

## FINAL STUDY NOTES – *1 Samuel Chapters 30-31* 9/29-30/2025

### CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

**MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).**

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

**MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

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### OPENING PRAYER

***1 SAMUEL – Chapter 30 – David's Conflict with the Amalekites – (vs. 1-30)! Chapter 31 - The Tragic End of Saul and His Sons (vs. 1-13)!***

**REVIEW: (1Sa 29:9-11)** *Then Achish answered and said to David, "I know that you are as good in my sight as an angel of God; nevertheless the princes of the Philistines have said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.' [10] Now therefore, rise early in the morning with your master's servants who have come with you. And as soon as you are up early in the morning and have light, depart." [11] So David and his men rose early to depart in the morning, to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.*

### David Flees to the Philistines - David's Wives Are Captured

***1Sa 30:1*** **Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire,**

- **They traveled about 75 miles**, covering about 25 miles a day. So, it took them about three days to get there. They come to Ziklag, which was their home given to them by Achish. All their wives and children were there in the city. When they arrive you can imagine, all right! God gotten us out of that battle with

Israel, too! Much praise to the Lord! Then they discovered *that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag, and they burned it with fire!*

- **Now, here we are faced with these Amalekites again.** The Amalekites were a type of the flesh. If you do not reckon your old flesh to be dead, if you do not bring it to the cross, your flesh will rise up to kill you. It will destroy you. "Make no provision for the flesh." So here the Amalekites, still existing strike through the southern portion there, and they invade and burn the area of Ziklag.
- ***The frequent and many reminders of the Amalekite as being a type of the flesh, just keep coming back to cause much damage! Am I learning of the importance of "reckoning the old man to be dead?" Every time the flesh is not put to death in the form of sin, it comes back! LORD help me to truly repent and turn completely to You!***

*1Sa 30:2 and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way.*

- Often times in those days they would kill the men, and take the women captives, and then sell them as slaves. No doubt, their intention was to sell them to the Egyptians as slaves.
- Apparently the Amalekites had word that the Philistines were going to invade Israel and that David and his men were a part of the Philistine force. So, they thought, well, while all of the men are gone from the south, busy invading Israel, then that leaves all this southern territory free for us to go ahead and loot and pillage, which is exactly what they did. This would have never happened if Saul had been obedient to the LORD in wiping out the Amalekites. It just shows God's wisdom.

*1Sa 30:3-4 So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. [4] Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.*

- I mean they were really distraught! To come back and find your family is gone, your city burned! It just devastated them! To a man, they begin to weep. They wept until there were no more tears and no more strength to weep.

*1Sa 30:5-6 And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. [6] Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.*

- David had a pretty rough group of guys that had gathered together with him. Now in this disastrous situation, in their grief, they turn on him, wanting to stone him! I like the latter portion of this verse. This is the beginning of David's turning back to God! David had gone through a period of backsliding. This experience in the Philistine country was not good spiritually for David. David was guilty of horrible atrocities. He was guilty of lying and deception, of turning against the people of God.
- ***David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. How wonderful, his turning back to God! He had come to the bottom. Many times, God has to take a person to the bottom before they will turn back to Him. Now God does not like to do that. In (Psa 32:9A) Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding.*** God says, "Do not be like a mule, where I have to use painful means to direct you, to lead you. He would rather that we be extremely sensitive to His voice, that He could lead us, and deal with us without painful processes.
- ***It is so important that God does lead us! He loves us so much that He will use painful processes if necessary.*** With David, God used painful processes. He came back and found out his wife had been stolen, his goods had been ripped off, and his men are ready to stone him. I mean for a guy who has already had so much trouble, this just is it. David encouraged himself in the LORD! He began to turn to God once again. This is the beginning of David's coming out of this backslidden state.
- ***What a wonderful example for us whenever we come to a desperate situation, being extremely sorrowed, pressured and threatened, with seemingly no way out! How long do I wait to do what David did? "But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God!"***
- I do not like seeing David's imperfections on one hand in the scriptures. But I am glad that the Lord puts his imperfections in the account because it gives us hope. If it were all mountaintop experiences, I would be completely discouraged. I think God would have nothing to do with me. But the passage teaches us the greatness of God's grace. How it speaks to us!

