

Bibles???

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

Good evening church,

We are starting a new series today.

We just finished Paul's Epistle to Titus – and now we are going to go back to the Old Testament and study 2 Samuel.

Some of you might remember that we did study 1 Samuel last year –

Much of it focused on the life of King Saul – Israel's first king.

You might remember that the Children of Israel complained to Samuel that they wanted a human king like the nations around them – So God gave them a king according to the image that they wanted – that was King Saul.

King Saul started well – he was humble at first, but then his pride started to take over. He started to care more about what the people wanted instead of what God had commanded him to do.

He then became jealous of David and spends much of his time pursuing him trying to kill him.

And this went on for several years –

However, God used these years of grief, pain and sorrow to train David for the job he was called to do.

That is what we are going to see in 2 Samuel –

**Let's pray...**

So before we get into 2 Samuel,

Let's go back one chapter to 1 Samuel 31 to remind us of demise of King Saul.

**[1Sa 31:1-10 NKJV] 1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. 2 Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. 3 The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers. 4 Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. **Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.** 5 And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword, and died with him. 6 So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that same day. 7 And when the men of Israel who [were] on the other side of the valley, and [those] who [were] on the other side of the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and**

his sons were dead, they forsook the cities and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them. 8 So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. 9 And they cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and sent [word] throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim [it in] the temple of their idols and among the people. 10 Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

So King Saul and his men are fighting a losing battle against the Philistines on Mt Gilboa, one by one his soldiers and three of his sons are falling before his very eyes.

An arrow is shot in his direction and it pierces him – he orders his armor bearer to kill him but his armor bearer refused – **so Saul fell of his sword and died.**

**[2Sa 1:1-27 NKJV] 1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the **slaughter of the Amalekites**, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag,**

David was not present at the battle where King Saul was defeated because he had been on the run from Saul and had sought refuge among the Philistines.

David sought an alliance with the Philistines but he and his men were rejected because God intervened.

And when David and his men return to Ziklag, the Amalekites had taken their wives and children and all their possessions – his own men wanted to kill David.

So David strengthened himself to the Lord and went after the Amalekites and got everyone and everything back -

**2 on the third day, behold, it happened that a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head.** So it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself. **3 And David said to him, "Where have you come from?" So he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."**

David knew that this individual was bringing bad news because of his appearance.

The tearing of clothes and the pouring of dust on one's head was a traditional expression for the mourning of the dead.

**4 Then David said to him, "How did the matter go? Please tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also." 5 So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?" 6 Then the young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance [to be] on Mount Gilboa, there was Saul, leaning on his spear; and indeed the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.**

This individual tells David that he was there during the battle – and that he sees Saul attempting to commit suicide.

We don't know what he was doing there – some people have speculated that he was a mercenary that Saul had hired to fight alongside the Israelites.

**7 "Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' 8 "And he said to me, 'Who [are] you?' So I answered him, 'I [am] an Amalekite.'**

The Amalekites were descendants of Esau – they were nomads that lived in the area south of Canaan.

In scriptures, the Amalekites are a picture of the flesh.

When the Children of Israel were being delivered from Egypt, as they wandered the wilderness, the Amalekites would attack them from the back – because this is where all the women and children and older people were.

They were opportunist.

King Saul was actually commanded by God to destroy the Amalekites.

He was being given one more opportunity by God to show his obedience.

**[1Sa 15:1-11 NKJV] 1 Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words**

of the LORD. 2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek [for] what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. 3 'Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' " 4 So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. 5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. 6 Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. 7 And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. 8 He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all [that was] good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. 10 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, 11 "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul [as] king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

This individual who is standing before David is a descendent of King Agag.

If Saul had done what he was supposed to do – this guy wouldn't even exist.

**9 "He said to me again, 'Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still [remains] in me.' 10 "So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that [was] on his head and the bracelet that [was] on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."**

Whoa, wait a minute!

I thought the last chapter said King Saul fell on his own sword and committed suicide?

He did.

This mercenary evidently thought that David would be excited about Saul's death because it cleared the way for him to become king.

So he inserted himself in the story, made himself look like a hero.

Maybe after hearing the story, David would reward him with a nice position in his army.

