

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- 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.
- David's men then overtook and decimated the Amalekites and recovered their loved ones unharmed. After some of the spoils were divided among everyone, David sent the rest to the elders of Judah for further distribution.
- 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.
- 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.

Amalekites

- Second Samuel begins as 1 Samuel ends—with an account of the death of **King Saul and his son Jonathan**, the heir apparent. But while 1 Samuel 31 describes the events as they **actually occurred**, 2 Samuel 1:1–16 consists of a report of the events filtered through the not words of an **Amalekite**.
 - ▶ Immediately after Saul's death at Gilboa, the Amalekite came to David at Ziklag and gave him the sad news that both the king and his son were slain. The messenger, hoping to get a **reward** from David, told him that he had personally **killed Saul (2 Sam. 1:1-10; 1 Sam. 31:5-6)**.
 - ▶ But David, who had had many opportunities to do the same in the past but had **refused to lift his hand** against the Lord's anointed, ordered the lying Amalekite messenger to be **put to death** for something he had only pretended to do (**2 Sam. 1:11-16**).
 - ▶ It is not likely that Saul would have been so **isolated** in the thick of battle, with no **armor-bearer** at his side, that he had to depend on an Amalekite who accidentally came by to administer the final blow.
- The Amalekite assumes that David is driven by the same **passion for power** as

he is and that no scruples would stop David from **seizing the kingship**; David assumed that **fear** should have stopped the Amalekite from destroying the king.

- ▶ David instead takes up a **lament** for Saul and Jonathan (**2 Sam. 1:17-27**). The poem, likely entitled "**The Bow**," was to be taught to all the people of Judah so that they would remember the tragedy of losing **their king** at the hands of their pagan enemies.

King David

- David makes no move before he **seeks direction from Yahweh**, and the Lord authorizes David to leave Ziklag for **Hebron of Judah** in particular. The fact that David brought his men and his two wives signifies that David has broken completely with **the Philistines** and has made a new beginning in Judah (**2 Sam. 2:1-3**).
 - ▶ Hebron was significant for at least three reasons:
 - ◆ **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** were all buried there (**Gen. 23:17-19; 25:9-10; 49:29-32; 50:13**).
 - ◆ Hebron stood nineteen miles south/southwest of Jerusalem at some **3,000** feet elevation.
 - ◆ It was the most **important town in Judah** at the time.
 - ▶ The men of Judah came and anointed David king over the **house of Judah**. David's elevation to kingship, though administered by men, is fundamentally due to **divine anointing** (**2 Sam. 1:4, 5:3, 12; 12:7; 1 Sa 15:17**).
- Word eventually reaches David that the men of **Jabesh-gilead** had given Saul a decent burial. Since Jabesh is an **Israelite** town and therefore presumably still loyal to Saul's house, David realizes that he must try to win them over to his side (**2 Sam. 2:4-7**).
 - ▶ David concludes his offer to enter into a covenantal relationship with the Jabeshites by encouraging them to "**be strong and valiant**." With Saul dead and David anointed king over Judah, David invites the Jabeshites to enter into a mutual **defense treaty** with him.
- Though we're not told the reaction of Jabesh-gilead, we are told that **Abner**, the captain of Saul's army, makes **Ish-bosheth**, Saul's son, king over Israel (**2 Sam. 2:8-11**).
 - ▶ The promotion of Ish-bosheth as king was not only a continuation of the hostility of Saul towards David, but also an open act of **rebellion against the Lord**.

Part 6: The Kingdom

<p>2 Samuel 1:1-10</p>	<p>1 After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. 2 And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. 3 David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." 4 And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." 5 Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" 6 And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. 7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' 8 And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' 9 And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' 10 So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 31:5-6</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.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 1:11-16</p>	<p>11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. 13 And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." 14 David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" 15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. 16 And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.' "</p>
<p>2 Samuel 1:17-27</p>	<p>17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, 18 and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said: 19 "Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! 20 Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult. 21 "You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor fields of offerings! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, not 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, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions. 24 "You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. 25 "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! "Jonathan lies slain on your high places. 26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women. 27 "How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"</p>
<p>2 Samuel 2:1-3</p>	<p>1 After this David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 3 And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron.</p>
<p>Genesis 23:17-19</p>	<p>17 So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over 18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. 19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.</p>

<p>Genesis 25:9–10</p>	<p>9 Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, 10 the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife.</p>
<p>Genesis 49:29–32</p>	<p>29 Then he commanded them and said to them, “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, 30 in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. 31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah— 32 the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites.”</p>
<p>Genesis 50:13</p>	<p>for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 1:4</p>	<p>And David said to him, “How did it go? Tell me.” And he answered, “The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead.”</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:3</p>	<p>So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:12</p>	<p>And David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 12:7</p>	<p>Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 15:17</p>	<p>And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 2:4–7</p>	<p>4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. When they told David, “It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul,” 5 David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, “May you be blessed by the Lord, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. 6 Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. 7 Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.”</p>
<p>2 Samuel 2:8–11</p>	<p>8 But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul’s army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, 9 and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel. 10 Ish-bosheth, Saul’s son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he 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.</p>