*1Sa 30:7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David.*

- **Now he is going to begin to seek counsel from the LORD again!** Had he sought counsel from the LORD in the beginning, he probably would never have gone down to the Philistine country! Is it not interesting how that we go our own stubborn ways, and we do our own thing until we get in a jam, and then we turn to the LORD and say, "Oh, LORD! Guide me! Help me! Get me out of this jam!" Whereas if we had been paying attention to the LORD in the beginning, we would never have gotten into the jam in the first place!
- **Please bring the ephod here to me**, which contained the Urim and the Thummim, the means by which God revealed His will. David is saying, I am back with God. No more of my will, no more of my decisions. I am coming back to God. God, I want Your wisdom. I want you to lead my life. I want your will for my life. All of his 600 men could look at him and say, David is back! Drop the stones!

*1Sa 30:8 So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."*

- **In His grace, God said, Pursue.** That is My will. Then He gives him even more than that! He gives him the guarantee of victory, for you shall surely overtake them, and without fail recover all!
- **Oh, the grace and mercy of the LORD, not only getting David out of the battle against Israel, but restoring all that had been lost in Ziklag, plus more! Again, a perfect example for us to see that our very best path is always that of full obedience to Him! How He loves us and wants to bless us!**

*1Sa 30:9-10 So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind. [10] But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so weary (dead tired!) that they could not cross the Brook Besor.*

- So, a third of David's army was too weak to continue to pursue the Amalekites when they got to this river Besor. Two hundred of them just said, "Hey we just cannot go any further." So, four hundred men continued the pursuit of the Amalekites with David.
- **David has a problem. God has told him to pursue the Amalekites**, but he does not know where they are. That is a very large desert area down in southern Israel. Notice that God is going to set up a way for David to discover where the Amalekites are. but it is going to require him to show some real character in his life. It is going to require him to care as much about a slave who has been left to die in the desert and his well-being as he and his men care about their wives and their children. Through that concern for another human being, God is going to reveal to David where the Amalekites are.

*1Sa 30:11-12 Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water. [12] And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights.*

- This young servant was sick! He had been cast off by his master and had been in the wilderness for three days and three nights without food and water. They revived him, gave him bread and water, and then gave him some dry figs and raisins, quick energy! The guy began to be revived.
- **Take note of David's character here! Rather than rushing on to find his family and the captives, he stops and ministers to the sick Egyptian who had been left to die. He indeed was a "good Samaritan!"**

*1Sa 30:13 Then David said to him, "To whom do you belong, and where are you from?" And he said, "I am a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick.*

- Because he was sick, the Amalekite master left him behind to die in that wilderness, giving us an idea of what the Amalekites thought of human life.

*1Sa 30:14 We made an invasion of the southern area of the Cherethites, in the territory which belongs to Judah, and of the southern area of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire."*

- Did you say Ziklag? Did you burn Ziklag with fire? Yes, we burned Ziklag with fire. Those Amalekites, those are the ones with which you are traveling?

*1Sa 30:15 And David said to him, "Can you take me down to this troop?" So he said, "Swear to me by God that you will neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop."*

- "Can you tell me where they are?" David said. "Can you lead me there?" He said, "Will you swear to me by God that you will not kill me after I do tell you, and that you will not turn me over to my master?"

You let me just be free to escape.” *I will take you down to this troop.* I will give you the intelligence that you need.

### ***David Defeats the Amalekites***

***1Sa 30:16 And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.***

- **They are just partying.** They are drunk because it never entered their minds. that David and his men would ever be dismissed from the Philistine army and return to that area of the land to discover what they had done so quickly. So, they are completely oblivious to what is about to come upon them.

***1Sa 30:17 Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled.***

- **Twilight can mean dusk at the end of the day, sunset.** It can also mean twilight, the sun rising. David probably gave his men rest, sleeping for the night. Then they would attack them in the morning, continuing until evening. They rested, they got to sleep for the night, seeing these guys are just drunk. They caught the enemy all hung over and messed up. *Not a man of them escaped except 400 young men who rode on camels and fled.*

***1Sa 30:18 So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives.***

- **David must be saying,** “Thank You, *LORD!*” Just as You promised!

***1Sa 30:19-20 And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all. [20] Then David took all the flocks and herds they had driven before those other livestock, and said, "This is David's spoil."***

- **None of the children were killed or injured.** All of the wives, the families were there, plus all of the goods, plus all of the extra goods that they had ripped off from all of these other people where they had invaded. David came out ahead!
- **This is David's spoil.** David's motive in choosing the sheep and oxen for himself was to make presents to his friends in Judah (*1Sa 30:26-31*).

***1Sa 30:21 Now David came to the two hundred men who had been so weary that they could not follow David, whom they also had made to stay at the Brook Besor. So they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near the people, he greeted them.***

- **This is really a beautiful scene.** It just has to be a “Praise the *LORD* celebration! Look at what has happened! It is amazing! Here are our wives and our children! This is better than we could have ever dreamed!
- **Then David came near the people and greeted them!** He does not lay any trip on them. How are you feeling? Are you feeling stronger? God has done a wonderful thing for us. David is a real people person, showing concern for people and understanding their limitations. Do I do that?

