the people *that* answered him.

**40**Then said he unto all Israel, Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Saul, Do what seemeth good unto thee.

**41**Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, Give a perfect *lot*. And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped.

**42**And Saul said, Cast *lots* between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken.

**43**Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that *was* in mine hand, *and*, lo, I must die.

**44**And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.

**45**And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: *as* the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

**46**Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place.

### ***Summary of Saul's Military Leadership***

**47**So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed *them*.

**48**And he gathered an host, and smote the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.

**49**Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua: and the names of his two daughters *were these*; the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal:

**50**And the name of Saul's wife *was* Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz: and the name of the captain of his host *was* Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.

**51**And Kish *was* the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner *was* the son of Abiel.

**52**And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

## Chapter 15

### *Saul's Second Sin at Gilgal*

**1**Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee *to be* king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

*Saul needs to obey the word of God which he has failed to obey before.*

**2**Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember *that* which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid *wait* for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

*Amalek was an enemy of Israel.*

*Exodus 17:*

*8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

*9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.*

*10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.*

*11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

**3**Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

*They are ordered to kill every living thing basically in Amalek. They must have sinned greatly as in Sodom and Gamora where everyone was destroyed.*

**4**And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

**5**And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

**6**And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

*Was he told to let the Kenites go?*

*Numbers 24:*

19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

20 And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.

21 And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock.

22 Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

23 And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!

7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah *until* thou comest to Shur, that *is* over against Egypt.

8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

*He was ordered to kill everyone.*

*Agag may have been a general title given to the Amalekite kings, just as Pharaoh was the general title for the King of Egypt. (Key Word, page 393)*

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all *that was* good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing *that was* vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul *to be* king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

*The Lord knows that Saul did not follow his command.*

12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

*Carmel (which means "garden") does not refer here to the famous mountain in the western part of Galilee but to a town in Judah which lay about seven miles south of Hebron. (Key Word, page 393)*

13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

*He is not being truthful to Samuel.*

14 And Samuel said, What *meaneth* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

**15**And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

**16**Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

**17**And Samuel said, When thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

**18**And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

*That is why God wanted them destroyed because they committed sins.*

**19**Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

*Saul's act was evil, by disobeying orders.*

**20**And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

*He was told to bring the king of the Amalek back alive.*

**21**But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

*Shifting blame to the people and then trying to justify it that they would sacrifice the animals to the Lord. Not a sacrifice God ordered and not what God said to do.*

**22**And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

**23**For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

*Most likely the Amalekites committed idolatry and witchcraft.*

**24**And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

**25**Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

*Like so many of us, Saul sinned and after realizing tried to repent. But true repentance must come from the heart.*

**26**And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

**27**And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

**28**And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, *that is* better than thou.

*Samuel used a physical sign of renting his clothes, as one does in morning, to bring home the fact that Saul's sin would remove him from power as king.*

**29**And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he *is* not a man, that he should repent.

**30**Then he said, I have sinned: *yet* honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

**31**So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

**32**Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

**33**And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

*Samuel pronounced a punishment on Saul and then did what Saul was told to do and killed the king, Agag.*

**34**Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

**35**And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

## Chapter 16

### *Samuel Anoints David King*

**1**And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

*Jesse (Jes'e) Heb. Yishay, 'ishay (I Chron. 2:13); ety. Uncertain, but cf. Heb. 'ish, man. Son of Obed, family of Perez. He was descended from Nahshon, chief of the tribe of Judah in the day of Moses, and from ruth the Moabitess (Ruth 4:18-22).... (Davis, page 301)*

**2**And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear *it*, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

**3**And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee.

*God is not telling Samuel to lie, since he will make a sacrifice, but giving him a stealth move to complete the task assigned. Using the sacrifice to get the one's required to the spot for anointing.*

**4**And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

**5**And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

**6**And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before him.

**7**But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

*It's what the person is on the inside, not looks. So many people make political decisions based on looks today and not the substance of a person's character.*

**8**Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

**9**Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

**10**Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

**11**And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

**12**And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.

*Ruddy 132 admoi, ad-mo-nee, or (fully) admowniy, ad-mo-nee; from 119; reddish (of the hair or the complexion): -red, ruddy.*

**13**Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

*The Jews recognized that the Messiah, the Christ, would come from David's descendants (John 7:42). One of the key titles given to Jesus during His earthly ministry was "Son of David" (Matt. 9:27, 12:23, 15:22), emphasizing His heirship of all of David's royal prerogatives, as well as His fulfillment of the messianic promises to David (2 Sam. 7:8-17, cf. Matt. 22:41-45; Luke 1:32,69). (Key Word, page 395)*

**14**But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

*In Hebrew is Evil or terrified spirit.*

**15**And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

**16**Let our lord now command thy servants, *which are* before thee, to seek out a man, *who is* a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

*This was a way to get David to be with Saul, because David played the harp.*

**17**And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring *him* to me.

**18**Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *that is* cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD *is* with him.

*It is interesting that David is called here a “mighty valiant man, and a man of war” when he had not yet had a chance to prove himself in battle. It seems likely that David had exhibited these qualities in his experiences as a shepherd and they were equated with valor in war situations. (Key Word, page 395)*

**19**Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which *is* with the sheep.

**20**And Jesse took an ass *laden* with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent *them* by David his son unto Saul.

*He gave him gifts, maybe to help protect David from Saul’s anger.*

**21**And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer.

*This is an important position because he would be close to Saul in battle and fight with him and learn the ways of being a king.*

**22**And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.

*The gifts must have worked.*

**23**And it came to pass, when the *evil* spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

*This indicates that God sent the evil spirit, much as He did to the Pharo of Egypt. Exodus 9:12 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.*



## Chapter 17

### *David and Goliath*

**1**Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which *belongeth* to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.

**2**And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

**3**And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and *there was* a valley between them.

**4**And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span.

*Goliath.... probably one of the Anakim. (Davis, page 208)*

*Anakim... A stalwart race, connected with the Raphaim (Num. 13:33) (Davis, page 27*

*Numbers 13: 33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

*Genesis 6:*

*1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,*

*2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

*3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

*4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*

*5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

*Goliath was most likely a descendant or child of the fallen angels that came to earth in the second influx after Noah.*

**5**And *he had* an helmet of brass upon his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of brass.

**6**And *he had* greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

**7**And the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

**8**And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

*He offered a challenge to fight one of the which Saul's armies chooses. Kind of a winner take all combat.*

**9**If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

**10**And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

**11**When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

*Something like when Israel went to the land and they were afraid of the giants in Numbers 13.*

**12**Now David *was* the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name *was* Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men *for* an old man in the days of Saul.

**13**And the three eldest sons of Jesse went *and* followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle *were* Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

**14**And David *was* the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.

**15**But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

*Later Bethlehem is where Christ would be born. So David and Christ came from Bethlehem.*

**16**And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

**17**And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched *corn*, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;

**18**And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of *their* thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

**19**Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, *were* in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

**20**And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

**21**For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.

**22**And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

**23**And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard *them*.

*David was not there the first time, but Goliath came out again and challenged them, maybe because they had not responded to his first challenge.*

**24**And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

**25**And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

**26**And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

*David was putting his trust in God to do the fighting that Israel would win, through one of Israel's warriors.*

**27**And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

**28**And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

*He may have perceived that David was mocking them for not fighting and became angry.*

**29**And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?

**30**And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

**31**And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed *them* before Saul: and he sent for him.

**32**And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

**33**And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art* but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

**34**And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

*David relates an experience he had in fighting a lion to show he can do battle.*

**35**And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

**36**Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

**37**David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

*David said God is with him, how can he lose?*

**38**And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

**39**And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved *it*. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And David put them off him.

*As with any warrior, one must know his equipment and train with it to be proficient.*

**40**And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

*Five in Biblical Numeric is Grace or God's Goodness (Vallowe, page 66).*

**41**And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield *went* before him.

*Goliath's armor bearer went before him.*

**42**And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

**43**And the Philistine said unto David, *Am I* a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

*The gods of the Philistines have no power against the God of Israel.*

**44**And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

**45**Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

*Here David is proclaiming the God of Israel and that he comes in the name of God. In the last days of this age we will be delivered up, Mark 13:9, and need to remember David's words to strengthen us and then allow God to speak through us.*

**46**This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

*Davis was making a prophecy.*

**47**And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

**48**And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

**49**And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang *it*, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

**50**So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but *there was* no sword in the hand of David.

**51**Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

*Goliath may have just been unconscious and so David made sure he was dead.*

**52**And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

**53**And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents.

**54**And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

*It is of interest that Saul seemingly did not recognize David here. No one knows for what length of time or how frequently David played his musical instruments for King Saul. The incident with Goliath probably happened several years after David's service in the king's court. (Key Word, page 398)*

**55**And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son *is* this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.

**56**And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling *is*.

**57**And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

**58**And Saul said to him, Whose son *art* thou, *thou* young man? And David answered, I *am* the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

## Chapter 18

### *David and Jonathan become friends*

**1**And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

**2**And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

**3**Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

**4**And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that *was* upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

*He gave David his robe, title, to share it with David making them as equals. This friendship will become important in the survival of David. The enemy tries to destroy the seed line of Christ.*

*Matthew 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

**5**And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, *and* behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

***Saul becomes jealous of David***

**6**And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

**7**And the women answered *one another* as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

*This won't go well with Saul because it makes David out to be more powerful than Saul.*

**8**And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?

**9**And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

*He kept an eye on David and what he was doing most likely because as many kings, he feared someone would take his throne and power away.*

**10**And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and *there was* a javelin in Saul's hand.

*God has a plan for David and Saul, and that is why he put an evil spirit in Saul.*

**11**And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall *with it*. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

**12**And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

**13**Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

**14**And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD *was* with him.

*David was cautious in what he did as to not provoke Saul.*

**15**Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

**16**But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

*David was not separating himself from the people because of his status and went out among them. I wise political move.*

### *David marries Saul's daughter*

**17**And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

**18**And David said unto Saul, Who *am* I? and what *is* my life, *or* my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?

