



## **LESSON THIRTEEN**

### **Lessons of the five major figures concerning the enjoyment of the good land in 1 Samuel 1 to 2 Samuel 1**

Scripture Reading:

#### **1 Samuel 31-2 Samuel 1 Section 1**

- 31:1** Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines and fell down slain on Mount Gilboa.
- 31:2** And the Philistines chased Saul and his sons; and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons.
- 31:3** And the battle bore heavily against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was badly wounded by the archers.
- 31:4** Then Saul said to his armor bearer, Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through and abuse me. But his armor bearer would not, for he was very afraid. So Saul took his sword and fell on it.
- 31:5** And when his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell on his sword and died with him.
- 31:6** So Saul and his three sons and his armor bearer, as well as all his men, died that day together.
- 31:7** And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and who were on the other side of the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.
- 31:8** And the next day the Philistines came to strip the slain, and they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.
- 31:9** And they cut off his head and stripped off his armor; and they sent them all around, throughout the land of the Philistines in order to announce the good news in the houses of their idols and to the people.
- 31:10** And they put his armor in the house of Ashtaroth; and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.
- 31:11** And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,
- 31:12** All the valiant men rose up and went all night and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there.
- 31:13** And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

#### **2 Samuel 1 Section 2 & 4**

- 1:1** Now after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, David remained in Ziklag two days.
- 1:2** And on the third day there came a man from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid him homage.
- 1:3** And David said to him, Where did you come from? And he said to him, From the camp of Israel I have escaped.
- 1:4** And David said to him, What has happened? Tell me. And he said that the people had fled from the battle and that also many of the people had fallen and died and that also Saul and Jonathan his son were dead.
- 1:5** And David said to the young man that told him these things, How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?
- 1:6** And the young man that told him these things said, By chance I happened to be upon Mount Gilboa; and just then Saul leaned on his spear, and just then the chariots and horsemen pursued closely after him.
- 1:7** And when he looked behind him, he saw me; and he called to me. And I said, Here I am.
- 1:8** And he said to me, Who are you? And I said to him, I am an Amalekite.

- 1:9** Then he said to me, Stand over me, and kill me; for anguish has seized me because my life is yet wholly within me.
- 1:10** So I stood over him and put him to death, for I knew that he would not live after his fall; and I took the crown that was upon his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them to my lord here.
- 1:11** Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, as did all the men who were with him.
- 1:12** And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of Jehovah and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.
- 1:13** And David said to the young man who told him these things, Where are you from? And he said, I am the son of an Amalekite stranger.
- 1:14** And David said to him, How is it that you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy Jehovah's anointed?
- 1:15** Then David called one of the young men and said, Come near; fall on him. And he struck him, and he died.
- 1:16** And David said to him, Your blood be upon your head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, I have killed Jehovah's anointed.
- 1:17** And David sang this dirge over Saul and over Jonathan his son;
- 1:18** And he commanded them to teach the children of Judah The Song of the Bow. It is now written in the book of Jashar:
- 1:19** The beauty of Israel lies slain upon your high places. / How the mighty have fallen!
- 1:20** Tell it not in Gath; / Bear not the news of it in the streets of Ashkelon; / Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, / Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.
- 1:21** O mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, / Nor fields of heave offerings. / For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, / The shield of Saul, no more anointed with oil.
- 1:22** From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, / The bow of Jonathan has not turned back, / And the sword of Saul has not returned empty.
- 1:23** Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, / And in their death they were not divided. / They were swifter than eagles; / They were stronger than lions.
- 1:24** O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet with splendor, / Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.
- 1:25** How the mighty are fallen in the midst of the battle! / Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.
- 1:26** I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; so very pleasant were you to me. / Your love to me was wonderful, beyond the love of women.
- 1:27** How the mighty have fallen, / And the weapons of war perished!

