

David seeking to escape Saul's murderous plots flees to Gath and king Achish who wants to make David his bodyguard and go into battle w/ him against Israel. Fear forces us to do foolish things--his men must have questioned his decision making (what are we doing in the camp of the enemy ready to go out against our people, I've got two brothers in Saul's army')

David had lost faith, had not prayed for direction he simply followed emotions of fear and fled to the camp of the enemy. Peter did the same. Providence of God gets David out of the mess he put himself in. Commanders of Achish protest saying if David goes into battle he will turn on us & join w/ his people, so Achish dismisses him and he goes to Ziklag the city Achish gave him, where the families of his men were left unguarded.

1 Then it happened when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had made a raid on the Negev and on Ziklag, and had overthrown Ziklag and burned it with fire; 2 and they took captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great, without killing anyone, and carried them off and went their way. 3 And when David and his men came to the city, behold, it was burned with fire, and their wives and their sons and their daughters had been taken captive. 4 Then David and the people who were with him lifted their voices and wept until there was no strength in them to weep. 5 Now David's two wives had been taken captive, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite.

Hard to see how God can overrule David's bad decisions. Now enemy takes advantage of unguarded Ziklag as things go from bad to worse. David is no willful just weak yet God is still in control. Jonah went from bad to worse in running from God, yet God was in control in fish moving Jonah where God wanted him to go. Nineveh he headed Tarshish

Amalekites Saul was to eradicate but didn't are a type of the flesh, '*put to death the deeds of the flesh, you shall live*' Rm 8:13 Flesh life ruins us & our family. God teaching-correcting David not to leave family unprotected (no prayer)

God restrained harm on families *Pr 21:1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

6 Moreover David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people were embittered, each one because of his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. 7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Please bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 And David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this band? Shall I overtake them?" And He said to him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them, and you shall surely rescue all."

David's men rose up against him. He led them in a series of bad decisions & they faithfully followed but this is the last stray—families taken. But God's providence prevails. *Seen after trial is over.* God is sovereign in bringing His will to pass--teaching, correcting & testing so we might trust Him.

Great faith isn't produced on calm seas but in the storms of life, enduring the difficult things that come our way. *Mans extremities are God's opportunities.* David is at the lowest point in his life just before he is to ascend the throne. He encourages himself in the Lord & is example for his men who were distressed-vexed (contentious) & bitter-rebellious

The man or woman after Gods own heart accepts the consequence of bad decisions more than their followers. David hurts more than the rest & he bears it better...encourages himself. *Come to end of ourselves..beginning..*

9 So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those left behind remained. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men, for two hundred who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor, remained behind. 11 Now they found an Egyptian in the field and brought him to David, and gave him bread and he ate, and they provided him water to drink. 12 And they gave him a piece of fig cake and two clusters of raisins, and he

ate; then his spirit revived. For he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights. 13 And David said to him, "To whom do you belong? And where are you from?" And he said, "I am a young man of Egypt, a servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind when I fell sick three days ago. 14 "We made a raid on the Negev of the Cherethites, and on that which belongs to Judah, and on the Negev of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire."

David went to God & God's word came....be victorious, rescue all...at a time when he & his men were exhausted emotionally & physically. Only God's word was their source of strength & motivation to continue. It is hard to rally the troops in this condition. And now another blow 1/3 are too weary to continue. David didn't push them or insist they go.

Providence of God—Egyptian servant left to die, David finds him & he takes to Amalekites. Causing destruction of Amalekites & servant's master.

15 Then David said to him, "Will you bring me down to this band?" And he said, "Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring you down to this band." 16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing because of all the great spoil that they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.

Plan to sell the women and children to Egyptians.

17 And David slaughtered them from the twilight until the evening of the next day; and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. 18 So David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and rescued his two wives. 19 But nothing of theirs was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that they had taken for themselves; David brought it all back. 20 So David had captured all the sheep and the cattle which the people drove ahead of the other livestock, and they said, "This is David's spoil."

Sovereignty of God that nothing was missing. 100K tv

21 When David came to the two hundred men who were too exhausted to follow David, who had also been left at the brook Besor, and they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him, then David approached the people and greeted them. 22 Then all the wicked and worthless men among those

who went with David answered and said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away and depart." 23 Then David said, "You must not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us, who has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us. 24 "And who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike." 25 And so it has been from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

David had some tough men to lead and deal w/. Good leader uses persuasion & words of wisdom to gain loyalty. **Missions stay by stuff—Ruth Graham receive same rewards as Billy—so do prayer warriors, tithers, supporters of local and foreign missions share equally**

26 Now when David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, "Behold, a gift for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD: 27 to those who were in Bethel, and to those who were in Ramoth of the Negev, and to those who were in Jattir, 28 and to those who were in Aroer, and to those who were in Siphmoth, and to those who were in Eshtemoa, 29 and to those who were in Racal, and to those who were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to those who were in the cities of the Kenites, 30 and to those who were in Hormah, and to those who were in Bor-ashan, and to those who were in Athach, 31 and to those who were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were accustomed to go."

David is generous to the cities that supported him when he and his men were on the run from Saul for the last 12-15 years. ***Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend....Pr 27:10a***

Ch 31

1 Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. 2 And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons; and the Philistines killed Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua the sons of Saul. 3 And the battle went heavily against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was badly wounded by the archers. 4 Then Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and pierce me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and pierce me through and make sport of me." But his armor bearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. So Saul took his sword and fell on it. 5 And when his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his

sword and died with him. 6 Thus Saul died with his three sons, his armor bearer, and all his men on that day together.

Saul died but not the complete story 2 Samuel gives further details. Amalekite finished Saul off.

7 And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley, with those who were beyond the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned the cities and fled; then the Philistines came and lived in them. 8 And it came about on 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 weapons, and sent them throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people. 10 And they put his weapons in the temple of Ashtaroath, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. 11 Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all the valiant men rose and walked all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh, and burned them there. 13 And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

Cremation—Amos 2:1*Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions of Moab and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.*

Indignity done, vindictive, violated the sanctity of death & burial not the method of cremation but dishonor to the dead man.