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The studies are taken from the New Kings James Version. There are no right or wrong answers; just fill in the blanks from the Scripture used, write out an occasional verse and answer some very simple questions from the text.

- 1) 12:1; 2, 4 Name the two kings Israel conquered.
- 2) 12:7; 24 How many kings were conquered by Israel on the west of the Jordan?
- 3) 12:1-24 Does God keep His word? Did He continue on with Israel after the death of Moses?
- 4) 13:1 Why was Joshua to divide the land now?
- 5) 13:7 Why was the land divided only 9 ½ ways when there were twelve tribes? (See verse 8)
- 6) 13:14; 33 Why did Levi receive no inheritance?
- 7) 14:2 How were these inheritances chosen?
- 8) 14:6-15 Why did Caleb get to choose his land and inheritance? (See verse 8) “Obedience is always rewarded.”

Daily Thought

The dividing of the land was very detailed and selected by lot. God addressed His children in detail as a parent, not leaving excuse for misunderstanding. Lot: a selection of chance, drawing sticks, or rolling the dice. Who controls chance? People often chose things by lot to assure God’s guidance in their lives during Old Testament times.

Word of Growth

God’s Protection and Deliverance:

We see God’s abilities in Chapter 12 of Joshua. God gave over two great kings east of the Jordan to Israel: King Sihon and Og. Once west of the Jordan as God had guided Israel, thirty-one kings were defeated before Israel! Thirty-one kingdoms! God said, “My sons, My obedient children, follow Me and I will give you nations.” Okay. He did surely show this. In Isaiah 54:17 we find this is the heritage of God’s servants. “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in

judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord. And their righteousness is from Me' says the Lord." Genesis 15:1b "Abram, I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

God shows His protection, love, and deliverance over and over in our Bibles. Trust Him – He will lead you to greatness through your obedience.

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Do you believe Israel conquered these kings and knew they could? Or do you think they trusted and followed God's guidance and received great reward? God blesses His children and God is blessing each of you.

- 1) 15:14 Who drove out the sons of Anak?
- 2) 15:14 Who was Anak, why was this a big deal that Caleb defeated his sons? (Numbers 13:28-33; Deuteronomy 2:10-11; 21_
- 3) 16:10 Did Ephraim obey God (Deuteronomy 9:3) and drive out the Canaanites? (See Judges 1:27-36; 2:1-6)
- 4) 16:10 What do you think will become of this disobedience? (Judges 2:3)
- 5) 17:1 Name the firstborn of Manasseh.
- 6) 17:3-4 Did the daughters of Zelophehad receive their inheritance as God had commanded through Moses? (Numbers 27:2-11 as we covered women taking responsibilities of men if necessary.)
- 7) 17:14-18 Why did Ephraim and Manasseh not want the land of the Perizzites? (Verse 16)

Daily Thought

Why was Joshua so with Ephraim and Manasseh? Did he wish them to be destroyed by those giants? No, he wished they knew their “Maker”. God made you! God will provide for you. Take what He has given you. Stop doubting. Doubt goes without . . . Believe to receive!

- 1) 18:1-3 Why did Joshua rebuke seven tribes of Israel?
- 2) 18:8, 10 How did Joshua divide the land for Israel?
- 3) 18, 19 Name the tribes in order of their lot (who received their inheritance 1 – 7):
 - (1) 18:11
 - (2) 19:1
 - (3) 19:10
 - (4) 19:17
 - (5) 19:24
 - (6) 19:32
 - (7) 19:40
- 4) 19:49-51 What about Joshua: was he included with a tribe? Or did he receive a separate reward?
- 5) 20:1 What were the cities of refuge to be used for? What was their purpose?
- 6) 20:9 How long could one safely stay in a city of refuge?

Daily Thought

Why did these seven tribes prolong taking their inheritance? These lands may have been wild lands. It may have been convenient to stay as a group with what was familiar. Often in life we do what seems to be easy and convenient, even if we have something great awaiting us. Then we lose track of life, just passing through, never claiming our blessings. . .

Don't find yourself lost in life conveniently. Get to living. Claim your blessings. It is awaiting you – claim your birthrights; we are a blessed people with unlimited abilities. We are God's chosen people!

God blesses all His children and yes, He has blessed you from before the beginning of Creation!

- 1) 21:2-3 How were the Levites to dwell? Their inheritance was with God (they received no land); where and how were they to live?
- 2) 21:4 How were these cities selected? Who controlled this outcome?
- 3) 21:42 What do you think of as a common land?
Where were the common lands located (verse 42)?
- 4) 22:5 What was the commandment and law Moses gave to Israel of God?
- 5) 22:10 What did the two and a half tribes west of the Jordan do?
Why were the Israelites so angered with them (verse 16)?
- 6) 23:9 Who is the “you” referred to here?
The “you” that God blessed that no nation can stand against?
- 7) 23:10 Who fights the Christian’s battles? Why? (See end of verse)

Daily Thought

Were God’s children the “you” referred to in Question 6? God has driven nations out of our way, though we’ve not seen these things – they have been written for our remembrance. God fights for those who stand in His ways, on His word, in righteousness. No one takes that away, nor could they.

