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1 Samuel 30

As a short recall from 1 Samuel 29: David and his men had gone with King Achish to supposedly fight with the Philistines against Israel and King Saul. When the other kings of the Philistines saw David with King Achish, they refused to allow David to go into battle with them, felling quite sure he would turn against them and side with Israel.

It was God's plan to use this battle to remove Saul as King, and so God obviously put it in the hearts of the Philistines to reject David's help. That then removed David from this battle and any conjecture that David had anything to do with Saul's death. It also relieved David from being involved in any way with the death of his best friend Jonathan, Saul's son.

The Amalekites Raid Ziklag

A short note on the Amalekites coming into play next. When Moses led the nation of Israel out of Egypt, they encountered a nation leader named Amalek who was opposed to Israel. Moses told Joshua to select an army from the tribes of Israel and go to battle with Amalek. Moses stood on a hill overlooking the

battlefield and as long as Moses held his hands up, Israel prevailed, when his hands dropped, Amalek prevailed. So, Aaron and Hur sat Moses down and put rocks under his arms and help steady his hands in the air, so Israel prevailed.

This affront to God's People by Amalek would not be forgotten by God and so we now find the Amalekites attacking David's village and how God handles it.

From Strong's Concordance:

“ *Phonetic Spelling:* (am-aw-lake')

***KJV:* Amalek**

***NASB:* Amalek, Amalekites**

***Word Origin:* [probably of foreign origin]”**

1. Amalek, a descendant of Esau
2. also his posterity and their country

Exodus 17: 8Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. 9And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill **with the rod of God** in mine hand. (emphasis mine)

This is the same Rod that God had Moses use when confronting Pharoah and also when getting water from a rock.

14And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. 15And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: 16For he said, Because the LORD

hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Jehovahnissi in Hebrew is Yahwe-nissi and means “the banner of God”.

God had wanted the Amalekites utterly destroyed and leader after leader had failed to carry out God’s Will and now it has once again struck Israel.

1And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

David had left his temporary home in Ziklag to go fight with King Achish against Saul. David was sent home instead so the three days was the time from when David was sent home and reached Ziklag three days later.

2And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried *them* away, and went on their way. 3So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, *it* was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

These forced marches to war take a great toll on the men who do it. They were tired and looking forward to being with their families again. As they came to their home not only was the town burnt all

of their families and possessions were gone. Massive despair overcame them all and they turned at David their leader who had taken them away from their families.

David suffered with his men as he had lost his family as well.

4Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

Now on top of losing all he had David's men turn against him and consider stoning him for this military failure to protect their homeland.

6And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

David even in anguish turned to God for guidance and help. David wrote many Psalms about God's undying Faithfulness to David.

[Psalm 56:3-4](#) *When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. / In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*

[Psalm 18:6](#) *In my distress I called upon the LORD; I cried*

*to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice,
and my cry for His help reached His ears.*

[Psalm 27:1](#) *Of David. The LORD is my light and my
salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold
of my life—whom shall I dread?*

[Psalm 42:5](#) *Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why the
unease within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet
praise Him for the salvation of His presence.*

[Psalm 62:8](#) *Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out
your hearts before Him. God is our refuge. Selah*

[Psalm 118:5-6](#) *In my distress I called to the LORD, and He
answered and set me free. / The LORD is on my side; I will
not be afraid. What can man do to me?*

[Psalm 138:3](#) *On the day I called, You answered me; You
emboldened me and strengthened my soul.*

David Destroys the Amalekites

7And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son,
I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar
brought thither the ephod to David.

If you recall from 1 Samuel 22:20 Doeg the Edomite had been present when the High Priest, Ahimelech at the temple at Nob had given David food (loaves of Holy Bread) and the sword David had slain Goliath with, as David was fleeing Saul. Saul asked if anyone knew anything about it and Doeg stood and told what he had seen. Saul was furious with the priests at Nob and had Doeg kill all of them. One escaped that was Abiathar the son of the Ahimelech. Abiathar had run to David with the Ephod.

Exodus 28:30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

Unlike Saul and most of Israel's kings to come did not consult with God before striking out on military campaigns, however David did seek God's guidance. So, he called Abiathar to come and bring the Ephod that had the Urim and Thummim in it to ask God's Guidance.

8And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.

We are not told explicitly whether God spoke directly to David or to the Priest. It seems likely that God spoke directly to David, or

we would have been told that it was through the Priest. In either case, God's answer was to pursue and recover all.

9So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

In the area of David's old stomping grounds. Besor is on the southern end of Israel at the beginning of the Negev desert. David and his men had to be exhausted as they had just finished a 3-day march back to Ziklag. Upon arrival it had been burned and all their families and possessions had been kidnapped.