### **1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:8, 14-17, 41-42; 23:16-18 Section 3**

- 18:1** Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan became knit with the soul of David; and Jonathan loved him like his own soul.
- 18:2** And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.
- 18:3** Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him like his own soul.
- 18:4** And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and he gave it to David, as well as his armor and even his sword and his bow and his belt.
- 19:1** And Saul told Jonathan his son and all his servants to kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, took great delight in David.
- 19:2** And Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father is seeking to kill you. Now therefore be on guard in the morning, and stay in some secret place, and hide yourself.
- 19:3** And I will go out and stand by my father's side in the field where you are. And I will speak about you to my father; and if I learn anything, I will tell you.
- 19:4** So Jonathan spoke well about David to Saul his father and said to him, May the king not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been very good for you.
- 19:5** For he risked his life when he struck down the Philistine, and Jehovah accomplished a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by having David killed without cause?

**19:6** And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan; and Saul swore, As Jehovah lives, he shall not be put to death.

**19:7** Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

**20:8** Deal kindly then with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of Jehovah with you. But if there is any iniquity in me, you kill me. Why then should you bring me to your father?

**20:14** And while I am still alive, do show me the lovingkindness of Jehovah, that I may not die;

**20:15** And never cut off your lovingkindness from my house, not even when Jehovah has cut off David's enemies to the man from the face of the earth.

**20:16** So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, And Jehovah will require it at the hand of David's enemies.

**20:17** And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

**20:41** And when the boy went, David rose up from his hiding place toward the south and fell on his face to the ground; and he bowed himself three times. And they kissed each other; and they wept for each other, but David more greatly.

**20:42** And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, because both of us have sworn in the name of Jehovah, saying, May Jehovah be between me and you and between my seed and your seed forever. Then David rose up and left, and Jonathan went into the city.

**23:16** Then Jonathan the son of Saul rose up and went to David at Horesh, and he strengthened his hand in God.

**23:17** And he said to him, Do not be afraid, for the hand of Saul my father will not find you; and you will become king over Israel, and I will be second to you; and even Saul my father knows that.

**23:18** And the two of them made a covenant before Jehovah. And David remained in Horesh, and Jonathan went to his house.

## QUESTIONS:

### Section 1:

1. What is God's presence? How does it relate to God's intention?
2. In brief, what process has God went through for us to have His presence?

### Section 2:

1. What is David's reaction towards Saul's death?
2. What can we learn from Saul's tragic ending?

### Section 3:

1. What kind of lessons should we learn from Eli?
2. How can we see that Samuel was faithful in all his statuses and offices?
3. What kind of lessons should we learn from Jonathan?

### Section 4:

1. How did Saul lose his kingship?
2. What kind of lessons should we learn from David?

----- [SECTION 1] -----

In this message we will consider the ending of Saul (1 Sam. 31) and David's reaction to it (2 Sam. 1).

The first point concerning Saul's ending was that he lost God's presence (1 Sam. 16:14). Today we treasure and enjoy God's presence. God's presence is just the Spirit. The Spirit is the resurrection of Christ; the resurrection of Christ is Christ Himself (John 11:25); and Christ is the embodiment of the processed and consummated Triune God. The Spirit is the reality of God and of the resurrection of Christ. If we have the Spirit, we are in resurrection. If we have the resurrection, we have Christ. If we have Christ, we have the embodiment of God. It is a tragedy that many of today's Christians miss the Spirit. They have the Spirit in their theology, but they do not treasure the Spirit as the consummated God.

At this point I would like to say a word about the steps of God's process. God in eternity past was merely God, divine and triune—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. According to His desire God made an economy, and according to His economy He created the heavens and the earth with man as the center. Yet He still remained purely divine. However, God intended to join Himself to man in order to make Himself one with man. Thus He became a man through incarnation, putting on man's blood and flesh (Heb. 2:14). In eternity past He was merely divine, but by being incarnated He became a God-man named Jesus Christ. Through the process of incarnation He entered into humanity, making Himself, the divine One, one with humanity. In this way He became the God-man, the One who is both divine and human, the complete God and the perfect man.

As the almighty, eternal, and complete God, He lived in humanity for thirty-three and a half years. Then, as the eternal One who is the eternal life, He entered into death and toured Hades for three days. Rising from Hades, He walked out of death and entered into resurrection. Through incarnation He brought God into man, and in resurrection He brought man into God. Through incarnation He brought divinity into humanity, and in resurrection He brought humanity into divinity. After His resurrection He entered into heaven, and today He is in the heavens as a man

sitting on the throne (Acts 7:56; Heb. 1:3b; Eph. 1:20).