Word of Growth

The Assembly:

God’s children, Israel west of the Jordan, knew the importance of keeping God known for their children’s children. They built an altar not to worship on but the witness of God to their offspring of further generations. “We belong to God, as those east of us. God is our God.” This is the same today! Know if for sure you belong to God, this is not optional. God forces no one to acknowledge this now though one will give account rather in good or bad standings with God in the end. We as Israel shall remember not only to love God but to share God. God is not a secret. God is to be told.

Israel said, "Rather I'm west or east of the river, I am God's." Rather we live in Texas, Florida, Ohio, Michigan, or China, are we not God's creation? His children?

Now if children and loving children do we know our Father's wants? Does He prepare things for us and our lives (Ephesians 1:4)? He loves you; He prepared things for you. He's planned for your blessings from before you were known to the living and He's prepared blessings beyond the living for you! Honor and please Him.

Joshua 23:6 "Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left."

This book, the Law of Moses, is in the beginning of our bibles. Things have happened since these books, but what I'm getting at is we need to study to remember our Father's instructions, to know what He expects of us. We should work to know these things to the "T".

If this is the intensions of a child of God, are not all His children of the same mind? If our minds are on Him and His word? One set of instructions leads to one outcome if followed obediently.

If we and our brothers, our sisters, our children and so on, are following the manual (bible) the outcome would be the same, wouldn't it? So rather east, west, north or south a Christian is a Christian? In a perfect world, yes. Human ways and thoughts tend to cloud this but God will work that out. A Christian is a Christian; some may not follow the directions so well. Time may help that or God will in the end.

Don't forget your brothers elsewhere; pray for them, bless them, they are our family; our Father is one. Know His desires so you may be and share prosperously. All who love the Father in obedience belong to our family. Help them in their needs, receive their help in your needs, bless them, receive their blessings, love them, and be loved by them. This is what it is about. Helping, sharing, and loving one another as the family of believers we are.

My love to all my brothers and sisters.

May God bless you all abundantly.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which* is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- 1) 24:1-13 God did many great things for His people.
 - Verse 3 What did God do with Abraham?
 - Verse 4 For Isaac? What of these two sons?
 - Verse 5 Where do Moses and Aaron come from – who sent them – and what did happen to Egypt?
 - Verse 7-8 Israel dwelt in the wilderness; then what did God give them?
 - Verse 9 What of Balak? Who delivered? (See verse 10)
 - Verse 11 What of the men of Jericho, the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgasites, Hivites, and Jebusites?
What did God do with them?
- 2) 24:29 How long did Joshua bless the earth?
- 3) 24:32 Where did they place Joseph's bones?
- 4) 1:7 Why were the toes and thumbs cut off Adoni-Bezek?
- 5) 2:3 What was the penalty for Israel's disobedience?
- 6) 2:11 Did this snare and thorn entrap Israel?
- 7) 2:16-17 Would Israel obey God's judges?

Daily Thought

Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! Serve Him!

- 1) 3:1-4 Why did God leave these nations among Israel?
- 2) 3:7 How did Israel do in this test?
- 3) 3:9 Who did God use to deliver Israel from their failure?
What did Israel do again? (Verse 12)
- 4) 3:15 Who did God use to deliver Israel this time?
- 5) 3:31 How many did Shamgar slay with an ox goad?
(This is an instrument used to prod cattle.)
- 6) 4:4 Was a woman really judging Israel during these times?
Did Barak really refuse to go to battle without Deborah at his side? (Verses 8, 9)
- 7) 4:21 Did God give the glory to a woman instead of Barak as Deborah had said?
- 8) 5:20 Where was the battle fought from?

Daily Thought

Does God test His children? I've heard that He does not, though we read today a thing different from that. Life seems to me to be a test of better things to come. God wants to see where we choose to put our hearts, and what we set our minds upon. Where? Read Matthew 6:33.

- 1) 6:11 To whom did God send His angel?
- 2) 6:15 Did God chose Gideon because of His greatness?
- 3) 6:36-40 Did God do all Gideon asked Him to do with this fleece?
- 4) 7:2 Why did God say Gideon had too many men?
- 5) 7:5 How did God separate the men?
- 6) 7:7 Which of the two did God keep for war – those who lapped water or got on their knees to drink?
- 7) 7:7 How many men were left for war?
- 8) 8:10 How many men were left to the armies of the east?
And how many besides these had 300 men defeated?
“Only with God’s hand”
- 9) 8:23 Would Gideon rule over Israel or his sons? Why?

Daily Thought

Gideon had the right stuff! Mind, spirit, and soul all obedient to God. After such a great victory Gideon could have become proud. He could have ruled over Israel. He humbly said “Who am I next to God?” Only God can rule in glory!

- 1) 9:1-6 Abimelech conspired a plan to make himself king in Shehem.
Was this God's plan for His people to be ruled by a king? Why?
- 2) 9:53 Who did God use to kill Abimelech?
How did Abimelech try to make this better?
- 3) 10:6 Israel again did what?
- 4) 10:7 God responded to Israel's unfaithfulness how?
- 5) 10:10-13 Again Israel cried out "Lord, Lord, we've sinned."
As a child – "Daddy, Daddy, I'm sorry. Help."
What was God's response to these cries?
- 6) 11:1 Israel now called upon Jephthah for deliverance.
What was his response (verse 9)?
- 7) 11:11 Israel took their issues to Jephthah – to whom did Jephthah take
his concerns?
- 8) 11:32-33 Did God answer Jephthah's request and deliver Israel again in
mercy? How many cities?

