



I Samuel

Part #23 –
Ziklag

Have we followed you in vain?

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Introduction

Ever since I received a prophetic word about the great things the LORD will do with me, all I have experienced is one calamitous event after another.

I don't know what to believe anymore...Please help me understand?



Introduction

Key Scriptures

- And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? *should it not be* with the heads of these men? – 1 Samuel 29:4
- *Is* not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands? – 1 Samuel 29:5
- Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, *as* the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host *is* good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not. – 1 Samuel 29:6



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; – 1 Samuel 30:1
- And had taken the women captives, that *were* therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried *them* away, and went on their way. – 1 Samuel 30:2
- Then David and the people that *were* with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. – 1 Samuel 30:4



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. – 1 Samuel 30:6
- And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. – 1 Samuel 30:7
- And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*. – 1 Samuel 30:8



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- So David went, he and the six hundred men that *were* with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. – 1 Samuel 30:9
- But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor. – 1 Samuel 30:10
- And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water; – 1 Samuel 30:11



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk *any* water, three days and three nights. – 1 Samuel 30:12
- And when he had brought him down, behold, *they were* spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. – 1 Samuel 30:16
- And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled. – 1 Samuel 30:17



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives. And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any *thing* that they had taken to them: David recovered all. – 1 Samuel 30:18,19
- And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, *even* to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD; – 1 Samuel 30:26
- The righteous *man* wisely considereth the house of the wicked: *but* God overthroweth the wicked for *their* wickedness. – Proverbs 21:12



Keys

Ziklag

- Favor's triumph
- Wisely consider the house of the wicked – Proverbs 21:12
- Return at first light
- Saul's sin roost - Amalekites burn down Ziklag – 1 Samuel 15:2,9
- Almost where?
- Home burnt down
- Judgment of those close to you
- Regain your perspective - Sharing



In this lesson

Pass the Test of Ziklag

- Report of the Philistines
- Razed to the ground
- Rush to conclusion
- Raising stones
- Rest in the cause
- Recovery
- Renumeration



Report of the Philistines

Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands? – 1 Samuel 29:5

Report Card

- The adversary remembers the songs
- The Generals do not trust David
- Was asked to return to the apportion land - Ziklag



Razed to the ground

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. – 1 Samuel 15:2,3

Amalekites return

- Saul's incomplete mission - The consequences of disobedience resurfaces – 1 Samuel 15:9
- Last straw of hope dashed
- Distressed – Suffering great pain or torture; severely afflicted; harassed; oppressed with calamity or misfortune



Rush to conclusion

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. – 1 Samuel 30:6

In the absence of evidence

- What about the prophetic words?
- We have been in peril since we joined you
- Now we have lost it all after 13 years of wondering with you.
- Ever since we decided to follow you, calamity has not ceased to pursue us



Raising stones

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. – 1 Samuel 30:6

The judgment of those close to you

- David's report card
- David has misled us
- The things dear to us are no more
- It was never recorded that the women ever murmured, just the men!



Rest on the cause

...but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. – 1 Samuel 30:6

Rest in the cause regardless of the course

- What do you turn to amid devastation – The bottle? Drugs? Suicide?
- What questions do you ask when bewildered by overwhelming odds?
- Rest in what God has said
- Circumstances betray the onset of the promise



Rest on the cause – Cont'd

...but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. – 1 Samuel 30:6

Rest in the cause regardless of the course

- It is darkest before dawn, they say!
- Keep your testimony in the presence of those you lead
- David asked for direction from God and acted upon it. – See contrast 1 Samuel 14:19



Recovery

And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. – 1 Samuel 30:8

The power and will to win

- The question behind the power and will to win – Providence kicks in
- God is always waiting to answer persistence when all seems lost
- Directions are forfeited when the will to advance is lost
- What you don't value will eventually leave your life
- One man's trash is another man's treasure



Recovery – Cont'd

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Crabs, quitters, campers and climbers

- Not all have the strength to recover – they must be separated from those who do
- Strengthen failures in the presence of fear
- Some focused on their losses, others on the imminent recovery
- Greed among David's men
- Changed statues and ordinances



Renumeration

And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, even to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD; – 1 Samuel 30:26

Reward for believing the word

- 10 Cities hear about the exploits of David through the gifts
- David lavishly bestows gifts in all places he and his men will go
- The preparation sets the stage for what will follow after King Saul's death



Summary

King Saul and Jonathan die in battle



Next Week

Bootcamp Continues! – David in preparation in the classroom of the wilderness continues