

## MAY 24

### 2 Samuel 4-6

Just a parenthetical note here. After the books of Samuel, come the books of Kings and Chronicles. Some of the history we are reading will be recounted in those books. So, as you read, try to remember or notice if a story is being repeated and then go back and look at the first rendition. Often in the other recounting, there will be new details, sometimes even a spiritual commentary on the event.

#### 2 Samuel 4

Vs. 1-3 Note that the assassination of Abner didn't bring the civil war to an end. I'm sure that Joab thought that killing Abner was a good idea, especially if it brought an end to the war. God is never glorified by that kind of stuff. It is too bad that David allowed someone poisonous like Joab to get close to him.

Not only was Ish-bosheth frightened by the news of Abner's murder, but all Israel, that is, the other 11 tribes, lost heart.

V. 4 This is an important note. The reason that Mephibosheth ("from the mouth of shameful" - what awful names) is mentioned here is that with Ish-bosheth dead, Mephibosheth would have been a contender to the throne. But since he was a cripple, he apparently wasn't dangerous. Soon, we'll hear more about M, and his condition plays a role in understanding some of what is coming up.

Vs. 5-12 Apparently this was a horrible assassination. Stabbing him in the stomach was not only a slow death, but it was the same murderous death inflicted by Joab on Abner. Remember again that David was the son-in-law of Saul. It is likely that he and Ish-bosheth had been friends. What were these guys thinking? Whatever it was, they didn't realize that David was spiritually minded, and deadly.

V. 12 The way David displayed the bodies showed his disdain. Cursed is everyone who is hung from a tree.

#### 2 Samuel 5

Vs. 1-5 As you note the age of David here, remember that he had been anointed by Samuel sometime around the age of twelve. Twenty-five years was how long Abraham had to wait from God's promise to the birth of Isaac. Waiting is the norm in following God, not the exception.

I find it interesting that the heads of the tribes already knew this about God's choice of David. So why did they fight such a long war? Notice in v. 5 that the difference between Judah and Israel is firmly established. David would make them one unified nation, but even during David's life, it didn't take much to break that unity.

Vs. 6-10 This is David taking Jerusalem, once and for all. We've been reading about Jerusalem and the Jebusites for a long time, but now the case is settled. For another look at this battle and for what became official as a result of it, look at 1 Chronicles 11:6. The Luther, KJV and NKJV seem to insert a part of 1 Chronicles 11:6 into v. 8. It was another one of those things that made Joab hard to get rid of. According to the Bible Knowledge Commentary-OT, p. 461, Jerusalem was a good choice for a capital city because in all the years Israel was in the land it was always under the control of the Jebusites, and therefore neutral. Another reason it was a good choice is that the city was given to both Judah and Benjamin by Joshua. And then, I think the main reason Jerusalem became the capital is that David apparently thought it was a cool place. I'll bet God gave him that thought.

Vs. 11-12 This was encouragement from the Lord that He was blessing David and Israel. It is significant that David, who had lived in tents for years, now had a house. That will be important in a few verses.

Vs. 13-15 I guess this is given to show evidence of God's blessing. I'm too much in the one man/one woman frame of mind to see this as a blessing. That's 11 more kids and maybe as many new wives. I wonder if David did much consulting of God in this area of his life. I think this ruined David, just as it will ruin Solomon.

Vs. 17-25 Having taken Jerusalem and making it the national capital was unprecedented in Israel. It was like, "whoa, they mean business." Not only that, Jerusalem had a reputation for being like a fortress. For the Philistines, it was time to move against David. Notice that David did do some "consulting" here. To me it is interesting to see that this wasn't just the U&T, but there had to have been a prophet involved because of the detailed instructions in the second battle. We'll meet that prophet tomorrow.

## 2 Samuel 6

I think bringing the ark to Jerusalem was more a desire of David's heart, than a political move; but as a political move, it was smart too. Even in Samuel's day, Samuel had to make a circuit of teaching and leading people in worship in different places. Israel hadn't been unified in worship, as God intended it to be, since the days of Joshua.