*David is questioning his authority to be the son-in-law to the king, a place usually held by royal families.*

**19**But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

*Saul went back on his word to David in the hand of his daughter.*

**20**And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

**21**And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in *the one of* the twain.

*Snare 4170 mo-kashe'; from 3369; a noose (for catching animals) (literal or figurative); (by implication) a hook (for the nose): -be ensnared, gin, (is) snare (-d), trap.*

*Saul is trying to trap David into being at war with the Philistines.*

**22**And Saul commanded his servants, *saying*, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

*Saul is using others to deceive David into agreeing to be his son-in-law.*

**23**And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you *a light thing* to be a king's son in law, seeing that I *am* a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

*David is still saying he is not worthy to be the king's son-in-law because of his status.*

**24**And the servants of Saul told him, *saying*, On this manner spake David.

**25**And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

*He was setting a price that may cost David his life to fill, thus being rid of David by another's hand and not his.*

**26**And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired.

**27**Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

*Saul's plan did not go as he planned. He will have to come up with another way to get rid of David.*

**28**And Saul saw and knew that the LORD *was* with David, and *that* Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

**29**And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

**30**Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, *that* David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by

## Chapter 19

### *Saul tries to kill David*

**1**And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

*Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.*

**2**But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret *place*, and hide thyself:

*Now we know why the Lord had Jonathan love David so much, it was that here later it would save David's life. God has a plan and makes sure it is completed.*

**3**And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou *art*, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

**4**And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works *have been* to thee-ward very good:

*He is telling the king to not harm David because he has only done good works for the king.*

**5**For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest *it*, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

**6**And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.



**7**And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

**8**And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

**9**And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with *his* hand.

**10**And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

**11**Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

*She warned David of what her father wanted to do to him.*

**12**So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

**13**And Michal took an image, and laid *it* in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' *hair* for his bolster, and covered *it* with a cloth.

**14**And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He *is* sick.

**15**And Saul sent the messengers *again* to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.

*This goes against the vow he made earlier to God, not to slay David. This would be a sin to break a vow to God.*

**16**And when the messengers were come in, behold, *there was* an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' *hair* for his bolster.

**17**And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

*She is telling her father, the king, that if she didn't let David go, that David would kill her. Not exactly true but she is trying to save herself from her father anger.*

**18**So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth.

**19**And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David *is* at Naioth in Ramah.

**20**And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing *as* appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

*Prophesied 5012 naw-baw'; a primitive root; to prophesy, i.e. speak (or sing) by inspiration (in prediction or simply discourse): -prophesy (-ing), make self a prophet.*

**21**And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

*God is obviously intervening.*

**22**Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that *is* in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where *are* Samuel and David? And *one* said, Behold, *they be* at Naioth in Ramah.

**23**And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

**24**And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, *Is* Saul also among the prophets?

## Chapter 20

### *Johnathan Helps David Escape*

**1**And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what *is* mine iniquity? and what *is* my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

**2**And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? *it is not so.*

**3**And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly *as* the LORD liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, *there is* but a step between me and death.

**4**Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do *it* for thee.

**5**And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow *is* the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third *day* at even.

*David is developing a plan to see if Saul will kill him at the meeting that was set to happen.*

**6**If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked *leave* of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city: for *there is* a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.

**7**If he say thus, *It is* well; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be very wroth, *then* be sure that evil is determined by him.

*He is asking him to say this to his father and if he gets mad that David is not there, then he wishes evil on David, if not then he wishes good to David.*

**8**Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father?

**9**And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?

**10**Then said David to Jonathan, Who shall tell me? or what *if* thy father answer thee roughly?

**11**And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

**12**And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time, *or* the third *day*, and, behold, *if there be* good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee;

*They are basically putting it in the Lord's hand to let them know.*

**13**The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father *to do* thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

**14**And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:

**15**But *also* thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

**16**So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, Let the LORD even require *it* at the hand of David's enemies.

**17**And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

**18**Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow *is* the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

**19**And *when* thou hast stayed three days, *then* thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was *in hand*, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel.

**20**And I will shoot three arrows on the side *thereof*, as though I shot at a mark.

**21**And, behold, I will send a lad, *saying*, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows *are* on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for *there is* peace to thee, and no hurt; *as* the LORD liveth.

**22**But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows *are* beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.

*He is going to give David a sign as he hides that it be safe, or that he needs to flee.*

**23**And *as touching* the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD *be* between thee and me for ever.

**24**So David hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.

**25**And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, *even* upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.

**26**Nevertheless Saul spake not any thing that day: for he thought, Something hath befallen him, he *is* not clean; surely he *is* not clean.

**27**And it came to pass on the morrow, *which was* the second *day* of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?

**28**And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked *leave* of me *to go* to Bethlehem:

**29**And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me *to be there*: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.

**30**Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious *woman*, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?

*Saul suspects Jonathan because he is a close friend of David. Note he did not say the name David but son of Jesse thus also showing anger towards David .*

**31**For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

**32**And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?

**33**And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.

*Saul's anger at David is so great he would kill his own son.*

**34**So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

**35**And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.

**36**And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. *And* as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

**37**And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, *Is* not the arrow beyond thee?

*This was the planned warning to David. Jonathan kept his word.*

**38**And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.

**39**But the lad knew not any thing: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

**40**And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry *them* to the city.

**41***And* as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of *a place* toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

**42**And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

*Keeping vows to God is important.*

## Chapter 21

### *David Gets Help From Ahimelech*

**1**Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why *art* thou alone, and no man with thee?

**2**And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed *my* servants to such and such a place.

**3**Now therefore what is under thine hand? give *me* five *loaves of* bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

**4**And the priest answered David, and said, *There is* no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.

**5**And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women *have been* kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and *the bread is* in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

**6**So the priest gave him hallowed *bread*: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

*According to the Levitical law, the hallowed bread was only to be eaten by the priests who lived in the sanctuary (Lev. 24:9). However, there is a higher law than the Levitical ordinance. It is the law of love for one's neighbor (Lev. 19:18). In the New Testament, Jesus summarized the ten commandments in what He called the two greatest commandments: to love God with one's entire being and to love one's neighbor as oneself (Matt. 22:37-40). (Key Word, page 403) Note also the one is a statute and the other a law. Laws take precedence over statutes.*

**7**Now a certain man of the servants of Saul *was* there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name *was* Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that *belonged* to Saul.

*He works for the king, Saul.*

*Doeg 1678 corresp. To 1677: - bear.*

**8**And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

**9**And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it *is here* wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take *it*: for *there is* no other save that here. And David said, *There is* none like that; give it me.

*David knows he needs a weapon to protect himself. Ironically the only one was that which he took from Goliath when he slew him.*

### ***David Acts Insane***

**10**And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

**11**And the servants of Achish said unto him, *Is* not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

**12**And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

**13**And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

*He was acting mad, crazy, so they would think he was and that is why he was fleeing. He did not rust them after they mentioned he was king, rival king.*

**14**Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore *then* have ye brought him to me?

**15**Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this *fellow* to play the mad man in my presence? shall this *fellow* come into my house?

## Chapter 22

### *David Raises a Small Army*

**1**David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down thither to him.

*Abdullam a town in the Shephelah, in the territory of Judah, mentioned between Jarmuth and Socoh (Josh. 15:35). (Davis, page 12)*

**2**And every one *that was* in distress, and every one that *was* in debt, and every one *that was* discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

*Note these are all persons who have issues to deal with.*

**3**And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, *and be* with you, till I know what God will do for me.

**4**And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

**5**And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth.

*David knew Gad was a true prophet and obeyed what God tells him to do.*

### *Saul Kills the Priest Who Helped David*

**6**When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that *were* with him, (now Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants *were* standing about him;)

*Or. Grove in a high place.*

**7**Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, *and* make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;

*Saul is not being forthcoming to the people by saying David would make promises to them of land and vineyards, or a payment for service.*

**8**That all of you have conspired against me, and *there is* none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and *there is* none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

*Saul has become very paranoid of David and now is of his servants. Like in instances today, leaders will show hate towards those not deserving it, but because they perceive a threat to their power.*

**9**Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

**10**And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

*There are always those who will say things for power or recognition.*

**11**Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that *were* in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

**12**And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I *am*, my lord.

**13**And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

*David is not raising an army to raise against Saul, and the prophet never told him to lie in wait for Saul, which is to murder with intent.*

**14**Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who *is so* faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

**15**Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute *any* thing unto his servant, *nor* to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

*The prophets weren't aware of what was taking place the king and David.*

**16**And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house.

**17**And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

*Not being told by God to kill the priest would be a sin.*

**18**And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.

*There are always those looking for power that will do anything for it. Consider some in government today, or business.*

**19**And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

**20**And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.

**21**And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.

**22**And David said unto Abiathar, I knew *it* that day, when Doeg the Edomite *was* there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned *the death* of all the persons of thy father's house.

*David is putting some of the fault on himself, knowing that Doeg was a spy for Saul.*

**23**Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.

*God may surely punish Saul for this act of murder.*

## **Chapter 23**

### ***David Rescues Keilah***

**1**Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.

**2**Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

*David does what he should do and consult with the Lord before rushing off to war.*

**3**And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?

**4**Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

*Once again when in doubt, consult with the Lord.*

**5**So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.



## *Saul Pursues David*

**6**And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, *that* he came down *with* an ephod in his hand.

*Ephod 646 ay-fode'; rarely ay-fode'; prob of for.der.; a girdle; spec. the ephod or high-priest's shoulder piece; also gen. An image: -ephod.*

**7**And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

*God told David to go, we see here Saul not inquiring of the Lord, but rather just using his name to get what he wants. Not good.*

**8**And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.

**9**And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.

**10**Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake.

*David again does what a leader should do, go to the Lord with the problem.*

**11**Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.

**12**Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver *thee* up.

**13**Then David and his men, *which were* about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbare to go forth.

*We are not told that the Lord told David to take this action, but, if it the Lord approves of it, then it will be for David and his armies good.*

**14**And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

*Mark 1:*

*11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

*12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.*

*13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.*

*Strongholds is an excellent military maneuver.*

**15**And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David *was* in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.

