

Life of David

Lesson 23

Text

1 Samuel 31:1-13 (1 Chronicles 10:1-14; 1 Chronicles 9:40-44; 2 Samuel 4:4)

Background

Through chapter 28, David was living amongst the Philistines in Ziklag and doing so while under a cloud of deception. As we move into chapter 29, it all comes to a head as the Philistines prepare to go to battle against Saul and Israel. On the eve of battle, Achish's commanders could smell a rat with David in tow and demand that David be sent back to Ziklag lest he turns sides during battle and help deliver the victory to Saul. Reluctantly, Achich sends David back to Ziklag.

As David travels back, he finds that the Amalekites had raided both Negeb and Ziklag, and amongst the captured were David's two wives, Ahinoam and Abigail. In his distress, David seeks the wisdom of the Lord to determine what he should do next, pursue or not.

Not only is David able to track down the Amalekites, with the help of a young Egyptian servant, but he is able, with God's blessing and help, to defeat the Amalekites and return all the spoils taken during the raid.

This is where we leave David for the rest of 1 Samuel. In chapter 31, we have the climatic end to Saul's reign and when we pick back up in 2 Samuel, we have the beginnings of David taking his place as king of Judah and Israel. Before we get there, chapter 31. Let's dig in and see how Saul's reign ends.

Day 1 - Read and Listen

1. Read and/or listen to the passage twice. If possible, use different translations. I highly recommend having the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

Day 2 - Observing the Text

2. Who are the characters listed in the passage? As much as the passage tells you, write down any titles, traits, or additional information about each of the characters in the narrative.

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3. Where does the narrative take place? List out any locations mentioned. To be more specific, study a map from the timeframe of 1 Samuel (approximately 1105 - 971 BC) and see if you can find the locations on a map. Write down any observations from this exercise.

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4. Summarize the main plot points from the passage in the space below.

Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

5. Name one or more of the conflicts from the passage and how they were resolved or left unresolved.

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6. How does the narrative fit into what you already learned about 1 Samuel? Consider, if applicable, the following: How does the narrative tie to the larger picture of a coming royal priesthood? Do you see any foreshadowing of Jesus as King?

Day 4 - Additional Study

7. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

8. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links “purposeful parallels.” If so, write those down below.

9. **Word Studies:** Use the “Blue Letter Bible” or your favorite word study method to look up any words of your choice in the passage. Be prepared to share your findings with your group. Remember, this is the Old Testament. You will be looking up Hebrew words.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

10. **Application:** Think about the legacy left by Saul and consider the legacy left by Samuel (think of the application question from a few weeks ago). In the end, we all die. All of us. Reflect on the legacy you want to leave your family after you. Do you desire to have a legacy centered around obedience to God or one centered around fulfilling your flesh or outright disobedience to God? Are you going to be remembered as a Saul or a Samuel? Write your thoughts and reflections below.