The ark at this point had been separated from the tabernacle for about 100 years.

Because of David's love for the Lord, and perhaps because he had made his own copy of the law, David sought to bring the ark of the covenant and the tabernacle together at Jerusalem. With this done, Israel would be united as God had intended.

Vs. 1-11 Just one problem, if you are going to honor God, it is best to do it His way and not simply think that if we have good intentions, everything will be ok and He'll look the other way. There was an instruction book, but you know how guys are when it comes to reading instructions. For the last little while, everything David had done had turned to gold. Suddenly, something went wrong. Oddly enough, Uzzah and Ahio were Levites and should have known better. What a disappointment for all involved. Notice that David had 30,000 people gathered for this event. David needed to check himself and respect God.

For another look at this, look at 1 Chronicles 13 and 15.

Vs. 12-23 You have to read 1 Chronicles 15 to understand what David was told or had read, that the ark had to be moved by the Levites, with the carrying poles. In other words, this time, he did it God's way.

David dancing before the ark must have been a sight. Apparently, and I have to make myself imagine this because I'm not that kind of guy, this was heartfelt joy and emotion and leaping and dancing, with all his might.

V. 14 should be understood that David was *only* wearing a linen ephod. Apparently in all the leaping and joy, from time to time, people saw a bit more of David than they needed to.

V. 16 This is an important comment in the story.

Vs. 17-19 Apparently, David had brought the tabernacle to Jerusalem. If David did this right, he brought the animals for offering and the priests and the Levites did the actual sacrificing. David, like Saul, would have been forbidden to sacrifice. I think David had read the instruction book by now. This was probably the first united worship event the nation had had in years.

Vs. 20-23 Every guy fears coming home and having his wife mad at him. David's honest sincerity and joy is what wins the day here. He was fully absorbed in the love and joy of the Lord.

That Michal has no children is not only God's judgment on her, but politically speaking, if she had had a son, it could have made problems in the future. The people could have thought of putting that son on the throne and reestablishing the family of Saul. As it is, God took care of this potential problem.

I have to wonder too, among all of her other hang-ups, if Michal was put off by being taken from her "husband" and landing in this ever growing harem, where she essentially had no husband and no one who really loved her.

#### **John 13:31-14:14**

V. 31 Judas' leaving would make the betrayal and vengeance of the Jewish and "spiritual" authorities complete.

What was that like, watching Judas leave, seeing and hearing the door shut? Jesus might have lowered His head for a moment, and then looked up at the disciples and said, *Now is the Son of Man glorified.*

V. 32 And that glory was now going to multiply exponentially, as the secret plans of God would burst into fulfillment, resulting in the forgiveness of sin, the redemption of man and the birth of the church.

V. 33 It seems like Jesus is revealing Himself more and more in this discourse, and here, calling them His *little children*. I wonder if any of them realized how surreal this talk was.

Vs. 34-35 Notice that the commandment to *love one another* is prefaced by v. 33. They were about to be left without Christ. For the mission before them, He would not be there to guide them as He had in the past, especially in terms of encouragement and support. Therefore, for the sense of providing in His absence what He had given in His presence, they were to *love one another* as He had loved them. This is not a theoretical love or general context. They were to love each other as in binding together in the mission. The mission provides the context. They were to be a "Band of Brothers." Without the context of supporting and encouraging one another in carrying forth the message of Christ, loving one another becomes some flowery, nice, but vague, command. Over the past three years, in and out of controversy, in tiredness, in stress, in busyness, Jesus' love and encouragement had been the glue that kept them following in the harvest. Now they were to do that for one another. The disciples were about to be tested. Jesus commands them to be there for each other, as the darkness was closing in.

This testing and the mission following His resurrection is the context for what He is about to share with them.

Vs. 36-38 This morning I was reading about Peter walking on water. Everyone was terrified seeing Jesus coming toward them on the water. He told them to take heart and not to be afraid, so Peter said, *Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.* And Peter walked on water. This guy had a hero's heart, but he was very human. He had no idea of the forces at work that night or how small his strength was, just like all of us.

