

APRIL 1

Read 1 Samuel 30–2 Samuel 1

CHAPTER 30

AND it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

2 And had taken the women captives, that *were* therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried *them* away, and went on their way.

3 ¶ So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, *it was* burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

4 Then David and the people that *were* with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man

for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

7. And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.

9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that *were* with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

11 ¶ And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;

12 And they gave him a piece of

a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk *any* water, three days and three nights.

13 And David said unto him, To whom *belongest* thou? and whence *art* thou? And he said, I *am* a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.

14 We made an invasion *upon* the south of the Cherethites, and upon *the coast* which *belongeth* to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company.

16 ¶ And when he had brought him down, behold, *they were* spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.

17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped

not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any *thing* that they had taken to them: David recovered all.

20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, *which* they drave before those *other* cattle, and said, This *is* David's spoil.

21 ¶ And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that *were* with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.

22 Then answered all the wicked men and *men* of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them *ought* of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead *them* away, and depart.

23 Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand.

24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.

25 And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

26 ¶ And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, *even* to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD;

27 To *them* which were in Bethel, and to *them* which were in south Ramoth, and to *them* which were in Jattir,

28 And to *them* which were in Aroer, and to *them* which were in Siphmoth, and to *them* which were in Eshtemoa,

29 And to *them* which were in Rachal, and to *them* which were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to *them* which were in the cities of the Kenites,

30 And to *them* which were in

Hormah, and to *them* which were in Chorashan, and to *them* which were in Athach,

31 And to *them* which were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt.

CHAPTER 31

NOW the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.

2 And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

4 Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

5 And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

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

8. And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.

9 And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish *it in* the house of their idols, and among the people.

10 And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.

11 ¶ And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;

12 All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan,

and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

13 And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 1

NOW it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag;

2 It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.

3 And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.

4 And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

5 And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?

6 And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here *am* I.

8 And he said unto me, Who *art* thou? And I answered him, I *am* an Amalekite.

9 He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life *is* yet whole in me.

10 So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that *was* upon his head, and the bracelet that *was* on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.

11. Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that *were* with him:

12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

13 ¶ And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence *art* thou? And he answered, I *am* the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.

14 And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?

15 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, *and* fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.

16 And David said unto him, Thy blood *be* upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.

17 ¶ And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

18 (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah *the use of* the bow: behold, *it is* written in the book of Jasher.)

19 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

20 Tell *it* not in Gath, publish *it* not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

21 Ye mountains of Gilboa, *let there be* no dew, neither *let there be*

rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, *as though he had not been* anointed with oil.

22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

23 Saul and Jonathan *were* lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with *other* delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, *thou wast* slain in thine high places.

26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

27 How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 31 records the death of Saul. While David is sending gifts to his friends, Saul and his family are being stripped on the battlefield. Saul had been carnally minded, which is death (see Romans 8:6). He had previously enjoyed great victories in battle, but God had now abandoned him. The only thing left for the rebellious king was death. It is sad that his innocent son, Jonathan, had to suffer because of the sins of his father.

There are several practical lessons we can learn from the tragic life and death of King Saul. Great sins often begin as little matters, such as impatience, disobedience and excuse making. A man goes from bad to worse when sin gets hold of him. Also, when a person is not right with God, he will not be able to get along with God's people. Excuses are no substitute for confession, and there is no substitute for obedience. And finally, natural gifts and abilities mean nothing if you do not have the power of God in your life.

In chapter 1 of II Samuel David sorrows over the death of Saul and Jonathan (see Proverbs 24:17). There are no unkind words about Saul in these verses. David's main concern is that the Lord's anointed is dead and the Lord's glory is dimmed. He is anxious that the unsaved enemy will not rejoice over this victory. In verses 19, 25, and 27 David's theme is, "How

are the mighty fallen!" I Samuel 10:23 records that Saul "was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward." Now we see him fallen lower than even the enemy. I Corinthians 10:12 tells us, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken" (Proverbs 3:26).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 13: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

SARAH RIVERA
THEOLORETTA WOMACK

HYMN FOR TODAY

LEAD ME TO CALVARY

by Jennie Evelyn Hussey, 1874-1958

This is the season of the year when we give special attention to Christ's suffering, death, and victorious resurrection. In the church calendar, an aware-

ness of these events begins with the Christian observance of Lent, a 40-day period (excluding Sundays) that is set aside each year prior to Easter to concentrate on the circumstances that led to the death of God's Son on a Roman cross. (Easter is always the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after March 21—the spring equinox. This date was first set in A.D. 325 by the Roman Catholic Church.) The Lenten period should result in a spiritual self-examination and in rededicated living for each devout believer, preparing us for the celebration of our risen Lord.

