

1 Samuel 30

King James Version (KJV)

30 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; (This is revenge on David's raids in chap-27:8. David made a tactical mistake to leave his people defenseless when he left to march with Achish)

²And 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. (They would have made slaves out of them)

³So 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. (David had left Ziklag undefended)

⁴Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

⁵And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

⁶And 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 the LORD his God. (It was David's decision as leader to take all the men with him and leave Ziklag defenseless)

⁷And 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. (The Ephod holds the Urim and Thumum) (This is good advice to us today. Always seek God's counsel when you are in distress)

⁸And David enquired at the LORD, 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. (Finally, David is asking God for advice. He should have done that before he marched off with Achish)

⁹So 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.

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. (This is after a 3 day march from where Achish dismissed them from the battle; and now 20 miles to the brook without a break or without any food to eat. The Amalekites had taken everything out of Ziklag. 200 of David's men couldn't go any further)

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. (clusters of raisins = raisin cakes)

¹³ And David said unto him, To whom belondest 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. (The Amalekites left him to die in the desert. He has no more loyalty towards them)

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. (Now David knows who did it)

¹⁵ And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company. (This man has no loyalty left for the master who left him to die in the desert)

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. (It's a good time to attack them, while they are partying)

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. (God told David that he would recover his people and his goods)

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. (They had not been abused or molested by their captors)

²⁰ And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil. (This includes all the spoil that the Amalakites had taken – from other people besides Ziklag, not including the spoils of Ziklag)

²¹ And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.

²² Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.

(Every group has greedy dirt bags as well as good people. These guys say they should get everything and not those who stayed behind. It was God that gave them the victory, not them. David not only attracted good people that were persecuted by Saul; he also drew criminals and dirt bags trying to escape justice for crimes they committed)

²³ Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. (God gave them the victory)

²⁴ For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike. (David realizes that he should have left some men behind to guard the city and his people. The men who now stayed behind should also profit in the spoils)

²⁵ And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day. (Afterwards, David always left men behind to guard the homeland, when he went off to battle. All would share in the spoil equally)

²⁶ And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, even to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD; (present= blessing <Hebrew>; The Amalakites had also been raiding other parts of Judah. David is building good will with the people of Judah)

²⁷ To them which were in Bethel, and to them which were in south Ramoth, and to them which were in Jattir, (This Bethel is in Simeon, not the one in Benjamin)

²⁸ And to them which were in Aroer, and to them which were in Siphmoth, and to them which were in Eshtemoa,

²⁹ And to them which were in Rachal, and to them which were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to them which were in the cities of the Kenites, (the Jerahmeelites and the Kenites had also been raided by the Amalekites)

³⁰ And to them which were in Hormah, and to them which were in Chorashan, and to them which were in Athach,

³¹ And to them which were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt. (Where they had found safety; these people had helped to support David and his people when they were on the run from Saul)