#### **John 14:1-14**

V. 1 Notice that this is the context. They were troubled and Jesus would be leaving. How would they hold on, much less continue His work? They were confused and didn't see the redemptive plan of God coming together. They didn't understand that the plan for Israel would be put off for years. They had no clue of the church. They certainly didn't know that they would be the guys leading the church and bringing the gospel of Christ to the world. They were just troubled.

Vs. 2-3 So what is the point of the rooms? Why is Jesus telling them this? The context is everything.

Vs. 4-7 Verse 4 is the lead-in to one of the greatest verses in all of Scripture. In the context of their troubled hearts, Jesus is saying that the guarantee of their safety, being with Him where He is going, is that they know the way, the truth and the life.

V. 6 summarizes the truth and reason why Christianity can never "coexist" with any other religion. God is revealed through Jesus and Jesus is the only way to Him. Just as gravity operates the same in all nations and all cultures, the same God created them all and is only reached in one way.

V. 7 is a kind of rebuke to their slowness of heart, but Jesus promises that the result of the next few days will change them forever.

Vs. 8-11 Now it's Philip's turn. This answers the question, "If God ever walked on earth as a man, what would He look like and how would He act?" The events that follow this night answer another question, "If we could ever get our hands on God, what would we do?"

Our challenge as disciples is very real and comes from this passage, but is repeated all over the NT. If Jesus was the representation of the Father, we are to be the representation of Jesus. We are commanded to be imitators of Christ, ambassadors of Christ. Somewhere in all of this is the answer of what it means to abide in Christ.

Vs. 12-14 Again, this is to be understood in the context of the mission for which He is preparing them. They would stand on the earth without Him. Positionally in heaven, they were eternally secure and a place was prepared for them. On earth, on mission, they were to bind together to provide the love for one another that Christ had provided for them. I don't know how much comfort that spoke to them. It still kind of sounds like they'll be alone....or will they? In what Jesus says in this entire discourse is the understanding of being one with Him and abiding in Him. The reality of abiding in Christ is something we as disciples need to grow into.

### **Psalm 119:17-32**

As you read this, imagine David trying to deal with stress. He had the stress of running from Saul, followed by seven years of civil war in Israel. How do you respond when you're eaten up with thoughts that bother you, or when you hear evil things about you or your motives? David had all of that, plus trying to put a government in place with war always threatening on the horizon. That makes it hard to keep your thoughts straight.

This is what David did. Probably as he was writing out his copy of the law, either all of the first five books or just Deuteronomy, David might also have been writing Psalm 119. Notice how harassed his thoughts are. Underline all the negatives in one color. Then, underline in another color David's remedy. This is food for the disciple's soul, and good therapy.

Vs. 17-24 It seems that the first thought in each of these sections guides the concerns David had. Here it looks like he felt threatened by the brevity of life on the earth. In a way, time was slipping away from David, waiting to be king. But the Word gave David perspective on life that was centered in God's care.

Vs. 25-32 This sounds like David dealing with his emotions. Emotions change, but the Word is what guided David through the sorting out of his feelings. It also helped tune himself to reality. Our emotions and fears often only exist in our heads. When the Word is our meditation, God enlarges our hearts and gives us faith.

This morning I was reading in Philippians 4:8-9, *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

### **Proverbs 15:31-32**

V. 31 More valuable than advice or knowledge is reproof. Not only does it give intense correction in practical situations, but it shows a person's heart. Is a person able to take it, and learn from it?

V. 32 Reading that word *intelligence*, I think more of the military usage than thinking about IQ. In a war, knowing the lay of the land, the alliances, the plan of the enemy, all of that stuff, is what they call intelligence; and to the wise person, it would show you what to do and what not to do.

The Lord gives lots of information in the Word and through others. Some of this comes in the form of correction and reproof. Being disciples means we're not here for ourselves, but living to please Christ and to be useful for Him in reaching out to others and making disciples. And to think, He only corrects us because He is deeply in love with us.