***1Sa 30:22 Then all the wicked and worthless men of 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 for every man's wife and children, that they may lead them away and depart."***

- **Then all the wicked and worthless men.** It only takes a few to mess the whole thing up. *Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered!* They did not fight in the battle. They did not get any of the spoil, no loot. *Except for every man's wife and children.* We will give them their wives and their kids, that is it, *that they may take their wives and their kids and depart, get out.*
- **They come along and they just say, well, we did all the fighting.** Our life was in danger. These people do not deserve anything. Let them just have their wife and their children and leave. What they are doing is publicly humiliating these 200, who will be loyal to David for the rest of his reign.

***1Sa 30:23 But David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the LORD has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us.***

- **David breaks the silence, reminding them, it was not our efforts** that brought this about, this victory, this spoil! You have it all because **the LORD**, the strong One, decided to share His spoil with you! It is not what we have done, but what the LORD has given us!

- The health of the body of 600 men here, (and the same for the Church), is not based on how the strong are doing or being treated, though that is important, but it is revealed in how we treat and support the weak in our midst! We all have weaknesses in our lives where we need the help of other people. David steps in, and it is beautiful thing here! LORD help me have compassion on those who are weak!
- **Notice David's men were taking credit for the victory, "the spoil that we have recovered." Whereas David rightly says, "what the LORD has given us!" David so perfectly declares: "But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike."**

*1Sa 30:24 For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike."*

- Those men who stayed back and guarded the supplies are to share equally in the spoil of those that go to battle. This became a rule that David established in Israel. It is just as important that you have men staying back and guarding the supplies, as it is to have men out on the front-line fighting. So those that stay by the supplies share equally in the spoils of those that go to battle."
- I think that this does apply in missions today. I believe that *they who stay by the supplies*, which is stay home, and support those that go to the mission field, share equally in the rewards of the fruit of the ministry of the missionaries, as those who go to the foreign field. I believe that in God's economy, when we get to heaven, we will discover that we will be rewarded for our support of those missionaries that are out in the front lines, and we will be rewarded for the fruit of their ministries, because we stayed by the supplies to support them.

*1Sa 30:25 So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.*

- That became the rule in Israel that everyone got an equal share from the spoils. Those who stay by the supplies and those who fight on the front lines. Because people cannot fight on the front lines without supporting people. In (1Co 12:14-27), the Apostle Paul compares the Christian body to a human body. Not everyone is an eye. Not everyone is a mouth. Not everyone is an ear. But what are you going to do without a nervous system? What are you going to do without a circulatory system? What are you going to do without a stomach, these things that do not get seen? So, what we do together is the body of Christ. I do not care how strong any of us are, we could not be what God calls us to be without the rest of the body of Christ doing their thing also. It is a beautiful picture!

*1Sa 30:26 Now when David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD"—*

- (1Sa 30:20) Then David took all the flocks and herds they had driven before those other livestock, and said, "This is David's spoil." So, this is David's spoil, which he is now distributing among his friends, back in Israel.

*1Sa 30:27-31 to those who were in Bethel (not the Bethel of Jacob), those who were in Ramoth of the South, those who were in Jattir, [28] those who were in Aroer, those who were in Siphmoth, those who were in Eshtemoa, [29] those who were in Rachal, those who were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, those who were in the cities of the Kenites, [30] those who were in Hormah, those who were in Chorashan, those who were in Athach, [31] those who were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were accustomed to rove.*

- These cities, many of which we know nothing about, were in the South, including the places where David and his men and roamed during their being pursued by Saul!
- David sent rewards back to those cities where he and his men *were accustomed to rove*. It would be presumptuous to think that David was merely paying off debts or buying support; rather, he was giving back as he had received, expressing his debt of gratitude for the kindness and support shown him.
- These people had probably helped David and his men through the years in supporting, not telling on them, and getting whatever kind of things that they might need. I think the most significant thing that David is doing in sharing this spoil is to communicate to the people in southern Israel, I am back. I may be among the Philistines, but my heart is in Israel, and I am back! I am taking God's call upon my life seriously, once again to be the king of Israel one day. This is a demonstration of it. I am back online with God's plan. Wow!

### ***The Death of Saul***

***1Sa 31:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.***

- This is the battle that David was going to join, but was retrained from doing so, by the lords of the Philistines.
- The Philistines had gone pretty far north in the country, up beyond Ephraim. You are in the area of Megiddo, the valley of Jezreel, almost to the sea of Galilee..

