

APRIL 3

Read 2 Samuel 5-7

CHAPTER 5

THEN came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.

4 ¶ David *was* thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years.

5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

6 ¶ And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, say-

ing, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither.

7 Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same *is* the city of David.

8 And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, *that are* hated of David's soul, *he shall be chief and captain*. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

9 So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.

10 And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts *was* with him.

11 ¶ And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king

over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

13 ¶ And David took *him* more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.

14 And these *be* the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,

15 Ibhara also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,

16 And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

17 ¶ But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard *of it*, and went down to the hold.

18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

20 And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there,

and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.

21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.

22 ¶ And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

23 And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; *but* fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

CHAPTER 6

A GAIN, David gathered together *all the* chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2 And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring

up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims.

3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of *instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

6 ¶ And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*.

7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his* error; and there he died by the ark of God.

8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.

9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

10 So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obedom the Gittite.

11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obedom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obedom, and all his household.

12 ¶ And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obedom, and all that *pertaineth* unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obedom into the city of David with gladness.

13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

14 And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod.

15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal

Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

17 ¶ And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

19 And he dealt among all the people, *even* among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece *of flesh*, and a flagon *of wine*. So all the people departed every one to his house.

20 ¶ Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

21 And David said unto Michal, *It was* before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all

his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

CHAPTER 7

AND it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.

4 ¶ And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,

5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

6 Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I

brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth.

10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

11 And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also

the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

12 ¶ And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

18 ¶ Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? and what *is* my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but

thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And *is* this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.

21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know *them*.

22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23 And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods?

24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel *to be* a people unto thee for ever: and thou,

LORD, art become their God.

25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do as thou hast said.

26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is* the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee.

27 For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou *art* that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken *it*: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In today's reading David succeeds Saul to the throne. He would reign a total of forty years, 33 years as king over the entire nation of Israel. David chooses and captures Jerusalem for the capital city.

Chapter 6 records the returning of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Psalm 132:1-6 tells of David's intense desire to honor the Lord by returning the Ark to its proper place. For nearly 20 years it had been in Kirjath-Jearim, and it took David about three months to finish the task of bringing it back to the special tent he had prepared for it in Jerusalem.

Chapter 7 records the Davidic covenant. The phrases, "thy seed" (verse 12) and "thy throne" (verse 16) summarize the main lesson of the chapter. The Davidic covenant is important to God's program, because in it God promises certain eternal blessings to the Jewish nation. In His covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15) God had promised a seed, a land and a blessing to all nations. In the Davidic covenant God reveals that the promised Messiah would come through David's line (Romans 1:3,4) and would rule over the kingdom of Israel from David's throne. That promised Messiah is Jesus Christ and He is coming soon. He will sit down upon the throne of David in Jerusalem and rule over His people for 1,000 years. As Christians, we have a glorious future ahead. Are you prepared for His return?

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked; but he blesseth the habitation of the just" (Proverbs 3:33).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 1 (found on page 10).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

RODERICK RICHARDSON
CHRISTIAN DUNBAR

HYMN FOR TODAY

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS
by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

While preparing for a communion service in 1707, Isaac Watts wrote this deeply moving and very personal expression of gratitude for the amazing love that the death of Christ on the cross revealed. It first appeared in print that same year in Watts' outstand-

ing collection, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*. The hymn was originally titled "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ." Noted theologian Matthew Arnold called this the greatest hymn in the English language. In Watts' day, texts such as this, which were based only on personal feelings, were termed "hymns of human composure" and were very controversial, since almost all congregational singing at this time consisted of ponderous repetitions of the Psalms. The unique thoughts presented by Watts in these lines certainly must have pointed the 18th century Christians to a view of the dying Saviour in a vivid and memorable way that led them to a deeper worship experience, even as it does for us today.

Young Watts showed unusual talent at an early age, learning Latin when he was 5, Greek at 9, French at 11 and Hebrew at 12. As he grew up, he became increasingly disturbed by the uninspiring psalm singing in the English churches. He commented, "The singing of God's praise is the part of worship most closely related to heaven; but its performance among us is the worst on earth." Throughout his life, Isaac Watts wrote over 600 hymns and is known today as the "father of English hymnody." His hymns were strong and triumphant statements of the Christian faith, yet none ever equalled the colorful imagery and genuine devotion of this emotionally stirring and magnificent hymn text.

*When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most—
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY
THE TRADITIONAL DATE OF THE BIRTH OF
CAIN.

THE TRADITIONAL DATE OF THE SLAYING OF ABEL.

If both of these be true, then Abel was killed on Cain's birthday. As we think of Cain, we should pause to ask God to keep hatred, malice, and jealousy from our own hearts. How damaging to our Christian testimony it is when these enemies of spirituality over-sway in our lives.

33 A.D.

THE FARMER'S ALMANAC GIVES THIS AS THE DATE OF THE CRUCIFIXION.

Of course, there is no way to know this for sure. We do know, however, it was on the fourteenth day of the first month, which would not exactly correspond with our month of April but would be close to it. Whether this could be the date or not, certainly we can thank God for the Cross of Calvary, and thank Him for the price that Jesus paid for our sins.

1783

WASHINGTON IRVING WAS BORN.

1860

THE FIRST PONY EXPRESS OPERATED.

Its route was from Sacramento, California, to St. Joseph, Missouri.

1882

JESSE JAMES WAS KILLED.

A NEW MONTH HAS BEGUN.

Yes, a new month has begun, the month of showers, the month of spring, the month of flowers, the month of new beginning, the month of beauty. Let us make it a month of service for Jesus Christ.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1858

DR. MATTHEW RICKETTS, FIRST BLACK MAN ELECTED TO NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE (FROM OMAHA), BORN.

1889

SAVINGS BANK OF THE ORDER OF TRUE REFORMERS opened in Richmond, Virginia.

1944

SUPREME COURT (SMITH V. ALLWRIGHT) SAID "WHITE PRIMARIES" THAT EXCLUDED BLACKS WERE UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

1950

DEATH OF CARTER G. WOODSON (74), "father of black history," Washington, D.C.

1963

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OPENED ANTISEGREGATION CAMPAIGN in Birmingham. More than two thousand demonstrators, including King, were arrested before the campaign ended.

THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 28

AUTHOR: David.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

Here we have another “composite” Psalm. It is, however, a reverse of the preceding one. This one starts off sad and meditative in verses 1-5 and then leaps to joy and rejoicing in verses 6-9.

This composite Psalm was written by David during Absalom’s rebellion while he was at Mahanaim. He was rejoicing in God’s goodness to him and yet was broken-hearted because of the circumstances caused by his son’s rebellion. Picture him as he is outside the city, his own forces are fighting with those of his son, his son has turned against him. However, God is good, and so David is sad and mournful for a few verses and then he leaps into praise for the next few.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD’S PEOPLE:

Psalm 28 was used during times of intercession when God’s people fasted, prayed and pleaded for God to hear and answer them. They would sing and read this Psalm. Is there something that has caused you to turn to fasting and praying? Is there something for which you are pleading now? Are you praying day and night and calling unto God? Then enter into the agony and, yes, even the joy of David in the 28th Psalm.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 1 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

WHY MEMORIZE THE WORD?

A Command

() Deuteronomy 6:6

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

An Imperative

() Deuteronomy 11:18

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

A Necessity

() Job 22:22

Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

A Promise

() Proverbs 3:3-4

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.