**16**And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

*Possibly the Lord spoke to Jonathan, as before, to help David and his men.*

**17**And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

**18**And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

**19**Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which *is* on the south of Jeshimon?

**20**Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part *shall be* to deliver him into the king's hand.

**21**And Saul said, Blessed *be ye* of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me.

**22**Go, I pray you, prepare yet, and know and see his place where his haunt is, *and* who hath seen him there: for it is told me *that* he dealeth very subtilly.

*David is a good military person and Saul knows David's ability in guerilla type warfare, so he wants them to scout out David's position before a battle occurs giving Saul an advantage..*

**23**See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.

**24**And they arose, and went to Ziph before Saul: but David and his men *were* in the wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon.

*David had relocated to a different stronghold.*

**25**Saul also and his men went to seek *him*. And they told David: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard *that*, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.

**26**And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them.

*David did not want to go to war against the king of Israel.*

**27**But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.

*Sometimes God will use other enemies to distract from their plans. Here God raised up the Philistines to attack, possibly knowing the king was chasing after David and not protecting his kingdom.*

**28**Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth.

**29**And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at Engedi.

## Chapter 24

### *David Spares Saul in a Cave*

**1**And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David *is* in the wilderness of Engedi.

**2**Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

**3**And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where *was* a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.

*Sheepcotes 1448, 6629; 1448 gel-ay-raw'; feminine of 1447; inclosure (especially for flocks): - [sheep-] cote (fold) hedge, wall. 6629 tseh-one'; from an unused root meaning to be slender; the lotus tree: -shady tree.*

**4**And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

*Privily 3909 lawt; a form of 3814 or else participle fro 3874; (properly) covered, i.e. secret: 9by implication) incantation; also secrecy or (adverbial) covertly: -enchantment, privily, secretly, softly.*

**5**And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

*His conscious bothered him for the act because he felt it was wrong to do it.*

**6**And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he *is* the anointed of the LORD.

**7**So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on *his* way.

**8**David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

**9**And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

**10**Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and *some* bade *me* kill thee: but *mine eye* spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he *is* the LORD'S anointed.

**11**Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that *there is* neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

**12**The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

**13**As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

*Judges 11:27 Wherefore I have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong to war against me: the LORD the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.*

**14**After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea.

**15**The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

**16**And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, *Is* this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

**17**And he said to David, Thou *art* more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

**18**And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

**19**For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.

**20**And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.

*Saul finally admits that David will be the next king, and changed his heart from hate to good.*

**21**Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house.

**22**And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold.

*David is staying in the stronghold, possibly because Saul has changed his heart in the past from liking David to wanting to kill him.*

## Chapter 25

### *Samuel's Death*

**1**And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

### ***David and Abigail***

**2**And *there was* a man in Maon, whose possessions *were* in Carmel; and the man *was* very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

**3**Now the name of the man *was* Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and *she was* a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man *was* churlish and evil in his doings; and he *was* of the house of Caleb.

*Caleb, 1.Son of Hezron and brother of Jerahmeel (1 Chron. 2:18, 42). (Davis, page 84)*

**4**And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.

**5**And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name:

**6**And thus shall ye say to him that liveth *in prosperity*, Peace *be* both to thee, and peace *be* to thine house, and peace *be* unto all that thou hast.

**7**And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

**8**Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

*This is somewhat of an unusual greeting and request.*

**9**And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased.

**10**And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who *is* David? and who *is* the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master.

**11**Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* unto men, whom I know not whence they *be*?

*He claims he does not know of David. This could be a truth or just a way to not share with others or give tribute to a royal family member.*

**12**So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings.

**13**And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

*They are preparing for battle and some remain to guard the encampment.*

**14**But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

**15**But the men *were* very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields:

*David's men acted respectfully and did nothing wrong unto them.*

**16**They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

**17**Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he *is such* a son of Belial, that *a man* cannot speak to him.

*Belial 1100 bel-e-yah' -al; from 1097 and 3276, without profit, worthlessness; (by extension) destruction, wickedness (often in connection with 376, 802, 1121, etc.): -beial, evil, naughty, ungodly (men), wicked.*

**18**Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched *corn*, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid *them* on asses.

*They could have well offered this to begin with and not had to go through this pending attack. She is wiser than her husband, who appears greedy.*

**19**And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal.

**20**And it was *so, as* she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them.

**21**Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this *fellow* hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that *pertained* unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.

*Relates to Psalm 109:5 which David may have written.*

**22**So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that *pertain* to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

*These are the males who show no respect for others.*

**23**And when Abigail saw David, she hastened, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,

*She humbled herself before David and showed respect to the king.*

**24**And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, *upon me let this iniquity be*: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

**25**Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, *even* Nabal: for as his name *is*, so *is* he; Nabal *is* his name, and folly *is* with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

*She is saying Nabal is as his name but if she had seen the young men David sent, than she would have treated them differently.*

**26**Now therefore, my lord, *as* the LORD liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

**27**And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

**28**I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee *all* thy days.

*She is acknowledging that they are aware of David's victories and that he fights for the Lord, thus deserving the honor she is offering, which should have been offered by her husband..*

**29**Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, *as out* of the middle of a sling.

*Jeremiah 10:18 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants of the land at this once, and will distress them, that they may find it so.*

**30**And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel;

*She knows David is to be king over all Israel and thus the treatment she offered to him.*

**31**That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

**32**And David said to Abigail, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me:

*David is saying that God moved her to come and make this offer to him.*

**33**And blessed *be* thy advice, and blessed *be* thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.

**34**For in very deed, *as* the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

**35**So David received of her hand *that* which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

**36**And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart *was* merry within him, for he *was* very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

Nabal partied like a king, because of his wealth, all night and got very drunk.

**37**But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became *as* a stone.

*He realized his sin against God and his anointed David and will pay the price.*

**38**And it came to pass about ten days *after*, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

**39**And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.

*David is thankful that he did not go and destroy Nabal, which he viewed as a sin because he was doing so in anger and not by God's direction.*

**40**And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife.

**41**And she arose, and bowed herself on *her* face to the earth, and said, Behold, *let* thine handmaid *be* a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

*Luke 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,*

*38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.*

**42**And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife.

**43**David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives.

**44**But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which *was* of Gallim.

*Saul's second daughter, Michal, had been given in marriage to David for slaying Goliath. However, Saul, while pursuing David, decided to give her to another man. Later, David demanded her back (2 Sam. 3:14), but she no longer loved him (2 Sam. 6:16) Shortly thereafter, Michal died childless (2 Sam. 6:23). (Key Word, page 410)*



## Chapter 26

### *David Spares Saul Again*

**1** And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, *which is before Jeshimon?*

*Ziphites natives or inhabitants of Ziph. Ziph a town in the extreme south of Judah. A town in the hill country of Judah near a wilderness and a forest. (Davis, page 657)*

**2**Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

*Saul goes against what he said at the end Chapter 24 about David. Goes after him again.*

**3**And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, *which is before Jeshimon*, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

**4**David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed.

*This is a military move to gather intelligence on the enemy.*

**5**And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.

*Saul was in the middle of the encampment, a safe place to be this time, so David cannot reach him again.*

**6**Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.

**7**So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

*They used stealth tactics to get into the camp.*

**8**Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not *smite* him the second time.

*Abishai said he can kill Saul with one blow of the spear.*

**9**And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

*Again David respects God and the fact that God chose Saul to be king.*

**10**David said furthermore, *As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.*

*David is saying that the Lord will take Saul's life when and how He decides.*

**11**The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that *is* at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

*As before, they take something to prove they were close enough to the king to slay him.*

**12**So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw *it*, nor knew *it*, neither awaked: for they *were* all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

**13**Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space *being* between them:

**14**And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who *art* thou *that* criest to the king?

**15**And David said to Abner, *Art* not thou a *valiant* man? and who *is* like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.

**16**This thing *is* not good that thou hast done. *As the LORD liveth, ye are* worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear *is*, and the cruse of water that *was* at his bolster.

*David is accusing him of not doing a good job protecting the king.*

**17**And Saul knew David's voice, and said, *Is* this thy voice, my son David? And David said, *It is* my voice, my lord, O king.

**18**And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil *is* in mine hand?

**19**Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if *they be* the children of men, cursed *be* they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.

*David is referring to the land that God gave to Israel to be theirs.*

**20**Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

**21**Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

**22**And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

**23**The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into *my* hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

**24**And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

*David is saying that he could have slain Saul but didn't, so he is asking Saul to spare him the battle.*

**25**Then Saul said to David, Blessed *be* thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great *things*, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

## Chapter 27

### *David Returns to Gath*

**1**And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

*David is thinking this, not asking God for advice.*

**2**And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that *were* with him unto Achish, the son of Maach, king of Gath.

*600 is the number connected to warfare. (Vallowe, page 222)*

**3**And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, *even* David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.

**4**And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him.

**5**And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?

**6**Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day.

**7**And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months.

**8**And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those *nations were* of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt.

*David and his army became raiders, going in and destroying everything and taking the belongings, goods, of the land they invaded. Not commanded by God to do this, thus David has become a man of war.*

**9**And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish.

**10**And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites.

**11**And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.

**12**And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.

## Chapter 28

**1**And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said unto David, Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me to battle, thou and thy men.

