

THE LORD HATH BROKEN FORTH UPON THINE ENEMIES

2 SAMUEL 4:1 – 5:25

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is witnessing very troubling times in the history of the nation Israel in this and our previous several reports. This is a time of internal strife and civil war after the death of King Saul and his son Jonathan. Heartache and heartbreak are consuming God's people at the time in which we are studying. This section of Scripture is wholly neglected, and one that is usually passed by without a second look. I dare say some pastors and evangelists have never even opened their Bible to these pages. Well, it's rather important, because these passages reveal the family genealogy of Christ. Another reason is, as Paul tells us, all of these things happened to Israel as examples unto us. These lessons are designed to minister to us in a very real and spiritual way. That spiritual aspect is what I am attempting to bring into the light, my dear readers.

In our last report, we saw David crowned King over the tribe of Judah – but there was still a vast rebellion against him – led by Abner – and by the son of Saul, King Ishbosheth. The army that remained of King Saul was still loyal to Ishbosheth; even though David had been anointed king by Samuel. Some very strange power dynamics appear when we begin dissecting this section of Scripture. We saw Ishbosheth rebuke Abner for sleeping around with the concubines of Saul. That's when Abner defected to David; and entered a city of refuge for sanctuary. Abner was coerced out of the city of refuge by Joab, who was waiting to take revenge on Abner for having murdered his brother. These accounts are quite detailed and as convoluted as they can be; but you haven't seen anything yet. Wait until we get to the books of Kings.

We also saw David move to Hebron in the southern region of Israel; where David gave Abner the strangest epitaph anyone has likely ever heard. See, Abner died as a fool dies because he left the city of refuge. Abner had security and safety in that city, but he refused to abide in it. Most people die today in a state of refusing and rejecting salvation in the Lord. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation – but

2 SAMUEL 4:1 – 5:25

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only to whosoever believes in Him. God loves us, yes; but we must accept and avail ourselves of the responsibility that comes along with that when we receive Christ - if we are to be saved to a place of fruit bearing. Only those who believe in Christ shall not perish. Only believers are given eternal life. *Only those who have suffered with Christ in this life shall rule and reign with Him at His return.* You might want to make a note of that. God's viewpoint is iterated by David saying a man is a fool to reject Christ and die without Him. That's not my opinion, and it's not my theology – it's what the Word of God teaches. So, as we begin this report, we know Ishbosheth has lost Abner, the captain of his military. Ishbosheth is inexperienced, but he knows he cannot maintain control of the kingdom without his army....

IV

1 And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.

2 And Saul's son had two men that were captains of bands: the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin: (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin:

3 And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)

4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

5 And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon.

6 And they came thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth rib: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

7 For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

8 And they brought the head of Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.

9 And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity,

10 When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:

11 How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?

12 And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron.

~ Saul's sons were certainly given some unusual names. We'll consider Mephibosheth in subsequent reports. His is one of the most beautiful stories ever told and it directly involves David. In all reality, Mephibosheth had the right to the throne of Israel because his father was Jonathan – whose father was King Saul. Not only would it have been a legal right – it would have been as David had sworn to Jonathan before Jonathan was killed. Well, because of that, David would never have harmed

Mephibosheth or any of his brothers. Personally, I have wondered why David did not install Mephibosheth as king; but I believe a directive from God to David that we are not privy to modified David's agreement. Perhaps the handicap was a factor. Whether conscious or not, I do not know. I like to lean on the former. What we know for sure is: something happened that changed David's mind. We're going to see David send men out looking specifically for family members of Saul and Jonathan later – but not to kill them – to show kindness to them. Interestingly, David sends his men to locate Mephibosheth, and they expect David was going to kill him. That's when David brings Mephibosheth into the palace and gives him a place at his table. Although not king, I believe Mephibosheth likely contributed to policy making many times for David. Either way, David will take care of and protect him for the rest of his life.

