

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

### Part 46 – David Learns Of Saul’s Death Through David Fighting The Philistines (II Samuel 1-5)

1. What news is brought to David on the third day that David abode in Ziklag?

- “Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag; It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, **a man came out of the camp from Saul** with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance. And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped. And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That **the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also**” (II Samuel 1:1-4).

2. What details were provided about Saul as David questioned the young man further?

- “And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead? And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here am I. And he said unto me, Who art thou? And I answered him, I am an Amalekite. He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me. So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord” (II Samuel 1:5-10).

3. Was David happy with the news concerning Saul?

- NO: “Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword” (II Samuel 1:11-12).
- This shows David was not vindictive towards Saul (Proverbs 24:17-18).

4. Did David reward the young man for bringing him the news concerning Saul and Jonathan?

- Sort of: “And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite. And David said unto him, **How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD’S anointed?** And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died. And David said unto him, **Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD’S anointed**” (II Samuel 1:13-16).

5. What did David say when he lamented over Saul and over Jonathan his son?

- “And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son: (Also **he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow**: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.) **The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places**: how are the mighty fallen! **Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of**

*the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished” (II Samuel 1:17-27)!*

- We talked of the book of Jasher before (**Joshua 10:9-14**).
  - Note\* The book of Jasher or the “Book of the Upright” is theorized to be many things, but no known copy exists to know for sure.
  - We can trust in God’s providence that we have all inspired books (**Psalms 119:89, Matthew 24:35, and I Peter 1:23-25**).
  - Therefore, we could conclude it is a referenced book much like the poets or prophets were referenced by Paul (**Acts 17:28 and Titus 1:12**).

6. Of whom did David enquire as to whether or not he should go to Judah?

- God (**II Samuel 2:1**).

7. What did the men of Judah do to David?

- They anointed David king over the house of Judah (**II Samuel 2:4**).

8. What do we learn about Ishbosheth, Saul’s son?

- *“But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul’s host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim; And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel. Ishbosheth Saul’s son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David” (II Samuel 2:8-10).*

9. What happens when the servants of Ishbosheth and the servants of David play [compete] before Abner and Joab?

- *“And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and met together by the pool of Gibeon: and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool. And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise. Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which pertained to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David. And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and thrust his sword in his fellow’s side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called Helkathazzurim, which is in Gibeon. And there was a very sore battle that*

*day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David” (II Samuel 2:12-17).*

10. Did the three sons of Zeruah want to kill Abner?

- Yes, they were willing to fight and chase down Abner. Even as battles pursue, victories are won, and even as Asahel dies, they still are after Abner. Even though there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel, the fight pursued (II Samuel 2:19-32).

11. What side grew stronger as the long war between the house of David and Saul continued?

- The house of David grew stronger (II Samuel 3:1).

12. What were the names of David's children which were born of Ahinoam, Abigail, Maacah, Haggith, Abital, and Eglah?

- *“And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his **firstborn** was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; And his **second**, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the **third**, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; And the **fourth**, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the **fifth**, Shephatiah the son of Abital; And the **sixth**, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron” (II Samuel 3:2-5).*

13. How strong had Abner become in Saul's house?

- He became so strong that he could do wrong (taking Saul's concubine) and not be punished for the king (Ishbosheth, Saul's son) feared him (II Samuel 3:6-11).

14. Why did Abner send messengers to David?

- To conspire against the king: *“And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee” (II Samuel 3:12).*
- He will continue his conspiracy as well as he comes before David (II Samuel 3:17-21).

15. Why did David request to have Michal (Saul's daughter) from Abner and Ishbosheth?

- She was his wife (I Samuel 18:27) who was taken from him as he fled Saul and given to Phalti the son of Laish (I Samuel 25:44).
- Her husband did not want to give her up either when Ishbosheth sent her to David (II Samuel 3:15-16).

16. How did Joab and all the host that were with him react when they heard Abner had come before David?

- *“When Joab and all the host that was with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace. Then Joab came to the king, and said, What hast thou done? behold, Abner came unto thee; why is it that thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone? Thou knowest Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest. And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah: but David knew it not. And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak*

with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother” (II Samuel 3:23-27).

17. What was David’s reaction to Joab’s actions against Abner?

- “And afterward when David heard it, he said, I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner: Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread. So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle. And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier [coffin]. And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept. And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth? Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him. And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down. And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people. For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner. And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel? And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness” (II Samuel 3:28-39).

18. What happens to Mephibosheth (Jonathan’s son) and Ishbosheth?

- “And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled. And Saul's son had two men that were captains of bands: the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin: (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin: And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.) And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon. And they came thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth rib: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night. And they brought the head of Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed” (II Samuel 4:1-8).

19. What was David’s reaction to the “gift” Rechab and Baanah brought unto him?

- “And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity, When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings: How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth? And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron” (II Samuel 4:9-12).

20. Did David get to be king over all of Israel after the death of Ishbosheth?

- Yes: “Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah” (II Samuel 5:1-5).

21. What did the Jebusites set forth and did it prevent David from coming into Jerusalem?

- “And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David. And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house. So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him” (II Samuel 5:6-10).

22. Who built David a house?

- “And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house” (II Samuel 5:11).
- We shall see later how much Hiram loved David (I Kings 5:1-6).

23. As David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, what did he do next?

- “And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake. And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron” (II Samuel 5:12-13).

24. What happened when the Philistines came up to seek David?

- *“But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim. **And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.** And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall **the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.** And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer” (II Samuel 5:17-25).*