**2**And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.

### *Saul and the Medium at Endor*

**3**Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

*Leviticus 19:31* Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

**4**And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.

**5**And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

**6**And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

*Exodus 28:30* And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

*Numbers 27:21* And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

**7**Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, *there is* a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

*Familiar spirit, the spirit of a dead person which professed mediums claimed to umon to consultation (Deut. 18:11), and which appeared to speak from the earth (Isa. 29:4), or to dwell in the controlling medium (:ev. 20:27, in Heb.). (Davis, page 180)*

*This was not within God's will go seek familiar spirits, they are of evil spirits.*

**8**And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me *him* up, whom I shall name unto thee.

*Deuteronomy 18:*

*10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,*

*11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.*

*12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*

*He should have been seeking God's advice, not someone who he has to disguise himself to see in the dark. God will still know what he is doing.*

**9**And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

*She thinks this may be a trap since Saul ran out all the wizards and those with familiar spirits. Saul is being a hypocrite.*

**10**And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

**11**Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

**12**And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou *art* Saul.

**13**And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.

*Note: This is a small god, not the God, so are spirits and possibly fallen angels.*

**14**And he said unto her, What form *is* he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he *is* covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it *was* Samuel, and he stooped with *his* face to the ground, and bowed himself.

**15**And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

**16**Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?

**17**And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, *even* to David:

**18**Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day.

**19**Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow *shalt* thou and thy sons *be* with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

**20**Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.

**21**And the woman came unto Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thine handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me.

**22**Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and eat, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way.

**23**But he refused, and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he hearkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed.

**24**And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded *it*, and did bake unleavened bread thereof:

**25**And she brought *it* before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

## Chapter 29

### *The Philistines Question David's Loyalty*

**1**Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which *is* in Jezreel.

**2**And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands: but David and his men passed on in the rereward with Achish.

**3**Then said the princes of the Philistines, What *do* these Hebrews *here*? And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines, *Is* not this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell *unto me* unto this day?

**4**And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? *should it* not *be* with the heads of these men?

5Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

*Reference to 1 Samuel 19:7 and 21:11*

6Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, *as* the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host *is* good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not.

7Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines.

8And David said unto Achish, But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

9And Achish answered and said to David, I know that thou *art* good in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle.

10Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee: and as soon as ye be up early in the morning, and have light, depart.

11So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

*It was most likely good that David did not go to war with them against Israel, his kingdom. God may not have approved and David never conferred with God for approval.*

## Chapter 30

### *David Defeats the Amalekites*

1And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

*While the Philistines are busy with Israel, the enemy takes advantage and attacks. This is a plan still used today, as with China which stated when the U.S. is on two fronts we will attack.*

2And had taken the women captives, that *were* therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried *them* away, and went on their way.

3So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, *it was* burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

4Then David and the people that *were* with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

5And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

6And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

7And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

*As what Saul did, but the Lord did not answer him, as in chapter 28.*

8And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.

9So David went, he and the six hundred men that *were* with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

10But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

*Better to have those who are able to fight, then to take some that may hold up the others.*

11And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;

12And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk *any* water, three days and three nights.

13And David said unto him, To whom *belongest* thou? and whence *art* thou? And he said, I *am* a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.

14We made an invasion *upon* the south of the Cherethites, and upon *the* coast which *belongeth* to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

15And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company.

16And when he had brought him down, behold, *they were* spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.

17And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

*Mounted men can move faster than those on foot.*

18And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

19And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any *thing* that they had taken to them: David recovered all.

20And David took all the flocks and the herds, *which* they drave before those *other* cattle, and said, This *is* David's spoil.

21And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that *were* with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.



**22**Then answered all the wicked men and *men* of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them *ought* of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead *them* away, and depart.

**23**Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand.

*God gave them the victory so they should share with all the men.*

**24**For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part *is* that goeth down to the battle, so *shall* his part *be* that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.

**25**And it was *so* from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

**26**And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, *even* to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD;

**27**To *them* which *were* in Bethel, and to *them* which *were* in south Ramoth, and to *them* which *were* in Jattir,

**28**And to *them* which *were* in Aroer, and to *them* which *were* in Siphmoth, and to *them* which *were* in Eshtemoa,

**29**And to *them* which *were* in Rachal, and to *them* which *were* in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to *them* which *were* in the cities of the Kenites,

**30**And to *them* which *were* in Hormah, and to *them* which *were* in Chorashan, and to *them* which *were* in Athach,

**31**And to *them* which *were* in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt.

## Chapter 31

### *Saul's Death*

**1**Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.

*This is the battle mentioned in chapter 29, where David wanted to go with them, but they refused and so David ended up going after the Amalekites mentioned in Chapter 30:1.*

**2**And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

**3**And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

**4**Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

*Saul committed suicide.*

**5**And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

**6**So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

*This will open the way for David to become king of Israel.*

**7**And when the men of Israel that *were* on the other side of the valley, and *they* that *were* on the other side Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

**8**And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.

**9**And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish *it in* the house of their idols, and among the people.

**10**And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.

*They wanted to humiliate Saul, even after his death.*

**11**And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;

**12**All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

**13**And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

## Second Samuel

*The book of 2 Samuel was originally combined with 1 Samuel, making up one book. It remained one book in the Hebrew text until the printing of the Hebrew Bible in A.D. 1517 at which time it was separated from 1 Samuel. The Septuagint and other translations of the Old Testament that followed divided the books of Samuel and kings into First Kings through Fourth Kings. God's reason for choosing David is clear from the statement, "the LORD hath sought him a man after his [Gods'] own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14). The psalms that David wrote reveal his passionate devotion to God. Despite this strong commitment, he was guilty of several great sins, the consequences of which affected him personally, but also the members of his family and the whole nation (2 Sam. 24:13-15).*

*The book of 2 Samuel focuses on the reign of King David. Some commentators outline the book according to the political situation, dividing it into his rule over Judah (2 Sam. 1:1 – 4:12) and over all Israel (2 Sam. 5:1 – 12:31). Others divide the book by spiritual content, making note of the two particular sections: David's triumphs (2 Sam. 1:1 – 12:31) and David's troubles (2 Sam. 13:1-24:25).*

*The prophetic blessing that God gave David includes the promise that his kingdom would be established forever (chap. 7). This blessing, called the Davidic Covenant, is an expansion of God's promises to Abraham (Gen. 12:7; 15:18; 22:17). The promise of an all-powerful king that would reign on the throne of David is repeated many times throughout Scripture (Is. 55:3;*

*Jer. 23:5; 30:9; 33:15-26; Ezek. 34:23, 24; 37:24, 25; Acts 15:16). The kingship of David was enhanced that Nathan and Gad also wrote portions of this book (1 Chr. 29:29). (Key Word, page 417)*

## Chapter 1

### *David Learns of Saul's Death*

***1-10 The story the Amalekite told was different from the actual account in 1 Samuel 31:3-5. Apparently, this man discovered Saul's dead body and looted it. Some time later he told his own version to David, hoping that he would be rewarded for his "good news" (See 2 Sam. 4:10). (Key Word, page 417)***

**1** Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag;

**2** It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and *so* it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.

**3** And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.

**4** And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

*Recall that Jonathan was David's friend and had helped in in first Samuel.*

**5** And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?

**6** And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

**7** And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here *am* I.

**8** And he said unto me, Who *art* thou? And I answered him, I *am* an Amalekite.

**9** He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life *is* yet whole in me.

**10** So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that *was* upon his head, and the bracelet that *was* on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.

**11** Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that *were* with him:

**12** And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

**13** And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence *art* thou? And he answered, I *am* the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.

**14** And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?

**15**And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, *and* fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.

**16**And David said unto him, Thy blood *be* upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.

### ***David's Lament***

**17**And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

**18**(Also he bade them teach the children of Judah *the use of* the bow: behold, *it is* written in the book of Jasher.)

*A reference to the book of Jasher is also found in Joshua 10:13. It is apparently a historical book of military poetry, a collection of songs about heroes. It had more material added to it as the years went by, but it is now lost. Jasher is probably a name used to refer to Israel. It is seen in Deuteronomy 32:15 under the form "Jeshurun" which means "the righteous or upright one." The book printed under this name in modern times is spurious. (Key Word, page 418)*

**19**The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

**20**Tell *it* not in Gath, publish *it* not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

**21**Ye mountains of Gilboa, *let there be* no dew, neither *let there be* rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, *as though he had not been* anointed with oil.

**22**From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

**23**Saul and Jonathan *were* lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

**24**Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with *other* delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

**25**How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, *thou wast* slain in thine high places.

**26**I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

*David and Johathan truly loved each other, and their relationship was on of loyalty to one another, Jonathan, the heir apparent to the throne of King Saul, ws willing to take second place for the sake of David, his friend. (Key Word, page 418)*

**27**How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

## **Chapter 2**

### ***David Becomes Judah's King***

**1** And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

**2** So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

**3** And his men that *were* with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

**4** And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, *That* the men of Jabeshgilead *were they* that buried Saul.

**5** And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabeshgilead, and said unto them, Blessed *be* ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, *even* unto Saul, and have buried him.

**6** And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

**7** Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

**8** But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;

**9** And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

**10** Ishbosheth Saul's son *was* forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.

**11** And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

*Abner was a close relative of Saul (1 Sam. 14:50) and wanted to gain as much control as possible after the death of Saul and Jonathan. This is why he set up Ish-bosheth as king of all the tribes except Judah, which was loyal to David. Up to this time David had been accepted as king only by his own tribe, Judah (v. 10). Hebron was the capital city for the first seven and on-half years of David's reign. Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, was his rival for two years, reigning over all the other tribes of Israel (vv. 8-10). He depended upon Abner, who had been Saul's commander-in-chief. It was only after the death of Abner, who incidentally had already defected to David's side, that Israel's confidence in Ish-bosheth began to diminish (2 Sam. 3:1). After the death of Ish-bosheth, David was crowned king over all Israel and reigned thirty-three and one-half years (2 Sam. 5:1-5). He was king for a total of forty years. (Key Word, page 419)*

### ***War Between Israel and Judah***

**12** And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

**13** And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and met together by the pool of Gibeon: and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.

