

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Samuel Chapters 1-2 10/6-7/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221

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 -

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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!**

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OPENING PRAYER

2 SAMUEL – Chapter 1 – The Report of Saul’s Death – (vs. 1-16); The Song of the Bow (vs. 17-27); Chapter 2 – David Anointed King of Judah – (vs. 1-7); Ishbosheth Made King of Israel (vs. 8-11); Israel and Judah at War – (vs. 12-32)!

- **First Samuel closes with the death of Saul and his two sons at the hands of the Philistines on Mount Gilboa. We saw God’s grace in getting David out of going into battle with the Philistines against Israel; also in his going back to inquiring of the LORD!**
- **This week we see God’s grace exemplified in David’s forgiving Saul, loving and respecting him!**

David Hears of Saul’s Death

2Sa 1:1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag,

- **David, having come back from the slaughter, bringing all the children and the cattle is probably a slower movement. He caught up with Amalekites in three days, but it was probably eight days or so getting back with all the children. David’s heart is right with the LORD once again at this point in time.**

2Sa 1:2 on the third day (news came slowly), **behold, it happened that a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. So it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the ground** (bowed down) **and prostrated himself.**

- **This is a cultural way of showing grief.** Putting ashes or dirt on your head, and your clothes ripped. Whenever you have had a great emotional experience of grief or sorrow, you would rip your clothes and put ashes or dirt on your head. Here came this man with dirt on his head and his clothes torn.

2Sa 1:3 And David said to him, "Where have you come from?" So he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."

- **David was concerned of Israel's fate** knowing that the Philistines are gone up with the tremendous army.
- **Where have you come from? From where and whom have you come in bringing this bad news? The young Amalekite said, I have come from the very battle between the children of Israel and the Philistines, having been a part of the camp of Israel.**

2Sa 1:4 Then David said to him, "How did the matter go? Please tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."

- **In spite of the fact that David was mistreated by Saul, David still highly respected him!** David loved Jonathan. The news that Saul and Jonathan were both slain in the battle, hit David very hard. I am certain that David, in a sense, felt a responsibility. Had he been able to have been in battle with them, they probably could have turned the tide against the Philistines.
- **This news must have hit David like a ton of bricks.** All along, David and Jonathan were kindred spirits in the things of the *LORD*. Jonathan had communicated his hope, and it was David's hope too, that David would one day be the king of Israel as God had promised; and that Jonathan would become an officer under him, supporting him in being the greatest king that God had called him to be. There was the hope in David's heart that Jonathan would survive all of this, and their relationship together! Here all the hopes that both he and Jonathan had are dashed with this news!

2Sa 1:5 So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?"

- **The young man is going to supply him with two pieces of verification.** First, he was an eyewitness to these events. Secondly, he is going to show David something from Saul's body that you could only take from the dead body of a king.

2Sa 1:6 Then the young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance (really, not just to loot?) **to be on Mount Gilboa, there was Saul, leaning on his spear; and indeed the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.**

- **I happened by chance to be Mount Gilboa.** That is an unlikely story. He was probably just up there to loot, knowing that the fight was going on. They normally would come and loot the battlefields if they could get in before the victors did.

2Sa 1:7 Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.'

2Sa 1:8 And he said to me, 'Who are you?' So I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' (times in the Bible- Num 4x; Jud 5x; 1 Sam 13x; 2 Sam 3x; 1 Chro 1x)

2Sa 1:9 He (Saul) said to me again, 'Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still remains in me.'

- **My life still remains in me. I am in this horrible situation.** Saul has an arrow or arrows through him, and a sword through him, but he is still living.

2Sa 1:10 So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."

