

## DAVID RECOVERED ALL

1 Samuel 30

David and his fighting men had been staying in enemy territory, with king Achish of Gath in the land of the Philistines. He did this to keep king Saul from tracking him.

This strategy did keep Saul away from David, but at one point, it also led king Achish to call on David and his men to join him and his Philistine army and fight against David's own people of Judah. So, David was faced with a major dilemma.

To save David out of a disastrous situation, God mercifully and miraculously intervened through Achish's men who didn't trust David and who refused to trust these Hebrews to kill other Hebrews for them.

David's alliance with the Philistines and choice to live among them would bring him into great trouble. Unholy associations do. The bible warns us about the risks of being unequally yoked and commands us not to do it.

David was out of God's will, and he would pay a price. And the price would eventually force him to turn to God and to return to his homeland.

When David and his men leave Achish and the Philistine army, they return to the city of Ziklag that Achish had earlier given to David. When they arrive, to their absolute horror, they find that Ziklag had been burned by the hated Amalekites.

And again, because of God's great mercy, the Hebrew wives, children, sons, and daughters were not killed, but taken captive and made prisoners of the Amalekites, probably to be sold in slavery.

This story highlights one of the most gut-wrenching chapters in David's life and it also reveals many truths about God and how he works in the lives of his people in times of great trauma and stress.

This story reveals how to respond in times of trial and enemy attack and our goal this morning is to be strengthened in God through these truths.

### **Dauids' Great Distress**

In the first 6 verses as we're introduced to the horrific tragedy that David and his men confronted on their return to Ziklag.

The first reality is that: *At times God allows both trials and assaults from the enemy into our lives that feel absolutely overwhelming.*

The author describes how traumatic this experience was in v4 where we learn that "**...David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep.**"

These men, who were hardened warriors, wept to the point of exhaustion. There was deep sorrow, groans, and tears as they suspected the worst concerning their loved ones.

And "**...the people spoke of stoning David...**" David is not only a victim of his Amalekite enemies, but he also becomes the scapegoat for this disaster. Stone the leader when things go wrong!

The author wants us to see that for David in particular, this attack is on two fronts and must have felt absolutely overwhelming to him.

The point for us from the text is that—like David, we are not exempt from these trials and the emotional collapse that accompanies them.

Jesus says in John 16:33, “...***In the world you will have tribulation.***” What separates the Christian from the people in this world is not that we experience fewer or less severe trials.

What is supposed to separate us from the world is—how, by God’s grace, we can respond to them. And David shows us what the grace of God looks like in these situations.

A second truth we see in this story about God in the midst of trial is: *God is always available to his people in times of trial and spiritual assault.*

We see this truth in verses 6 and 7.

### **David’s Great Faith**

Over and against his great distress David had great faith.

We read, “***6 And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. 7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “Bring me the ephod.” So Abiathar brought the ephod to David.***”

David does 2 things here. First, he "...**strengthened himself in the Lord his God.**" David does not find his relief in whining and self-pity. David doesn't spend hours thinking about just how bad he has it or how deep he's hurt. Neither is he wasting any time questioning why God would ever let this happen to him.

**David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.** David connected with God by looking to Him, hoping in Him and waiting upon His power and presence. Psalm 27:14 **Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait I say, on the Lord! "**

This was the strength of the living God making itself real in the life and heart of a hurting man. This was strength for recognition, strength for brokenness, strength for repentance, strength for determination to win back what the enemy has stolen. This is the same strength that would raise Jesus from the dead! This is the strength of almighty God!

**"He inquired of the Lord"**(v. 8). So, first David strengthens himself in the Lord and second, he looks to God for guidance from God. He wants to hear from Him and wants to see Him perform.

**Jeremiah 33:3 - 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'**

He told Abiathar the priest, **"Bring me the ephod."** This is reference for the Urim and Thummim that were in the pouch of the priestly garment Abiathar possessed. The two stones were used to determine "yes" or "no" questions about God's will and God would respond.

Through the stones, God assures David that he should not only pursue the Amalekites, but he promises David that he will overtake them and recover all. We don't have an Urim and Thummim, but we have something better.

We can inquire of God by enjoying "the direct access we have to God in prayer and the guidance we can get through the revelation of God's holy word.

God says to David, "***Pursue the enemy, you shall overtake him, and you shall without failure recover all***" (v. 8). What an assuring promise!

The Lord has spoken, His word is clear, His word is heard, and David's distress is gone. A direct and precious word of the Lord sets every fear to rest.

Circumstances had not changed yet for David, but his heart finds peace. He is encouraged and empowered. David became "bold as a lion." David could testify, "***I will fear no evil, for you are with me.***"  
***What can man do to me?***

## **David's Great Victory**

A third truth about God in the midst of our trials is: *God will equip us with whatever we need in our trials/fight against the enemy.*

God promises not to allow more than what we can bear. He will always provide a way out, a way of escape for our trials and temptations, so that we can withstand them.

God tells David through the stones that they will overtake the Amalekites, *but he does not tell them where they are*. So, they head out, probably in the general direction of the Amalekites homeland.

It's imperative that they know specifically where their enemy is, so they can sneak up on them unnoticed. So, how does God solve their problem?