As such a One, He is now the consummated God, having passed through the steps of incarnation, human living, the all-inclusive death, resurrection, and ascension. In ascension as the consummated Triune God He remains the complete God mingled with the perfect man—the God-man. This realization is the conclusion of our study of the Bible over the last seven decades.

Today as the consummated God He is the Spirit, our life, our Redeemer, our Savior, our Master, our Lord, our Father, and our God. He is everything to us. He became a man that we as men may become God in life and nature (but not in the Godhead). He has made Himself one with us, and He has made us one with Him. He went through human living, and we traveled with Him. He went to the cross, and we were crucified with Him. He resurrected, and we resurrected with Him. He is in the heavens, and we are there with Him. Now the consummated Triune God as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) indwells our spirit (6:17; Rom. 8:11). Hence, the realization of God's presence is altogether a matter of these two spirits.

Saul lost God's presence, and eventually death came in every way, in every aspect, and in every sense. Saul and his sons died a corporate death. Let us now consider the account of the ending of Saul in 1 Samuel 31.

----- [SECTION 2] -----

**A. The Philistines Fighting against Israel**

At the time of chapter thirty-one, the Philistines were fighting against Israel (v. 1a).

**B. The Men of Israel Fleeing**

The men of Israel fled from the Philistines and fell down slain before them on Mount Gilboa (v. 1b).

**C. The Philistines  
Chasing Saul and His Sons**

The Philistines chased Saul and his sons and struck down his three sons, including Jonathan (v. 2).

#### **D. Saul Being Badly Wounded and Taking His Sword and Falling on It**

The battle bore heavily against Saul, and he was badly wounded by the archers. Saul asked his armor bearer to draw his sword and thrust him through with it, but the armor bearer refused. Then Saul took his sword and fell on it (vv. 3-4).

#### **E. Saul's Armor Bearer Falling on His Sword and Dying with Him**

Saul's armor bearer fell likewise on his sword and died with him (v. 5). Therefore, Saul, his three sons, and his armor bearer died that day together (v. 6). This corporate death was God's fair judgment on the one who had rebelled against Him, had usurped Him, and had become His enemy. Saul had set up his own monarchy, abusing to the uttermost all the divine things given to him.

#### **F. The Men of Israel Forsaking the Cities and Fleeing**

The men of Israel on the other side of the valley and on the other side of the Jordan forsook the cities and fled, and the Philistines came and dwelt in them (v. 7).

#### **G. The Philistines Finding Saul and His Sons Fallen on Mount Gilboa**

The next day the Philistines came to strip the slain and they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. They cut off Saul's head and stripped off his armor and sent them all around throughout the land of the Philistines, in order to announce the good news in the houses of their idols and to their people. Then they put Saul's armor in the house of Ashtaroth and fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan (vv. 8-10). What a terrible ending!

#### **H. The Inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead Hearing What the Philistines Had Done to Saul**

The inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, and all the valiant men went all night and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan and burned them and buried them at Jabesh. Then they fasted seven days (vv. 11-13).

### **I. THE REACTION OF DAVID**

In 2 Samuel 1 we see David's reaction to the death of Saul.

#### **A. A Young Amalekite Reporting the Death of Saul to David**

On the third day after Saul's death, a young Amalekite reported the death of Saul to David. In order to please David he told him that he saw Saul leaning on his spear and that Saul had asked him to kill him and that he had done so (vv. 1-10).

#### **B. David Condemning the Amalekite for Killing the Anointed of Jehovah**

David was not pleased with the report of the young Amalekite, but rather condemned him for killing the anointed of Jehovah and sentenced him to death (vv. 11-16). David did not consider Saul his enemy but always regarded him as God's anointed. This was David's view of Saul.

#### **C. David Singing a Dirge over Saul and over Jonathan His Son**

David was deeply saddened by the death of Saul. David sang a dirge over Saul and over Jonathan his son, and he commanded that The Song of the Bow be taught to the children of Judah (vv. 17-27).