- **Having taken Saul's crown and the bracelet off his arm was to be evidence** to David that King Saul was dead. A king would never give that up unless both he had been killed and everyone around him had also been killed.
- **The Amalekite seems to be seeking David's favor** in order to be rewarded in this. He is thinking he is in a win-win situation. If David still has any feelings towards Saul, it will appear like he did something merciful. If David hates Saul as much as I hope he does, then he is going to be thankful that I finished Saul off; and am bringing the crown to David, acknowledging that now he is going to be king!

2Sa 1:11 Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them (culturally, an outward condition of his heart), and so did all (note the leadership of David here) the men who were with him.

2Sa 1:12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

- This news really hit David and these men very hard! Even though Saul had been pursuing them for ten years and would have killed them all, yet here they hear the news of the fall of Saul, his sons, and the men of Israel. Instead of gloating or celebrating over all of it, they began to mourn as a result of it!
- **The Bible teaches us** in the Old and New Testaments (**Pro 24:17**) Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles. (**Mat 5:44**) But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (**Rom 12:17,18,21**) Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. [18] If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. We are not to rejoice when judgment and trouble comes to an enemy.
- **What is in my heart when I hear of a tragedy of an enemy of mine? How do I respond?**

2Sa 1:13 Then David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from (how could you not have respect for God's anointed)?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite."

2Sa 1:14 So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"

- David then confronts him about his lack of fear in killing the LORD's anointed. David had repeatedly refused to harm Saul because of this anointing of God upon his life. Here this man who steps in, thinks nothing of any of it, and expects to be rewarded by David for killing his enemy! (**Psa 105:15**) Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."
- **How careful am I in not "touching, coming against, His anointed ones," harming them?**

2Sa 1:15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died.

- "Go near, and execute him!" We find that David rewarded the reporting young man, but not like he was expecting! David had the Amalekite put to death because he had put his hand against Saul who had been God's anointed. (**2Sa 4:10**) when someone told me, saying, 'Look, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag—the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news.

2Sa 1:16 So David said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'"

- It is for certain that the anointing had left Saul a long time ago, and yet, David still had a respect for Saul because he had been anointed with oil to be the king over Israel. I believe that as God can provide for His own programs, that He can also bring down those who become a stumbling block. And God will bring them down!

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

2Sa 1:17 Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son,

- Then David wrote this lamentation for Saul and his son Jonathan. But then it says, "he also ordered them to teach the children of Judah the use of the bow:"
- "There is a time," it says, "to laugh, and a time to cry; a time to be born, and a time to die;" a time and a place for everything. There is a time, a place for sorrowing and grieving, but then there is a time to quit sorrowing and grieving, and to pick up the pieces and to start over again.
- It is dangerous when a person, grieving over a loss, becomes inactive, sort of just quits living, just closes the windows and the doors around him, and just sits there and thinks of, "oh, how sad I am; and how horrible are the circumstances of life that it brought me this bereavement, and grief, and sorrow." People can actually die as the result of their grief over their losses!
- When you are experiencing a loss and the grieving over a loss, it is important to get busy; do something; develop a new talent; learn a new skill; get involved in a new hobby; keep active! Keep busy! Keep your mind active and busy; or else you are just going into atrophy.

2Sa 1:18 and he told them to teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher (poems celebrating great men in Israel's history):

- **What David is wanting is to build into people's lives**, including ours, that through this lamentation, of how we are to conduct ourselves upon hearing of the death or the fall of an enemy. Here is the lamentation.
- **David said, “Go out and teach your children how to use the bow.”** David realized from this battle that the bow and the arrow were going to become a very important instrument of future wars. It was used effectively in this battle against Saul. Saul was slain by the arrow that was shot at a distance. Saul was invincible in hand-to-hand combat. He is a big guy. “*From his sword,*” it said, “*he didn’t turn back empty.*” This guy was tough in hand-to-hand combat. He had been in many of them and always came out on top. Now he felt prey to the archers.
- **David could see, from having a keen military mind**, could see that this was going to be revolutionary as far as future wars are concerned. So, to prepare them for the future battles, teach them the use of the bow, learning from the past, from Saul.
- **Also, the teaching of the use of the bow was a memorial unto Jonathan**, who was an archer. Thus, it was a very fitting, living memorial as the children would be taught the use of the bow and the arrow, remembering Jonathan, whenever they were using the bow and the arrow.

