



LESSON ONE

Crowned by the People to be the King for the Kingdom of God on the Earth

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 2:1-23 Section 1

- 2:1** And after this David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go up into one of the cities of Judah? And Jehovah said to him, Go up. And David said, Where shall I go up? And He said, To Hebron.
- 2:2** So David went up there, as well as his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.
- 2:3** And David brought up his men who were with him, each man with his household; and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.
- 2:4** And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, It is the men of Jabesh-gilead who have buried Saul.
- 2:5** And David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, Blessed are you of Jehovah, because you have shown this kindness to your master, to Saul, and buried him.
- 2:6** And now may Jehovah show kindness and faithfulness to you; and I also will repay you for this good, because you have done this thing.
- 2:7** And now may your hands be strong, and you be valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.
- 2:8** But Abner the son of Ner, the captain of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim.
- 2:9** And he made him king over Gilead and over the Ashurites and over Jezreel and over Ephraim and over Benjamin and over all Israel.
- 2:10** Ish-bosheth the son of Saul was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. However the house of Judah followed David.
- 2:11** And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.
- 2:12** And Abner the son of Ner and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul went forth from Mahanaim to Gibeon.
- 2:13** And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went forth and met them at the pool of Gibeon. And they sat down, these on the one side of the pool and those on the other side of the pool.
- 2:14** And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men arise and compete before us. And Joab said, Let them arise.
- 2:15** And they arose and went over by number, twelve for Benjamin and for Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.
- 2:16** And each seized his opponent by the head, and his sword went into his opponent's side; and they fell down together. And that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which is at Gibeon.
- 2:17** And the battle was very severe that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were routed before the servants of David.
- 2:18** And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab and Abishai and Asahel. Now Asahel was swift of foot, like one of the gazelles which are in the field.
- 2:19** And Asahel pursued after Abner; and as he went, he did not turn to the right hand or to the left from behind Abner.
- 2:20** Then Abner looked behind him and said, Is that you, Asahel? And he said, It is I.
- 2:21** And Abner said to him, Turn away to your right or to your left, and seize one of the young men, and take his armor for yourself. But Asahel would not turn away from following him.
- 2:22** And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn away from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to Joab your brother?

2:23 But he refused to turn away, so Abner struck him in the stomach with the end of his spear; and the spear came out behind him. And he fell down there and died in that place. And everyone who came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.

2 Samuel 3:1-21 Section 2

- 3:1** Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; but David became continually stronger, and the house of Saul became continually weaker.
- 3:2** And in Hebron sons were born to David. His firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;
- 3:3** And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai the king of Geshur;
- 3:4** And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;
- 3:5** And the sixth, Ithream, of Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.
- 3:6** And while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner made himself strong in the house of Saul.
- 3:7** Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. And Ish-bosheth said to Abner, Why did you go in to my father's concubine?
- 3:8** Then Abner became very angry about the words of Ish-bosheth; and he said, Am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah? Today I show kindness to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not delivered you into the hand of David; yet you charge me today with iniquity concerning this woman.
- 3:9** May God do so to Abner, and even more, if I do not do for David as Jehovah has sworn to him,
- 3:10** To transfer 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!
- 3:11** And he could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.
- 3:12** And Abner sent messengers to David where he was, saying, To whom shall the land belong? and saying, Make your covenant with me; and then my hand will be with you, to turn all Israel to you.
- 3:13** And David said, Fine, I will make a covenant with you; but I require one thing of you, namely, you shall not see my face, unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face.
- 3:14** Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver my wife Michal to me, whom I espoused for a hundred Philistine foreskins.
- 3:15** And Ish-bosheth sent men and had her taken from her husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish.
- 3:16** And her husband went along with her to Bahurim, walking and weeping after her. But Abner said to him, Go; return. And he returned.
- 3:17** Now Abner had conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, For some time now you have been seeking for David to be king over you.
- 3:18** So do it now, for Jehovah has spoken of David, saying, By 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.
- 3:19** And Abner also spoke 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.
- 3:20** So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David held a feast for Abner and for the men who were with him.
- 3:21** And Abner said to David, I will rise up and go and gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you and that you may reign over all that your soul desires. And David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

2 Samuel 4:1-12, 5:1-5 Section 3

- 4:1** Now when Saul's son Ish-bosheth heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel was dismayed.
- 4:2** And Saul's son had two men, the captains of bands. The name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the second Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin; for Beeroth is also considered to belong to Benjamin.
- 4:3** And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there until this day.