The record of Saul's terrible end is a strong warning to all the serving ones in the kingdom of God not to do a separate work within the kingdom of God or to abuse anything in the kingdom. In the Lord's recovery we must be in fear and trembling, always working for God's kingdom and not for our own work.

----- [SECTION 3] -----

The books of Samuel, as books of history, are on Christ for our enjoyment that God may carry out His economy. These books reveal the right, the particular, and even the full way for us to enjoy Christ that we may be a part of God's economy. Concerning this we need to realize that God desires people who are according to Him, people who are His duplication. In the long period of history covered in 1 Samuel 1 to 2 Samuel 1, there are five major figures: Eli, Samuel, Jonathan, Saul, and David. We need to learn the lessons of these five persons in relation to God's economy.

## **I. LESSONS OF ELI**

### **A. A Priest by Birth according to God's Ordination**

A descendant of Aaron, who was chosen to be God's priest, Eli was a priest by birth according to God's ordination.

### **B. Having the Right to Enjoy the Top Portion of the Good Land**

As a priest Eli had the right to enjoy the top portion of all the good land allotted to the twelve tribes of Israel (Num. 18).

### **C. Disregarding the Priesthood in His Loose Disciplining of His Two Evil Sons**

Eli disregarded the priesthood in his loose disciplining of his two evil sons (1 Sam. 2:28-29). This caused the tragedy of the ending of his history, the termination of his enjoyment of the good land, and the fading of the priesthood in the divine revelation, that is, in the speaking for God. Today we need to learn of Eli to have a high regard for what God has given us in His recovery.

## **II. LESSONS OF SAMUEL**

### **A. Being Faithful in All His Statuses and Offices**

Samuel was faithful in all his statuses and offices. As a Levite, he served God his whole life. As a Nazarite, he kept his consecration without failure. As a priest-prophet, he spoke for God honestly and initiated the prophethood to replace the fading priesthood in the divine revelation. As a judge, he was faithful to God and just to the people, terminating the judgeship and bringing in the kingship for the changing of the age in the fulfillment of God's economy on the earth.

### **B. Enjoying His Portion of the Good Land to the Fullest for His Whole Life**

Samuel enjoyed his portion of the good land to the fullest for his whole life. He was therefore a person who enjoyed the God-allotted portion of the promised good land, that is, Christ. There was no defect in his enjoyment of Christ.

### **C. The Only Defect in His History Being His Appointing His Two Sons as Judges among the Children of Israel**

The only defect in Samuel's history was that he appointed his two sons as judges among the children of Israel. His sons did not follow in his ways, and this gave cause for the children of Israel to ask for a king (8:1-7). Humanly speaking, Samuel made a mistake in this matter, but this mistake helped God to manage the situation among His people for the fulfillment of His economy.

## **III. LESSONS OF JONATHAN THE SON OF SAUL**

### **A. Loving David and Covenanting with Him**

Jonathan loved David, covenanted with him, and predicted that he would be the second in David's kingdom when David would be the king (18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:8, 14-17, 41-42; 23:16-18). Saul's intention was to preserve the kingdom for Jonathan. However, Jonathan was not willing to take the kingdom but recognized that David should be on the throne. Jonathan should have told his father about this and then should have left his father to be with David. In typology, for Jonathan to follow David would have signified our following Christ today and our giving Him the preeminence. If Jonathan had gone with David, Saul might not have suffered such a tragic ending. Saul might have been helped by Jonathan not to build up a monarchy for himself but to build up the kingdom of God.

### **B. Not Going to Follow David but Staying with His Father**

Jonathan realized that David would be the king, but instead of going to follow David, Jonathan stayed with his father because of his natural affection toward his father.

### **C. Suffering the Same Fate as His Father**

Because Jonathan would not leave his father, he suffered the same fate as his father and died with him in the battle.

### **D. Losing the Proper and Adequate Enjoyment of His Portion in the Good Land Promised by God**

Jonathan lost the proper and adequate enjoyment of his portion in the good land promised by God

because of his failure in not following David according to God's will due to his natural affection toward his father.

