

~ Who killed King Saul? We investigated that question in the Book of first Samuel where we read “...Saul fell on his own sword as the Philistines advanced on his position.” Then, we saw a man confess to the crime; and King David summarily executed that man. After that, we quickly learned that the Bethel Police Department didn’t buy either story at all. The BPD went on to list King Saul’s death as ‘*indeterminate*’ — and it became a cold case.

In this report from our Spiritual Safari, God Himself is going to reveal the truth of this matter and close the case forever. It will end with a conviction – *YOURS!* In our first report from first Chronicles, we learned that we are being given a historical perspective from *God’s viewpoint*. Remember, the Book of Kings was given from *man’s* point of view; here, we have certain kingly accounts given an emphasis by the Holy Spirit – but there are some areas of great silence, too. Also, in our previous report, we considered one of the longest and most detailed genealogies mankind has record of. The ancestry of the children of Israel is traced all the way back to Adam in the first eight chapters of this book. That genealogy covers the entire nation up to the time they were all carried away into captivity....

IX

¹ So all Israel were reckoned by genealogies; and, behold, they were written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah, who were carried away to Babylon for their transgression.

~ This verse is a tremendous revelation that there was on exhibit in the temple the total and complete genealogy of the children of Israel. Actually, at that time, each tribe had their full lineage published. I didn’t even print all those names because the names alone are around five thousand words.

Very few people even read these reports; but, if I put all those names in one report there wouldn't be *ANYONE* reading! Well, God saw them as very important, and those lists were recorded until the day they were taken away in captivity; and that's when an era of confusion ensued.

When they returned to the land from captivity, they resumed recording the genealogies in the temple. At the time the Lord Jesus was born, those genealogies were available for anyone to go in and examine. You can be sure the enemy did some checking to see if it was accurate or not. Interestingly, there has never been an attack made upon the genealogy of Jesus. It was out in the open; and it was accurate! When Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed in 70 AD by Titus the Roman, all records were destroyed. God specifically did it that way because He was only interested in telling us about His Son.

Christ came in the line of Adam, and He is and was the last Adam – there won't be a third Adam. There are only two families: the first Adam is the lost family; and you and I belong to that family by birthright. You weren't born into this world as a lovely and sweet little boy or girl; and neither was I. We were sinners who had no capacity for and were totally and completely alienated from God. I think the truth of that is obvious if we look around the world. If people are looking for God, then they sure haven't found Him. Many people make a cartoon of God after being specifically told *NOT* to make an image or likeness of Him; and then they seem to wonder why they are completely alienated from the Lord.

It is a dismal prospect we have in Adam, to be sure. However, we have a hope in Christ – the last Adam – today. Our genealogy goes *back* to the One Who was born of the Spirit. If you say you came to Christ and trusted Him as your Savior – and the Spirit of God has made Christ real to your heart and life – then you belong to the family of the last Adam; and that's a family of life. Christ came to this world that we might have life – and have it more abundantly. We don't just exist from day to day – we're on a real trip

that eventuates into a reality in Heaven. Christ is going to return and take away His Own people someday. That is the value of this genealogy....

² Now the first inhabitants that dwelt in their possessions in their cities were, the Israelites, the priests, Levites, and the Nethinims.

~ Not everyone in the tribe of Levi served in the priesthood. Only the immediate sons of Aaron had access to the tabernacle as priests. The others were, more or less, custodians. The Nethinims may have been slaves; they were definitely servants of some sort. There has always been a question as to whether Israel had slaves; personally, I think they did – but not of their own brethren. The Gibeonites, for example, were used in the service of the temple — but only in a position of servitude.

In verse thirty-three, notice there was a great deal of singing that went on – day and night – and that was done by the Levites. So, I know *FOR SURE* that if I am an Israelite, I don't belong to the tribe of Levi; because I can't sing. I think they developed music to a very high degree, by the way. Remember, David was interested in music, too. Then, in verse thirty-nine through the end of this chapter, we have the line of Saul. When we consider the line of Saul in this manner, we see he was king for a very brief time....

³ And in Jerusalem dwelt of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim, and Manasseh;

⁴ Uthai the son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, of the children of Pharez the son of Judah.