2Sa 1:19 *“The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!”*

- **Here is the song, The beauty of Israel is slain upon the high places.** Three times we are going to have this refrain, How are the mighty fallen? Now, that is both an exclamation, but it also has the form of a question. It is both. It is crying out in this dirge, *How are the mighty fallen!*
- **David had the ability as a leader to forgive and to forget all the bad things of the past.** He honestly is looking for what good can I really say about this man? Because there was some good about Saul. Wow, does that describe my actions in such situations?
- **How well do I consider the good in others, especially in those who have hurt me? Would I ever refer to the Sauls in my life, as being “beloved and pleasant?” (v. 23)**

2Sa 1:20 *Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon—Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.*

- **Gath was one of the major Philistine cities.** The city where David actually found refuge.
- **Tell it not in Gath.** Of course, they already knew that Saul’s head had been carried through Gath. They took his head off and carried it through all the Philistine cities so that they could rejoice over their victory.
- **Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon.** When they came back victorious from war, then the ladies would all come out, and they had great celebrations, dances, and jubilation over their victories. David did not want the Philistines to have this kind of a celebration because the people of God had fallen to the Philistines.
- **God's honor is at stake here. LORD, do not let this happen.** The beauty of Israel has been slain on the mountains. How, God, are the mighty fallen! Do not let this be published among the Philistines. Do not let them rejoice about this defeat.

2Sa 1:21 *“O mountains of Gilboa (where Saul and Jonathan fell), Let there be no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul (Saul is mentioned 4x in the dirge), not anointed with oil.*

- **Now, the interesting thing about this particular portion of David’s lamentation**, “*let there be no dew or rain,*” and let it be barren. When the Jews began to return to the land of Israel, they began great reforestation projects all over Israel. Hundreds of millions of trees were planted all over Israel. But they have left an area on mount Gilboa without trees. “*Let it be barren.*” Because of this lamentation of David and his declaration, “*let it be barren*” and all, they will not plant trees on this northern most portion of Mount Gilboa. Today, it is still a barren area. When you go there in the tour buses, the guides will often read to you this passage of Scripture. It becomes very graphic and alive, looking at that barren mountain side.
- **For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.** Many believe this is not referring to Saul’s being anointed with oil to be king, but with a common practice in battle of anointing their leather-covered shields with olive oil, which would make whatever incoming spears or arrows to glance or slip off more easily.
- **He is saying the sword of Saul and the shield of Saul** will no longer be prepared for battle!

2Sa 1:22 *From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan (an archer) did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty.*

- **He extols the bravery of Saul and the bravery of Jonathan here.** Saul and Jonathan are each mentioned 4x in this dirge! He speaks of the bow of Jonathan again, his preferred weapon in battle, the sword of Saul, and speaking of how it is that Jonathan is keep shooting those arrows with accuracy, the sword of Saul, the destructiveness, and his use of it so powerfully in the battle. They move forward valiantly. The bow of Jonathan did not turn back. The sword of Saul did not return empty. It took down the enemies is the idea.

2Sa 1:23 "Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.

- **Speaking of their relationship with one another.** Jonathan maintained a close relationship with his father, Saul, which was not easy to maintain because Jonathan was a deeply spiritual man, and Saul was an absolutely carnal man. Jonathan remained loyal to his father. He wanted to be a blessing to his father in his life.
- **Saul and Jonathan....they were not divided.** Joined together in life, joined together in death. Father and son. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. They were a powerful pair. They had been a nemesis to the Philistines for many years.