Daily Thought

Sometimes we speak abruptly to God without really thinking things out clearly. Jephthah's vow cost his only child his daughter (11:30, 34-40). When we make a vow with God we need to be very sure of what we are doing and saying. Jephthah's vow was conditional. He said, "God if you do this, I will do this." We can't set conditions with God. We make a request. God is our authority. You would not be very prosperous approaching a king, governor, or the president with terms or conditions with a request. This seems crazy, so why would it be okay with God?

We see the outcome. Know what you are asking for and understand the possibilities if your request is granted. God will answer.

Word of Growth

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a man. But its end is the way of death.”

Fools:

In Judges 9:7-15 we read a parable that shows our foolish ways. In order to take on a new role, one must neglect or leave the old one. If in Christ we all have a job, each according to ability. To leave that would be neglecting our reasonable duties as a Christian. In this case, one to rule over God’s children. Do Christians need a human authority. No, not if truly a Christian. God is our Ruler and if living according to His word what other guidance would be needed? Any wise person, wise in knowledge of God, would know this and would think foolish of a ruler in place of God. Only a fool would take on this authority. The bramble – a prophet or an enforcer of God’s law would be different but to take on God’s role as ruler, and if all were rulers who could produce the olive oil, the fruit, the wine, the joy of God.

Worldly desires lead to destruction. Trust God to lead you in your abilities; don’t let your wants get in the way of producing fruit.

Honor God and leave glory with and to Him. Who wishes to follow the bramble?

God blesses us today and always.

- 1) 12:1 Why did Ephraim gather against Jephthah?
- 2) 12:4 Ephraim planned harm for Jephthah – who did God deliver?
- 3) 13:2-3 What was wrong with Manoah’s wife and who brought news of a son to her?
- 4) 13:19-20 What happened when Manoah offered his offering to the Lord?
- 5) 13:24 What was the child named?
- 6) 14:1-3 Why was it a big deal for Samson to not take a wife from his people (Deuteronomy 7:1-11 and note verse 3)?
- 7) 14:5-6 What did Samson do to an attacking lion?
Notice verse 6 – Where did Samson get his power?
- 8) 14:19-20 As Samson was again empowered by the Spirit, what did he do?
What became of his wife (verse 20)?

Daily Thought

“Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet.”
This riddle seems to me as life. The things which eat us up produce food for thought.
Though not pleasant, these things cause education. Usually when we overcome the
hard things in life its produce is very sweet.

- 1) 15:3-5 What did Samson do when he found out about his wife?
- 2) 15:14-15 When Samson broke free of the ropes what did he do?
What did he use to do so?
- 3) 16:2 What did the men of Gaza have in store for Samson?
- 4) 16:4 How was Samson's new love?
Was she of his people?
- 5) 16:1-22 Delilah pestered Samson repeatedly until she found his strength.
List her attempts in order until she did find his strength:
(1) Verses 7, 8
(2) Verses 11, 12
(3) Verses 13, 14
- 6) 16:17-19 What did Delilah finally do to Samson to take away his strength?
- 7) 16:29-30 What was Samson's final feat and fate?
- 8) 17:6 What was going on in Israel during Micah's time?

Daily Thought

Samson did many great things. Do you believe his strength was in his hair? His strength was not his hair. Samson's hair pleased God; God commanded Samson's hair not to be cut. When they cut his hair Samson's strength was no longer with him.

Be pleasing to God and His strength will be with you.

- 1) 18:1 What was lacking in Israel?
- 2) 18:18 What did the Danites take from Micah's house?
- 3) 18:30 What did the Danites do with Micah's belongings?
How long did they do this?
- 4) 19:14 Where did this man with his group lodge rather than amongst
strange nations?
- 5) 19:22-30 What happened in Gibeah?
- 6) 20:8-10 How did Israel decide to deal with this wickedness?
- 7) 20:18 Israel went before God with their issue; did He consent?
Which tribe was to be first?
- 8) 20:19-48 Explain what took place.
Who did God give this battle to?
Who defeated Benjamin (verse 35)?

Daily Thought

Things seem hard, even impossible at times. Stick with it – see it through. When following God nothing is beyond our reach. With God's instruction and guidance we can reach great feats. Trust God to all His promises. No matter what we do in life, if it's done righteously we will prevail. God blesses righteousness.

Word of Growth

Samson:

Strongest man, defeated by a woman. I'm sure men and women all over have much to add to that. Samson, God's deliverer of Israel, kills lions bare-handed, slays 1,000 men with an old jawbone, breaks rope like string, and collapses a temple by moving its main support pillars; subdued by Delilah, a daughter of the Philistines.

Why would God allow this? We spoke of Samson's true strength in our daily thought. God was the real strength. God chose Samson before birth, gave a set of guidelines through his mother and father. Samson was set apart, sanctified to God.

What was Samson's weakness? Pagan (non-Christian, non-Israelite) women. Samson was not obedient to one command (Deuteronomy 7:1-11). Verse 3 "Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son."

