

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

This evening, we return to the portion of scripture where we see God prepare David.

And we have seen God's preparation of David, in different ways up to this point.

We've read about God preparing David as a shepherd – it is during his times as shepherd that David developed his devotion to his sheep as he cared for them and protected them from the beasts in the area.

This is the same devotion that he will show toward his people when he becomes king.

Then after he takes down Goliath, we saw God prepare David by placing David under the services of Saul. And during this time is where we saw him become a soldier, we saw the people begin to admire him and this preparation led him to be made general where he led the Israeli armies to victories. All this is being done to in preparation for David to be king.

From chapter 20 – 31, God is going to continue to prepare David – as David lives a life of a fugitive – and all of this is also God's preparation as He prepares the way for David to be crowned king.

Now, last week – we saw Saul’s jealousy, his resentment of David take center stage.

Not only does he attempt to kill David himself multiple times, Saul also attempts to kill David indirectly by conspiring to have David killed at the hand of others.

Yet, despite all the attempts to kill David – we continue to see God’s hand of protection upon David.

[1Sa 20:1-42 NKJV] 1 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What [is] my iniquity, and what [is] my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?"

At the end of our study last week, we saw David go to Samuel’s place as he fled Saul’s men. And while he was with Samuel, we saw king Saul send his men over to capture

David but, they were unsuccessful as the holy spirit descended upon them. This happened three times.

Even King Saul attempted to go get David and he was humbled as well.

David could have remained there with Samuel and waited until Saul got tired of trying to kill him or until he simply died.

Yet David left for a good reason: He wanted to know if Saul's heart had changed, and if there was still a chance to reconcile with Saul.

And as he comes before Jonathan – he asks him, what have I done???

Why does your dad want to kill me???

Like David, many times, we think that trouble comes into our lives over something we have done.

And we cry out these same words. What have I done?

And in some cases, the consequence of our disobedience is the source of our troubles – that is where we see God chastening, that is where we see His discipline, that is where we see His correction upon our lives.

However, we must remember that hard times are not always about punishment – sometimes they are about preparation.

Turn with me to Romans 5

[Rom 5:3-4 NKJV] 3 And not only [that], but we also

glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces

perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

David has not done anything wrong up to this point –

God is simply knocking a few rough edges off David as He prepares him for the calling of his life.

2 So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me? It [is] not [so]!"

So here in verse two, Jonathan says – there is no way that my pops is going to kill you!!!

Jonathan is both right and wrong about this statement.

He is wrong because Saul was indeed trying to kill David.

However, he is also right in his statement because David would not die at the hands of Saul.

God had big plans for David and there was nothing that Saul could do to derail those plans.

Church, the same can be said about us – God has big plans for you and me and as long as we continue to walk with Him, there is nothing that can cause those plans to become undone.

3 Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, [as] the LORD lives and [as] your soul lives, [there is] but a step between me and death."

While Jonathan is convinced that his father isn't out to kill David, David just thinks that Saul is hiding his intentions from Jonathan because Jonathan is David's friend.

So what we see in this next section is David's plan to expose the evil of Saul to Jonathan.

4 So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do [it] for you." 5 And David said to Jonathan, "Indeed tomorrow [is] the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third [day] at evening. 6 "If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked [permission] of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for [there is] a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.' 7 "If he says thus: '[It

is] well,' your servant will be safe. But if he is very angry, be sure that evil is determined by him.

I asked you to make a note of the New Moon – because the New Moon was a time of feast. (Num 10:10)

And during the feasts, the head of the family would expect everyone to be present.

Remember that David is not only a military leader in Saul's army but also one of Saul's son-in-laws.

So David's absence would have been noted by Saul.

And when Saul would ask about David's whereabouts – Jonathan was to respond that he went home to celebrate the feast with his family.

So, Saul's response to the news of David's absence was going to determine whether he still wanted to kill David or not.

And David was simply going to wait out in the field for Jonathan to come to him with the way that Saul responded.

8 "Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. Nevertheless, if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?" 9 But Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! For if I knew certainly that evil was determined by my father to come upon you, then would I not tell you?" 10 Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me, or what [if] your father answers you roughly?" 11 And Jonathan

said to David, "Come, let us go out into the field." So both of them went out into the field. 12 Then Jonathan said to David: "The LORD God of Israel [is witness]! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, [or] the third [day], and indeed [there is] good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you, 13 "may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father [to do] you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. 14 "And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; **15 "but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever,** no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of

the enemies of David from the face of the earth." 16 So Jonathan made [a covenant] with the house of David, [saying], "Let the LORD require [it] at the hand of David's enemies." 17 Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

In these verses, all David wants is Jonathan's loyalty.

David is worried that Jonathan – when he finds out his father's true intentions – he will not reveal them to him.

So they respond with an oath toward each other.

Jonathan promises to David that he will tell him everything – even if his father is exposed as wanting to kill him.

And David's part is that when he is king, he must protect Jonathan and his descendants.

I asked you to underline the beginning of verse 15, because in 2 Sam 9, when King David had conquered all of Israel's enemies, we see David keep his end of the covenant as he welcomes in Mephibosheth who is the last remaining son of Jonathan.

