

Israel in Danger

The Kingdom of David

The End of the Kingdom of Saul

1. 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 Malchi-shua, Saul's sons.
3. And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. (I Samuel 31:1-3)
 - As Samuel prophesied, the Kingdom of Saul ended at the Battle of Mount Gilboa.
 - King Saul watched as his sons died in this obvious Philistine rout.
 - Even King Saul was wounded by the mass of arrows from the Philistine archers.

The End of the Kingdom of Saul

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. (I Samuel 31:4-6)
 - When King Saul saw that the battle was lost, he asked his armorbearer to kill him, but he refused. King Saul then committed suicide.

The Collapse of the Kingdom

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 (the bodies of) Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.
9. And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armor, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people. (I Samuel 31:7-9)
 - The Philistines were quick to give their elohim credit for their victory.
 - The Philistines must have thought King Saul was a *nephilim*.
 - They were apparently unaware of the Samuel's prophecies.

The Burial of King Saul

10. And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.
11. And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 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 Beth-shan, 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. . (I Samuel 31:10-13)
 - At least some of the Israelites had some honor and retrieved Saul's body and gave him a decent burial.
 - For the anti-cremation people, notice that they burnt Saul's and his sons' bodies.

But Where was David?

1. 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. (1 Samuel 30:1-3)
 - David and his men had their own problems. The Amalekites that Saul had failed to kill had risen up and invaded the southern part of the Kingdom of Israel.
 - However, unlike the Philistines who would have killed their captives, the Amalekites took the residents of the Ziklag captive.

David Discovers that the Amalekites had Raided Ziklag and 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 YHWH his Elohim. (I Samuel 30:4-6)
 - After David had visited the Prophet Samuel before he died, he learned of the curses King Saul had brought on the kingdom and his house.
 - Samuel likely advised David to stay away from King Saul and not to be part of his army.
 - Instead, he went to Ziklag and discovered the city burned that the people taken captive...

David Consults YHWH About His Actions

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 inquired at YHWH, 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. (I Samuel 30:7-9)
 - Unlike King Saul, when David inquired of YHWH, he got a direct answer.
 - As a young man, King David had studied the Torah and knew how to proceed in these matters.

David Captures an Amalekite Servant

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. (1 Samuel 30:10-12)
 - David knew that kindness was the way to get a prisoner to talk. They fed him and made him comfortable.
 - Apparently, his Amalekite master has just left him for dead. A terrible mistake on his part!

David Interrogates the Egyptian Servant

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 Elohim, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company. (I Samuel 30:13-15)
 - David gets the information he needs from the Egyptian, but promises to take care of him.
 - The prisoner, being treated well, betrays his old master without any consideration.

David Routs the Amalekites and Recovers All That Was Lost!

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. (I Samuel 30:16-19)
 - David and his men easily routed the Amalekites and took back all the good they had stolen.
 - Only 400 young men escaped David's hand because they rode away on camels.

David Moves to Hebron

1. And it came to pass after this, that David inquired of YHWH, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And YHWH said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.
2. So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.
3. And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron. (II Samuel 2:1-3)
 - David had to be very careful in his moves. King Saul was now dead and the bulk of the Israelite army was also dead. The Philistines were in control...
 - He moved into Hebron because it was close to his home. If he did encounter the Philistines, he would be in a better position to deal with them.

David is Made King of Judah

4. And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabesh-gilead were they that buried Saul.
5. And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of YHWH, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your master, even unto Saul, and have buried him.
6. And now YHWH shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.
7. Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them. (II Samuel 2:4-7)
 - David was only King of the Tribe of Judah. He was quick to complement the men who buried King Saul.
 - He had no idea what the rest of the country was going to do.

Ish-bosheth is Made King of Israel

8. But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;
9. And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.
10. Ish-bosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.
11. And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months. (II Samuel 2:8-11)
 - Abner, who was captain of King Saul's army understood that a King David was NOT likely to retain him as head of the Israelite Army.
 - He responded by getting Ish-bosheth installed as the second king of Israel.

Civil War Between Judah and Israel

1. Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker. (II Samuel 3:1)
6. And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul.
7. And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and Ish-bosheth said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?
8. Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ish-bosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman? (II Samuel 3:6-8)
 - Some would get the idea that Abner had ideas about getting the throne of Israel for himself.
 - Ish-bosheth saw through Abner's intrigues and called him out for what he had done!

Abner Betrays Israel

9. So do Elohim to Abner, and more also, except, as YHWH hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;
10. To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beer-sheba.
11. And he (Ish-bosheth) could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him. (II Samuel 3:9-11)
 - Ish-bosheth proved his ineffectiveness against Abner when he threatened to change sides. Like his father, King Saul he feared man and had no trust in YHWH.
 - Apparently, the priests supported David... Not surprising after what Doeg the Edomite did to them.

Abner Intreats David, But David Needs Proof!

12. And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee.
13. And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.
14. And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines. (II Samuel 3:12-14)
 - It is clear that David does not trust Abner, so he sets his own requirement: Abner must bring to him, Michal, Saul's daughter who Saul gave to another man.
 - David then makes the same demand to Ish-bosheth.

Abner Intreats David, But David Needs Proof!

15. And Ish-bosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish.
16. And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.
17. And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying, Ye sought for David in times past to be king over you:
18. Now then do it: for YHWH hath spoken of David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies. (II Samuel 3:15-18)
 - When Abner saw that Ish-bosheth would adhere to David's demands, he knew it was time to get the elders of Israel to support making David to be king over all Israel.