***1Sa 31:2 Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.***

- Ishbosheth, who was another of Saul's sons, for some reason was not in the battle. He is going to become king for a little while, not in God's plan, but that is why we see him surface. Not all of them died, but these died.

***1Sa 31:3 The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers.***

- The prophecy of Samuel, just given at En Dor is being fulfilled! (1Sa 28:19) Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines." How tragic!
- "Saul and his sons!" Jonathan, who it says, "David's heart was knit to Jonathan," My heart was knit to Jonathan. I love this fellow. There are just a lot of commendable traits in Jonathan's life. He knew that David was going to be the next king. He knew that it was going to bypass him, and yet he loved David so much, he was willing to just say, "Hey, I'll reign with you David!" This guy who ventured out in faith, who was so valiant in battle, looking forward to that day when David would reign, and he could be there in the glory of David's kingdom. But such was not to be the case, he fell bravely in battle.

***1Sa 31:4 Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.***

- Saul said to his armor bearer, listen, I need you to kill me. I do not want to kill myself. I want to die in battle. I do not want to be alive when the Philistines take my body. They will torture me if they get a hold of me. So, he said, "I would rather die at the hands of a friend. His armor bearer would not do it. The armor bearer had been trained his whole life to protect the king. Saul takes a sword, puts the hilt of it there on the ground, and puts it up against his chest, and then he fell on the sword in an attempt to take his life.

***1Sa 31:5 And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword, and died with him.***

- At least he thought that Saul was dead, according to the Amalekite who brought word to David (2Sa 1:8), he was still alive, and the Amalekite finished the job.
- Saul was killed by an Amalekite the very people he was called to utterly destroy! The Amalekites are an amazing picture of sin and of the flesh in the Scriptures, showing us that if we do not mortify the deeds of the flesh, those sins will come back, and they will kill us. God knows what He is talking about when He says, Thou shalt, and thou shalt not. Saul did not take it seriously, and he ends up killed by an Amalekite, and ultimately becomes a trophy of the Philistines.

***1Sa 31:6 So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that same day.***

- What a tragic day in the history of Israel, as far as their military history goes!

***1Sa 31:7 And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley, and those who were on the other side of the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.***

- Seeing defeat of their military, the men of Israel fled and abandoned the Jewish cities. The Philistines came and dwelt in them.

***1Sa 31:8-9 So it happened 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 armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim it in the temple of their idols and among the people.***

- The word got out! We have finally killed Saul. Saul had been defeating the Philistines, first under David and others for 40 years. Now they have finally killed this king. It was a time for great celebration. In those days when people would go into battle, they viewed the battle, not just supremely as a military

engagement between the human beings on the battlefield, but it also reflected a battle between the gods of the two people. When one army would prevail, then that was considered to be the fact that their god had prevailed over the defeated army's god.

**1Sa 31:10** *Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.*

- **Beth Shan is at the north end of Mount Gilboa.** It is just above the Jordan river, and across from Jabesh-Gilead. There they pinned to the wall, the body of Saul. Of course, they had beheaded him, sending it back to the areas of Gath, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Ekron, becoming a trophy of the Philistines, a trophy of his enemies.

**1Sa 31:11** *Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,*

- **It really gets the attention of the men of Jabesh-Gilead,** when they would mutilate a body, taking Saul's body, pinning it on the wall of their city. It was a way of mocking the other army and other people. Look what we can do to your king. There is nothing you can do to keep us from doing this.

**1Sa 31:12** *all the valiant men arose and traveled 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.*

- **Or they cremated their bodies. People often ask, is cremation Biblical?** Is it okay to do that? The Bible says, *(Gen 3:19) In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.* Pastor Chuck's usual response was, "As far as I'm concerned, cremation will do in thirty-seven minutes, what nature will do in thirty-seven years. It is only speeding up the process of nature." If a person wants to be cremated, that is a good way to go, if that is the way they want to go. As far as I know in the scriptures, there is nothing that would speak against cremation."
- **The body is not the real you. The body is only the tent** where you dwell for a while. Once I move out of this tent, I do not care what they do with it, or what happens to it. It has served me well, and served its purposes, and when my spirit moves out, then it does not matter to me. Because the real me is spirit.
- **Jesus said, (Luk 12:4-5) "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. [5] But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"**
- **The Bible really does not say anything against cremation.** Saul was cremated but notice there is nothing spoken of in a negative sense here. It does not say, "Oh terrible, shame, shame!" It just accepts it in fact, and that is it, without any discussion or commentary on it. It just says that they took and burned his body. It was probably the best thing that they could have done under the circumstances.

