

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This evening, we are going to continue our study through 2 Samuel. We are going to go over chapter 9 and chapter 10.

We are now in the chapters where King David's reign was at its apex.

He has been king for about 15 years and many great things have occurred up to this point.

Israel has a new capital - Jerusalem

The Ark of the Covenant (the presence of God) has also been relocated to Jerusalem.

Many of the enemies that the nation of Israel had struggled with have been defeated by David and his armies – most notably the Philistines.

And a good portion of the land that was promised to Abraham has now been acquired

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So things are looking pretty good for David.

The two chapters that we are going to study tonight are the calm before the storm – you see chapter 11 is when David commits adultery with Bathsheba and covers up his sin by having Uriah killed.

But before we get too far ahead of ourselves, we are going to see a beautiful example in the life of David where we see a picture of God's lovingkindness.

Let's pray...

[2Sa 9:1-13 NKJV] 1 Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

I had made the point a few weeks ago, that during this time, it was customary whenever there was a change of the monarch – the new King would order the extermination of the family members of the previous monarch.

And the reason this was done was to eliminate the threat that might come from a descendent from the previous monarch that may make a claim to the throne.

So, David is sitting around in his palace during a time of peace – and he begins to dwell upon a conversation that he had with his friend Jonathan while he was still alive.

In 1 Sam 20:14-15 we have the words that Jonathan spoke to David -

[1Sa 20:14-15 NKJV] 14 "And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; 15 "but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

I had you make a note of the word kindness that David used in verse one as well as the word kindness that Jonathan used – they are exactly the same Hebrew word.

The word “kindness” that is used here is sometimes translated “lovingkindness”, “mercy”, “grace”.

It is something based on an agreement between two people (usually God and man). However, Jonathan and David had an “agreement” and that agreement was that when David became king, he would show kindness to Jonathan’s descendants – Jonathan didn’t want David to do what was customary and kill off his descendants.

2 And [there was] a servant of the house of Saul whose name [was] Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "[Are] you Ziba?" He said, "At your service!" 3 Then the king said, "[Is] there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is] lame in [his] feet."

It appears that after the death of all the sons of Saul, Ziba was the one who took care of Saul’s estate.

So David calls him to find out if there is a relative that is still alive.

And he tells Ziba that he wants to show that individual the kindness of God – I had you make a note of that.

What David wants to do here is show this individual the same kindness or the same grace that God has shown to him.

David doesn't even know who this person is – but he wants to show grace toward them.

[Rom 5:8 NKJV] 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God wants to show His kindness to everyone.

He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

He is not willing any should perish, but that all would come to repentance.

So Ziba tells David that there is a descendant of Saul that is alive and he is the son of Jonathan – who is lame in his feet.

Back in chapter 4, we learned that his name was Mephibosheth and he became lame when his nurse/nanny dropped him as they fled when they learned that Saul and his sons had died in battle.

4 So the king said to him, "Where [is] he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he [is] in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

Mephibosheth is hiding out in the house of this wealthy individual named Machir – I had you make a note of it because later on, David is going to be on the run again from one of his own sons (Absalom) and Machir is going to be one of the individuals who will help David out.

It could be that Machir was impressed by the kindness that David shows Mephibosheth here in this chapter.

6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

Mephibosheth most likely was aware that David was outside the doors – and he doesn't have a clue to what's about to happen.

But all of that changes when David calls him by his name – it was at that point where Mephibosheth identified David as his king.

John 10 declares that Jesus knows the name of His sheep. He is the Good Shepherd. He knows your name and He calls you individually.

7 So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

Mephibosheth did not have a lot of money – how do we know that he did not have a lot of money??? Because he was living in someone else's house.

And David tells him that he is showing kindness toward him because of the covenant that he had with his father, Jonathan.

So David here promises Mephibosheth that he is going to receive what was already his.

Mephibosheth might have known about the land already but he was afraid to possess it because doing so would have exposed him before the king.

Not only does he get his land back – David is also promising him to sustain him for the rest of his life.

When David ate dinner – Mephibosheth would be there eating alongside him.

Grace is only possible through faith in Jesus.

Through it, and through Him, all that was lost to Adam and Eve will one day be restored to us.

In the mean time, God promises to sustain us. We may eat bread at His table continually.

8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What [is] your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

Mephibosheth doesn't understand the kindness that David is showing him.

He considered himself a worthless and insignificant individual.

Yet here, the King is showering him with undeserved grace –

Remember, Mephibosheth has done nothing to deserve this.

We deserve nothing, yet through the Cross, God gave us everything. This is grace.

9 And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. 10 "You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in [the harvest], that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do." "As for Mephibosheth," [said the king], "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons."

David sets it up where servants are now going to be working the land for Mephibosheth and provide food for his household. However, Mephibosheth was still to eat with David as if he were a son to David.