⁵ And of the Shilonites; Asaiah the firstborn, and his sons.

⁶ And of the sons of Zerah; Jeuel, and their brethren, six hundred and ninety.

⁷ And of the sons of Benjamin; Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hasenuah,

⁸ And Ibneiah the son of Jeroham, and Elah the son of Uzzi, the son of Michri, and Meshullam the son of Shephathiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibnijah;

⁹ And their brethren, according to their generations, nine hundred and fifty and six. All these men were chief of the fathers in the house of their fathers.

¹⁰ And of the priests; Jedaiah, and Jehoiarib, and Jachin,

¹¹ And Azariah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of the house of God;

¹² And Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchijah, and Maasiai the son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer;

¹³ And their brethren, heads of the house of their fathers, a thousand and seven hundred and threescore; very able men for the work of the service of the house of God.

¹⁴ And of the Levites; Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari;

¹⁵ And Bakbakkar, Heresh, and Galal, and Mattaniah the son of Micah, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph;

¹⁶ And Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun, and Berechiah the son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, that dwelt in the villages of the Netophathites.

17 And the porters were, Shallum, and Akkub, and Talmon, and Ahiman, and their brethren: Shallum was the chief;

18 Who hitherto waited in the king's gate eastward: they were porters in the companies of the children of Levi.

19 And Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, of the house of his father, the Korahites, were over the work of the service, keepers of the gates of the tabernacle: and their fathers, being over the host of the LORD, were keepers of the entry.

20 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar was the ruler over them in time past, and the LORD was with him.

21 And Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was porter of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

22 All these which were chosen to be porters in the gates were two hundred and twelve. These were reckoned by their genealogy in their villages, whom David and Samuel the seer did ordain in their set office.

23 So they and their children had the oversight of the gates of the house of the LORD, namely, the house of the tabernacle, by wards.

24 In four quarters were the porters, toward the east, west, north, and south.

25 And their brethren, which were in their villages, were to come after seven days from time to time with them.

26 For these Levites, the four chief porters, were in their set office, and were over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God.

27 And they lodged round about the house of God, because the charge was upon them, and the opening thereof every morning pertained to them.

28 And certain of them had the charge of the ministering vessels, that they should bring them in and out by tale.

29 Some of them also were appointed to oversee the vessels, and all the instruments of the sanctuary, and the fine flour, and the wine, and the oil, and the frankincense, and the spices.

30 And some of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices.

31 And Mattithiah, one of the Levites, who was the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the set office over the things that were made in the pans.

32 And other of their brethren, of the sons of the Kohathites, were over the shewbread, to prepare it every sabbath.

33 And these are the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, who remaining in the chambers were free: for they were employed in that work day and night.

34 These chief fathers of the Levites were chief throughout their generations; these dwelt at Jerusalem.

35 And in Gibeon dwelt the father of Gibeon, Jehiel, whose wife's name was Maachah:

36 And his firstborn son Abdon, then Zur, and Kish, and Baal, and Ner, and Nadab,

37 And Gedor, and Ahio, and Zechariah, and Mikloth.

38 And Mikloth begat Shimeam. And they also dwelt with their brethren at Jerusalem, over against their brethren.

39 And Ner begat Kish; and Kish begat Saul; and Saul begat Jonathan, and Malchishua, and Abinadab, and Eshbaal.

40 And the son of Jonathan was Meribbaal: and Meribbaal begat Micah.

41 And the sons of Micah were, Pithon, and Melech, and Tahrea, and Ahaz.

42 And Ahaz begat Jarah; and Jarah begat Alemeth, and Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begat Moza;

43 And Moza begat Binea; and Rephaiah his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son.

44 And Azel had six sons, whose names are these, Azrikam, Bocheru, and Ishmael, and Sheariah, and Obadiah, and Hanan: these were the sons of Azel.

X

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.

2 And the Philistines followed hard after Saul, and after his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, the sons of Saul.

3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him, and he was wounded of the archers.

~ Chapter ten marks the first occurrence of a very definite distinction God makes between the books of Samuel and Kings and Chronicles. In Samuel,

we had the entire history of King Saul – which was from man’s viewpoint; and it seemed like his prominent reign would never end. Here, God boils his life down to one short chapter; and, even in that one chapter, Saul is dead by the fourth verse.