God didn't want His children to mix with other nations or religions. Samson lusted for pagan women and a pagan woman brought him to his death. Not following God lost Samson his greatness. Though God did allow his remembrance in our Bible. Samson sinned against God and paid the price. This story was not recorded for our amusement but to teach us and warn us to be obedient to the Father. One could have all the greatness in the world but without God they would find it worthless. (See Solomon's thoughts on that in Ecclesiastes 1.) All the greatness of our world could never amount to what God has in store for us and nothing can fill His place in our hearts.

- 1) 21:1-3 Though Benjamin had to pay for their sin, how did Israel feel about Benjamin and the past battle (see verse 6)?
- 2) 21:14 What was done for Benjamin as far as wives?
When this was not enough what was the solution (verses 20-21)?
- 3) 21:25 Israel again without a king did what?
What do you think it would be like if everyone did as they thought right?
- 4) 1:3-5 What took place to change Naomi's life so much?
What happened to her sons and husband?
- 5) 1:8 What did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law?
- 6) 1:14-17 What became of Naomi's daughters-in-law?
- 7) 1:20 What did Naomi wish to be called instead of her name?
(Naomi means "pleasant", well Mara or bitter.)
- 8) 2:1 Who was this relative?
How did he fare in life?
- 9) 2:10-11 Why did Boaz favor Ruth?

Daily Thought

This is a perfect example of sticking out the hard times in life. Ruth could have run back home and left Naomi to her own troubles. Ruth chose to stay and help her mother-in-law and to work to support them both in hard times. We will see the reward.

- 1) 3:1-4 What did Naomi instruct Ruth to do?
What was Ruth's response?
- 2) 3:13 The duty of a close relative?
What is this duty? (See Matthew 22:24; Deuteronomy 25:5)
- 3) 4:5-6 What changed this relative's mind?
- 4) 4:8-9 Who then redeemed the land and Ruth?
- 5) 4:17 What did Boaz and Ruth name their son?
Who did their son father?
- 6) 1:11 What was Hannah's vow to the Lord?
- 7) 1:12-14 Of what did Eli accuse Hannah while she was praying?
- 8) 1:20 Did God answer Hannah?

Daily Thought

Ruth stayed on with her mother-in-law during hard times. God did reward her greatly. She found a wealthy redeemer, and not just wealth – but an honorable man. As we see the men her son fathered – Jesse and then David the son of Jesse – we should see and realize the bigger blessing. See Matthew 1:1-17; this is the genealogy of our Savior Jesus Christ. Notice verse five – is there a woman named in this list? Well, that was unheard of in those times. “Big deal.” But also is this name – Ruth, wife of Boaz, mother of Obed? Grand relative of Jesus? God used Ruth's efforts to bring our Savior into the world.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.” One could take notes from Ruth.

- 1) 2:1-10 What a prayer from Hannah . . . Write out Verse 9 – this is a good memory verse. God will take care of His saints (believers and YOU) and no man will prevail in his own strength.

- 2) 2:12-17 What sinful thing would the son of Eli do?
- 3) 2:22 Did Eli know of his sons' sin?
- 4) 2:27-36 Because Eli knew of his sons' doings and did not correct them what did God say would happen to Eli's house (family) and his sons'?
- 5) 3:1-10 Who was calling Samuel: who did Samuel think was calling him?
- 6) 3:11 How was the thing God was about to do going to affect Israel?
- 7) 4:11 What happened to the ark of God and Eli's sons?
- 8) 4:18 What happened to Eli when he heard all of this?

Daily Thought

Eli was made known of all his sons were doing by God Himself and still did not resolve the issue. God allowed time for correction; then He made things right. God's correction at times seems great – remember He is God and He is righteous. He cannot stand sin, though He does love the sinner. He allows time, but remember He will still address what isn't corrected.

- 1) 5:2 Where did the Philistines place the ark of God?
- 2) 5:34 What happened two mornings in a row to Dagon, the Philistine idol?
- 3) 5:12 God struck the Philistines for taking His ark.
How loud were their cries?
- 4) 6:4 What was to be made for a trespass offering?
- 5) 6:7-9 How were they to send away the ark?
- 6) 6:19 What did God do to those who looked in the ark?
- 7) 7:10 How did God help Israel defeat the Philistines?
- 8) 7:13 What did the Philistines no longer do?

Daily Thought

God delivered Israel only after they, once again, repented. Turning from their ways and those false gods. Israel defeated those Philistines with such a defeat they would no longer dare step foot in their land. I can picture the Philistines when that boom of thunder set them in such a fear. That bang sent them in flight probably as a terrified child in tears waking from a bad dream. They wished it a dream though God will surely always have the victory.

Daily Growth

Return:

The Philistines took God's ark as fools; you cannot take God captive. Not without consequence. God whipped Dagon "smashing him to pieces". Destruction and death all through the city and free tumors for all! Rats and tumors everywhere! Those Philistines couldn't get rid of that ark quickly enough.