The cross of Christ is either a blessing or a curse, depending on our response to it. Either it leads to our eternal redemption, or it condemns us to eternal damnation. This is demonstrated by the two thieves who hung on either side of the Saviour. One responded and received divine mercy; the other rebelled his way into hell. God never violates man's free will and forces His love on anyone. But He has never rejected anyone who cries out to Him in believing faith. It is man who rejects God and the salvation that He provided at Calvary.

Jennie Hussey was a life-long Quaker. Much of her life was a time of hardship and suffering, especially in her care of an invalid sister. Yet Jennie was known for her cheerful and courageous attitude. In all she wrote approximately 150 hymn texts. "Lead Me to Calvary" first appeared in *New Songs of Praise and Power* in 1921. These thoughtful words can deepen our spiritual lives as we move further through this important Lenten season.

*King of my life I crown Thee now—
Thine shall the glory be;
lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,
lead me to Calvary.*

*Show me the tomb where Thou was laid,
tenderly mourned and wept;
angels in robes of light arrayed
guarded Thee whilst Thou slept.*

*Let me like Mary, thru the gloom,
come with a gift to Thee;
show to me now the empty tomb—
lead me to Calvary.*

*May I be willing, Lord, to bear
daily my cross for Thee;
even Thy cup of grief to share—
Thou hast borne all for me.*

Chorus:

*Lest I forget Gethsemane, lest I forget Thine agony,
lest I forget Thy love to me, lead me to Calvary.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

THE APPROXIMATE DATE OF THE JEWISH NEW YEAR.

This is the first month of their year.

**2349 B.C.
THE FLOOD WATERS WERE DRIED.**

Genesis 8:13.

**1490 B.C.
THE GIFTS AND OFFERINGS WERE BROUGHT
IN DEDICATION OF THE TABERNACLE.**

**1490 B.C.
THE TABERNACLE WAS SET UP.**

Exodus 42:17,34

**THE DATE THAT THE CLOUD CAME UPON
THE TABERNACLE AND THE GLORY OF GOD
FILLED THE HOUSE OF GOD.**

**726 B.C.
HEZEKIAH CLEANSED THE TEMPLE.**

II Chronicles 29:17

**515 B.C.
EZRA STARTED TO JERUSALEM TO REBUILD
THE WALL.**

**457 B.C.
THE ISRAELITES PUT AWAY STRANGE WIVES
BEFORE THE TEMPLE.**

Ezra 10:17

**7 B.C.
THE TRADITIONAL DATE FOR THE
CONCEPTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.**

Luke 1:24-26.

**574 B.C.
GOD TOLD EZEKIEL TO CLEANSE
THE SANCTUARY.**

Ezekiel 45:18.

**1910
THE APPROXIMATE DATE OF THE
CONVERSION OF DR. G.B. VICK**

Dr. Vick was pastor of the Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, and president of the great Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. Dr. Vick was one of the giants. How I thank God for the contribution he has made for the cause of Christ in the preceding generation.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1867
BLACKS VOTED IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION IN TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA. Military officials set aside the election pending clarification on electoral procedures.

1868
HAMPTON INSTITUTE OPENED.

1899
NORTH CAROLINA MUTUAL OPENED ITS DOORS FOR BUSINESS.

1930
ZAWDITU, THE FIRST REIGNING FEMALE MONARCH OF MODERN ETHIOPIA, DIES.

1950
DEATH OF CHARLES R. DREW (45), surgeon and developer of the blood bank concept, after an automobile accident near Burlington, North Carolina.

1966
THROUGH THE 24TH, FIRST WORLD FESTIVAL OF BLACK ART held in Dakar, Senegal. One of the largest delegations came from Black America.

1929
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, SPELMAN COLLEGE AND ATLANTA UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED, creating a new Atlanta University. John Hope, president of Morehouse College, was named president.

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

THE NEW CONVERT'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Assignment 13)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning," page xiii near the front of this book.)

Be identified with his Lord in Baptism.

() Romans 6:4 (Acts 8:36; 16:33)

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life

Attend the Lord's house every Lord's day.

() Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Tell what great things the Lord hath done.

() Mark 5:19

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Like Andrew, bring nearest kin to Jesus.

() John 1:41 (John 1:40, 42)

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Diligently study to meet new Master's approval.

() 2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.