

Sunday Night Message

March 1, 2020

2 Samuel 1 – How Are The Mighty Fallen

Topics – Saul; Jonathan

Series – *2 Samuel*

Text – 2 Samuel 1

Introduction

At the conclusion of 1 Samuel 31, we learned from the Bible perspective of the deaths of Saul, Jonathan, and many other Israelites at the Battle of Mt. Gilboa in the Jezreel Valley. 1 Samuel 31 brings us to the end of the reign of King Saul. 2 Samuel will focus on the reign of David.

2 Samuel is obviously a continuation of 1 Samuel, which was started by the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 10:25), but was continued and concluded by perhaps a variety of writers, possibly from a school of the prophets. Originally, 1 and 2 Samuel were one book, which was completed approximately 940 B.C. According to 1 Chronicles 29:29, Nathan and Gad had recorded at least some of the information contained in 1 and 2 Samuel:

"Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer," (1 Chronicles 29:29)

2 Samuel covers a period of approximately 40 years, which represents the reign of King David over Hebron at first, and then over all of Israel. David's reign over Judah in Hebron starts when David was thirty years old, around 1010 B.C. One of the most important events in 2 Samuel is the moving of the capital of Israel to Jerusalem (see 2 Samuel 5:4 – 7).

Note – The story of David's life is found beginning in 1 Samuel 16, continuing through to 1 Kings 2. In a nutshell, 1 Samuel deals with Samuel and the reign of King Saul, as well as the early life of David. 2 Samuel covers the reign of David. 1 Kings starts with the death of David, and begins with the reign of King Solomon.

I. The Story Asserted by the Amalekite (vs. 1 – 10)

The story asserted by the Amalekite was different from the Bible account given in both 1 Samuel 31 and 1 Chronicles 10, which is where we will now find many parallel passages to the accounts given in 2 Samuel. This Amalekite lied because he probably thought that David would have rewarded him for killing David's enemy. He miscalculated.

Again, we are reminded of the fact that the Amalekites were a people who were marked for destruction by God.

It was Amalek who attacked the people of God as they wandered in the Wilderness (see Exodus 17:8 – 16).

Saul should have wiped them out, but he failed to do so (see 1 Samuel 15)

There are a couple of things that don't make sense to me about the man's story?

First of all – what was an Amalekite doing in the camp of Saul? The Amalekites were enemies of Israel. Surely, he was fighting for the Philistines.

Secondly, Ziklag is a long way away from Mt. Gilboa. This Amalekite had travelled over eighty miles to get this news to David, but did he honestly think that David would receive an Amalekite, one of the people who had just took his family and burnt his city.

Thirdly, there certainly is some truth to the story he told. He had the crown and bracelet, which means that he had to have been the first on the scene.

If the Amalekite was telling the truth, it would certainly have been ironic that Saul who was ordered to kill all Amalekites, now was ordering an Amalekite to kill him.

II. The Sentence Administered (vs. 11 – 18)

David is clearly moved by the news of the deaths of both Saul and Jonathan, and also for the tremendous loss of Israelites on the battlefield. Fasting and weeping, and ripping of clothes were all signs of mourning:

"And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes." (Esther 4:3)

After a time of mourning, David deals with the Amalekite. David seems to believe what he says. He doesn't kill him for lying, he kills him for killing Saul. This scene will repeat itself in 2 Samuel 4:5 – 12.

III. David's Song of Admiration for Saul and Jonathan (vs. 19 – 27)

David sings a song of lamentation because of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. He also requires that the use of the bow be taught in Israel, probably because of Jonathan's proficiency with the bow (v. 22; 1 Samuel 20:20 – 42).

The *Book of Jasher* was apparently a book reverencing some of the great men and events from Israel:

"And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." (Joshua 10:13)

The term "Jasher" means upright or righteous. This book is lost, and no copies are known to exist.

Notice the phrase "how are the mighty fallen." This is repeated three times in this song.

Though David makes no mention in this song of his problems with Saul, He is obviously very distressed over the loss of his friend, Jonathan. He had a closeness with Jonathan that surpassed even the intimacy he experienced with his wives. He had many wives, but Jonathan was his close friend (see 1 Samuel 18:1 – 4; 20:12 – 17).

WARS OF KING SAUL

- ★ Capital city
- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Advance of the Ammonites against Jabesh-gilead (*I Sam. 11:1ff*)
- Saul's interior exploits against the Ammonites (*I Sam. 11:8ff*)
- ↖ Saul's external exploits (*I Sam. 14:47-48*)
- ← Advance of the Philistines against Shunem (*I Sam. 28:4ff*)
- Saul's interior exploits against the Philistines (*I Sam. 31:1-7*)
- ★ Battle scene