This brook Besor was a seasonal stream and offered refreshing water to his beleaguered men.

In all armies there are some that are stronger or more capable of force marches than others. David was faced with the same dilemma and allowed those (200) who were too exhausted to continue let along fight to stay behind.

10But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

11And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water; 12And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had

eaten no bread, nor drunk *any* water, three days and three nights.

Egyptians were often hired as mercenaries or simply taken as slaves by various raiding nations. So was this case with this Egyptian he was a slave.

David's men showed wisdom to bring to David this man rather than out of wrath kill him. He was given food and water and it revived him so he could tell David what had happened.

13And David said unto him, To whom *belongest* thou? and whence *art* thou? And he said, I *am* a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.

Slaves have normally been treated as chattel, and if they become a burden they are usually left behind as was this young man.

14We made an invasion *upon* the south of the Cherethites, and upon *the coast which belongeth* to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

The abandoned slave owed his former master no allegiance so he spoke openly about what the Amalekite's had done and to whom. Surely it infuriated David to know that this man had been an eyewitness to the attacks on Israel, yet David's wisdom chose to use this man for intelligence rather than revenge.

The Cherethites were of the Philistines all migrated originally from Crete near Greece. The Cherethites were a specialized army of men who would hire out to other kings for protection.

15And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company.

Obviously, this young man had no desire to return to his previous position and asked David to swear by “God” that David would neither kill him nor return him to the Amalekites. If such an agreement could be reached this young man would act on David’s behalf against his former slave owner.

16And when he had brought him down, behold, *they* were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.

Like most idiots those who do the things that the Amalekites did often celebrate before they should. Perhaps we can draw a comparison to the Iranians of yesterday. Even though they knew of the threat from Trump they decided to have a big get together with all their leaders in 3 locations. No way the Israelis would know about this meeting.

17And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

The prodigy of David lives on in Israel today. As like David, Israel and the US will continue to pursue the Iranians just as David did the Amalekites and slaughter their leadership. A few escaped David and a few will escape Israel tomorrow and the next few weeks.

18And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

God fulfills His promise to David, and nearly all the Amalekites were vanquished. The key to David was recovering all the families and possessions including his own two wives.

19And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any *thing* that they had taken to them: David recovered all. 20And David took all the flocks and the herds, *which* they drave before those *other* cattle, and said, This *is* David's spoil.

As the slave had told David the Amalekites had raided several cities within Israel and stolen much property from Israel. David recovered it all and claimed it as spoil.

The Spoils are Divided

21And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them. **22**Then answered all the wicked men and *men* of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them *ought* of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead *them* away, and depart.

Again, this term “men of Belial” means worthless men in Hebrew. As much as many men would feel the same way it was David whose heart was for all of his men and he understood even the nature of those weaker among his men. David was sure that if they could have these 200 would have come with them as they had lost all they had as well.

It is an unspoken word among warriors that if you do not give all and continue when your body says no then you are cast with a brand for the rest of your career as a person who lacks fortitude.

These 200 would live with that burden the rest of their lives, but not because David cast that on them. That was something they took upon themselves and some of David’s men were not as forgiving as David.

23Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. 24For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part *is* that goeth down to the battle, so *shall* his part *be* that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike. 25And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

It was a standard from then on with David that all would share in the spoils even if they were unable to continue the fights. It reflects on a parable that Jesus told about the men that were hired early in the morning for a set amount of money. Later in the day others were hired who would not have worked all day in the heat but at pay time, they were all given equal wages. Those who worked all day complained and Jesus's response is, what is that to you, you were paid what you agreed to be fair wages, and I have chosen to pay everyone equally. The moral of course to the parable is that those who are Born Again early in life get the same amazing wages as the one who is Born Again just prior to the end. What do we have to complain about we were given Salvation as were those who came at the end. What is there to complain about.

David used this principal and it is obviously a Godly principal.

26And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, *even* to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD;

David had no intention of keeping the spoil that belonged to his brother Israelites, so all was returned to them as to what they had lost.

27To *them* which were in Bethel, and to *them* which were in south Ramoth, and to *them* which were in Jattir, 28And to *them* which were in Aroer, and to *them* which were in Siphmoth, and to *them* which were in Eshtemoa, 29And to *them* which were in Rachal, and to *them* which were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to *them* which were in the cities of the Kenites, 30And to *them* which were in Hormah, and to *them* which were in Chorashan, and to *them* which were in Athach, 31And to *them* which were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt.

The term “were wont to haunt” refers to where David and his men were used to traveling in and around. This effort would pay off big dividends for David as his popularity continued to grow among all of Israel.

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