18 Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow [is] the New Moon; and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. 19 "And [when] you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel. 20 "Then I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target; 21 "and there I will send a lad, [saying],

'Go, find the arrows.' If I expressly say to the lad, 'Look, the arrows [are] on this side of you; get them and come'-then, as the LORD lives, [there is] safety for you and no harm. 22 "But if I say thus to the young man, 'Look, the arrows [are] beyond you'--go your way, for the LORD has sent you away. 23 "And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the LORD [be] between you and me forever."

Now, Jonathan is supposed to let David know Saul's response during the feast.

There is another problem – Jonathan cannot simply walk over to David because then David's location will be revealed – as he is in hiding.

So Jonathan and David come up with a signal using arrows – where Jonathan will be able to give David the message.

24 Then David hid in the field. And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast. 25 Now the king sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall. And Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty. 26 Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him; he [is] unclean, surely he [is] unclean."

So, the feast starts – and in day one, King Saul notices that David is missing – but he presumes that David isn't there due to being ceremonially unclean.

What does it mean to be ceremoniously unclean???

Turn with me to Leviticus 22,

[Lev 22:3-7 NKJV] 3 "Say to them: 'Whoever of all your descendants throughout your generations, who goes near the holy things which the children of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he has uncleanness upon him, that person shall be cut off from My presence: I [am] the LORD. 4 'Whatever man of the descendants of Aaron, who [is] a leper or has a discharge, shall not eat the holy offerings until he is clean. And whoever touches anything made unclean [by] a corpse, or a man who has had an emission of semen, 5 'or whoever touches any creeping thing by which he would be made unclean, or any person by whom he would become unclean, whatever his uncleanness may be-- 6 'the

person who has touched any such thing shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat the holy [offerings] unless he washes his body with water. 7 'And when the sun goes down he shall be clean; and afterward he may eat the holy [offerings], because it [is] his food.

So once the day has come and gone, as long as the individual washes himself and does not come in contact with the items listed here. He would be able to partake of the feast.

So Saul is thinking if he missed the first day, then surely he will show up in day 2.

27 And it happened the next day, the second [day] of the month, that David's place was empty. And Saul said to

Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?" 28 So Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked [permission] of me [to go] to Bethlehem. 29 "And he said, 'Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me [to be there]. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore he has not come to the king's table."

So, Day 2 of the feast approaches and Saul notices David missing again and this time he questions Jonathan about David's whereabouts.

Jonathan responds with the excuse that David had given him to tell his dad.

Here we see Jonathan's loyalty to David as he is sticking to the script trying to determine the heart of his father.

30 Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious [woman]! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? 31 "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."

Saul's words to David are harsh.

Remember, Jonathan is the one in line to become king.

And what Saul is telling Jonathan is that he knows that he wants David to be the next king – and in doing so, he is disgracing himself, his father and his mother as well.

32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?" 33 Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David. 34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully.

In the gospel of Matthew (5) and in the gospel of Luke (6), Jesus tells us to love our enemies.

And one of the reasons that we are to love our enemies is that we are incapable of containing hate toward one group or person.

And what happens when we are filled with hatred toward someone is that the hate spills over into lives of those around us.

Saul hated David. He was jealous of David – He resented David. And here, he allows that hatred toward David spill over into hatred toward his own son and attempts to kill him by throwing his spear at him.

After so many misses with the spear we may start to question whether Saul needed glasses or he was just a poor spear thrower???

35 And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad [was] with him. 36 Then he said to his lad, "Now run, find the arrows which I shoot." As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. 37 When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, "[Is] not the arrow beyond you?" 38 And Jonathan cried out after the lad, "Make haste, hurry, do not delay!" So Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master. 39 But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter.

This was the signal by Jonathan to David that his father had not had a change of heart and was still determined to kill him.

Once again we see Jonathan's loyalty to his friend David.

It must have taken tremendous courage for Jonathan to communicate with David – even if it was done secretly because if he had gotten caught, if Saul had found out that Jonathan was communicating with David, Saul would have focused his murderous rage upon Jonathan once again.

The one arrow that Jonathan fired beyond the lad told David all that he needed to know.

His whole life was changed.

He would no longer be welcome at the palace.

He would no longer be welcome among the army of Israel.

He could no longer go home.

David was now a fugitive on the run from an angry, jealous king determined to destroy him.

40 Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, "Go, carry [them] to the city." 41 As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from [a place] toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, **but David more so. 42 Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my**

descendants, forever.' " So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

As the lad walks back to town and there is no one around besides David and Jonathan, we see David bow before Jonathan three times.

And he did this to demonstrate his respect and honor for the Crown Prince.

Saul was determined to kill David because David, in his mind, had become a threat to his kingdom.

However, David was willing to wait upon God's timing to be crowned King of Israel.

This meeting between David and Jonathan is not the last time that they will meet before the death of Jonathan. They will meet again briefly in chapter 23.

I asked you to make a note that David wept more.

Jonathan lost his best friend. However, David loses everything as he is destined to live the life of a fugitive for many years.

It is not until the death of Saul that David would be able to return to a normal life.

However church, we must remind ourselves that this is the path that God chose for David to walk in.

Because these years will teach David to depend on God alone.

Not on himself, not on Saul, not on Jonathan but on God alone.

Let's pray...