*Joab was the nephew of David, Zeruiah was David's half-sister (1 Chr. 2:16), probably through the marriage of his mother to Nahash (2 Sam. 17:25). This was before David's mother married Jesse, David's father. (Key Word, page 419)*

**14**And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise.

*This is similar to the offer made by Goliath (1 Sam. 17:8, 9). It was hoped that a single contest between champions would avoid much bloodshed. (Key Word, page 419)*

**15**Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which *pertained* to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

*Twelve is governmental perfection in Biblical Mathematics. This number symbolizes God's perfect, divine accomplishment actively manifested. (Vallowe, page 98)*

**16**And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and *thrust* his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called Helkathhazzurim, which *is* in Gibeon.

*Helkath-hazzurim 2521 smoothness of the rocks.*

**17**And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.

**18**And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel *was* as light of foot as a wild roe.

**19**And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner.

**20**Then Abner looked behind him, and said, *Art* thou Asahel? And he answered, *I am*.

**21**And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armour. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him.

*He is trying to get him to stop following him by offering one of the others armor as a gift, so to speak.*

**22**And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?

**23**Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth *rib*, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place: and it came to pass, *that* as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.

**24**Joab also and Abishai pursued after Abner: and the sun went down when they were come to the hill of Ammah, that *lieth* before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon.

**25**And the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner, and became one troop, and stood on the top of an hill.

*The high ground is usually a military advantage.*

**26**Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?

**27**And Joab said, *As God liveth*, unless thou hadst spoken, surely then in the morning the people had gone up every one from following his brother.

**28**So Joab blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more.

**29**And Abner and his men walked all that night through the plain, and passed over Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and they came to Mahanaim.

**30**And Joab returned from following Abner: and when he had gathered all the people together, there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel.

**31**But the servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, *so that* three hundred and threescore men died.

**32**And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the sepulchre of his father, which *was in* Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at break of day.

### Chapter 3

**1**Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

#### *David's Son born at Hebron*

**2**And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;

**3**And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

**4**And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

**5**And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

*See 1 Chronicles 3:1-9 for an additional list of David's children. (Key Word, page 420)*

#### *Abner Decides to Join David*

**6**And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul.

**7**And Saul had a concubine, whose name *was* Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and *Ishbosheth* said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?

*A concubine was much more than a mistress. In a sense, she was a secondary "wife" (Ex. 21:8-10; Deut. 21:11-13). She was a member of the royal household, took her position by an official ceremony of appointment, and had the rights of a married woman. Unlike a true wife,*

*concubines were usually acquired by purchase or were captives taken in war. She could be "divorced" summarily and then released, but never to be a slave (Gen. 16:2, 3; 21:10; Ex. 21:7, 8; Deut. 21:10-14; Mal. 2:14-16).*

*Abner was a powerful, ambitious man, and he knew that possessing one of the court women was equivalent to royal power. (Key Word, page 421)*

**8**Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ishbosheth, and said, *Am* I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman?

**9**So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;

**10**To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba.

**11**And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him.

**12**And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose *is* the land? saying *also*, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand *shall be* with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee.

**13**And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.

**14**And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver *me* my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

**15**And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from *her* husband, *even* from Phaltiel the son of Laish.

**16**And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.

**17**And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying, Ye sought for David in times past *to be* king over you:

**18**Now then do *it*: for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.

**19**And Abner also spake in the ears of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin.

**20**So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that *were* with him a feast.

### ***Joab Kills Abner***

**21**And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

**22**And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from *pursuing* a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner *was* not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace.



**23**When Joab and all the host that *was* with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace.

**24**Then Joab came to the king, and said, What hast thou done? behold, Abner came unto thee; why *is it that* thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone?

**25**Thou knowest Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest.

**26**And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah: but David knew *it* not.

**27**And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth *rib*, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

**28**And afterward when David heard *it*, he said, I and my kingdom *are* guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner:

**29**Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread.

**30**So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

**31**And David said to Joab, and to all the people that *were* with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David *himself* followed the bier.

**32**And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept.

**33**And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth?

**34**Thy hands *were* not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, *so* fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him.

**35**And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.

**36**And all the people took notice *of it*, and it pleased them: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people.

**37**For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.

**38**And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?

**39**And I *am* this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah *be* too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

## Chapter 4

### *Ish-bosheth Is Assassinated*

**1**And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.

**2**And Saul's son had two men *that were* captains of bands: the name of the one *was* Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin: (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin:

**3**And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)

**4**And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *that was* lame of *his* feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name *was* Mephibosheth.

**5**And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon.

**6**And they came thither into the midst of the house, *as though* they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth *rib*: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

**7**For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

**8**And they brought the head of Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.

**9**And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, *As the LORD liveth*, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity,

**10**When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who *thought* that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:

*This is a second time someone has killed another hoping to get favor with David. Same result comes to them.*

**11**How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?

**12**And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged *them* up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried *it* in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron.

*2 Sam. 3:32 And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept.*

## Chapter 5

### ***David Becomes Israel's King***

**1**Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh.

*They are saying they are relatives.*

**2**Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

**3**So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.

*League 1285 ber-eeth'; from 1262 (in the sense of cutting [like 1254]); a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh): -confederacy, [con-]feder [-ate], covenant, league.*

**4**David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

*Forty in Biblical mathematics is trials, probation, and testing. (Vallowe, page 173)*

**5**In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

### ***David Captures Zion***

**6**And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither.

**7**Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.

**8**And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

*The word "gutter" refers to a concealed passageway which was cut down through the rock under the city. (Key Word, page 424)*

**9**So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.

**10**And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

*David's first undertaking, after being crowned king of all Israel, was to conquer the city of Jerusalem. The fortress of Zion (5:6b-7) was almost invulnerable, located as it was in the mountains of Judah. It was a strategic military site, centrally located between Judah in the south and the rest of Israel in the north. It also dominated the main trade routes in the area. Salem was an early name for the city. Members of the nation of Israel had been living in the area, but the central fortress remained in the hands of a group of Amorite people called "Jebusites." After David captured the fortress, he began to rebuild and expand the city, making it the seat of his kingdom. (Key Word, pp. 423-424)*

### ***David Prospers***

**11**And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

**12**And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

**13**And David took *him* more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.

*David's lust of women will have a detrimental effect later in his life.*

**14**And these *be* the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,

**15**Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,

**16**And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

### ***David Defeats the Philistines***

**17**But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard *of it*, and went down to the hold.

**18**The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

*Spreading out your forces is a military tactic.*

**19**And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

*David is wise to consult God before going into battle.*

**20**And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.

**21**And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.

**22**And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

**23**And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; *but* fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

**24**And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

**25**And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

## **Chapter 6**

### ***David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem***

**1**Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen *men* of Israel, thirty thousand.

**2**And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims.

*The ark of the covenant had stayed in the house of Abinadab for almost a century (cf. 1 Sam. 14:18), after its capture by the Philistines and subsequent return (1 Sam. 7:1). (Key Word, page 425)*

*Note also that David did not inquire of God before doing this.*

**3**And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

**4**And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

**5**And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of *instruments made of fir wood*, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

**6**And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*.

*Genesis 50:10 And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days.*

**7**And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his* error; and there he died by the ark of God.

*God's severity toward Uzzah served notice to the people of Israel that God must be revered and obeyed. Uzzah showed disrespect for God by touching the ark (Num 4:15). Furthermore, as one of the priests, he was disobeying God by letting the ark be carried on a cart. How true it is that by disobedience of God's specific instructions, one is often led into another error! The ark was supposed to be carried by the priests upon staves or poles (Ex. 25:12-15; Josh. 3:8). However, nowhere does the text indicate that Uzzah's personal, eternal salvation was involved; his intentions were good (Matt. 7:1). (Key Word, page 425)*

**8**And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.

*Hebrew Broken That is, the breach of Uzzah.*

**9**And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

**10**So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obedom the Gittite.

**11**And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obedom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obedom, and all his household.

**12**And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obedom, and all that *pertaineth* unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obedom into the city of David with gladness.

**13**And it was *so*, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

**14**And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod.

**15**So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

**16**And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

**17**And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

**18**And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

**19**And he dealt among all the people, *even* among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece *of flesh*, and a flagon *of wine*. So all the people departed every one to his house.

**20**Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

**21**And David said unto Michal, *It was* before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

**22**And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

**23**Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

## Chapter 7

### *God's Promise to David*

**1**And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

**2**That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

**3**And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.

**4**And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,

**5**Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

**6**Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

**7**In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

**8**Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

**9**And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth.

**10**Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

**11**And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

**12**And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

**13**He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

*This refers initially to Solomon, but ultimately the reference is to Jesus Christ, the "Son of David" (Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:25-35) who reigns at God's right hand (Ps. 2:7; Acts 13:33). (Key Word, page 427)*

**14**I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

**15**But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

**16**And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

*David's desire to build a house for the Lord sets the stage for one of the key passages in Scripture relating to the coming Messiah. God's message through Nathan (vv. 8-16) is called the Davidic Covenant. It is both an expansion and a clarification of God's promise to Abraham. It represents an unconditional promise to David that he would be the father of an everlasting kingdom (v. 16). David is also promised that his son would reign over Israel (v. 12), and that this son (Solomon) would be the one to build a house for the Lord (v. 13). Elsewhere, God's reasons for not allowing David to build the temple are spelled out: he was a man of war and bloodshed (1 Kgs. 5:3; 1 Chr. 22:8; 28:3), whereas his son would be a man of peace. It was also too early to build the temple-the city is not yet secure (1 Kgs. 5:3, 4). David was, however, permitted to begin stockpiling the materials Solomon would use to build the temple (1 Chr. 22:2-19). (Key Word, page 426)*

**17**According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

**18**Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? and what *is* my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

**19**And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And *is* this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

**20**And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.

**21**For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know *them*.

**22**Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

**23**And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods?

**24**For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel *to be* a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God.