2Sa 1:24 "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

- **He reminded them that Saul was not all bad**, that he had brought some stability to the nation as a king. He had defeated their perennial enemies, the Philistines, over and over again. and had brought a prosperity into the land by virtue of defeating their enemies.
- **He reminds them to the women; look at the clothes you wear.** No generation of children of Israel have known clothes like this. The beauty of that is because Saul set a context that allowed that to happen.

2Sa 1:25 "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places.

- **How and when have the mighty fallen?** Saul began to fall long before this. The battle was just the ultimate issue of his rebellion against the *LORD*.
- **Jonathan was slain in your high places.** David closes this whole hymn and lamentation almost to the last verse, praising Jonathan, praising him for his bravery in battle.

2Sa 1:26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women.

- **David expresses his personal affection, his love for Jonathan.** How much this great loss was of Jonathan to him. David speaks of his love for Jonathan. He calls him *my brother*. Now in those days, in that nation, blood was everything. Family was everything. For David to come and say of someone outside of his bloodline and call him a brother, it was really to commend him and honor him in a powerful way. In the death of Jonathan, David lost his greatest friend he had ever known in life. I do not know if David ever experienced that kind of friendship the rest of his life.
- **Your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women.** David is acknowledging the great, sacrificial, other-centered love that Jonathan had shown to him. When he speaks about the love of women here, he is speaking very highly of women. as the great expressers of love in life, of others-centered love, sacrificial love; toward her husband; the love that she expresses toward her children. This is a sacrificial love. This is a giving love. It is a beautiful, beautiful love.
- **Those from the homosexual community like to say that possibly David and Jonathan had a homosexual relationship.** Such, to me, is blasphemous. There is no indication of that at all! Certainly, David could not be declared to be a man after God's own heart if he had this kind of a relationship with Jonathan, which, according to the Old Testament scriptures, a person involved in such relationships was to be stoned to death! It is only people trying to excuse their woeful, sinful ways that would even suggest such a thing.

2Sa 1:27 "How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!"

- **How are the mighty fallen?** There must be a lesson here. Three times. How are the mighty fallen? How does it happen? Saul, chosen of the *LORD*, head and shoulders above the rest of the men of Israel. Just this guy, you had to shoot him with a bow. You do not want to mess with or fight this guy on a battlefield with a sword. In hand-to-hand combat, this guy was trouble! No wonder he was hit by the archers.
- **How? How does Saul's life come to that point?** This is a guy, God had anointed. This is a guy in the beginning who gets angry. He rescues the men of Jabesh, Gilead from Nahash, and he has remarkable

victories. How has he fallen? Look, for that to say three times hearing, David says, Teach them this song. Make them memorize this song. And the chorus is over and over, *How are the mighty have fallen?*

- **How does it happen?** And I am convinced it happens the same way growth happens. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little. That is the way we grow; that is the way we learn. Increments, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little. It is the same way the mighty are fallen. Here a little, there a little.
- **A compromise is made. It seems insignificant.** The Holy Spirit says to us, what are you doing? You are blowing it. And we tell Him, *LORD*, you do not have to worry about me. I understand. I appreciate it. But, you know, there is a lot of Christians out there in worse shape than I am. You know, you should probably go take care of them.
- **Listen, how are the mighty fallen?** Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft. Stubbornness is like idolatry. He had begun to deny the *LORD* in things and then justify himself in small things.
- **What can I learn from “How the mighty have fallen?” as I consider David, Saul, and Jonathan! For me, will it be more of a question or an explanation point?**

David Anointed King of Judah

2Sa 2:1 It happened after this that David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?” And the LORD said to him, “Go up.” David said, “Where shall I go up?” And He said, “To Hebron.”

- **David is now seeking the LORD again. He inquired of the LORD saying,** “Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?” He was in the Philistine city of Ziklag. *Shall I go back to the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, “Go back. David said, “Where shall I go?” Good. He is learning. Not only do you get the word to go: Where shall I go? The LORD said, Hebron (stands for communion).*
- **Notice David is back with the LORD! Nothing was said about his inquiring of the LORD for 16 months. Now he is not only asking for the first step of the LORD’s will, but also for the second step! Go up? Yes! Where? To Hebron! What a great example for us!**

2Sa 2:2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite.

