
Day 94 – April 4

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

David's Rise to Power

Readings: 1 Samuel 25:1-27:7; 1 Chronicles 12:1-7; 1 Samuel 27:8-28:2; 1 Samuel 29:1-11; 1 Chronicles 12:19-22; 1 Samuel 30:1-31

Reflections:

- The story of Abigail and David gives an interesting insight into the social and relational dynamics of the time. We are surprised that although it appears that the right thing for David to do is to wipe out this evil guy, God wants to show that he is the one that fights David's battles. So Abigail, intelligent and beautiful, offers a feast and her humility before David and this brings out David's heart of mercy. David acknowledges that attacking his enemy was not honoring to God but Abigail in her humility and wisdom turned the situation around. God still judges her wicked husband and she is given a new and God honoring husband, David. Once again we see a number of our themes repeated. God is a God who delights in mercy. The hero or heroine in this case is someone who surprises you. A woman as the hero? And God himself shows himself both faithful and the one who fights the battles.
- Abigail's response to David shows that she understands God's heart and she speaks out prophetically the call and purpose of God on David's life. Key Statement: "...the Lord will certainly make a lasting dynasty from my master..."
- David receives a few more wives at this time which in this context is likely a sign of blessing from the Lord. Saul, taking away David's wife reveals again Saul's evil heart.
- Once again David has the chance to kill Saul, once again he shows mercy, once again he trusts God to fight his battles, and once again Saul's heart temporarily softens and he speaks the truth.
- David doesn't believe him and flees again and he was right to do so. Saul was going to pursue him but then gives up. Note that these kings are small little warlords of villages. These are not kings of great empires. During this time more warriors defect from Saul and join David.
- David's raids again fall into the Old Testament model of complete killing. Although we see glimpses of mercy in David sparing some key evil men, we also see what appears to

be heartless killing of innocent people. Remember under the Old Testament the pattern was to “hate your enemy but love your friend.” Jesus reveals God’s ultimate way for his children, “Love your enemies.”

- More and more men defect to join David until he has an army, “like the army of God.”
- David and his men’s wives are captured and an almost indescribable grief comes over David and his men. Some are speaking of stoning David, when it says, “But David found strength in the Lord his God.”
- David rescues the captured women and again the hero is an unlikely hero - a Gentile slave! After they are rescued again we see a sign of grace as the plunder from the victory is shared with both those who fought the battle and those who did not. In this way, all are blessed with grace and it is not based on works or on one being better than another. All who followed David were equally blessed in this victory. Again, we see the overarching themes of Scripture repeated time and time again.