*These words affirm a central promise of the Scriptures to the Jewish people that He would be their God and they would be His people eternally (Gen. 17:7; Ex 6:7; Deut. 7:6-9; Rom. 11:1-26; Rev. 21:3). (Key Word, page 427)*

**25**And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do as thou hast said.

**26**And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is* the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee.

**27**For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

**28**And now, O Lord GOD, thou *art* that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

**29**Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken *it*: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

## Chapter 8

### David's Military Success

**1**And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Gath out of the hand of the Philistines.

**2**And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And *so* the Moabites became David's servants, *and* brought gifts.

**3**David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.

*This expands David's area of influence to the Euphrates River.*

**4**And David took from him a thousand *chariots*, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot *horses*, but reserved of them *for* an hundred chariots.

*The chariots and horses are a mechanized army that can move faster.*



**5**And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.

**6**Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, *and* brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

**7**And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.

*David is building up Israels wealth by receiving gifts from defeated enemies. This will be needed in the building of the temple.*

**8**And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass.

**9**When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer,

**10**Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him: for Hadadezer had wars with Toi.

And *Joram* brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass:

**11**Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued;

**12**Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

**13**And David gat *him* a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, *being* eighteen thousand *men*.

**14**And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

### ***David's Officials***

**15**And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

**16**And Joab the son of Zeruiah *was* over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder;

**17**And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, *were* the priests; and Seraiah *was* the scribe;

**18**And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.

## **Chapter 9**

### ***David's Kindness to Mephibosheth***

**1**And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

**2**And *there was* of the house of Saul a servant whose name *was* Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, *Art* thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant *is* *he*.

3And the king said, *Is* there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, *which is* lame on *his* feet.

4And the king said unto him, Where *is* he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he *is* in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

5Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

6Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

7And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

8And he bowed himself, and said, What *is* thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I *am*?

9Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

10Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in *the fruits*, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, *said the king*, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

12And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name *was* Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba *were* servants unto Mephibosheth.

13So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

## Chapter 10

### *Israel Defeats the Ammonites and Syrians*

1And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead.

2Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.

3And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David *rather* sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

*Here there are those who a sceptics and doubters and give bad advice. A lesson even to this day.*

4Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, *even* to their buttocks, and sent them away.

*This was to humiliate them in public and show disrespect to David.*

**5**When they told *it* unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and *then* return.

**6**And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men.

*They hired mercenaries to fight for them rather than doing it all themselves.*

**7**And when David heard of *it*, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men.

**8**And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maacah, *were* by themselves in the field.

**9**When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice *men* of Israel, and put *them* in array against the Syrians:

**10**And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put *them* in array against the children of Ammon.

**11**And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee.

*He made a battle plan before going to fight.*

**12**Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.

**13**And Joab drew nigh, and the people that *were* with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him.

**14**And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

*After the rainy season was over, Joab commenced the siege the next spring (2 Sam. 11:1). It was too late in the year to undertake a full-scale siege. (Key Word, page 430)*

**15**And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together.

**16**And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that *were* beyond the river: and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer *went* before them.

**17**And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David, and fought with him.

**18**And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew *the men of* seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there.

*Syria still fights with Israel to this day.*

**19**And when all the kings *that were* servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

## Chapter 11

### *David and Bath-sheba*

**1**And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

**2**And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.

*David's lust of women, as 2 Sam. 5:11, will become the cause of his sin before God. The woman is also tempting others by bathing on the roof of the house so others can see her. She may have been doing that on purpose to attract men.*

**3**And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

*Leviticus 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*

**4**And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

**5**And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, *I am* with child.

*A child of an adulterous affair. How will God punish them?*

**6**And David sent to Joab, *saying*, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

**7**And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded *of him* how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

**8**And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess *of meat* from the king.

**9**But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

**10**And when they had told David, *saying*, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, *Camest* thou not from *thy* journey? *why then* didst thou not go down unto thine house?

**11**And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? *as* thou livest, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

*He will not have comfort while his fellow soldiers are in the field.*

**12**And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.

**13**And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

**14**And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.

**15**And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

**16**And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men *were*.

**17**And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell *some* of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

*It was like a murder for David to do this to Uriah, knowing they would likely die in battle.*

**18**Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;

**19**And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king,

**20**And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?

**21**Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

**22**So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for.

**23**And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.

**24**And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and *some* of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

**25**Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

**26**And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

**27**And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

## Chapter 12

*Nathan Confronts David*

*Here the consequences of David's great sin became evident to him. Observe how skillfully Nathan used his parable (vv. 1-4) to bring David to condemn himself. David had violated four of the ten commandments in one rash sin: thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not commit adultery, and thou shalt not covet you neighbor's wife. Although it was about a year later, David sincerely repented of his sin (see Ps.32:3; 4; 51:1-19). While his repentance brought about forgiveness from God, it did not prevent him from suffering the consequences of his sin. God revealed that because David's sin, the son born from his adulterous relationship would die (2 Sam. 12:14, 18), the sword would never depart from his house (v. 10), evil would come from his own family (v. 11; see chaps. 15-18), and his wives would be publicly shamed (v. 11; see 2 Sam. 16:22). The important lesson to learn from these events is that even the best of men can sin. Also, true repentance does bring forgiveness from God, but does not eliminate the consequences of sin. (Key Word, page 432)*

- 1**And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.
- 2**The rich *man* had exceeding many flocks and herds:
- 3**But the poor *man* had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.
- 4**And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.
- 5**And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this *thing* shall surely die:
- 6**And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.
- 7**And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;
- 8**And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.
- 9**Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be* thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.
- 10**Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.
- 11**Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.
- 12**For thou didst *it* secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.
- 13**And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.
- 14**Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.

### ***The Child Dies***

**15**And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

**16**David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

**17**And the elders of his house arose, *and went* to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

**18**And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

**19**But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

**20**Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

**21**Then said his servants unto him, What thing *is* this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, *while it was* alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

**22**And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell *whether* GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

**23**But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

*The phrase in this verse "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" that David spoke after the child died should be understood to mean that David was aware previous to the death of the child of its inevitability; therefore, he no longer wept for the life of the child. In addition to this, David also realized that there would be a time in the future when he too would die, and there he would be joined to his son who had died. While the child was alive, David's prayer was for life; after the death of the child, he no longer saw the need to mourn for him, but rather he continued living with the expectancy of someday being with his child again. This verse has been used as a source of comfort for those who have lost infants or small children to early deaths. (Key Word, page 433)*

### ***Solomon Is Born***

**24**And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

*Solomon's name appears fourth on the lists of Bathsheba's sons (2 Sam. 5:14-16; 1 Chr. 3:5; 14:4) but this does not necessarily mean that he was the fourth born. This verse seems to indicate that he was the oldest of David's and Bathsheba's sons. However, he was not David's first born, for it is clear from 2 Samuel 3:2-5 and 1 Chronicles 3:1-9 that David had six sons born to him in Hebron. Normally, the firstborn son would succeed the father a king; but in this case, God made Solomon his choice. In 1 Chronicles 28:4, 5, David says, "he [God] hath chosen Solomon my*

son”; and in 1 Chronicles 29:1, he says “Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen.” (Key Word, page 433)

**25**And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

### ***Another Victory Over the Ammonites***

**26**And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.

**27**And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters.

**28**Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.

**29**And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.

**30**And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof *was* a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was *set* on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

**31**And he brought forth the people that *were* therein, and put *them* under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

## **Chapter 13**

### ***Amnon Rapes Tamar***

**1**And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name *was* Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

**2**And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she *was* a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her.

**3**But Amnon had a friend, whose name *was* Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab *was* a very subtil man.

*Subtil 2450 khaw-kawm'; from 2449; wise, (i.e. intelligent, skillful or artful): -cunning (man), subtil, ([un-]), wise ([hearted], man)*

**4**And he said unto him, Why *art* thou, *being* the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

**5**And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see *it*, and eat *it* at her hand.

**6**So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.



7Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat.

8So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded *it*, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.

9And she took a pan, and poured *them* out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him.

10And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought *them* into the chamber to Amnon her brother.

11And when she had brought *them* unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.

12And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.

*Refers to Leviticus 18:9 The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover.*

*To "uncover the nakedness" is in a sexual context.*

13And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.

14Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

15Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her *was* greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

*This verse shows how there can be consuming desire without love. Amnon used Tamar to satisfy his sinful lust, he was filled with a feeling of contempt. (Key Word, page 434)*

16And she said unto him, *There is* no cause: this evil in sending me away *is* greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her.

17Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this *woman* out from me, and bolt the door after her.

18And *she had* a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters *that were* virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

19And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that *was* on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.

### ***Absalom Avenges Tamar***

20And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he *is* thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

21But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.

**22**And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

**23**And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baalhazor, which *is* beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

**24**And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant.

**25**And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him.

**26**Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee?

**27**But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

**28**Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

**29**And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

**30**And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that tidings came to David, saying, Absalom hath slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left.

**31**Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.

**32**And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose *that* they have slain all the young men the king's sons; for Amnon only is dead: for by the appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar.

**33**Now therefore let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead: for Amnon only is dead.

### ***Absalom Escapes***

**34**But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him.

**35**And Jonadab said unto the king, Behold, the king's sons come: as thy servant said, so it is.

**36**And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept: and the king also and all his servants wept very sore.

**37**But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur.

And *David* mourned for his son every day.

**38**So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

**39**And *the soul of* king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

## **Chapter 14**

### ***Joab Plots Absalom's Return***

**1**Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart *was* toward Absalom.

**2**And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:

*This is a deceptive act playing on the emotions of David.*

**3**And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

**4**And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king.

**5**And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, I *am* indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead.

**6**And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and *there was* none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him.

**7**And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband *neither* name nor remainder upon the earth.

**8**And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee.

**9**And the woman of Tekoah said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity *be* on me, and on my father's house: and the king and his throne *be* guiltless.

