

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## ***David... A Man After God's Own Heart***

### **Character Studies on the Life of David**

#### **2 Samuel 1-2:4 - "David's Lamentation and Coronation"**

2 Samuel 1:1, *"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;"*

For ten years David has been in exile living with a price on his head. He had been hiding in the land of the Philistines in the city of Ziklag.

Background: 1 Samuel 30 – David's lowest point.

God had promised David he would be king and God always keeps His promises.

2 Samuel 1:1-2, *"Now it came to pass...; ... It came even to pass..."*

2 Samuel 2:1, *"And it came to pass..."*

How do we know that he went to battle?

2 Samuel 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."*

2 Samuel 1:1, *"Now it came to pass after the death of Saul..."* - David doesn't know about Saul (no CNN, Fox News, e-mail, etc.)

Lesson: God is often working behind the scenes when we are least aware.

Saul is dead and David is soon to be the new king. But before his coronation he first goes through a time of lamentation.

Let's follow the story as it unfolds in four movements:

I. The report of the battle (2 Samuel 2-12)

Notice the following:

1. The messenger of death (vs. 2-4)

2 Samuel 1:2-4, "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. And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped. 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."

Who he was and what he was thinking.

## 2. The message of death (vs. 5-10)

2 Samuel 1:5-10, "And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead? 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. And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here am I. And he said unto me, Who art thou? And I answered him, I am an Amalekite. 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. 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."

Note: Does the Bible contradict itself?

No!

The story according to the Holy Spirit :

1 Samuel 31:3-6, "And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. 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. And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together."

The messenger was lying! Why?

Lesson: Liars never prosper.

## 3. The mourning over death (vs. 11-12)

2 Samuel 1:11-12, "Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: 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."

Notice:

- a. What David did NOT do (the Amalekites must have been shocked)
- b. What David did do – He mourned; he wept
- c. Proverbs 24:17-18a

*Proverbs 24:17-18a, "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him,"*

- d. We see the greatness of David

David was Saul's enemy but Saul was not David's enemy  
– Love your enemies.

Lesson: How do you respond when you hear that one of God's servants has fallen?

## II. The retribution of the unrighteous (2 Samuel 1:13-16)

*2 Samuel 1:13-16, "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. And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed? And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died. 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."*

- He received the sword and not a reward.

Saul didn't (1 Samuel 15)

- Why would David do this?

*Deuteronomy 25:17-19, "Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it."*

## III. The requiem for the dead (2 Samuel 1:17-27)

- A musical composition in honor of the dead -

2 Samuel 1:17-27, "And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son: (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.) The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! 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. 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. 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. 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. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. 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. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"

2 Samuel 1:17-18, "And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son: (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)

David's grief over the death of Saul and Jonathan was sincere. To help the people remember them, he wrote a song; a beautiful eulogy in their honor.

It was also put in the 'Book of Jasher'.

It was called the 'Song of the Bow'

The song starts in verse 19.

1. David addresses the people of Israel (vs. 19-20)
2. He addresses the mountains of Gilboa (vs. 21)
3. He praises Saul and Jonathan (vs. 22-23)
4. He addresses the daughters of Jerusalem (vs. 24)
5. He speaks to his beloved friend Jonathan (vs. 25-26)

Lesson: The importance of close friendships

Men with men; women with women

6. He closes with the repeated theme of his funeral song (vs. 19, 25 & 27)

#### IV. The reign of David over Judah (2 Samuel 2:1-4)

*2 Samuel 2:1-4, "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. So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite. And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron. 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."*

#### Closing Lessons:

1. Be forgiving – there's no mention of Saul's faults in David's 'Song of the Bow'.

- David could have said...
- Love covers a multitude of sins
- What grace David manifests, when you consider all the pain Saul caused David in his life.
- David knew the importance of forgiveness

*Ephesians 4:29-32, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

2. Be faithful – we also learn from the story of David and Saul that we must commit ourselves to be faithful to the leaders God has placed over us.

- a. David had a great respect for God ordained authority – Saul wasn't perfect.
- b. Illustration:

\* In the Home – Children-Parents  
Wife-Husband

\* In the Church – Spiritual Leaders

\* In the State

Romans 13:1, "*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*"

3. We must follow God's leading – be ready to follow!

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1. David Prayed (vs. 1)

2. David had faith (vs. 1)

- In God's promise
- In God's plan
- But not God's timing
- Waiting on God
- Not forcing Himself, not usurping His will on the people
- David followed the Leader God put over him. And David followed the leading God set before him (vs. 11)

Alexander Maclaren – If we are sure that God has promised us anything, and if He does not seem to have yet opened the way to obtaining it, our 'strength is to sit still.' If He has given us Hebron, we can be patient till He please to give us Jerusalem.