- 4:4** Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who had crippled feet. He was five years old when the news came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel. And his nurse took him up and fled. And as she hurried to flee, he fell and was made lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.
- 4:5** And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and around the time of the heat of the day they came into the house of Ish-bosheth, while he was taking his noonday rest.
- 4:6** And they came into the midst of the house, as though they were taking wheat. And they stabbed him in the stomach. And Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.
- 4:7** Now they had come into the house as he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they struck him and killed him and beheaded him. And they took his head and traveled by the way of the Arabah all night.
- 4:8** And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David in Hebron; and they said to the king, Here is the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, your enemy who sought your life. And Jehovah has granted my lord the king to be avenged this day of Saul and of his seed.
- 4:9** Then David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, As Jehovah lives, who has redeemed my soul out of all distress,
- 4:10** When one told me, saying, Saul is now dead! thinking he was a bearer of good news, I took hold of him and slew him in Ziklag — that was the reward I gave him for the news.
- 4:11** How much more when wicked men slay a righteous person in his own house upon his bed! And now should I not demand his blood of your hand and take you away from the earth?
- 4:12** Then David commanded his young men, and they slew them and cut off their hands and their feet and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the sepulcher of Abner in Hebron.
- 5:1** Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron; and they spoke, saying, Here we are; we are your bone and your flesh.
- 5:2** Even previously, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And Jehovah said to you, You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall be ruler over Israel.
- 5:3** And all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron. And King David made a covenant with them in Hebron before Jehovah, and they anointed David king over Israel.
- 5:4** David was thirty years old when he began to reign; he reigned forty years.
- 5:5** In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 5:6-25 Section 4

- 5:6** And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land. And they spoke to David, saying, You shall not come in here: Even the blind and the lame will drive you back! (thinking, David cannot come in here.)
- 5:7** But David took the stronghold of Zion, which is now the city of David.
- 5:8** And David said on that day, Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him go up to the watercourse and strike the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul. Therefore they say, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.
- 5:9** So David dwelt in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward.
- 5:10** And David became greater and greater; and Jehovah the God of hosts was with him.
- 5:11** And Hiram the king of Tyre sent messengers to David, as well as cedar timbers and carpenters and masons; and they built David a house.
- 5:12** And David perceived that Jehovah had established him as king over Israel and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.
- 5:13** And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David.
- 5:14** And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua and Shobab and Nathan and Solomon
- 5:15** And Ibhar and Elishua and Nepheg and Japhia
- 5:16** And Elishama and Eliada and Eliphelet.

- 5:17** Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up in search of David; and David heard of it and went down to the stronghold.
- 5:18** And the Philistines came and spread out in the valley of Rephaim.
- 5:19** Then David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand? And Jehovah said to David, Go up, for I will certainly deliver the Philistines into your hand.
- 5:20** So David came to Baal-perazim, and David struck them there. And he said, Jehovah has broken forth upon my enemies before me like the breaking forth of a flood. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim.
- 5:21** And the Philistines left their images there, and David and his men carried them away.
- 5:22** And the Philistines came up again and spread out in the valley of Rephaim.
- 5:23** And David inquired of Jehovah, and He said, You shall not go up; go around behind them and come upon them opposite the balsam trees.
- 5:24** And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall act decisively; for then Jehovah will have gone forth before you to strike the army of the Philistines.
- 5:25** And David did as Jehovah had commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines from Gibeon until you come to Gezer.

QUESTIONS:

Section 1:

1. What is David's reaction to the men of Jabesh-gilead who had buried Saul? How does this tell us a glimpse of how he has pass through trials and was approved by God?
2. What is the indication that God was with David when the war between the house of Saul and the house of David was long?

Section 2:

1. What is God's intention regarding to the house of Saul?
2. What can we learn from the tragic ending of Saul's family?

Section 3:

1. What is David's reaction to the two murders who killed Ish-bosheth? What is his attitude towards the Saul's household?
2. What kind of lessons can we learn from David and Saul regarding to doing things for ourselves versus living for God's kingdom and His people?
3. How can we tell that God is doing everything behind the scene? Please use some verses in 1 and 2 Samuel to illustrate it.

Section 4:

1. According to the book of Samuel, what are the lessons we can learn in serving the Lord?
2. What does Moses, Joshua and the Philistines typify in the Bible? How can this be applied to us nowadays?

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

I. CROWNED BY THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

After David passed through all the trials and was approved by God, he was crowned by the tribe of Judah.