*Joab here demonstrates his shrewdness by getting Absalom restored to his position in the king's family despite the fact that he murdered Amnon. Through the help of a "wise woman" (see note of Sam. 20:16), Joab induced David to pardon an intentional killing and confirm it with an oath, so that David would have no excuse for not accepting Absalom back. (Key Word, page 436)*

**10**And the king said, Whosoever saith *ought* unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more.

**11**Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, *As* the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

**12**Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak *one* word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on.

**13**And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished.

**14**For we must needs die, and *are* as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect *any* person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

**15**Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, *it is* because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid.

**16**For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man *that would* destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God.

**17**Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so *is* my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee.

**18**Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.

**19**And the king said, *Is not* the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid:

**20**To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord *is* wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all *things* that *are* in the earth.

**21**And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.

**22**And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant.

**23**So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

**24**And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

### ***Absalom Returns to Jerusalem***

**25**But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

**26**And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled *it*: because *the hair* was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.

**27**And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name *was* Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

**28**So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.

**29**Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

**30**Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

**31**Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto *his* house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?

**32**And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? *it had been good for me to have been* there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be *any iniquity* in me, let him kill me.

**33**So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

## **Chapter 15**

## ***Absalom Prepares for a Revolt***

*These verses describe the actions of Absalom by which he was attempting to assume royal power. David was showing weakness by allowing this to happen. (Key Word, page 437)*

**1**And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

**2**And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was *so*, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city *art* thou? And he said, Thy servant *is* of one of the tribes of Israel.

*Judicial cases in Jewish society were decided at the city gate (Deut. 21:19; 22:15). (Key Word, page 438)*

**3**And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters *are* good and right; but *there is* no man *deputed* of the king to hear thee.

**4**Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

**5**And it was *so*, that when any man came nigh *to him* to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

**6**And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

**7**And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.

**8**For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.

**9**And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

**10**But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.

**11**And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, *that were* called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

**12**And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, *even* from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

*Ahithophel had been a member of David's cabinet as well as his chief counselor. Perhaps Ahithophel turned against David because of the events surrounding the death of Uriah the Hittite, the husband of Bathsheba. This would seem logical since Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather (2 Sam. 11:3; 23:34). (Key Word, page 438)*

## ***David Escapes***

**13**And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

**14**And David said unto all his servants that *were* with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not *else* escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

**15**And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants *are ready to do* whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.

**16**And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, *which were* concubines, to keep the house.

**17**And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off.

**18**And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

*Originally, David's band of rebels that had fled with him from Saul to the Philistine city of Gath (1 Sam. 27:2) and continued with him in Ziklag, Hebron, and Jerusalem (1 Sam. 30:1; 2 Sam. 2:3; 5:6) was composed of six hundred men. Now, some thirty years later, these men were still together. (Key Word, page 438)*

**19**Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou *art* a stranger, and also an exile.

**20**Whereas thou camest *but* yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth *be* with thee.

**21**And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and *as* my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.

**22**And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that *were* with him.

**23**And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

**24**And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites *were* with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.

**25**And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me *both* it, and his habitation:

**26**But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, *here am* I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.

**27**The king said also unto Zadok the priest, *Art not* thou a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

**28**See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me.

**29**Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there.

**30**And David went up by the ascent of *mount* Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that *was* with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

**31**And *one* told David, saying, Ahithophel *is* among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

**32**And it came to pass, that *when* David was come to the top *of the mount*, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:

**33**Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me:

**34**But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; *as I have been* thy father's servant hitherto, so *will* I now also *be* thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.

**35**And *hast thou* not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, *that* what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell *it* to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

**36**Behold, *they have* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's *son*, and Jonathan Abiathar's *son*; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can hear.

**37**So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

## Chapter 16

**1**And when David was a little past the top *of the hill*, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred *loaves* of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

**2**And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses *be* for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

**3**And the king said, And where *is* thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

**4**Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine *are* all that *pertained* unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee *that* I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

*David's decision to trust the words of Ziba was too hasty According to 2 Samuel 19:24-28, Ziba was lying, and Mephibosheth's loyalty to David had never changed. (Key Word, page 440)*

**5**And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name *was* Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

**6**And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men *were* on his right hand and on his left.

**7**And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:

**8**The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou *art taken* in thy mischief, because thou *art* a bloody man.

*In this verse Shimei was probably blaming David for the deaths of Abner (2 Sam. 3:27-39), and Ish-bosheth (2 Sam. 4:1-12) who, along with himself, were related to Saul. However, in these instances David was not guilty of any wrong. In fact, he had th4 men put to death that murdered*

*Ish-bosheth. It was true that David was a man of war, but he was not necessarily the one responsible for eliminating the members of Saul's family. (Key Word, page 440)*

**9**Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

**10**And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?

**11**And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now *may this* Benjamite *do it*? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

**12**It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

**13**And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.

### ***Absalom Returns to Jerusalem***

**14**And the king, and all the people that *were* with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

*He arrived at the fords of the Jordan River (2 Sam. 15-28). It is believed that David wrote Psalms 3 and 63 while fleeing through the wilderness of Judah. (Key Word, page 440)*

**15**And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.

**16**And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.

**17**And Absalom said to Hushai, *Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?*

**18**And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide.

**19**And again, whom should I serve? *should I not serve* in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

**20**Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

**21**And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that *are* with thee be strong.

**22**So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

*This event was one of the things that Nathan predicted would happen as a result of David's sin with Bathsheba (see note on 2 Sam. 12:1-14). Absalom did so on the counsel of Ahithophel. Besides the fact that this was forbidden by God, it made Absalom's reconciliation with David impossible and forced the people to take sides between the two of them. (Key Word, page 441)*



**23**And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, *was* as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so *was* all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

## Chapter 17

### *Absalom Receives Counsel*

**1**Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night:

**2**And I will come upon him while he *is* weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that *are* with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only:

*His battle plan is to attack when his enemy is in a weak hoping to overcome them.*

**3**And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest *is* as if all returned: *so* all the people shall be in peace.

**4**And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel.

**5**Then said Absalom, Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith.

*Archite (ar'kit), in A.V. once (Josh. 16:2) Ar'chi, the Hebrew form. A member of a Canaanite tribe of the same name, or else a native or inhabitant of a village known as Erech. (Davis, page 39)*

*Hushai (hu'shim). [hasty, hastening]. An Archite, one of David's 2 leading counselors. He remained faithful to his sovereign during Absalom's rebellion, and effectually defeated the counsel of Ahithophel (11 Sam. 15:32-37; 17:5-16). (Davis, page 261)*

**6**And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do *after* his saying? if not; speak thou.

**7**And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given *is* not good at this time.

**8**For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they *be* mighty men, and they *be* chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father *is* a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.

**9**Behold, he is hid now in some pit, or in some *other* place: and it will come to pass, when some of them be overthrown at the first, that whosoever heareth it will say, There is a slaughter among the people that follow Absalom.

**10**And he also *that is* valiant, whose heart *is* as the heart of a lion, shall utterly melt: for all Israel knoweth that thy father *is* a mighty man, and *they* which *be* with him *are* valiant men.

**11**Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that *is* by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person.

**12**So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground: and of him and of all the men that *are* with him there shall not be left so much as one.

**13**Moreover, if he be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there.

**14**And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite *is* better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.

### ***David is Warned to Retreat***

**15**Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled.

**16**Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that *are* with him.

**17**Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by Enrogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David.

**18**Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down.

**19**And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.

**20**And when Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, Where *is* Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman said unto them, They be gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find *them*, they returned to Jerusalem.

**21**And it came to pass, after they were departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David, and said unto David, Arise, and pass quickly over the water: for thus hath Ahithophel counselled against you.

**22**Then David arose, and all the people that *were* with him, and they passed over Jordan: by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over Jordan.

**23**And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

*Many times, suicide investigations will show the person putting his house in order before they commit suicide.*

### ***Absalom Advances on David***

**24**Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

**25**And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa *was* a man's son, whose name *was* Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruah Joab's mother.

**26**So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.

**27**And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim,

**28**Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched *corn*, and beans, and lentiles, and parched *pulse*,

**29**And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that *were* with him, to eat: for they said, The people *is* hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

*David may have written Psalms 61 and 62 about the time the events of this verse took place. (Key Word, page 442)*

## Chapter 18

### *Absalom's Death*

**1**And David numbered the people that *were* with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

*This helps to maintain control and communications in a military unit.*

**2**And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

**3**But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now *thou art* worth ten thousand of us: therefore now *it is* better that thou succour us out of the city.

*Succour 5826 azar, aw-zar'; a primitive root; to surround, i.e. protect or aid: -help, succour.*

**4**And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

**5**And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, *Deal* gently for my sake with the young man, *even* with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

**6**So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;

**7**Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand *men*.

**8**For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

**9**And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that *was* under him went away.

**10**And a certain man saw *it*, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

**11**And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest *him*, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten *shekels* of silver, and a girdle.

**12**And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand *shekels* of silver in mine hand, *yet* would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none *touch* the young man Absalom.

**13**Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against *me*.

**14**Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he *was* yet alive in the midst of the oak.

**15**And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

*Ten in biblical Mathematics is testimony - law and responsibility, (Vallowe, page 91)*

**16**And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.

**17**And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

**18**Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which *is* in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

**19**Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies.

**20**And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

**21**Then said Joab to Cush, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cush bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.

**22**Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cush. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?

**23**But howsoever, *said he*, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cush.

**24**And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

**25**And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he *be* alone, *there is* tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near.

**26**And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold *another* man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

**27**And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He *is* a good man, and cometh with good tidings.

**28**And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed *be* the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

**29**And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and *me* thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what *it was*.

**30**And the king said *unto him*, Turn aside, *and* stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

### ***David Mourns Absalom***

**31**And, behold, Cushite came; and Cushite said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.

**32**And the king said unto Cushite, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushite answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do *thee* hurt, be as *that* young man *is*.