Abner Uses His Influence to United Israel

19. And Abner also spake in the ears of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin.
20. So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that were with him a feast.
21. And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my master the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace. (II Samuel 3:19-21)
 - Abner went to David to arrange the “unconditional surrender” of the House of Benjamin.
 - He knew that the Philistines were waiting to see who would emerge as the King of Israel.
 - It is interesting to see that the Philistines were willing to wait around to see who would be king.

Joab, David Chief of Staff Does NOT Trust Abner

- 22. And, Behold, the servants of David and Joab came from pursuing a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner was not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace.
- 23. When Joab and all the host that was with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace.
- 24. Then Joab came to the king, and said, What hast thou done? behold, Abner came unto thee; why is sent thee away.
- 25. Thou knowest Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest. (II Samuel 3:22-25)
 - Joab does not trust Abner and thinks he has an ulterior motive.
 - He makes his feelings known to King David... but decides to settle the matter himself!

Joab Murders Abner

26. And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah: but David knew it not.
27. And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.
28. And afterward when David heard it, he said, I and my kingdom are guiltless before YHWH for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner:
29. Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread. (II Samuel 3:26-29)
 - David never forgot what happened here. However, he never dealt with Joab for what he did.
 - He would leave it up to his son Solomon to deal with this. (I Kings 2:5-6)

Civil War is Over, David is Made King

1. 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 YHWH 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 YHWH: and they anointed David king over Israel. (II Samuel 5:1-3)
 - Now that David was king, he had plenty of challenges ahead of him.
 - The Philistines were waiting to end this kingdom like they had done to Saul.

David Sets Up a Capital City

6. And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, 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. (II Samuel 5:6-9)

King David Meets the Philistines

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 inquired of YHWH, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And YHWH said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. (II Samuel 5:17-19)
 - King David was careful to get instructions before he proceeded in battle.
 - This time, he was instructed to do a frontal assault.

King David Defeats the Philistines

20. And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, YHWH hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim.
- 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. (II Samuel 5:20-22)
- Samuel's training is paying off, King David knew enough to burn all the Philistines' images.
 - King David marveled as YHWH moved in the battle before them and won the victory for him.

King David Defeats the Philistines Again

- 23. And when David inquired of YHWH, 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 YHWH go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.
- 25. And David did so, as YHWH had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer. (II Samuel 5:23-25)
 - This time, King David split his troops and sent some of them to get behind the Philistines. This way, they surrounded the Philistines and routed them.
 - The Russians recently defeated the Ukrainians the same way at Bakhmut and Mariupol.

King David's Census

1. And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.
2. And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beer-sheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it.
3. And Joab answered, YHWH make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my master the king, are they not all my master's servants? why then doth my master require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?
4. Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem. (I Chronicles 21:1-4)
 - This is the first time Satan's name is used in the Bible. In Hebrew, it means simply "adversary."
 - King David would have been wise to listen to his advisors.

King David's Census

5. And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand-thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword.
6. But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab.
7. And Elohim was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. (I Chronicles 21:5-7)
 - It is amazing that in that time, King David would have 1½ million soldiers under arms at this time. It is no wonder Israel's borders went to the Euphrates River on one side, the Nile River on the other side, the Mediterranean Sea to the east, and we have no idea how far north Israel reached.

King David's Census

8. And David said unto Elohim, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.
9. And YHWH spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying,
10. Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith YHWH, I offer thee three things: choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. (1 Chronicles 21:8-10)
 - King David was again wise enough to take responsibility for his poor decisionmaking.
 - YHWH would come to a seer named Gad. He gave him three choices to enumerate to David.

King David's Choice of Punishments

11. So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith YHWH, Choose thee:
- 1) Either three years' famine; or
 - 2) three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or
 - 3) else three days the sword of YHWH, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of YHWH destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel.
- Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.
13. And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of YHWH; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man. (I Chronicles 21:11-13)

King David's Choice of Punishments

14. So YHWH sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.
15. And Elohim sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, YHWH beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of YHWH stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.
16. And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of YHWH stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. (I Chronicles 21:14-16)
 - David was right when it came to trusting on the mercy of YHWH.
 - Still, when the angel came to the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite, he was stayed.

King David's Choice of Punishments

14. And David said unto Elohim, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O YHWH my Elohim, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.
15. Then the angel of YHWH commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto YHWH in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.
16. And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of YHWH. (I Chronicles 21:17-19)
 - King David reminded YHWH that he was the one who sinned, NOT the people.
 - He had King David build in altar on what would later be the site of the temple.

King David's Entreaty's YHWH

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King David is Directed to Build an Altar on Ornan's Threshingfloor

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King David Buys Ornan's Threshingfloor

20. And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat.
21. And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshingfloor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground.
22. Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto YHWH: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people. (I Chronicles 21:20-22)
 - King David understood that a true sacrifice would cost him something.
 - He would not accept Ornan just giving him the land.
 - However, Ornan was willing to give King David the land to save the life of his sons.

King David Buys Ornan's Threshingfloor

23. And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my master the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all.
24. And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for YHWH, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.
25. So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight. (I Chronicles 21:23-25)
- King David paid the equivalent of \$1,500,000 for that threshingfloor.
 - He inadvertently taught us the governmental principle of "Eminent Domain." If a government needs someone's land for a legitimate purpose, they must pay the landowner the "fair market value" for that land. King David overpaid for the land as part of his atonement for his sin.

King David Build's a Tabernacle

26. And David built there an altar unto YHWH, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon YHWH; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.
27. And YHWH commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof.
28. At that time when David saw that YHWH had answered him in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there. (I Chronicles 21:26-28)
- Even though King David was old, he constructed this tabernacle by himself at considerable cost to his health.
 - This would be the last official act of King David's Administration. He went from here to his deathbed. But this would not be his last crisis.