How should we get rid of it? With a trespass offering. Five golden rats as well as five golden tumors on a new cart with two milk cows which never have been hitched. If the ark goes toward home we know God has done all this. If you've ever worked with

animals you know to break them before you trust them, and even then a cart driven by the cattle alone? An animal used to pulling a cart without a driver would probably just stop and graze. An animal never driven would most likely startle and run off smashing the cart to pieces. This cart not only drove off on its own, but took the road and in the direction of home. Oh yes, a horse, cow, or most any animal moving on its own won't take a straight path – they wander. This is how a good cowboy knew a horse had a rider by its tracks. God drove that cart right back to His children.

A person would be careless to hook a couple of cattle to a cart and get them going on their own. The cart would end up smashed and the cattle lame, I'm sure. God won't be taken from you or any of His children. Each will have an option to receive Him. Not even the Philistines could accomplish that. He's always available and ready to listen. A parent doesn't get out of the reach of their offspring. God loves you.

- 1) 8:5 What did Israel want Samuel to do?
Why?
- 2) 8:6-7 Though Samuel was not pleased with Israel's request what did God tell him to do?
Who was Israel rejecting?
- 3) 8:10-17 How does having a king sound to you?
After all this, what did God's people do? And God?
- 4) 9:1-2 Aman of the tribe of Benjamin had a son.
Name him, and what differed him from all the others.
- 5) 9:9 What was the former name for a prophet?
- 6) 9:19, 21 What did Samuel the seer tell Saul and what was Saul's response?
- 7) 10:1 Why did Samuel anoint Saul?
- 8) 10:9 What happened when Saul left Samuel?
- 9) 10:22 Where was Saul?

Daily Thought

Chapter 8:19 – the people rejected wisdom. Samuel made it plain before Israel – a king would enslave them and use them and all their families and possessions for his own good – not theirs. Do fools heed (listen to) wisdom? Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

8:19b “No, but we will have a king.” Fools.

- 1) 11:2 What did Nahash wish to do to all Israel?
- 2) 11:6 What happened to Saul when he heard of this?
- 3) 11:15 Where was Saul made king?
- 4) 12:16-18 What did God send upon His people the day Samuel spoke of all God did for His people and why?
- 5) 12:12 What did Israel do to offend God?
- 6) 12:25 What would happen if Israel clung to its wickedness?
- 7) 13:6 Did Israel keep faith in God when their enemies appeared?
What did they do?
- 8) 13:9 What did Saul do to lose his kingdom?
- 9) 13:22 A battle without weapons?
Name the two men who were armed for battle.

Daily Thought

God says not to fear the world but trust in Him for He has overcome this world (John 16:33). Was Israel placing their trust in God as they hid in the rocks, caves, and brush? Did Saul trust God and wait on Samuel? Death is a dreadful thing but even against these odds we shall trust our Lord. We all will pass from here. Jesus died at the hands of men and, yes, He appears standing at God's side. Trust Him!

- 1) 14:6, 10 Who was Jonathan trusting in his decision?
- 2) 14:14 How many did Jonathan and his armor-bearer overtake on such a small area (only at God's side)?
- 3) 14:16 What did Saul see?
- 4) 14:20 What was witnessed by Saul and his men when they entered the Philistine camp?
- 5) 15:3 What was Saul commanded to do by God?
- 6) 15:9 What did Saul spare?
- 7) 15:22-23 Some very important truths here.
What did Samuel say concerning Saul's kingship? (Just as obedience has its reward, disobedience produces consequences.)
- 8) 16:1 Where did God send Samuel?
- 9) 16:9 Explain how people look at each other and how God looks at people.
- 10) 16:12, 13 Who did God select of Jesse's sons?

Daily Thought

Leviticus 26:8 "Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you."

Deuteronomy 32:30 "How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the Lord has surrendered them."

Jonathan had God with him and Saul witnessed this very truth before two men the Philistine army fled into chaos.

Word of Growth

David's Anointing:

When Saul did not follow God's command to utterly destroy Amalek, God spoke to Samuel saying "Go to Jesse. I have seen for Myself a king among his sons."

Let us look back to Ruth 4:22. Remember Ruth and Boaz, her redeemer, bore a son, Obed, who bore Jesse, who bore David. So Jesse would then be the grandchild of Ruth and Boaz and of the lineage of Jesus Christ. Big things happen here. Samuel goes to Jesse and Jesse brings seven sons before Samuel to pick from. Eliab the eldest: Samuel looked upon him and said "Surely, the Lord's anointed is before me." But God said, "No, don't look at his outward appearance for I've refused him." Our Lord does not look at outward appearance but the inner man. Now Eliab's name meant 'My God is Father'.

Then Abinadab passed before Samuel and God said, "Not this one either." Abinadab means, 'My Father is noble'.

Then Shammah passed by Samuel – "Not this one." Shammah means, 'He hears'.

Now four more sons went before Samuel and God chose none of them. Samuel then asked "Is there no more?" Jesse said "The youngest tending the sheep." Samuel: "Call him for we will not sit until he comes." (Is this not how God's work should be done?) "We will not rest until a king is chosen." David arrives. Imagine he has been tending the sheep. He's not as the others – he has a dirty face from the work of tending the sheep. He had no time to prepare himself – all were awaiting him.

Verse 12, "So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes and good looking. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!'" Think about this. The youngest son selected for king. The oldest son would receive all the honors. David was the servant, tending sheep, the lowest of the family. The lowly things of this world God puts above the great. God does everything with purpose. Saul was chosen to show consequence in not following God. David was chosen in part to show even the youth can be great in God. We will be seeing some amazing things in David's life as we move on in this book. David is the only man referred to as a "man after God's own heart". His name means "Beloved".