2Sa 2:3 And David brought up the men (note David is leading) who were with him, every man with his household. So they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

2Sa 2:4 Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, “The men of Jabesh Gilead were the ones who buried Saul.”

- **Almost 20 years before when Samuel had anointed David with oil.** Now the nation comes. David is not laboring. He is not sweating. He is just being where God tells him to be. He is in communion with the *LORD*. It is God's work, it is God's promise, it is not David's. He knows it by now. They came, they anointed David king of Judah
- **The ones who buried Saul.** We remember, the Philistines beheaded Saul and then hung his body, and bodies of his sons on the wall there in Beth Shan. The men of Jabesh Gilead from across the Jordan river, when they heard of the desecration of their bodies. They came at night, they got the bodies and took them back to Jabesh Gilead where they cremated them, burying the ashes, the remains. David is told that the men of Jabesh Gilead did this heroic action.

2Sa 2:5 So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, “You are blessed of the LORD, for you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him.”

- **David is a diplomat; he immediately responds to those who had done what was right!**

2Sa 2:6 And now may the LORD show kindness and truth to you. I also will repay you this kindness, because you have done this thing.

- **David says, “I am with you.”** You know, I appreciate what you have done. You have my support. I want you to know that I am here.
- **“To the men of Jabesh Gilead” David’s Christ-like an example of showing gratitude is such a good one! How well do I do this?**

2Sa 2:7 Now therefore, let your hands be strengthened, and be valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.”

- **David is saying, “I am with you.” You know, I appreciate what you have done.** You have my support. I want you to know that I am here. Now, the house of Judah, which would include most of the territory of Benjamin also, where Saul was a Benjamite.
- **While David is in Hebron, a city of Judah, the men of Judah came, and they anointed him king.** You remember that David had been anointed when he was a child. Samuel was sent to the house of Jesse to anoint one of his sons to be the king when GOD rejected Saul from being king over Israel, the result of Saul’s rebellion against God -- refusal to obey God’s orders. God said to Samuel, *Go and anoint one of the sons of Jesse.* Jesse brought in his seven sons, and he said, “Don’t you have any others?” asked Samuel. “Oh, there is just one. He is just a kid in his field watching the sheep,” his dad said. “Call him in.” The *LORD* said, “That’s the one.” And Samuel poured the oil over David’s head, and he was anointed the king.
- **But now the people are recognizing what God has done.** It is interesting how often the people are way behind GOD! He has done something years in advance, and now the people are finally recognizing God’s anointing upon David, and they anoint him king. When David sends the message to Jabesh Gilead, he says, “Hey, you have done a good job. Be valiant, be strong. I recognize what you have done. It was more or less, “Incidentally, Judah has anointed me king, would you be interested in my reigning over you, also?”
- **However, Abner, who was the general of Saul’s army, had escaped from the hands of the Philistines.** Now if Abner had been doing his job -- he was the chief bodyguard of Saul. You see, he should have been around Saul when Saul was in trouble. It could be that he was out ahead on the way to the river. But anyhow, he was not there. He escaped from the Philistines, which means that he was beating a pretty hasty retreat from the battle.

Ishbosheth Made King of Israel

2Sa 2:8 *But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim* (across the Jordan from Jabesh Gilead);

2Sa 2:9 *and he made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, over Benjamin, and over all Israel.*

- **The kingdom was divided: David ruling over Judah, and the son of Saul, Ishbosheth,** ruling over the remainder of Israel. Abner, the general of the army, being the chief instigator of a military takeover and military government, set up Ishbosheth as the figure head king.