12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name [was] Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba [were] servants of Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt

in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. **And he was lame in both his feet.**

After all that happened to Mephibosheth in this chapter – did you notice the last part?

Mephibosheth was still physically lame.

That would not change.

Grace is sufficient for you in just that same way.

It is far above the material; far above the physical.

We often miss it because we are too much about the physical and the material.

As long as we remain in these bodies, we will know what it is to be crippled and lame.

We will struggle against the flesh – desiring to be set free.

However, grazing on grace, we can see ourselves seated in Heaven, with Jesus, at the right hand of God.

[2Sa 10:1-19 NKJV] 1 It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. 2 Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the people of Ammon.

So in the last chapter, we saw David show kindness to Mephibosheth.

Here in chapter 10, David now shows kindness towards a pagan king because he sympathized with the loss of his father.

So David sends servants to express condolence and comfort to Hanun.

The name Hanun actually means “gracious” however, we will see that Hanun is anything but gracious.

3 And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Has David not [rather] sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?"

Hanun has some suspicious people around him.

They think that David isn't really trying to be nice.

They think that David is going to take advantage of the situation and end up overthrowing the Ammonites.

These individuals might have had the king's best interest – however, they were wrong.

4 Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away.

David servants arrive and instead of welcoming the servants, Hanun orders his men to shame David's servants.

Shaving half their beard doesn't mean that they gave the servants a beard trim. It means that they shaved off one side of their face.

In those days and even in some places around the world today, shaving someone else's face is seen as a great indignity.

During this time, only the slaves were clean shaven – that is how one would be able to spot a runaway slave – if they were clean shaven.

So having half shaven faces only added to the embarrassment.

Plus they also sent them away wearing miniskirts.

Insulting a king's ambassador is the same as insulting the king himself.

The same principle is true with King Jesus and His ambassadors. Jesus reminded His disciples: If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (John 15:18)

5 When they told David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and [then] return."

David doesn't want his men to face the extra humiliation of returning to Jerusalem before all their friends and comrades and being seen in their embarrassing state.

It's better for them to hang out in Jericho and wait until they look decent enough, and then come back to work.

6 When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, the people of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand foot soldiers; and from the king of Maacah one thousand men, and from Ish-Tob twelve thousand men.

The people of Ammon knew they had insulted David and they knew that David would respond in due time –

So they proceed to hire soldiers from the other nations around them to help them fight against David.

7 Now when David heard [of it], he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

The mighty men here were the same group that followed David during the time when he was fleeing Saul.

However, back then they were not so mighty –

It was just a group of distressed, indebted, and discontented individuals.

And the scriptures tell us that some of these individuals single handedly killed many in battle.

8 Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array at the entrance of the gate. And the Syrians of Zoba, Beth Rehob, Ish-Tob, and Maacah [were] by themselves in the field.

So Joab and the mighty men arrive for battle and the people of Ammon are waiting for them on one side and the forces that they hired are on the other side.

So they are going to completely surround Joab and the mighty men.

9 When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best and put [them] in battle array against the Syrians. 10 And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, that he might set [them] in battle array against the people of Ammon. 11 Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you. 12 "Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do [what is] good in His sight."

Joab sees that they are surrounded and he proceeds to split the army in two.

He would take one group against the Syrians and Abishai would take another group against the Ammonites.

And their plan was to simply attack and if one of the groups was struggling then the other group would come over and help them out and vice versa.

In other words, they would have each other's back.

13 So Joab and the people who [were] with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. 14 When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai, and entered the city. So Joab returned from the people of Ammon and went to Jerusalem.

The scriptures don't even mention if there was an actual battle – it appears that the Ammonites and the Syrians simply fled before the battle even started.

15 When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered together. 16 Then **Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who [were] beyond the River, and they came to Helam. And Shobach the commander of Hadadezer's army [went] before them.**

We saw the name Hadadazer last week – he had already been defeated by King David and here he reorganizes his troops for another battle.

17 When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in battle array against David and fought with him. 18 Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven

hundred charioteers and forty thousand horsemen of the Syrians, and struck Shobach the commander of their army, who died there.

When David finds out that Hadadazor is reorganizing his troops – he himself goes into battle and he soundly defeats them.

Notice that he doesn't send Joab this time.

I will explain the significance of this shortly.

19 And when all the kings [who were] servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore.

The Israelites defeated the Syrians and there was peace with them. However, the victory over the Ammonites will not occur until the end of chapter 12,

Now, I told you that I was going to explain the significance of David going into battle against the Syrians.

Because when you read the beginning of the next chapter, the first thing that it mentions is that David decides that he is not going to lead his troops into battle – so he sends Joab and because he is not in battle, he decides to take a walk on the roof and that is where he first sees Bathsheba.

God had blessed him by giving him victory after victory and he decides to sit the next one out.

And that will lead to him suffering the greatest defeat of his life.

Let's pray...