**33**And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

### **Chapter 19**

**1**And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom.

**2**And the victory that day was *turned* into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son.

**3**And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

**4**But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

**5**And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines;

**6**In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well.

*The people felt as if David hated them because he was so grieved over the loss of Absalom who they considered an enemy.*

**7**Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.

**8**Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

### ***David's Kingdom Is Restored***

**9**And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom.

**10**And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?

**11**And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, *even* to his house.

**12**Ye *are* my brethren, ye *are* my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king?

**13**And say ye to Amasa, *Art* thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.

**14**And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as *the heart of one man*; so that they sent *this word* unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants.

**15**So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan.

**16**And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which *was* of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.

**17**And *there were* a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king.

**18**And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan;

**19**And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.

**20**For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.

**21**But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed?

**22**And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I *am* this day king over Israel?

**23**Therefore the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king sware unto him.

*David had not really forgiven Shimei; it was only intended that Shimei think he had been forgiven (cf. 1 Kgs. 2:8, 9). (Key Word, page 445)*

**24**And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came *again* in peace.

*In this way, Mephibosheth mourned the fact that David had to flee from Absalom (Ezek.24:17). (Key Word, page 446)*

**25**And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?

**26**And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant *is* lame.

**27**And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king *is* as an angel of God: do therefore *what is* good in thine eyes.

**28**For all *of* my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?

**29**And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land.

**30**And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

**31**And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan.

**32**Now Barzillai was a very aged man, *even* fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he *was* a very great man.

**33**And the king said unto Barzillai, Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem.

**34**And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

**35**I *am* this day fourscore years old: *and* can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

**36**Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward?

**37**Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, *and be buried* by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

**38**And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, *that* will I do for thee.

**39**And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.

**40**Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him: and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

**41**And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king, Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away, and have brought the king, and his household, and all David's men with him, over Jordan?

**42**And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, Because the king *is* near of kin to us: wherefore then be ye angry for this matter? have we eaten at all of the king's *cost*? or hath he given us any gift?

**43**And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more *right* in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

## Chapter 20

### *Sheba's Revolt*

**1**And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name *was* Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.

*Belial (be'li-al) [worthlessness, wickedness] Ungodliness (Ps. 18:4, R.V.). The phrase "son of belial" is an expression meaning vile scoundrels or ungodly men. (Davis, page 64)*

**2**So every man of Israel went up from after David, *and* followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.

**3**And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women *his* concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

**4**Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present.

**5**So Amasa went to assemble *the men of* Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.

**6**And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than *did* Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.

*He delayed in doing as told so was suspected of doing evil against David.*

**7**And there went out after him Joab's men, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

**8**When they *were* at the great stone which *is* in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab's garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle *with* a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out.

**9**And Joab said to Amasa, *Art* thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.

**10**But Amasa took no heed to the sword that *was* in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth *rib*, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

**11**And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that *is* for David, *let him go* after Joab.

**12**And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still.

**13**When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

**14**And he went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Bethmaachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him.



**15**And they came and besieged him in Abel of Bethmaachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that *were* with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

**16**Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee.

*The phrase “wise woman” used of the woman in this verse means that she was doing something extraordinary. The word translated “wise” is also used of Joseph when he was able to interpret the Pharaoh’s dream (Gen. 41;33). In this verse, this woman is called “wise” because she did what was int best interest of protecting her people. (Key Word, page 448)*

**17**And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, *Art* thou Joab? And he answered, *I am he*. Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear.

**18**Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask *counsel* at Abel: and so they ended *the matter*.

**19***I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful* in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?

**20**And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.

**21**The matter *is* not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, *even* against David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.

**22**Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast *it* out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

### ***David’s Officials***

**23**Now Joab *was* over all the host of Israel: and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites:

**24**And Adoram *was* over the tribute: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder:

**25**And Sheva *was* scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar *were* the priests:

**26**And Ira also the Jairite *was* a chief ruler about David.

## **Chapter 21**

### ***Gibeonites Are Avenged***

**1**Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, *It is* for Saul, and for *his* bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.

*There was a reason for the famine.*

**2**And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites *were* not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)

**3**Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?

**4**And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, *that* will I do for you.

**5**And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us *that* we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel,

**6**Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, *whom* the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give *them*.

**7**But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that *was* between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

*David keeps his agreements.*

**8**But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite:

**9**And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell *all* seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first *days*, in the beginning of barley harvest.

**10**And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.

**11**And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

**12**And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa:

**13**And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged.

**14**And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.

*Philistine Giants Dis in Battle*

**15**Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint.

**16**And Ishbibenob, which *was* of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear *weighed* three hundred *shekels* of brass in weight, he being girded with a new *sword*, thought to have slain David.

**17**But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.

**18**And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which *was* of the sons of the giant.

**19**And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew *the brother of Goliath* the Gittite, the staff of whose spear *was* like a weaver's beam.

*Some had believed the giants were descendants of the second influx of fallen angels after the flood of Noah as in the book of Genesis and Enoch.*

**20**And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of *great* stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant.

**21**And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea the brother of David slew him.

**22**These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

## Chapter 22

### *David's Song*

*This passage is a song of praise that is a personal expression of David's heart. David is praising God for deliverance, yet in his praise, he focuses strongly on the omnipotence of God. David's psalm help us to understand how, with all of his failings, he was indeed "a man after God's heart" (1 Sam. 13:14; 1 Kgs. 15:3). (Key Word, pages 449-450)*

**1**And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

**2**And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

**3**The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

**4**I will call on the LORD, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

**5**When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;

**6**The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;

**7**In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry *did enter* into his ears.

**8**Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.

**9**There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

**10**He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness *was* under his feet.

**11**And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.

**12**And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, *and* thick clouds of the skies.

13Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled.  
14The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.  
15And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them.  
16And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.  
17He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters;  
18He delivered me from my strong enemy, *and* from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me.  
19They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.  
20He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.  
21The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.  
22For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.  
23For all his judgments *were* before me: and *as for* his statutes, I did not depart from them.  
24I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity.  
25Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.  
26With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, *and* with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.  
27With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.  
28And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes *are* upon the haughty, *that* thou mayest bring *them* down.  
29For thou *art* my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.  
30For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall.  
31*As for* God, his way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD *is* tried: he *is* a buckler to all them that trust in him.  
32For who *is* God, save the LORD? and who *is* a rock, save our God?  
33God *is* my strength *and* power: and he maketh my way perfect.  
34He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*: and setteth me upon my high places.  
35He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.  
36Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.  
37Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.  
38I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them.  
39And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet.  
40For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me.  
41Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me.  
42They looked, but *there was* none to save; *even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.  
43Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, *and* did spread them abroad.  
44Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me *to be* head of the heathen: a people *which* I knew not shall serve me.

45 Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.

46 Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.

47 The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

48 *It is* God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me,

49 And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

50 Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

51 *He is* the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

## Chapter 23

### *David's Last Words*

1 Now these *be* the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man *who was* raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,

2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word *was* in my tongue.

3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God.

4 And *he shall be* as the light of the morning, *when* the sun riseth, *even* a morning without clouds; *as* the tender grass *springing* out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

5 Although my house *be* not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.

6 But *the sons* of Belial *shall be* all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:

7 But the man *that* shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the *same* place.

*This song of David is a prophecy of the Messiah that would come and bring about God's new covenant of salvation. (Key Word, page 451)*

### *David's Mighty Men*

8 These *be* the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same *was* Adino the Eznite: *he lift up his spear* against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

9 And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines *that* were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:

**10**He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

**11**And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

**12**But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

**13**And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.

**14**And David *was* then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then *in* Bethlehem.

**15**And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which *is* by the gate!

**16**And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that *was* by the gate, and took *it*, and brought *it* to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

**17**And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: *is not this* the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

**18**And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, *and* slew *them*, and had the name among three.

**19**Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the *first* three.

**20**And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow:

**21**And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

**22**These *things* did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men.

**23**He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the *first* three. And David set him over his guard.

**24**Asahel the brother of Joab *was* one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

**25**Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite,

**26**Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

**27**Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

**28**Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

**29**Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,

**30**Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,

**31**Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

**32**Eliabha the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,

**33**Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,

**34**Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

**35**Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,  
**36**Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,  
**37**Zehek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,  
**38**Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,  
**39**Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

## Chapter 24

### *David Takes a Census*

**1**And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

**2**For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which *was* with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.

**3**And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see *it*: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

**4**Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.

**5**And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that *lieth* in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer:

**6**Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi; and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon,

**7**And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, *even* to Beersheba.

**8**So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

**9**And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah *were* five hundred thousand men.

### *David's Punishment*

**10**And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

**11**For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

**12**Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three *things*; choose thee one of them, that I may *do it* unto thee.

**13**So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue

thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

**14**And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies *are* great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

*Opinions vary concerning the sin involved in this census. Josephus stated that David failed to collect the proper offerings, which had been commanded in Exodus 30:12. Most scholars, however, feel that the sin was a result of David's attitude of pride and arrogance. Still others suggest that his intentions were to maximize military strength and to tax the people further. In any event, when he repented, God gave him three options for the consequences of his sin: famine, military threat, or pestilence. David fully trusted in God even as he chose (v.14). There is a lesson to be learned from David's action: while one may be experiencing God's chastening, he must still rely on His ultimate grace, trust Him fully, and be committed to Him. (Key Word, page 453)*

**15**So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.

**16**And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

**17**And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

### ***David Offers Sacrifice***

**18**And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.

*Araunah (a-ro'na). A Jebusite who possessed a threshing floor on Mount Moriah. David purchased the floor in order to erect there an altar to Jehovah that the plague then raging might be stayed (2 Sam. 24:18-25).... The Place afterward became the site of Solomon's Temple (2 Chron. 3:1). (Davis, page 39)*

**19**And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

**20**And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.

**21**And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

**22**And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what *seemeth* good unto him: behold, *here be* oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and *other* instruments of the oxen for wood.

**23**All these *things* did Araunah, *as* a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.



**24**And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy *it* of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

**25**And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

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