

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART I

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT

1 Samuel 29:1-30:1

I would like to begin with Psalm 5 today.

Psalm 5:1-3

“Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my groaning. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray in the morning, O Lord; you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”

Psalm 9:10

“Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.”

In this study today David is suffering the consequences of making some wrong decisions, of compromising in some critical areas and watch how he suffers because of the decisions that he has made.

Now through the seven studies:

In the first one we saw him anointed by Samuel to become king at 16. He then was on call as a musician before Saul in the palace.

Study #2 David is plunged into national prominence as he is the instrument of God that is used to slay Goliath.

In Study #3 he has to contend with the king's jealousy. Saul tries twice to slay him.

In Study #4 David begins to slide. Fear comes in and replaces faith and that leads to failure. He lies to Ahimelech and goes into the land of the Philistines and feigns insanity.

In Study #5 We saw David as a result of his experience with the Lord at the cave of Adullam, be a completely different man. He inquired of the Lord. David had Abiathar bring the ephod so they could ascertain the Lord's direction in their lives.

In Study #6 David lost his cool and nearly took Nabal's life. If Abigail had not stepped in many people could have lost their lives. Thank God for people who come into our lives to keep us from making mistakes.

In Study #7 David has a second opportunity to take Saul's life but does not do so. He then flees back again to live

among the Philistines, along with his 600 men and their families.

At the end of the study we were kind of left you hanging? Achish says “guess what, you and your 600 men are going to have a wonderful privilege of fighting with us against Israel.

And we left him living there with the Philistines at the end of our last study.

Let's look at the verses together today. Pick up with me, please in chapter 29 and verse 1.

Now some of you are thinking what happened to chapter 28?

In chapter 28 Saul goes to the witch at Endor to seek advice with regard to the impending battle. It does not contribute to the life of David so let's begin in chapter 29 right where we left off in time to go to battle.

v. 1 The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel.

Here we have David in a big fat mess. He has befriended the enemy, and this compromise has really put him into a desperate position, and in a dilemma.

The Philistines decided to go against Israel, and David apparently could see no way out of going along and fighting against his own people. He had convinced Achish that he did this before. He lied, and now he is up a creek without a paddle.

David had a problem with lying. Remember his lie that brought about the death of all of the priests at Nob. He had a weakness for telling lies when doubts came into his heart. He had lied to Jonathan, and through Jonathan to Saul about going to his family at feast time.

Psalm 119:29

“Keep me from being deceitful, and be kind enough to teach me your Law.”

God had not brought David into all these difficulties, but his own self-interest and desires had gotten him into this mess.

Now what they have done is come 18 miles up to Gath, met Achish and the troops, and they have traveled 40 miles to the north to this place called Aphek. So David is 58 miles from the house.

Saul and his forces are in the north a little bit further at the place called the Valley of Jezreel.

This is about 45 miles north of Gibeah, Saul's place.

So if you put Aphek here with all the Philistines lined up and you have all the Israelites up here in the Valley of Jezreel, they are about 35 miles apart before the major confrontation.

Now let me just fill you in.

This is the confrontation in which Saul, Jonathan, and the whole family die.

And that is the beginning of David going to the throne.

So this is the battle that ends all battles as far as Saul is concerned.

And David is on his way up there to be involved in this battle unless God does something.

David is in enemy territory and he is involved in a situation that is going to be very, very difficult for him. Look at verse 2.

v. 2 As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish.

Do you know what I thought?
I wonder what David feels.

With 600 men, God's men, marching at the rear of the enemy in step and cadence with them.

Do you think he feels out of place in this situation? I think he said, I can't believe I am doing this. I can't believe I am here.

It is almost the cry of Paul in Romans 7:15, "I do not know why I do the things I do. I do not do what I want to do. But I do the things I hate."

It is going to take some sovereign intervention to get David out of this mess. Look at the next verse.

v. 3 The commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these Hebrews" Achish replied, "Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him."

The problem that David has, is that if he goes up there and does battle, he is fighting against the Lord God.

Now God is going to use the Philistine commanders to extricate David from these

impossible circumstances that he's gotten himself involved in.

The commanders are concerned about security and having David and his men fight in their army.