A. In Hebron

When David inquired of Jehovah whether he should go up into one of the cities of Judah, Jehovah told him to go up to Hebron. David went to Hebron, bringing up his men who were with him and their households. They dwelt in the cities of Hebron, and there in Hebron the men of Judah anointed David king over the house of Judah (2:1-4a).

B. At the Age of Thirty

According to 5:4 David was thirty years of age when he began to reign.

C. To Reign over the House of Judah for Seven and a Half Years

The house of Judah followed David, and he reigned over the house of Judah for seven and a half years (2:10b-11).

D. Gaining the Men of Jabesh-gilead Who Had Buried Saul

David gained the men of Jabesh-gilead who had buried Saul (vv. 4b-7). When David was informed concerning what they had done, he sent messengers to them, telling them that they were blessed of Jehovah for showing this kindness to Saul and promising to repay them for this good thing which they had done. In this way David gained these men of Jabesh-gilead.

E. Ish-bosheth Rivaling David in the Kingship

In verses 8 through 10a we see that Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, at the age of forty rivaled David in the kingship. Abner, the son of Ner, the captain of Saul's army, helped Ish-bosheth to become king. Abner took him and made him king over all Israel, and Ish-bosheth reigned over Israel for two years.

F. The War between the House of Saul and the House of David

Second Samuel 2:12—4:12 is a record of the war between the house of Saul and the house of David.

1. The Servants of Ish-bosheth Competing with the Servants of David and Being Defeated by Them

The servants of Ish-bosheth competed with the servants of David and were defeated by them (vv. 12-17). Verse 17 says, "The battle was very severe that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were routed before the servants of David."

2. Asahel, a Servant of David, Pursuing After Abner and Being Killed by Him

Asahel, a servant of David, pursued after Abner, a servant of Ish-bosheth. Abner said to him, "Turn away from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to Joab your brother?" (vv. 18-22). Asahel refused, and he was killed by Abner (v. 23).

3. Abner Appealing for Peace, and Joab Responding to Him

Abner appealed for peace, and Joab responded to him (vv. 24-29). Verse 28 says that Joab blew the trumpet and "all the people stood still; and they pursued after Israel no more, neither did they fight any more." There was peace for a period of time.

4. David's Servants Killing Three Hundred and Sixty Men of Ish-bosheth

In this battle nineteen of David's servants plus Asahel were missing, and the servants of David killed 360 men of Ish-bosheth (vv. 30-32).

5. The House of David Becoming Stronger, and the House of Saul Becoming Weaker

The war between the house of Saul and the house of David was long. The house of David became continually stronger, and the house of Saul became continually weaker (3:1).

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

6. David Begetting Six Sons of Six Wives, Respectively, in Hebron

David begot six sons of six wives, respectively, in Hebron (vv. 2-5).

7. Abner Rebelling against Ish-bosheth

While there was war between the house of David and the house of Saul, Abner made himself strong in the house of Saul. He went in to Saul's concubine, but he was checked by Ish-bosheth, and rebelled against him (vv. 6-11). Abner said

to Ish-bosheth, "May God do so to Abner, and even more, if I do not do for David as Jehovah has sworn to him; to transfer 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!" (vv. 9-10).

8. Abner Appealing to David

Abner appealed to David, asking him to make a covenant with him. David said that he would make a covenant with him, and then he requested Abner to bring Saul's daughter Michal his wife to him (vv. 12-16).

9. Abner Persuading the Elders of Israel to Take David as Their King

Abner persuaded the elders of Israel to take David as their king (vv. 17-21). He told them that Jehovah had spoken of David, saying, "By 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" (v. 18). David held a feast for Abner and for the men who were with him, and Abner said to David, "I will rise up and go and gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you and that you may reign over all that your soul desires" (v. 21).

10. Joab Not Agreeing with David concerning Abner's Appeal to David

Joab did not agree with David concerning Abner's appeal to David. Joab killed Abner by plotting to avenge himself of Abner's killing his brother Asahel (vv. 22-27).

11. David Regretting Abner's Death

David regretted Abner's death, wept at Abner's grave, and lamented for him (vv. 28-39).

While all the events recorded in these chapters were taking place, God was present in His sovereignty behind the scene. After Saul's death only one tribe—Judah—was loyal to David. David was crowned by the tribe of Judah, but Ish-bosheth rivaled him in the kingship, and there was war between the house of David and the house of Saul. Everything that happened was in David's favor. He did not do anything; rather, he was simply the enjoyer on the throne.