These acts by King David somehow never seem to come up in the teachings about him. It should be remembered, and probably spotlighted more than his sin aspect; but it isn't. People would rather criticize David for his sins – and they are worthy of criticism – but the One Who criticizes David the most is God Himself. Because of that, perhaps we should be the balance? We'll certainly see the Lord correct and chastise David; but David had many wonderful traits that are commendable, and this is one of them. Maybe this type of teaching concerning David and Mephibosheth would soften our frighteningly hardened society?

Our great spiritual lesson in this is that you and I have been shown kindness because of the acts of another. See, David loved Jonathan and David showed all of this kindness to Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake. You and I have been crippled by sin, friends. God covers us with His righteousness; and, because of another – His Son Jesus Christ and what Christ did for us – God accepts us and receives us. No other reason. It's a striking picture and we'll develop it fully when we get to it on safari.

Alright, the account before us is *NOT* a pretty picture. Anywhere the Scripture follows man's storyline, it is all bad. The total depravity of mankind is what the Bible teaches, and without that doctrine, the Bible doesn't even make sense. Almost all contemporary teaching of the Bible is *NOT* approached from this perspective, rendering it irresponsible and,

candidly, shameful. There isn't much that is truly beautiful in our contemporary culture, my beloved. There isn't fine or noble and profound teaching going on around us. It would be very easy for me to be overly critical of Israel in this terrible period of crises and cover this all-up by highlighting what a good little Sunday school boy I am. Saying the transition of the kingdom of Saul to the kingdom of David is not a nice story is a gross understatement, period. This time in which we are studying is plagued with civil war and rebellions – and all of the atrocities that are inextricably intertwined with it.

So, this chapter revealed two underlings – who were mere petty officers under Abner – when they discovered Abner was dead and David had assumed power, they conspired to murder Ishbosheth. Of course, they made a huge miscalculation in doing so, and then boasting to David about what they had done ensured they were finished. They murdered a man in cold blood in his own bed. It was a bloody and heinous crime. Just as the Amalekite who claimed to have killed Saul in chapter one, these men both expected that, by executing their plan, they would make peace with David. The Amalekite expected to be rewarded for killing Saul; and these two men expect a reward for murdering Ishbosheth. Imagine them bringing the head of a man to David as proof he is dead. That's what the mafia does. It doesn't get any worse than that, friends. Of course, as we just read, David summarily executed them for such heinous deeds. And, with that, David assumes control and leadership over all twelve tribes of Israel; the eleven other tribes quickly decide to make overtures with David for peace. It was a wise decision....

V

1 Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

~ The civil war in Israel consisted of fighting amongst close families, which makes it the worst type of war. America had a similar war and, as we look back on it today, it was unnecessary, and it was the result of unreasonable protestors demanding a right to hurt others by enslaving them. That's what started ALL of America's troubles in their very early history, in my

estimation; *NOT* necessarily the men who actually fought. Grant, Lee and Lincoln found themselves in an awkward situation; and we can still see the vestige and carry-over affects in this country centuries later. The scars remain, there's no question; and, in some cases, they've never healed at all. America's spiritual race wound is badly reinjured with each generation, as far as I can tell. It can't heal. America is reaping what it has sown in that connection. Our discrimination and inequality is without solution; and grows worse each day. If you disagree, you are simply not living in reality. God is not mocked, friends. That is one reason I am against all angry protesting; and I don't care what the cause is – but I digress, sort of.

Here, we also strangely see Israel enter a period of prosperity and expansion as they have never previously enjoyed. Of course, they are a little late in getting around to acknowledging David as the legitimate and rightful ruler of Israel; and that alone is tantamount to questioning his authority. Everyone knew and recognized Samuel had anointed David king. Israel should have taken action on David's behalf a *LONG* time ago; so, frankly, I'm not impressed with Israel right now. Only after slipping into total chaos do they realize their error. This is a picture of the day in which Christ comes to rule and reign over the earth, too, by the way....

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and King David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.

4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take

away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither.

7 Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.

8 And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

9 So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.

10 And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

13 And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.

14 And these be the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,

15 Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,

16 And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.

18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

20 And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.

21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.

