

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- The Philistines had gathered at Aphek to deal the fatal blow to Israel, and Achish naturally had insisted that his vassal join him and the other lords in the battle. However, the Philistine commanders thought that in the heat of battle David would reassess his position and rejoin his former lord, Saul. David returned to Ziklag.
- Following the death of Samuel, Saul was terrified by the prospect of the Philistine army on its way for battle, and though he sought council from the Lord, he never received a response. He sought an answer through witchcraft instead.
- At Saul's request, the witch conjures up Samuel from the dead. Samuel explained once more that Saul by his disobedience had forfeited his right to rule and that David would take his place. Furthermore, Samuel said, Saul and his sons would die the very next day.

David

- After David had been dismissed from military service by the Philistine lords, he returned to **Ziklag** to find it in ruins and its population, including his family, taken captive by the **Amalekites**. He consulted the Lord and discerned that it was the will of God for David and his six hundred men to set out after them (**1 Sam. 30:1-8**).
 - ▶ After being on the road for four days, **two hundred** of David's party were so exhausted that they remained at the Besor Ravine, fifteen miles south of Ziklag. The others went on and found an **Egyptian** abandoned by the pillagers who was willing to show where the Amalekites had gone (**1 Sam. 30:9-15**).
 - ▶ David's men then overtook and decimated the Amalekites and recovered their loved ones **unharméd**. After some of the spoils were divided among everyone, David sent the rest to the **elders of Judah** for further distribution (**1 Sam. 30:16-20, 26-31**).
- Using a guise of **justice** to hide their **greed**, David's men proposed that the two hundred who stayed behind may take their wives and family members but will not get their hands on any of the **plunder** the four hundred had liberated. David refused (**1 Sam. 30:21-25**).

- ▶ David's **theology** determines his **viewpoint** and stands behind his directive in verse 24. It is a theology of **grace** that keeps its eyes on Yahweh's blessings. The troublemakers function on a philosophy of **works** that is always impressed with its own contributions.
- ▶ It is a picture of the difference between **worship** and **idolatry**. The man inebriated with the thought that all he has is Yahweh's gift finds himself repeatedly on his knees, **adoring**, **thanking**, and **praising**. But if he does not grasp grace he plummets into idolatry, for that is the inevitable corollary of **self-sufficiency**.
- Significantly, the last city mentioned to which David's generosity was sent was **Hebron**. It was the seat of David's rule for seven years and six months before he made Jerusalem his capital (**2 Sam. 5:5**).

Saul

- By the next morning the Philistines arrived at Shunem from their staging area at Aphek. After a fierce battle Israel gave way and made a **hasty retreat**. Saul and his sons, however, were unable to escape, and when it was clear that the end was at hand, Saul **committed suicide** rather than die at the hands of the Philistines (**1 Sam. 31:1-4**).
 - ▶ When the people of the area saw that all was lost, they **abandoned** their **cities** and **towns** to the Philistines (**1 Sam. 31:5-7**).
 - ▶ The next day the Philistines found the **bodies of Saul and his sons**. In a brutal act of revenge, they decapitated Israel's king, displayed his armor in the temple of their goddess Ashtoreth, and fastened his body to the outer wall of Beth Shan (**1 Sam. 31:8-10**).
- That night the men of **Jabesh Gilead**, twelve miles southeast of Beth Shan, stole across the Jordan River and retrieved the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall. After burning the bodies in order to hide the effects of the horrible mutilation, they buried the bones in their city. Thus Saul returned to the home of his **non-Benjamite** ancestress (**1 Sam. 31:11-13**).
 - ▶ Saul's reign began with his **deliverance of Jabesh** (chap. 11) and ends with **Jabesh's "deliverance" of Saul** (chap. 31). The Spirit may have departed from Saul and Yahweh may not answer him, but time was when Saul was their savior and they remain grateful.
 - ▶ The book of 1 Samuel opens with the **death of failed leaders**, Eli, and his sons Hophni, and Phineas dying on the same day (**1 Sam. 4:11,18**). It ends in similar fashion with failed leader Saul dying on the same day as his sons.

Part 6: The Kingdom

<p>1 Samuel 30:1–8</p>	<p>1 Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire 2 and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way. 3 And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. 4 Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. 5 David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 6 And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. 7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 And David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 30:9–15</p>	<p>9 So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor. 11 They found an Egyptian in the open country and brought him to David. And they gave him bread and he ate. They gave him water to drink, 12 and they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. And when he had eaten, his spirit revived, for he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights. 13 And David said to him, "To whom do you belong? And where are you from?" He said, "I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite, and my master left me behind because I fell sick three days ago. 14 We had made a raid against the Negeb of the Cherethites and against that which belongs to Judah and against the Negeb of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire." 15 And David said to him, "Will you take me down to this band?" And he said, "Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 30:16–20</p>	<p>16 And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. 17 And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled. 18 David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. 19 Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all. 20 David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, "This is David's spoil."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 30:26–31</p>	<p>26 When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the Lord." 27 It was for those in Bethel, in Ramoth of the Negeb, in Jattir, 28 in Aroer, in Siphmoth, in Eshtemoa, 29 in Racal, in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, in the cities of the Kenites, 30 in Hormah, in Bor-ashan, in Athach, 31 in Hebron, for all the places where David and his men had roamed.</p>

<p>1 Samuel 30:21–25</p>	<p>21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow David, and who had been left at the brook Besor. And they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near to the people he greeted them. 22 Then all the wicked and worthless fellows among the men who had gone with David said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except that each man may lead away his wife and children, and depart." 23 But David said, "You shall not do so, my brothers, with what the Lord has given us. He has preserved us and given into our hand the band that came against us. 24 Who would listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike." 25 And he made it a statute and a rule for Israel from that day forward to this day.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:5</p>	<p>At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 31:1–4</p>	<p>1 Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. 2 And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. 3 The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers. 4 Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 31:5–7</p>	<p>5 And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him. 6 Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together. 7 And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. And the Philistines came and lived in them.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 31:8–10</p>	<p>8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. 9 So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people. 10 They put his armor in the temple of Ashtaroth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 31:11–13</p>	<p>11 But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what 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 Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. 13 And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 4:11</p>	<p>And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 4:18</p>	<p>As soon as he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years.</p>