Achish has really bought it, hook, line and sinker. We know it has been 16 months that David has been there and Achish has found no fault in him.

v. 4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with him and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favor than by taking the heads of our own men?"

The other Philistine commanders become very angry and command Achish to send David and his men back to Ziklag.

The reason they make this command is because they feel David would turn on them in the midst of battle and win favor from Saul by killing them.

v. 5 Isn't this the David they sang about in their dances: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands'?

The commanders are remembering the hit song

that swept the land of Israel, as well as the land of the Philistines:

God is protecting David and skillfully getting him out of this mess.

Also, we will find that God has not forgotten his promise to David and his purpose for David's life.

He didn't quit working in David's behalf just because David had a lapse.

v. 6 So Achish called David and said to him, "As surely as the Lord lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army. From the day you came to me until now, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don't approve of you.

There are three commands in verse 7 and there are three questions in verse 8. Achish looks right at David and he says:

v. 7 Turn back and go in peace; do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers."

Listen buddy, you are walking on eggs and if you stir them up, you are going to lose.

I would suggest that right now you turn back – do not ask any questions, go in peace – do not do anything to ruffle the waves, and

do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers,
or they are flat going to put you face up.
And that is a serious warning.

Isn't David self-righteous?

He never wants to lose one so he has to
vindicate himself and he has three big questions.

v. 8 "But what have I done?" asked David. "What have you
found against your servant from the day I came to you
until now? Why can't I go and fight against the enemies
of my lord the king?"

Boy can he ever act!

Whew what a phony.

Underneath you know he has got to be rejoicing!

There are three questions in verse 8.

"What have I done?"

"What have you found?"

"Why can't I go and fight?"

Listen to Achish in verse 9.

v. 9 Achish answered, "I know that you have been as pleasing
in my eyes as an angel of God; nevertheless, the
Philistine commanders have said, 'He must not go up
with us into battle.'

v. 10 Now get up early, along with your master's servants who have come with you, and leave in the morning as soon as it is light."

Well, isn't that wonderful, David has been delivered.

But there is a long trip back.

What is God's objective in this particular study to prepare David for the kingdom?

It is to call to his remembrance how happy he was when he was walking in the will of God.

And God's supreme objective is to take away all of our sources of retreat.

To cut away from David and you and me all of our own resources so we are cast completely upon him.

And that explains what happens in the next verses.

v. 11 So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

What do you think these guys are thinking about on their back to Ziklag?

They are thinking about their families, they can't wait to see their wives and kids.

David and his men have been away for six days,

it has been tough and hard but it is going to be wonderful to get back home.

30:v. 1 David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day.
Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag.
They had attacked Ziklag and burned it,

I looked at that and thought how could that be consistent with your love.

If God did not burn all your Ziklag's you would stay in the land of the Philistines forever.

David would have never left that unless God burned it.

And sometimes God has to reach his hand down in our lives with an act of chastening to take away all the props so we have no place to turn but to him.

So it is an act not inconsistent with God's love.

Ziklag may be a nice place but it is out of the will of God and it needs to go up in smoke.

The passage that helps you understand what is going on in these verses is in Hebrews.

Being brought back into the will of God is sometimes a painful process.

Hebrews 12:5-8

“And have you entirely forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you, his children?

He said, “My child, don’t ignore it when the Lord disciplines you, and don’t be discouraged when he corrects you.

For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes those he accepts as his children.

As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children.

As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Whoever heard of a child who was never disciplined?

If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and not really his children after all.”

Hebrews 12:11

“No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.”

Ziklag is about 30-35 miles north of the Amalekite territory.

The Amalekites raided the city while David and his men were in the north.

The city has been burning out of control

for about three days and there is nothing left but a bunch of ashes and a little bit of wind.

Sometimes God has to say look, in order to get you where I want you I have to burn your Ziklag.

And for David he has to pay the horrible price of learning what it is to be a leader all by yourself.

Sometimes being a leader can be a very lonely job. Listen to this: "A leader is a lonely man.

He follows visions that others cannot see.

He moves ahead when others lag behind.

He walks in solitude with God, driven on by a burning desire to achieve goals that to others seem visionary and impractical.

Because leaders are nonconformists, they are looked upon with some suspicion by the run of the mill of the crowd.

Men who lead are certain targets for the biting barbs of criticism.