**11 Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and [so did] all the men who [were] with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.**

David's response is not what the Amalekite was expecting.

He thought David would have been jumping up for joy at the news that his adversary was dead.

But the opposite was true – he mourned and wept and fasted.

He was not bitter at Saul.

Remember, Saul took away everything from David –

He took away David's family (Saul takes away his wife), home, career, security, and the best years of David's life – later on in chapter five, the scriptures will reveal that David was 30 when he was made king over Israel – that means that from his late teens until he was 30 – those years were robbed from him because of jealousy, spite and hatred.

Yet David was not bitter toward Saul.

Why?

Because he trusted the Lord.

He knew that God was in charge of his life, and that even if Saul meant it for evil, God could use it for good.

And I think that we can all learn from the example that David displays here.



Many of us turn to bitterness when someone wrongs us.

And we hold that bitterness for a very long time.

And the thing is that nothing good comes out of that bitterness.

Our bitterness is a failure to trust in the Lord.

**13 Then David said to the young man who told him, "Where [are] you from?" And he answered, "I [am] the son of an alien, an Amalekite." 14 So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"**

David had multiple opportunities to kill King Saul – and every time he had an opportunity, he refused.

The reason being is that he was going to allow the Lord to take care of it.

Even though Saul had hardened his heart toward God, David recognized that Saul was king only because God had allowed him to be king – therefore, he wasn't going to take matters into his own hands.

God had put him there – it was God who had the task to remove him from the throne.

So what David is asking the Amalekite here is – “Who do you think that you are to take down one of God's anointed???”

**15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, [and] execute him!" And he struck him so that he died. 16 So David said to him, "Your blood [is] on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.' "**

David was going to bear no guilt in putting this man to death because he has admitted by his own mouth that he was the one who killed the King of Israel.

**17 Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, 18 and he told [them] to teach the children of Judah [the Song of] the Bow; indeed [it is] written in the Book of Jasher:**

Now, the book of Jasher is not a lost book of the bible. It is simply a collection of writings that is also quoted in the book of Joshua –

David's sorrow was sincere and deeply felt – so he crafted a song to express how he felt.

And he named the song – The song of the bow -

**19 "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!**

**20 Tell [it] not in Gath, Proclaim [it] not in the streets of Ashkelon--Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.**

Gath and Ashkelon are two of the main Philistine cities.

He doesn't want Israel's enemies to find out that King Saul had been defeated and killed.

However, he didn't know how fast news travels because the Philistines had taken the head and armor of Saul and were taking them on a tour of the Philistine cities.

**21 "O mountains of Gilboa, [Let there be] no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.**

Here we have David pronounce a curse on the mountains where King Saul was defeated.

I read an interesting article that when the Jews returned to Israel in 1948, they began a great project of planting trees throughout the land.

Yet because of this verse, they won't plant trees on the northern most portion of Mount Gilboa.

**22 From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty. 23 "Saul and Jonathan [were] beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions. 24 "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.**

Step back and think about who is saying this. It's David.

Saul had been insanely jealous of David.

Saul had tried to put David to death many, many times.

