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## LESSON NOTES (STUDIES IN 2 SAMUEL: THE REIGN OF DAVID)

2 SAMUEL 1&2 — THE ROYAL LEGACY BEGINS

Lord's Day, June 3, 2018

### OVERVIEW

“Session 1” *Respect for the Fallen: Hope for the Survivors*

If we pay attention to the opening salvos of what we call “2 Samuel,” we will see as Paul Harvey called it, the “rest of the story.” Except in this case—it was a prequel to a story of divisiveness which would plague the followers of the Lord God well into the present. 2 Samuel begins the record of David, not as shepherd or hero of the plains of Elah, but as king, not initially of Israel, but only of Judah. This division created a scar among believers—we who can affirm our faith identity through ancestry versus we who can only affirm our faith identity through following the Law.

Of course, the coming of the Christ as Jesus of Nazareth—a Judean—would blow this divisiveness into small, irrelevant parts. Paul, whose Jewish name was Saul and took great pride in announcing his ancestry as a Benjamite, commented on this divisiveness in his letter to the churches of Galatia. There was no room for such nonsense. There is a new king in town and fealty to Him destroys the artificial boundaries we created...

Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. <sup>22</sup>But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

<sup>23</sup>Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

<sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. —Galatians 3:21-29

2 Samuel 1:19-27. *A Sad Time*. Saul and his men have been defeated by the Philistines. Falling on his sword, his body was decapitated and placed along with three of his sons' bodies in the temples of Ashtoreth. Later recovered by the "valiant men" of Gilead, their bodies were burned and the bones buried at Jabesh which David later recovered and placed in the family cemetery of Zela the Benjamite.

After summarily executing the Amalekite who lied about killing King Saul, David called for honoring the anointed one of Israel—Saul. [Even though Ish-Bosheth, son of Saul, was to become king of Israel, not David.] He ordered the men of Judah to learn this lament...

- Q Why wasn't the lament to be shared in Gath, Ashkelon?
- Q What curse did they request for Gilboa?
- Q What praise did David offer regarding Saul and Jonathan?
- Q Why did David praise Saul? Jonathan?
- Q Why have "the mighty fallen?"

### 1 SAMUEL 1:19-27

"Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights. 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 be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice.

21 O mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, nor fields that yield offerings of grain. For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil.

22 From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied.

23 Saul and Jonathan—in life they were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

24 O daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.

25 How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights. 26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.

27 How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!"

2 Samuel 2:1-11. *A Coronation, of Sorts*. Later David sought Yahweh's counsel. Shall I go into the towns of Judah? Sure, do that, the Lord God advised. And, where shall I go, asked David? Hebron is where I want you to be, Yahweh answered.

David did as he was told, bringing two of his wives Ahinoam and Abigail (widow of the fool of Carmel). He also took his men with their families and settled in Hebron and its surrounding towns. Later the men of Judah came and there they anointed David as king of Judah.

When David, however, learned that the men of Gilead had buried Saul, he sent messengers to convey his sentiments:

*May Yahweh the Lord God bless you for your kindness to Saul, your master, by burying him. May Yahweh show you kindness, and faithfulness. I will also show you the same favor because you have done this. Be strong & brave — Saul your master is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.*

In the land of Israel, meanwhile, Abner (Saul's military commander), brought Saul's son Ish-Bosheth and had him made as king over all Israel; to wit, Asher, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin. Now Ish-Bosheth was forty when he became king, reigning for two years. Judah, however, followed David. David remained in Hebron for 7<sup>1/2</sup> years.

- Q Why was David asking about whether to go to the towns of Judah?
- Q Who did David take with him? Why?
- Q How would you characterize David's message to the people of Jabesh Gilead?
- Q Why was he so diplomatically kind?
- Q What did the appointment of Ish-Bosheth foretell in the history of believers?
- Q When did the houses of Benjamin and Judah reconcile?

## 1 SAMUEL 2:1-11

In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked.

The LORD said, "Go up."

David asked, "Where shall I go?"

"To Hebron," the LORD answered.

<sup>2</sup>So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. <sup>3</sup>David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. <sup>4</sup>Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

When David was told that it was the men of Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul, <sup>5</sup>he sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead to say to them, "The LORD bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him. <sup>6</sup>May the LORD now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this. <sup>7</sup>Now then, be strong and brave, for Saul your master is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

<sup>8</sup>Meanwhile, Abner son of Ner, the commander of Saul's army, had taken Ish-Bosheth son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim.

<sup>9</sup>He made him king over Gilead, Ashuri [or Asher] and Jezreel, and also over Ephraim, Benjamin and all Israel.

<sup>10</sup>Ish-Bosheth son of Saul was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he reigned two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David. <sup>11</sup>The length of time David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.