2Sa 2:10 *Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. Only the house of Judah followed David.*

2Sa 2:11 *And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.*

- **So, David did not immediately ascend to the throne over all Israel.** There was a good period of time that he was still living in Hebron as king over Judah.

The Battle of Gibeon

2Sa 2:12 *Now Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim* (God’s Camp – Gen 32, Jacob, Laban, Esau) *to Gibeon.*

- **Abner is a pretty rough guy, and so is Joab.** In fact, Joab is a very rough guy. He is David’s chief general. David had trouble with Joab because he was just a tough, crude, rough guy. Later on, when David was dying and he was turning the kingdom over to his son, Solomon, he said, “Solomon, I want you to take care of Joab. *Do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.* Execute him. He has been a bad hombre’ all the way along. He has done some bad things. He has murdered some men.

2Sa 2:13 *And Joab the son of Zeruiah (David’s sister; mother of Joab, Abishai and Asahel), and the servants of David, went out and met them by the pool of Gibeon. So they sat down, one on one side of the pool and the other on the other side of the pool.*

2Sa 2:14 *Then Abner (son of Ner, Saul’s uncle) said to Joab, "Let the young men now arise and compete before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise."*

- **This was a gladiator kind of a thing.** “Let the guys, like the gladiators in the arena, let them fight to death, entertain us. We will watch them kill each other.”
- **We say we have advanced, but have we? I sometimes question.** I have difficulty when some guy can take a high-power rifle and just start wiping out people indiscriminately, shooting at everything.

2Sa 2:15 So they arose and went over by number, twelve from Benjamin, followers of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve from the servants of David.

2Sa 2:16 And each one grasped his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side; so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called the *Field of Sharp Swords*, which is in Gibeon.

- They each grabbed hold of the other guy's head and they all of them thrust their spears through the other guys; and all twenty-four were dead. So, they fell down together. Great entertainment! Wherefore the place was the name the field of swords. That spurred, then they all jump in the whole battle, fighting and wailing away at each other.

2Sa 2:17 So there was a very fierce battle that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

2Sa 2:18 Now the three sons of Zeruiah (David's cousins) were there: Joab and Abishai and Asahel. And Asahel was as fleet of foot as a wild gazelle.

2Sa 2:19 So Asahel pursued Abner, and in going he did not turn to the right hand or to the left from following Abner.

- Abner was running, and Asahel was matching him step for step, just right behind him.

2Sa 2:20 Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Are you Asahel?" He answered, "I am."

2Sa 2:21 And Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and lay hold on one of the young men and take his armor for yourself." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him.

- Abner said, "Let us have a fair fight." I will give you a chance. But Asahel would not turn aside from following him.

2Sa 2:22 So Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me (you are bugging me). Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I face your brother Joab?"

2Sa 2:23 However, he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach (catching his heart) with the blunt end of the spear, so that the spear came out of his back; and he fell down there and died on the spot. So it was that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died, stood still.

- As the men of David were pursuing, they came to Asahel, they saw him, they were shocked, they just stood there.

2Sa 2:24 Joab and Abishai also pursued Abner. And the sun was going down when they came to the hill of Ammah, which is before Giah by the road to the Wilderness of Gibeon.

2Sa 2:25 Now the children of Benjamin gathered together behind Abner and became a unit, and took their stand on top of a hill.

2Sa 2:26 Then Abner called to Joab and said, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitter in the latter end? How long will it be then until you tell the people to return from pursuing their brethren?"

- "Wake up, man. You are doing foolish things. Let us not devour each other forever, it is going to just be bitterness in the end."

2Sa 2:27 And Joab said, "As God lives, unless you had spoken, surely then by morning all the people would have given up pursuing their brethren."

- Joab's comment seems to throw all the blame of the fight upon Abner; because it was not decisive, the two sides felt obliged to fight it out all night.