He miraculously sends them this Egyptian slave *who had actually been a part of this group of Amalekite raiders* and who knew exactly where they would be. He had evidently taken part in the raid against Ziklag but at some point, he fell ill, and his master abandoned him.

By the Lord's special providence and timing, they just happen to "come across him" as he's stumbling to his death in the desert.

The point is however that God CAN and indeed DOES give us whatever we need to prevail in the midst of the trial. He may supply this through very explainable ways. Or it may be through a miraculous example of God's providence as we see here.

In verses 17-20 we have what relates *the results* of the battle. ***"17 And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled. 18 David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. 19 Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters,***

*spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all.<sup>20</sup> David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, "This is David's spoil."*

## **David's Great Spoil**

This is absolutely a huge victory — a complete victory. "**David recovered all**" (vv. 16-20). All that they had lost and more. Who else could? He had yielded himself to God for this purpose, and having His promise he went in His Name, and proved the faithfulness of His Word.

What a beautiful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, who encouraged Himself in His God, and came forth to recover all that was lost through the sinful failure of the first man, Adam.

God lost all in Eden, the enemy has brought destruction and ruin, taking everyone captive, but God send His Son to recover all. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He came to seek and save the captives - captive to sin and Satan.

Jesus was mighty to burst the gates of death and to open the gates of glory, mighty to recover all and to keep and guard all that is recovered.

But they not only retrieve what they set out to get—the return of their families. They also carry off all the spoils of war the Amalekites had won from those they had defeated.

We know there was a great abundance of spoil here because David has enough to give a ton of it away to his friends back in Judah.

The fourth truth about God in trial is: *God often uses trials to give us good things we could have never received apart from the trial.*

Do we believe this? That's what is modeled here for us.

When the Amalekites attack Ziklag, they impoverish David and his men of their families. But God uses these same Amalekites to greatly enrich them NOT *in spite of* the trial, but BECAUSE of the trial. HE gave them these spoils of wealth and property *they would not have had if the Amalekites had not raided their city.*

We may not always end up finding financial enrichment in our trials, but we can always profit from our trials in some way and in ways that are far more important than money.

Even unbelievers know that we often gain the most important lessons of life in adversity. We grow much wiser from our trials than we do for our blessings. If you are in the midst of trial, you must see that as an important part of God's curriculum to teach you about him.

Even Jesus during his earthly life learned through his trials. Hebrews 5:8 says, "**Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.**"

A fifth and final truth about God in the midst of trials is related to this. That is—*God uses our present battles/trials to specifically prepare us for our future responsibilities.*



We see this in the final 6 verses. After the victory and the plunder has been collected and distributed, we read in verse 26, "<sup>26</sup> *When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the Lord."*

David, who "recovered all" now offers a blessing to all his friends, in the different areas of Judea. God let David's cup overflow. David recognized God's goodness in the victory, so much so that his heart is moved to bestow gifts on those who helped him out over the years.

In this David is a picture of his greater Son, Jesus Christ. When Jesus triumphed on the cross, He won the greatest battle and He had "spoil to share."

He shared the spoil with His people, as it says in Ephesians 4:7-8: ***But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."***

Jesus has spoil from His victory to give you! Anyone who believes and puts his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ will be enriched with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies. We get more than what Adam had before he fell and lost everything.

The riches of His grace to the saved person are too numerous to enumerate. Our new positions and possessions in Christ are limitless in scope and value.

To name a few. The believers are saved by grace, redeemed, reconciled to God, forgiven, sanctified, justified, regenerated, indwelt by the Holy

Spirit, adopted in God's family, joint to Christ, citizens of heaven, co-heirs with Christ, part of the bride, priests, and kings, eternally secure, predestined for glory and conformity to Christ. Glory to His name!

The book of First Samuel teaches us that by the time David was given the throne of Israel, he had been through advanced training in God's Graduate School of faith. And he would need that equipping to establish a strong and healthy nation.

In his runaway years David demonstrated strong leadership, persistence, empathy, faith in God, commitment to the cause, integrity, decisiveness, and generosity. David was now ready for the position to be king over the people.

One lesson for us is—we don't know the future responsibilities God has for us any more than David did, but we do know that God does not randomly choose for us the trials we experience. All events in our lives are weaved together by God for our benefit and His determined purposes.

Each trial is specially crafted by God to a special work in our hearts—teach us the life lessons that will enable us, in the future, to do what God has for us.

This is so encouraging for us in the midst of painful trials because it reminds us that God doesn't waste any of the pain in our lives. He uses it and what we learn about God from it to prepare us for future the battles we will fight.

Jesus, as the Son of David suffered far more than we could in 10,000 lifetimes. He was rejected, betrayed, mocked, tortured, and crucified to

do the work necessary for sinners like us to personally know and love the Lord of the universe.

He did all that to guarantee that, no matter how much his people suffered, it would be temporary until he takes us home to him to enjoy eternal pleasures as his right hand.

If you don't know Christ personally, you are called to repent of your sins and receive him today.

May God give us the grace to grow through our trials as we learn to trust his promises and actively seek after him for his glory and our joy.