There are many leaders in the religious community who occupy or have occupied a seemingly prominent position of leadership for the Lord, but who won’t be published in Heaven. Some great men of the world won’t even be mentioned by name. They have no importance or use in the cause of furthering the Gospel of Christ, as far as God is concerned. That’s because they have turned their backs on Him — as did King Saul. Interestingly, God didn’t pick out some great works Saul did for his nation to record in remembrance of him — the only things listed are the things that went horribly wrong — and his death. After this chapter, it’s all about David; and in second Chronicles, it’s all about David’s family. Saul is never mentioned again.

Now, you will recall that when we studied first and second Samuel, we made an attempt to determine who killed Saul. The big question was: who was responsible for the murder of the king; or was it suicide? The record says he was mortally wounded in battle with the Philistines. Saul commanded his servant to finish him off, but the servant said, “.... *no way.*” So, Saul fell on his own sword — but was *THAT* really the cause of death? Then, that Amelekite came along and tried to capitalize on the situation by telling David he killed Saul. That Amelekite condemned himself out of his own mouth....

⁴ Then said Saul to his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. So Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

⁵ And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on the sword, and died.

⁶ So Saul died, and his three sons, and all his house died together.

⁷ And when all the men of Israel that were in the valley saw that they fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, then they forsook their cities, and fled: and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

~ The only reasonable conclusion is that when the Amelekite came along, Saul and his sons were already dead. Of course, it was well-known that David and Saul were enemies, and the Amelekite thought David would bestow upon him some honor and reward for having done this dastardly deed for him. That man never even considered David would kill him for this! Well, apparently, the Amelekite man wasn't guilty; so, this shows foolishness in lying; and taking credit for something that we shouldn't may mean death....

⁸ And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen in mount Gilboa.

⁹ And when they had stripped him, they took his head, and his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to carry tidings unto their idols, and to the people.

¹⁰ And they put his armour in the house of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.

¹¹ And when all Jabeshgilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹² They arose, all the valiant men, and took away the body of Saul, and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

14 And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this report with a confession that clears the case of Saul's homicide. It's very easy to breeze past verses thirteen and fourteen — but they are noteworthy. Saul inquired not of the Lord; therefore, He slew him. *God* took Saul's life, friends. The Lord hath given and the Lord hath taken away. I find it interesting how unbelievers and atheists constantly complain about how mean God is. Telling me God is hateful is like the prisoner telling a guard the judge was corrupt in sentencing him. It doesn't change anything. The guard doesn't care; it only makes the person more angry and bitter.

Maybe you find fault with God for doing this. Maybe you think God should be brought up on murder charges? Well, Saul wasn't the first one God snuffed out, and he won't be the last. God says you and I are never to take a human life — only the Lord gives and takes life rightfully. That's why our life must be surrendered if we take the life of another human being. Saul died for two very definite reasons and those two reasons are listed in verse thirteen!

Friends, God will carry out *YOUR* execution — and mine — for these same transgressions. There are other reasons, too; as Ananias and Sapphira figured out the hard way. There is a sin unto death and God takes full credit for it — and He makes no apologies, either. Many times, God reaches in and takes men out for their sins. Saul refused to inquire of God; but, rather, he turned to the underworld. Who are *YOU* listening to today? Do you hear God's voice? If you listen to man's voice — or worse: your *OWN* voice — then you're listening to Satan. When that happens, it causes God to move into the affairs of men — and He will move in *YOUR* life, too!. Make no mistake.

Moreover, God sets men aside from service in many other ways and for myriad reasons, too. I've seen it happen personally. God hasn't abdicated; and he moves in the affairs of *ALL* men – lost *AND* saved. God just happens to be running His universe; and He runs it *His* way. God isn't accountable to us; we're accountable to Him. That's the way it is whether you believe it, accept it – or even if you don't like it. God is the umpire, referee, judge, jury and executioner all rolled into One. What a remarkable leg of this expedition this has been as God has pointed a very bright spotlight onto a most muted worldly subject ~

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