... the fact that behind all the details concerning the house of David and the house of Saul, God was there in His sovereignty. God was behind the scene to direct the situation so that it would turn out in favor of David.

God's intention was to terminate the house of Saul. Saul had four sons. Three went to the war with Saul and were killed with him in the battle. Ish-bosheth was spared, but he was killed within two years, ending Saul's family. When the nursing mother of Saul's grandson, Mephibosheth, heard the news that Saul and Jonathan were dead in the war, she ran with the little child in her bosom, and he fell down to the ground (4:4). As a result, he became crippled. Thus, in a short time God terminated the entire family of Saul, leaving just one crippled boy as an orphan under the loving care of David, who kept his covenant with Jonathan (1 Sam. 20:14-17; 2 Sam. 9:1-13). We all need to learn a lesson from these illustrations—to fear God and not play with Him.

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

...we will continue to consider the matters related to David's being crowned by the tribe of Judah, in particular the matter of the war between the house of Saul and the house of David (2:1—4:12). Then we will see that David was crowned by the other tribes (5:1-5) and established by God as king with his kingdom exalted for the sake of God's people Israel (vv. 6-25).

12. Ish-bosheth Hearing of Abner's Death

Abner was the one who had taken Ish-bosheth and made him king over all Israel (2:8-9). When Ish-bosheth heard of Abner's death in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel was dismayed (4:1).

13. Jonathan's Son Mephibosheth Being Made Lame

Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son whose name was Mephibosheth. When the boy's nurse received the news that Saul and Jonathan had died in the battle against the Philistines, she took up the child and fled. As she hurried to flee, Mephibosheth fell and was made lame (v. 4).

14. The Two Sons of Rimmon the Beerithite Murdering Ish-bosheth

The two sons of Rimmon the Beerithite murdered Ish-bosheth and brought his head to David in Hebron to please him (vv. 2-3, 5-8). They said to him, "Jehovah has granted my lord the king to be avenged this day of Saul and of his seed" (v. 8b).

15. David Reacting Negatively and Sentencing the Two Murderers to Death

Instead of being pleased, David reacted negatively and sentenced the two murderers to death (vv. 9-12). First, he told them about what he had done to the one who thought that he was bringing good news by telling him that Saul had died. Then David commanded his young men, and they slew the two murderers.

II. CROWNED BY ALL THE OTHER TRIBES

According to 5:1-5 David gained the heart of the people and was crowned by all the other tribes.

A. In Hebron

David was crowned by the other tribes in Hebron (vv. 1-3). They came to him there and said, “Here we are; we are your bone and your flesh. Even previously, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And Jehovah said to you, You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall be ruler over Israel” (vv. 1b-2). When all the elders of Israel came to King David at Hebron, he made a covenant with them before Jehovah, and they anointed him king over Israel (v. 3).

B. At the Age of Thirty

Verses 4 and 5 tell us that David was thirty years old when he began to reign.

C. Reigning over All Israel and Judah for Thirty-three Years

David reigned for forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years (vv. 4b-5).

III. ESTABLISHED BY GOD AS KING WITH HIS KINGDOM EXALTED FOR THE SAKE OF GOD’S PEOPLE ISRAEL

David was established by God as king with his kingdom exalted for the sake of God’s people Israel (vv. 6-25). Here we see that David’s kingdom was established by God. Saul, on the contrary, had tried to exalt himself with his monarchy, but he did not succeed. With David, God did everything to establish and exalt him and his kingdom for the sake of God’s people. From this we need to learn that if we do anything for ourselves, God will not exalt us, but if we live our lives for God’s kingdom and God’s people, God will exalt us for His people’s sake.

Therefore, we should not seek any kind of self-exaltation. If we do, we will suffer and be put down (Matt. 23:12). Saul tried his best to exalt himself, but in just one day Saul and three of his sons were terminated. On the same day that God was putting down Saul, He was exalting David (1 Sam. 30—31).

The history concerning David, particularly the record in 1 Samuel 18:1 through 2 Samuel 5:25, reveals that our God is sovereign. It may seem that He is silent and that He is hiding Himself, but He is everywhere and with everyone. I believe, for example, that God motivated all the lords of the Philistines to complain about David, making it necessary for Achish to send David away (1 Sam. 29:1-11). This rescued David from the dilemma of having to fight with the Philistines against Israel. From this we can see that God was doing everything behind the scenes, directing everyone to accomplish His purpose for the carrying out of His economy. Everything, everyone, and every situation were in the hand of the God in whom David trusted. David did nothing, but God did everything behind the scenes. As a result, Saul was put down, and David was exalted. After the death of Saul, “there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; but David became continually stronger, and the house of Saul became continually weaker” (2 Sam. 3:1). Throughout the books of 1 and 2 Samuel we can see that God was moving and acting all the time in every way for Himself, His kingdom, His people, and the accomplishing of His economy. Without anyone seeing or knowing, God takes care of everything according to His will to accomplish His economy (Eph. 1:11).