2Sa 2:28-30 So Joab blew a trumpet; and all the people (of David) stood still and did not pursue Israel anymore, nor did they fight anymore. [29] Then Abner and his men went on all that night through the plain, crossed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron; and they came to Mahanaim. [30] So Joab returned from pursuing Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel. (A total of twenty men were lost.)

2Sa 2:31-32 But the servants of David had struck down, of Benjamin and Abner's men, three hundred and sixty men (18:1 advantage of David's servants over the men of Benjamin) who died. [32] Then they took up Asahel and buried him in his father's (not named) tomb, which was in Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at daybreak.

SUMMARY

- **There are lessons to be learned.** It is a wise man who can learn from the mistakes of others; to grow and develop his position from learning from history. It is a fool that just looks at history and does not use the lessons to guide his own life now.
- **Surely in the lesson this week we learn** how to properly deal with grief. We learn the importance of living after the Spirit. We learn how that following after the flesh is always disastrous, how important it is to maintain a fellowship with God, seeking God in the decision-making processes of our lives.
- **As long as David sought the LORD, and sought the guidance of God, he was doing all right.** When he went out on his own, he would strike out every time. True of all of us. If we seek the LORD, God will guide us right. But if we go out on our own, hey, you are just going to strike out. *(Pro 3:5-6) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; [6] In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*
- **Anger, bitterness, unforgiveness! David demonstrated the it is not imposed on you.** It is a choice! That is so hard, when we have been so hurt, so violated and so betrayed. Just think how for ten years, Saul had sought to kill David! **Anger, bitterness, unforgiveness!** It is really what we want to choose. It is quite natural.
- **Whereas what we need is supernatural, which is forgiveness!** David teaches us that anger, bitterness, unforgiveness are not imposed upon us, It is a choice.
- **How are the mighty fallen?** If we are doing things that we know are not right, and it is eating away at you like termites little by little, may we get on our knees and say, LORD, that is I! I have been playing with this, LORD, and except for Your grace, it is going to take me down. If You leave me to myself, I am dead in the water here, LORD. I need Your grace tonight! I need Your mercy!
- **What is in my heart when I hear of a tragedy of an enemy? How do I respond?** (2Sa 1:12,14)
- **How careful am I in not “touching, coming against, His anointed ones,” harming them?**
- **How well do I consider the good in others, especially in those who have hurt me? Would I ever refer to the Sauls in my life, as being “beloved and pleasant?”** (2Sa 1:23)
- **What can I learn from “How the mighty have fallen?” as I consider David, Saul, and Jonathan! For me, will it be more of a question or an explanation point?** (2Sa 1:27)
- **Notice David is back with the LORD! Nothing was said about his inquiring of the LORD for 16 months. Now he is not only asking for the first step of the LORD’s will, but also for the second step! Go up? Yes! Where? To Hebron! What a great example for us!** (2Sa 2:1)
- **“To the men of Jabesh Gilead” David’s Christ-like an example of showing gratitude is such a good one! How well do I do this?** (2Sa 2:6)
- **“The grace to forgive”** Notice God’s grace in David’s forgiving Saul! (2Sa 1:19,22,23) *“The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! [22] From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty. [23] “Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.*

I BELIEVE IN JESUS – Keith Matten (2:05/2:08)

*I believe in Jesus I believe He is the Son of God He died and rose again He paid for us all
I believe He's here now Standing in our midst Here with the power to heal now And the grace to forgive
I believe in You, Lord I believe You are the Son of God You died and rose again You paid for us all
And I believe You're here now (I believe that You're here) Standing in our midst Here With the power to
heal now (With the power to heal) And the grace to forgive
I believe in You, Lord I believe You are the Son of God You died and rose again You paid for us all
And I believe You're here now (I believe that You're here) Standing in our midst Here With the power to
heal now (With the power to heal) And the grace to forgive And I believe You're here now Standing in our
midst Here With the power to heal now And the grace to forgive*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 2 Samuel, Chapters 3-5!