God loves those who love Him regardless of their place in this world.

God bless you.

- 1) 17:3 How were Israel and the Philistines arranged?
- 2) 17:9 What did the champion, Goliath, purpose to Israel?
- 3) 17:37 David did not fear Goliath. Goliath foolishly spoke against God's army. Who did David claim to be with him?
- 4) 17:51 Did David find victory?
And with what did he behead Goliath?
- 5) 18:1-4 How did Jonathan feel about David?
- 6) 18:8-9 How did Saul feel of David after the song was sung of Saul's thousands and David's ten thousands?
- 7) 18:19-20 Who was David supposed to marry, and who did he marry?
- 8) 19:2 What did Jonathan do when he heard his father's plan?
- 9) 19:18 To whom and where did David flee?

Daily Thought

David killed Goliath but then fled from Saul? David feared Saul because he was God's servant and Goliath was a pagan speaking against God. Though Saul's reign was already set to end it was not yet time. David was chosen to be king but God still had plans before all this.

- 1) 20:2-3 Did Jonathan believe his father wished to kill David?
- 2) 20:11-16 What was Jonathan going to do – then how was he going to relay this to David?
- 3) 20:30 How did Saul react when Jonathan said David was in Bethlehem?
And what did Saul do when Jonathan defended David?
- 4) 20:35-42 Did Jonathan keep the vow he made with David?
- 5) 21:6 What did David and his men eat?
See Matthew 12:3-4 – even Jesus spoke of this event.
- 6) 21:12-15 What did David do before Achish, king of Gath?
Why did he act so?
- 7) 22:1-2 How many dwelt with David in a cave?
Name the cave.
- 8) 22:17-18 When Saul's men would not execute the priests, who did?

Daily Thought

David was so blessed even living in a cave he still had four hundred followers. God provides in all situations of life. bless and praise Him – He is deserving.

- 1) 23:2-3 David inquired of the Lord and God said “Go and attack the Philistines.” What did David’s men think?
- 2) 23:7-8 What was Saul’s plans when he heard David was in Keilah?
- 3) 23:26 Though Saul had many helps finding David, Saul could not catch David. Explain their situation on the mountain what interfered with Saul’s plan.
- 4) 24:2-4 Though Saul spared no expense in subduing David, taking 3,000 choice men to kill David, where did God place Saul?
- 5) 24:5-22 Explain what took place in the cave. Also, take a moment to think about the character of those two men.
- 6) 25:1 Who passed into eternity and where were his remains placed?
- 7) 25:25 What did Abigail say of Nabal?
- 8) 25:39 What did David do when he heard of Nabal’s death?

Daily Thought

I enjoy this chapter with Nabal and Abigail. David could have and surely would have destroyed Nabal if not for his wife. God had mercy on Abigail and paid Nabal for his actions. What a just King we have.

- 1) 26:2 Again, what did Saul decide to do, and how many men did he plan to use?
- 2) 26:11 David walked right into Saul's camp while Saul and his men were asleep. What did David take of Saul's?
- 3) 26:25 Again God gave Saul over to David and David gave Saul yet another chance. What did Saul say to David before they separated?
- 4) 27:6-7 What city did Achish give to David and how long did David and his men stay there?
- 5) 27:11 Why did David not leave anyone alive?
- 6) 28:6-7 Why did Saul need a medium?
- 7) 28:19 What did Samuel tell Saul?

Daily Thought

David moved to Gath, the home of Goliath. Achish, king of the Philistines, gave him his own city. While living in Gath David used his cover to kill Israel's enemies. All of them, men and women, so news could not reach Achish of his doings. Though sly-seeming, God was with David and gave him all these lands. God's people were prosperous even in the eyes of their enemies. Achish even chose David to go to battle with himself.

Word of Growth

David and Goliath:

A great story of faith. Goliath, a Philistine giant standing 9 feet 9 inches tall, defies God's army. Let's set the image. Israel on a mountain and on the other side of the valley the Philistines standing on their mountain. Saul and his troops come to battle formation. Then Goliath alone walks out before the Philistine army and yells over to Israel "Send me a man to fight. If he can defeat me we will serve you."

Saul's men looked to Saul and Saul to them says, "Everyone back to your tents." We know this happened more than once because David came and heard the same thing the next morning (verse 20). By this time Saul and his army still had not decided on fighting this one Philistine. "Ah...you fight with him." "Nope, I'm not fighting him..." David arrives and by this time Saul has offered his daughter and tax exemptions to the man who would defeat Goliath.

David could not believe what he heard. This man speaks against God's elect and you will give what to the man who defeats him? A whole army and not one man will fight Goliath! This guy had to really be something. Little old David says, "Stand back, this mess of a heathen is gonna get it! Speak against my Lord, my God, oh buddy." But Saul looking at David says "You are but a child and this is a man of war from his youth. You cannot fight him." David says "I watch my father's sheep and God has given bear and lions into my hands. I will defeat this heathen as them!" So they put all the gear on David. David is weighed down. He says, "No, this won't work." He took his sling and a few well-picked stones and headed to battle. The giant looked on in amusement. He spoke boldly to David, even making fun of his youth.