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A. In His Victory over the Jebusites

A number of matters in 2 Samuel 5:6-25 are evidence that God had established David and had exalted his kingdom. The first of these is recorded in verses 6 through 8, where we see that David was established by God in his victory over the Jebusites.

B. In the Building of Zion as His Stronghold and of Jerusalem and in His Becoming Greater and Greater

David’s being established by God is seen also in the building of Zion as his stronghold and of Jerusalem (v. 9). Furthermore, “David became greater and greater; and Jehovah, the God of

hosts, was with him” (v. 10). This indicates that David had God’s presence. In serving the Lord, we need to have the assurance that we have His presence. If we are really following the Lord for the fulfillment of His economy, we will certainly have His presence. If in any matter we do not have the inner sense that the Lord is with us, we must be careful and consider our way. Saul first lost the presence of God (1 Sam. 16:14). That should have helped him to reconsider his way, but he did not. In the Lord’s recovery, whenever we do anything, we must take care of the sense of the Lord’s presence.

C. In Hiram King of Tyre Supplying Him Materials for the Building of a Palace for Him

Hiram king of Tyre sent David materials and workmen for the building of a palace for him (2 Sam. 5:11-12). This was a further strong evidence that David’s being established as king over Israel was really of God. Such an assurance is very important and is necessary in our working for the Lord. We all need to learn the lesson of caring for these two things: the inward presence of God and the outward confirmation in our environment.

D. Begetting More Children, Including Solomon, in Jerusalem

According to verses 13 through 16, in Jerusalem David begot more children, including Solomon.

E. In His Repeated Victories over the Philistines

Finally, David’s being established by God was seen in his repeated victories over the Philistines (vv. 17-25). When David inquired of Jehovah, asking whether he should go up against the Philistines, Jehovah said to him, “Go up, for I will certainly deliver the Philistines into your hand” (v. 19). David struck the Philistines and said, “Jehovah has broken forth upon my enemies before me like the breaking forth of a flood” (v. 20b). David continued to do as Jehovah had commanded him and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

Israel’s two most troubling enemies were the Amalekites and the Philistines. Even before Israel entered into the good land, they were frustrated by the Amalekites. In Exodus 17 the children of Israel fought a war against the Amalekites in a particular way under two leaders—Moses and Joshua. In typology these

two leaders signify Christ in two aspects. The people of Israel fought against the Amalekites under Joshua, signifying the Spirit within us, and under Moses, signifying the Christ who is in the heavens praying for us. The pneumatic Christ as the life-giving Spirit, as the reality of Christ in resurrection, is living and working within us, and the ascended Christ is interceding for us. The Amalekites signify our flesh, our most bothersome enemy. We should never think that we can overcome the flesh. However, by Christ as the Spirit within and as our Intercessor in the heavens, this enemy can be defeated.

Israel’s other enemy was the Philistines, who were very close neighbors of Israel. At times they became somewhat mixed up with Israel. Eventually, David, the one who killed Goliath and defeated the Philistines, became friends with Achish, a king of the Philistines. In typology, the Philistines signify the worldly Christians.

The Philistines were very close to God’s people, yet they were worldly and handled the things of God in a worldly way. Consider how they sent back the ark of God. According to God’s ordination, the ark should not have been moved by any means other than by living priests, but the Philistines caused it to be carried on a cart. The ark, which represents God Himself, should never have been carried in such a way. To use a cart and two cows in order to send the ark back to Israel was the worldly way. The Philistines knew something about the divine things. They offered a trespass offering to appease God’s anger, but they did this in a worldly way. Today, we are troubled mainly by these two things: the flesh within and the worldly Christianity in our environment.

Everything concerning David was arranged under God’s sovereign direction to accomplish one thing: the building up of His kingdom in His elect through the proper person. At that time the proper person was David, but today it should be the people in the Lord’s recovery. In every age God has a particular thing to accomplish. In this age, the twentieth century, the particular thing that God intends to accomplish is to recover everything that has been lost and is missing in today’s worldly Christianity.