Their fearless, clear, compelling manner makes them a prey to those who do not understand them.

But the church needs leaders today, men who will bear criticism and reproach for the cause of Christ, men who will stand up when others fail and fall, who will go on when others faint; who will be a leader today?"

Chuck Swindoll in writing on the book of Ecclesiastes calls it, The Lonely Whine of the Top Dog.

v. 2 and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.

I want to ask you something?

What do you think David and the men are thinking when they walk into the city limits of Ziklag?

They are thinking just like you, when you hear something bad you always think it 10 times worse than it really was.

When they walked in those men had only one frame of reference.

What was it?

Every battle they had engaged in down there they killed every woman and every child and every animal because they did not want anybody coming back to Achish and spilling the beans on what they had done.

These guys only have one frame of reference.

So what are they thinking?

Oh no our wives, our kids, everything we have is gone.

God knows how much you can take.

v. 3 When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

v. 4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.

Have you ever cried like that?

You just have gotten so whipped and so depressed that you just cry and cry and cry.

It just all falls apart.

v. 5 David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

Now the men turn against him. Verse 6.

v. 6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God.

You see they do not have any thought otherwise they think everyone has been destroyed.

Now they are saying to themselves.

Who is it that is responsible for us leaving Ziklag unattended while we went to fight?

David has taken us on this wild goose chase, we have traveled 116 miles, we have not fought a battle or done anything, we come back and find nothing but ashes.

And they are saying it is time to get him, kill him, and destroy him.

Moses had that experience:

Exodus 17:4

“So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, ‘What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me.’”

There is a marvelous phrase in verse 6.

“But David found strength in the Lord his God.”

Where did David learn that by the way?

1 Samuel 23:16

“And Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God.”

In other words Jonathan taught David how to lean on the Lord, how to find his strength.

v. 7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “Bring me the ephod.” Abiathar brought it to him,

Whew, that is great!

v. 8 and David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them? “Pursue them,” He answered. “You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.”

Bring the ephod and inquire of the Lord.

David you are back in fellowship with the Lord.

What is God saying? Welcome home David.

Great to have you back.

I sure have missed our times together.

“Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?”

“Pursue them,” God answered. “You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.”

v. 9 David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Ravine, where some stayed behind,

The Besor Ravine is about 12 miles south of Ziklag.

They have traveled 70 miles now in three days and some of the guys were a tad bit tired when they got to the Ravine and they just could not make it any futher.

v. 10 for two hundred men were too exhausted to cross the ravine. But David and four hundred men continued the pursuit.

And the next morning...

v. 11 They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat—

v. 12 part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights.

The finding of this Egyptian was one of the first circumstances that showed the hand of God in this effort.

v. 13 David asked him, “To whom do you belong, and where do you come from?” He said, “I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago.

v. 14 We raided the Negev of the Kerethites and the territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb. And we burned Ziklag.”

And David said, yeah I know, thanks a lot.

v. 15 David asked him, “Can you lead me down to this raiding party?” He answered, “Swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to them.”

David and his men are still some 20 miles north of Amalekite territory.

v. 16 He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of

the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah.

Hold on to the “great amount of plunder” will you for just a minute.

You are going to see the magnitude of it as this study wraps up.

These guys are having a picnic. They are scattered out all over the place. They are a perfect, prime setup for David and his men.

Now David, probably if he had been rational and unemotional at this point would have said guys we are going to sack out until in the morning and then we are going to get them fresh.

v. 17 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled.

A 24-hour battle ensued. The only guys who had transportation got away from them.

v. 18 David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives.

The picnic was turned into a panic and they won a tremendous battle. They “recovered everything.”

v. 19 Nothing was missing; young and old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.

“Nothing was missing,” isn’t that great.

I want to talk just a second.

Let’s say today that you are out of the will of God and you are a Christian.

Have you lost anything by the fact that you are out of the will of God?

You say, no, not really,

I’m just kind of empty inside.

You know what you have lost?

You have lost all the manifestations of the Spirit because he is quenched and grieved in your heart.

You really cannot love like you used to, you really don’t have the peace you once enjoyed. You really don’t have the joy either.

That is the first thing that goes when you get out of fellowship.

You have to kind of screw on that smile and say everything is great but down deep inside you don't have that fountain of joy bubbling up.