David: "Come to me that I may feed your flesh to the birds." David had faith and he knew he stood on solid ground (God). God would not be pleased with Goliath who ridiculed His men. David knew in his heart and mind this battle had already been decided.

The giant headed towards David, probably covering ten feet with a stride. As David ran towards Goliath he slung a stone which took Goliath down. Then he cut that monstrous heathen's head off with his own sword! Image the look on those watching – Israel and Philistines. God's beloved, David, standing so sure.

David: "Well...what's next?"

Crowd: "Who is that...Who is he...Who...?"

God's faithful shall always stand sure in God's presence.

Trust Him, He loves you.

- 1) 29:4-5 How did the princes of Philistine feel about David?
Would they allow him to go to battle with them?
- 2) 29:11 As David departed back to Philistine, where did the Philistines head?
- 3) 30:1-2 What did David find upon his returning to Ziklag?
- 4) 30:8 What was God’s response to David about going after the troop of Amalekites?
- 5) 30:18 Was David’s pursuit as God had said?
- 6) 30:1 Who fought who?
- 7) 31:3 What happened to Saul?
- 8) 31:6 Did Saul and his sons die on the same day before the Philistines?
Did Saul’s prophecy come to pass?

Daily Thought

The princes of Philistine feared David. They heard of David’s greatness. “Is this not he who they sing of, ‘Saul has killed thousands and David ten thousands’? He could destroy all of us if he so desired! Send him away.” God had reason to send David back to Ziklag to save his city which David did. Nothing is out of reach while God is at your side. Seek Him.

- 1) 1:2-4 How did David find out of Saul and his sons' death?
- 2) 1:10 What did the Amalekite do for Saul?
- 3) 1:14-15 What did David do to the Amalekite? Why?
- 4) 2:4 What did the men of Judah do?
- 5) 2:10 Though David was king over Judah, who was king of Israel?
- 6) 3:1 What was taking place between the two houses?
- 7) 3:12-13 Abner sent to David to make a covenant (agreement) with him.
What did David demand first?
- 8) 3:27 Who killed Abner? Why?

Daily Thought

David receives message of Saul's death as well as his three sons (including Jonathan) from an Amalekite. This man honored Saul's wish. "Kill me, I am in pain and yet still with life in me." The man does so and brings news to David along with Saul's bracelets and crown. David has the man executed. Hard lesson. God's elect – God will deal with – no man shall interfere with God's chosen.

- 1) 4:4 What had happened to Jonathan's son that made him lame?
- 2) 4:12 What did David have done to the men who killed Ishbosheth?
- 3) 5:3 Where did the elders go to anoint David as king of Israel?
- 4) 5:7 What did David take of Zion?
What did he call this place? (See Luke 2:11, Matthew 2:1)
What is the other name for this city?
- 5) 6:1 How many choice men did David take to gather the ark?
- 6) 6:6 Why did Uzzah die?
- 7) 6:14 How did David conduct himself before the ark of God?

Daily Thought

David was despised before his wife, Michal, because of his dance before God's ark. David danced so that he had uncovered himself before all. However, who matters before God? David was pleasing to God and said he would be even more undignified than this, though humble in his own sight. If it pleases God, what does it matter what others think? Are they your maker or your eternal judge? Please God, let people worry about their own conduct before God.

Word of Growth

Uzzah:

While David was moving the ark of God to the City of David (Bethlehem), Uzzah was put to death for his disobedience. A person unfamiliar with God's commands in our Old Testament may not catch this. Verse 3 – how did they decide to move God's ark? Upon a new cart pulled by oxen. Though this was how the Philistines sent God's ark back to Israel, this was not God's prescribed way. So while Uzzah was only catching the ark before it fell to the ground, he was not permitted to touch God's ark nor was the ark to be handled in such a way at all. Deuteronomy 10:8 tells us the ark was to be carried or handled only by the tribe of Levi. The ark's design alone tells us it was to be carried by its poles, not on a cart (Exodus 37:1-9 and note verse 5).

1 Samuel 6:19 – God struck 50,070 of His people for just looking in the ark. They did not touch but looked.

God demands obedience. Uzzah knew he should not have touched the ark – the Levites knew only they were to handle it, and David, I’m sure, knew how God’s ark was to be handled. God demands more of those who know better.

James 4:17 “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

God would not kill a man who was unaware of this law. God is righteous and demands righteousness.

Know God’s desires. He knows yours.

- 1) 7:2 What was David planning?
- 2) 7:12-13 Who did God have in mind to build Him a house?
- 3) 7:18 Write David's question to God. David is not the only one who should be asking this question.

- 4) 8:2 How did David select those to live and die in Moab?
(It appears the youths' height saved their lives.)
- 5) 8:14 What did God do for David?
- 6) 9:19 Why did David seek someone of Saul's house?
- 7) 9:6 What was the son of Jonathan's name?
- 8) 9:7 What did David have in store for this son?

