### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 30

1Well, while David and his men were returning to ZikLag (it was a 3-day journey), the AmaLechites had come from the south and attacked ZikLag… They captured it and burned it! 2However, they didn’t kill any of the young men or any of the women, they just led them away as captives.  
  
3So when David and his men got back to the city and found it burned, and that their women, sons, and daughters had been carried away as captives, 4David and his men sat down and cried… They wailed until they were just too weak to cry anymore.  
  
5Well, both of David’s women (AhiNoam the JezreElite, and AbiGail, the woman of NaBal the CarMelite) had been captured, 6which hurt David so much that his men said that they should stone him, because he was so grieved over the people and for each of his sons and daughters.  
  
However, his God Jehovah then gave him strength, 7and he said to the Priest AbiAthar (son of AhiMelech):  
  
 ‘Bring the sacred vest to me.’  
  
So AbiAthar came to David carrying the vest, 8and David asked Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Should I chase after them?’  
  
And Jehovah replied:  
  
 ‘Chase after them; for if you chase them, you’ll catch up with them and rescue [your people].’  
  
9So David went after them with all of his 600 men; and when they reached the Bosor Wadi, he left 200 of them behind [to guard their things]… 10So he only had about 400 men.  
  
However, he traveled on with the 400 men (after leaving 200 on the other side of the Bosor Wadi).  
  
11Well, on the way, [his men] found an Egyptian man [lying] in a field, and they took him to David, who gave him some food and water. 12They also gave him part of a dried cluster of figs and two portions of raisins, which revived him… For he’d gone without anything to eat or drink for more that three days.  
  
13Then David asked him:  
  
 ‘What are you doing here, and where did you come from?’  
  
And the Egyptian man replied:  
  
 ‘I’m the servant of an AmaLechite man.  
  
 ‘My master left me here because I was sick… And I’ve been lying here for three days. 14We’d just attacked parts of Judah that are south of the Cherethites and south of Caleb, and we burned the city of ZikLag.’  
  
15Then David asked him:  
  
 ‘Can you lead me to his troops?’  
  
And he said:  
  
 ‘Yes… If you’ll swear by God that you won’t kill me or return me to my master, I’ll lead you to them!’  
  
16So he led them, and by the time they caught up with them, everyone was scattered throughout the land and they were eating, drinking, and celebrating over the great quantity of loot that they’d taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.  
  
17Well, David started slaughtering them from morning until evening and then into the next day… He left no survivors, other than 400 boys who were able to escape by fleeing on camels.  
  
18Then David took back everything that the AmaLechites had captured, and he rescued both of his women.  
  
19Yet, none [of his men] (from the small to the great) had been killed, and all the sons and daughters, as well as the loot that had been taken, was returned. 20Meanwhile, David also took all their flocks and herds, and he looted everything (which was thereafter referred to as ‘the spoils of David’).  
  
  
21Then when they got back to the 200 men whom David had left behind at the Bosor Wadi, everyone came to greet David and the men who returned with him.  
  
So David went up to them and wished them peace.  
  
22However, all the wicked men and troublemakers among the warriors that went with David said,  
  
 ‘They didn’t go with us, so why should we divide any of the loot that we recovered with them?  
  
 ‘Let them just take back their own women and children, and [be satisfied with that]!’  
  
23However, David said:  
  
 ‘You must not mistreat the brothers of this confederation.  
  
 ‘For it was Jehovah that guarded us and gave the enemy to us, and He’s the One who protected the troops that came with us... 24So, watch your words, because these men are in no way less than you, and they’ll receive their share of the battle for staying here and watching our equipment!  
  
 ‘Yes, they’ll be given the same share as everyone else!’  
  
25Well from that day on, this became the rule in IsraEl.  
  
26And when David got back to ZikLag, he sent [a portion of] the spoils to the elders of Judah, as well as to some of his neighbors, saying:  
  
 ‘Look, here is a blessing from the spoils of the enemies of Jehovah.’  
  
27[He also sent some of the spoils to the people in:]  
  
 • BethEl,  
 • Southern RamOth,  
 • JatTir,  
 • 28AroEr,  
 • SiphMoth,  
 • EshTemoa,  
 • 29RachAl,  
 • to those in the JerahMeElite cities,  
 • the Kenite cities,  
 • 30the people in HorMah,  
 • BeerAshan,  
 • AthAch, and   
 • 31 to those in HebRon.  
  
David and his men carried it to each of those places.