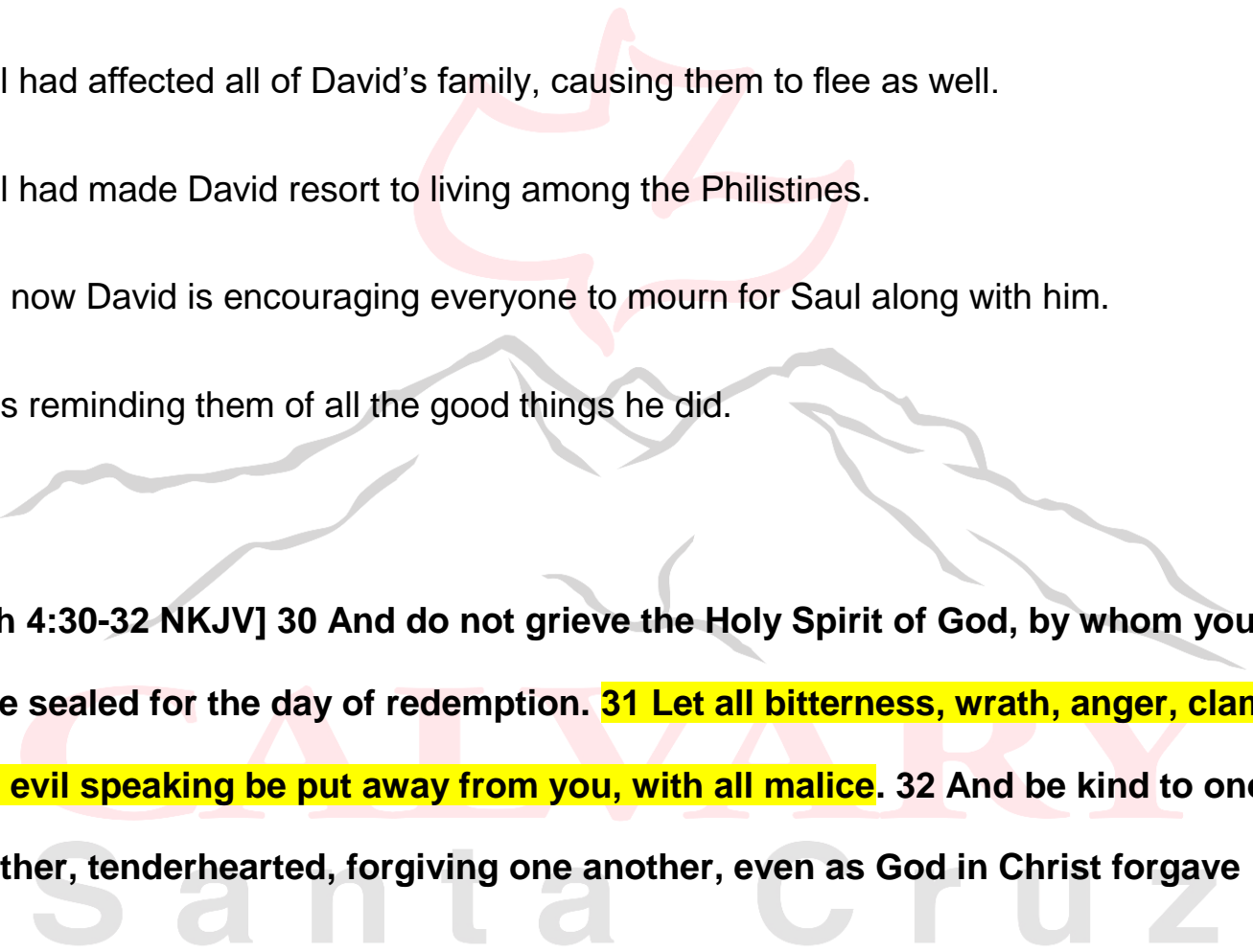
Saul had ruined David's marriage to Michal.

Saul had affected all of David's family, causing them to flee as well.

Saul had made David resort to living among the Philistines.

And now David is encouraging everyone to mourn for Saul along with him.

He is reminding them of all the good things he did.



**[Eph 4:30-32 NKJV] 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

**25 "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan [was] slain in your high places. 26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have**

been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, **Surpassing the love of women.**

There are some people who make the claim that this shows that David and Jonathan were gay.

We have to be careful to not interpret historical events based on our current society's culture.

That is not the case. Jonathan and David had a deep, godly love for each other – but not a sexual love.

**27 "How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!"**

By “weapons of war” David was referring to Saul and Jonathan as weapons in the Lord's hands.

This was an amazing review of Saul's life in particular.

David not only didn't try to kill Saul and take revenge, he seems to have truly loved and honored Saul.

You see, David wasn't the guy who was keeping himself back from revenge solely because that was the right thing to do, yet secretly looking forward to the day that Saul would be wiped out.

David isn't rejoicing over Saul's death, he seems to regret it.

I want to finish with the following bible verse

This is Jesus speaking – part of the Sermon on the Mount

**[Mat 5:44-48 NKJV] 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more [than others]? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

This is what David did church.

And I pray that we may follow in his footsteps.

Amen.

Let's pray...