22 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

23 And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

~ So, David has now apparently relocated headquarters to Jerusalem; and, immediately, he is underestimated by the people. But David is a composed military leader now, and he will do whatever God instructs him to do, which makes David a remarkable man after God's own heart. You should mark verse seven in your Bible because Zion was David's favorite place in Israel; Zion is the city of David. If you have ever been to Jerusalem, you know Zion is the high point of the city. We should note that in David's day, the city of Jerusalem was much closer to the valley of Kidron. The wall that

encompassed the ancient city has been excavated. The present-day city of Jerusalem is much closer to Mount Zion's actual location. That is where the palace of David was built. The place designated for the building of the temple was immediately adjacent below Zion.

David wrote many Psalms speaking of Jerusalem; and David chose all of that land for himself. Interestingly, Pilate hated Jerusalem, and he would only travel there to maintain law and order on the feast days, which is the only reason Pilate was there during the Passover when Jesus was arrested. Pilate preferred to be in Caesarea, on the Mediterranean Sea. Quite frankly, I agree with Pilate on geographical preferences. Either way, according to the Bible, Jerusalem is to be the literal and physical capital of this earth. We can all thank God we won't be there because we will be in the New Jerusalem with Christ in eternity. The New Jerusalem has a much greater vantage point than the earthly Jerusalem does, anyways. The point is, David took the high ground, which enabled him to overwhelm the Jebusites before they even knew a battle had begun. Keep in mind God will not permit David to build the temple – another result of David's sin.

We should also keep in mind we are not to judge another man's servant. To his own master, a servant stands or falls. I have no right to sit in judgment over you and, likewise, you have no right to sit in judgment over me. Both of us will stand before God for the judgment of our works – not for salvation – but to see whether we will receive a reward or not. I'm not your servant and you're not mine – I don't report to you, friends – I report directly to my Father in Heaven. So, let's not judge each other on that basis – as most people seem to do. Jesus said, *"judge a righteous judgment"* – I'm good with that.

So, our so-called safari concludes this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with David making a new friend – the King of Tyre. Hiram recognized David was an outstanding man; so, it's natural he wanted to work with David. We have a record of facts provided, friends – not a seal of God's approval. God most definitely disapproves of all of the wives David has presumptuously married, and that sin will result in the splitting of his family and the kingdom; and will actually contribute to Judah entering the Babylonian captivity, too; although somewhat indirectly. See, David was the

king, and he was in the place of responsibility. What David did by taking all of these wives was wrong, friends. Period. And it was wrong because God said it is wrong, by the way. This is God's universe, and He makes the rules. If you don't agree with them, then go make your own universe. Good luck with that. Personally, after thinking them through to their final conclusions, I believe most of God's laws and precepts are pretty good.

We don't know very much about the first two sons of David named in verse fourteen; but we know a lot about Nathan and Solomon. It is the line of Nathan that Mary, mother of Jesus, comes from. Not Solomon and Bathsheba. That is one set of Bible facts that is wildly misunderstood today. From the line of Solomon came Joseph, Mary's husband. So, between these two, the Lord Jesus Christ received the bloodline and the legal title to the throne of David. Understanding this is critical; and is the reason this was recorded for us this way. This section of Scripture is a bit complicated; and Kings and Chronicles increase the difficulty. But it isn't impossible to understand. Asking the Spirit of God for understanding in prayer is the key.

I wish more people actually studied the Bible in an educated, systematic, sincere manner before talking about it. The only possible outcome of discussing the Bible in ignorance is trouble. This chapter continues and closes with another monotonous war against the Philistines. You will recall there was a time when David was a close friend of the king of Philistine. From here forward, there won't be peace between David and this enemy again. I always wondered what happened there, too. So many questions. I'm thankful God is giving me the opportunity write them all down, so I'll remember them when I go into His presence. Okay, in the next leg of our Spiritual Safari, we'll see David bring up the Ark of the Covenant; that is going to display a case of David doing the right thing in the *WRONG* way. I hope you'll join us as we travel forward through the Bible ~