----- [SECTION 4] -----

#### **IV. LESSONS OF SAUL**

##### **A. Chosen by God and Anointed by Samuel to Be the King of Israel**

Saul was chosen by God and anointed by Samuel to be the king of Israel (9:17; 10:1, 24).

##### **B. Disobeying God's Word at Least Twice**

Saul disobeyed God's word at least twice so that he lost his kingship and his kingdom (13:13-14; 15:19, 23; 28:17-19). When Saul disobeyed God in chapter fifteen, he actually rebelled against Him. Thus, in this chapter Samuel told Saul, "Rebellion is like the sin of divination,/And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim" (v. 23a). To practice divination is to have contact with evil spirits, something that is utterly contrary to God's principle. What Saul did in rebelling against God was like this sin of divination. Saul was not subordinate to God and in fact became an enemy to God. As a result, he lost his kingship.

##### **C. His Ambition and Jealousy Confiscating and Ending His Enjoyment of the Good Land Promised by God**

Saul's ambition to have the kingdom for himself and for his son, with his jealousy of David, confiscated and ended his enjoyment of the good land promised by God (20:30-34).

#### **V. LESSONS OF DAVID**

##### **A. Being Chosen and Anointed by God through Samuel and Praised by the Women of Israel as Higher than Saul**

First, David was chosen and anointed by God through Samuel (16:1, 12-13). After David slew Goliath he was praised by the women of Israel as higher than Saul (18:7).

##### **B. Not Being Made Proud nor Becoming Ambitious for the Kingship**

With David there is no hint that he was made proud nor that he became ambitious for the kingship.

##### **C. Going through the Trial of Saul's Persecution**

After David was anointed and before he was enthroned as the king of Israel, he went through the trial of Saul's persecution for about seven years, from about 1063—1057 B.C. While he was under the trial, he was approved to be the right one to carry out God's economy by establishing the kingdom of God on the earth.

##### **D. Not Destroying Saul because of His Fear of God**

When David was under Saul's persecution, he had two chances to destroy Saul. However, David would not do this because of his fear of God in that Saul was God's anointed (chs. 24, 26). The fact that David would not do anything to damage God's anointed indicates that David maintained a good order in God's kingdom.

##### **E. Forced to Stay in the Land of the Philistines**

Although David had slain Goliath, the giant of the Philistines, and could have been useful to Saul in utterly defeating the Philistines, Saul would not use David to accomplish this but instead persecuted him. David was forced, by Saul's seeking to kill him, to stay in the land of the Philistines (27:1-7).

##### **F. Not Rejoicing at the Death of Saul**

At the death of Saul David did not rejoice but rather sentenced to death the reporter of Saul's death and then sang a dirge praising and uplifting Saul to the uttermost (2 Sam. 1).

##### **G. Not Avenging Himself but Denying Himself for the Fulfilling of God's Purpose**

No doubt, David learned a lot regarding not avenging himself but denying himself for the fulfilling of God's purpose, on the basis that he was a man according to God's heart (1 Sam. 13:14a).

##### **H. Being a Person Who Trusted in God and Walked according to God's Sovereignty**

David was a person who trusted in God and walked according to God's sovereignty in all his trials (17:36-37; 23:14-16; 30:6b-10). While he

was under trial, he sought God's leading. He was one with God and behaved according to God.

**I. Being a Typical Model  
of a Genuine Child of Israel  
in the Enjoyment of the Good Land  
Promised and Given by God to His Chosen  
People**

David is a typical model of a genuine child of Israel in the enjoyment of the good land promised and given by God to His chosen people, by trusting in God and walking with God according to His leading and instruction. David expected to remain in the good land and share in Jehovah's inheritance and serve Him (26:19b). His sincere trust in God and his faithful walk with God qualified him fully to enjoy the good land to a high level, even up to the kingship in the good land according to God's heart with a kingdom which became the kingdom of God on the earth. David was one with God. What was his was God's, and what was God's was his. He and God had only one kingdom. Such a one enjoyed the good land, Christ, to the uttermost.