**1Sa 31:13** *Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.*

- **Here the men of Jabesh-Gilead do something wonderful,** mourning for seven days, though Saul really did not deserve it.
- **Partial obedience!** Saul lived his whole life under the idea that partial obedience to God is obedience, thinking that was good enough for God! God told him, "Kill the Amalekites." He thought partial obedience was okay because he did not know an Amalekite would come and kill him one day.
- **It is true of all sin from which God calls us.** The Bible says that the commandments of God are not burdensome. They are not hard. They are not limiting. They are freeing. They are protection in our life. In Saul's mind, God's words and His commandments were negotiable. You obey what you feel like obeying, what is easy to obey, what is harder to obey, and you do not want to obey, you just do not do it.
- **How prevalent that attitude is today even among God's people.** It costs you something to obey His word. Every time God sent someone to Saul to confront him concerning his partial obedience, which is disobedience, he always responded with an excuse. He protected his disobedience, not realizing it was working to his destruction. It always kept Saul one step away from repentance, and the result of it was that he ended up becoming a trophy of his enemy, hung up on a wall in Beth Shan.
- **A life of simple obedience to God's Word leads to greatness** in this life and in the Kingdom of God. Greatness in God's calling upon our lives. It keeps us in a safe place in life. Holiness and obedience put us on a path that is safe, and it is clean, and it is holy, and it is wonderful.
- **If there are any of us that are in that partial obedience place,** please realize that it always turns out the same way. The crash and burn are coming, the tragedy where everybody stops and says, He begins so well. She began so well. It was so amazing how God was using them, the potential that they had, all of these things, and now this. It happens every day, even today.

- **Not all the lessons that we learn in the Scriptures are lessons from people doing right. Many of the lessons are taught by those who do wrong. May we look and say, I never want to be there. I want to learn the lesson from their life, so I do not have to learn it firsthand myself. Saul is one of those people**
- Oh, the wonderful grace of God!
- *Your grace, Your grace I'm nothing without You. Your grace, Your grace Shines on me*

## SUMMARY

- **The frequent and many reminders of the Amalekite as being a type of the flesh, just keep coming back to cause much damage! Am I learning of the importance of “reckoning the old man to be dead?” Every time the flesh is not put to death in the form of sin, it comes back! LORD help me to truly repent and turn completely to You! (1Sa 30:1)**
- **What a wonderful example for us whenever we come to a desperate situation, being extremely sorrowed, pressured and threatened, with seemingly no way out! How long do I wait to do what David did? “But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God!” (1Sa 30:6)**
- **Take note of David’s character here! Rather than rushing on to find his family and the captives, he stops and ministers to the sick Egyptian who had been left to die. He indeed was a “good Samaritan!” (1Sa 30:12)**
- **Notice David’s men were taking credit for the victory, “the spoil that we have recovered.” Whereas David rightly says, “what the LORD has given us!” David so perfectly declares: “But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.” (1Sa 30:23)**
- **Not all the lessons that we learn in the Scriptures are lessons from people doing right. Many of the lessons are taught by those who do wrong. May we look and say, I never want to be there. I want to learn the lesson from their life, so I do not have to learn it firsthand myself. Saul is one of those people. (1Sa 31:13)**

**GRACE** — Michael W. Smith, Martin Smith (3:47/3:52)

*I was lost when You found me here You pulled me close and held me near And I'm a fool, but still You love  
I'll be Your fool for the King of love You gave me wings so I could fly And gave me a song to color the sky  
And all I have is all from You And all I want is all of You*

*[Chorus] It's grace, Your grace (Your grace) I'm nothing without You Your grace, Your grace Shines on me*

*And there've been days when I've walked away Too much to carry, nothing left to say Forgive me, Lord,  
when I'm weak and lost For You traded Heaven for a wooden cross And all these years You've carried me  
You've been my eyes when I could not see And beauty grows in the driving rain Your oil of gladness in the  
times of pain*

*[Chorus] Your grace, Your grace I'm nothing without You Your grace, Your grace Shines on me Oh it's  
Your grace Your grace, Your grace I'm nothing without You Your grace, Your grace Shines on me (Oh  
yeah)*

*Shines on me Shines on me Your grace, it shines on me Shines on me Shines on me Your grace, it's Your  
grace (It's Your grace) Shines on me Shines on me Your grace, it shines on me Shines on me (Shines on  
me) Shines on me It's Your grace*

## CLOSING PRAYER

**NEXT WEEK: Study 2 Samuel, Chapters 1-2!**