You have to work at it because you are phony, you don't have it, you lost a lot.

When you come back into God's will, you recover everything!

You are instantaneously flooded by the power of the Spirit of God and you are right back where you started.

Isn't that great!

And that is exactly what David experiences!

v. 20 He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying "This is David's plunder."

They got some stuff for David.

They were just thinking about stoning him.

Now they are down there and they are on his side, they are watching out for David.

Some of the livestock was separated,

and the men kept them separate and earmarked them as “David’s plunder.”

v. 21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them.

v. 22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David’s followers said, “Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go.”

Remember these guys are the guys that are in debt and distressed and discouraged and more. I mean this is not a surprise that these guys are like this.

Isn’t verse 23 super?

Now that is the verse of a man in fellowship with God.

v. 23 David replied, “No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the Lord has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us.

v. 24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike.”

The reward is the same for the one that is in the battle as the one with the baggage.

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul describes the body of Christ by saying:

1 Corinthians 12:12-18

“For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot should say, because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body; it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the ear should say, because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body; it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them in the body, just as he desired.”

We each have a part to play to make it all possible.

v. 25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.

v. 26 When David arrived in Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, “Here is a present for you from the plunder of the Lord’s enemies.

Now Judah is his tribe remember and so he is sending some stuff to them.

v. 27 He sent it to those who were in Bethel, Ramoth Negev and Jattir;

v. 28 to those in Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa

v. 29 and Racal; to those in the towns of the Jerahmeelites and the Kenites;

v. 30 to those in Hormah, Bor Ashan, Athach

v. 31 and Hebron; and to those in all the other places where David and his men had roamed.

Where had they been?

They were in Keilah, they were in Ziph, they were in Carmel, and they were in Maon.

Do you realize that is 13 cities plus all those other spots, now tell me the size of the plunder, will you. It had to be huge!

David’s ship has come in, and so he’s paying off all his notes.

Isn't that a neat place for the curtain to drop!

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: There are serious consequences when we compromise.

It sure looked good, look great, living in Ziklag.

LESSON #2: God provides a way of escape for David and his men.

It is not so much that God is not going to provide a way of escape it is whether you want to do it or not is the problem.

LESSON #3: Compromise puts us under the chastening hand of God.

LESSON #4: David turned to the Lord and found strength in a time of crisis.

LESSON #5: The Lord gave the promised victory when David prayed.

LESSON #6: David recovered everything as a result of following the Lord.

LESSON #7: The reward is equal for those with the baggage and those in the battle.

LESSON #8: David demonstrates generosity and kindness in the distribution of the plunder from the battle.

There are three psalms that I would like for us to meditate on in conclusion:

Three Psalms:

Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 25:4-5

“Make me know thy ways, O Lord. Teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me, for thou art the God of my salvation. For thee I wait all the day.”

Psalm 27:11

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path because of my foes.”

Lessons Learned In The Life of David

PART I

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT - 1 Samuel 29:1-30:1

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v.10 Now get up early, along with your master's servants who have come with you,

and leave in the morning as soon as it is light."

v.11 So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

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v.16 He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah.

v.17 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 29:1-30:31 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.
2. How does the Lord deliver David from the Philistines, according to chapter 29?
3. What did David find when he got back to Ziklag?
4. How do David and his men respond to the crisis, according to verses 4-6?
5. What important thing does David do, according to verse 7?
6. How is David helped in his battle against the Amalekites, according to verses 11-16?
7. How successful is David in his battle against the Amalekites, according to verses 18 & 19?
8. How does David handle the distribution of the spoils of war, according to verses 23-25?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David:

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT - 1 Samuel 29:1-30:1

- LESSON #1:** There are serious consequences when we compromise.
- LESSON #2:** God provides a way of escape for David and his men.
- LESSON #3:** Compromise puts us under the chastening hand of God.
- LESSON #4:** David turned to the Lord and found strength in a time of crisis.
- LESSON #5:** The Lord gave the promised victory when David prayed.
- LESSON #6:** David recovered everything as a result of following the Lord.
- LESSON #7:** The reward is equal for those with the baggage and those in the battle.
- LESSON #8:** David demonstrates generosity and kindness in the distribution of the plunder from the battle.