Daily Thought

2 Samuel 7:8 "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.'"

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep." David, as Jesus, was sent to lead God's people Israel. David is a portrait of Christ in our Old Testament. The man after God's heart to portray Jesus, the Son. (See 1 Samuel 13:14 AND Psalm 89:20)

- 1) 10:3-4 What did Hanun, king of Ammon, do when David sent men to comfort him in his loss? Why?
- 2) 10:6-19 Ammon called upon all they could to help them battle against Israel. What took place when Joab and his men closed in for battle?
- 3) 11:1 When it was time to battle in the spring what did David decide to do?
- 4) 11:2 What did David notice from his roof top?
- 5) 11:6 What did David do when he heard Bathsheba was with child?
- 6) 11:6-13 What was David up to?
Did Uriah do as David wished?
- 7) 11:15 What then did David do?
Did this work?
- 8) 12:1-15 Explain Nathan's message to David.
- 9) 12:15-23 What was the penalty for David's sin?

Daily Thought

Hanun was in David's best interest and yet acted foolishly against his father's friend. Rumors start trouble. Action shows one's feelings. Why do we always over-think stuff?

- 1) 13:2 What had caused Amnon's illness?
- 2) 13:5-6 What did Jonadab instruct Amnon to do?
Did he?
- 3) 13:14 Did this sinful plot run its course?
- 4) 13:23-33 What was Amnon's fate for his choices?
- 5) 14:24 David allowed Absalom to return home with one condition.
What was it?
- 6) 14:33 How did David finally receive Absalom?
- 7) 15:10 Absalom manipulated the people to favor him. Did it work?
What did he work himself to be?
- 8) 15:13-14 How did David's son treat his own father?
- 9) 15:34 How did David use Archite to help his needs?

Daily Thought

This is a perfect example for Solomon's statement. Ecclesiastes 1:9 "That which has been is what will be. That which is done is what will be done. And there is nothing new under the sun." David's son abuses his own sister. David's other son kills this brother, then runs from his very own father. Life is full of trouble. Jesus overcame that. Read John 16:33.

- 1) 16:1-5 Who brought David all these supplies and whose servant was he?
- 2) 16:5-6 Who cursed David and threw stones at his men?
- 3) 16:9-10 While Abishai wished to behead Shimei, what were David's thoughts?
- 4) 17:1-4 Ahithophel came up with a plan to kill David alone.
How did David's son feel about this plan?
- 5) 17:5-8 What did Hushai think of this plan?
- 6) 17:15 Was Husai loyal to David?
- 7) 18:9-10 What was Absalom's fate (see also verse 14)?
- 8) 18:33 What or how did David act when he heard of the death of his son?

Daily Thought

David's son, Absalom, finally reached his fate. Against his own father, the man of God. God takes care of His servants though David did not wish this upon his son.

The payment of sin is death and Absalom sinned against God by dealing so with His servant.

Word of Growth

Bathsheba:

God's chosen at time errs. Verse 1 – David stays home from war when it was time to battle for kings in the spring. Sin often comes in times of idleness. David was idle, upon the top of his palace. He noticed Bathsheba bathing. On what 'beauty'! David then sent his men to retrieve this woman. Bringing his temptations into reach. In lust, David defiles himself along with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. Bathsheba finds herself with child and sends for the king.

David goes into cover-up mode. "What do I do? No one can find out about my sin." David sends for Uriah and first tries to get him to lay with his wife and will believe the child is his. However, Uriah refused to go home and enjoy pleasures while his

brothers are at war. After David tried so hard to make this cover-up, he sends Uriah back to war with a note. Joab sent Uriah to his death in battle and David marries Bathsheba. Problem solved. Well, maybe...

How did David so worry himself with men? God witnessed all of this. David sinned in his lust, he conspired a cover-up, he then murdered a man to hide his sins! God witnessed all. God then brought an illness which killed this child Bathsheba bore to David. David knew his sin. Nathan rebuked David in his parable. David saw his error. And what? Was David's life over? Absolutely not. David went before God and claimed his sin! "Nathan, I have sinned against God." "God has removed your sin, David." Later David's fasting and pleading for his son. "Father I have sinned. Spare this child, I have sinned. Forgive me and spare my son." God could not spare this son; sin had to be paid for although David even after murder came before God and was forgiven. Brought back to right standing before the Lord. Although there is always a penalty for sin.

I do add to these stories in history in small expressions though the concept is not changed. Know the Bible is our authority when I write I'm only sharing my thoughts, my views. Often we gain from this though once again our Bible is to be our first and only authority and trust. My expressions should be obvious; David calling Goliath "buddy", David's prayer for his son, these are not recorded in our Bible at all and are my imagination of what may have taken place. I do not change God's word but add thoughts in my writing. This is, of course, sharing.

David and Bathsheba are a perfect example to show us even the men we look so highly upon God's men, God's chosen have slipped into sin. God always gives us a way back. He loves us. We can find many examples throughout our Bibles to confirm this fact. Our God is a loving and merciful God. He is One and all worthy of our notice and praise.

- 1) 19:8 How did Israel react to David's mourning; where were they?
- 2) 19:23 Did David show mercy to Shimei?
Why did he need to be forgiven (2 Samuel 16:5-8)?
- 3) 19:40-43 What were those of Judah disputing about with Israel?
- 4) 20:1-2 Who talked everyone into leaving David?
- 5) 20:22 What befell Sheba for his act against David?
- 6) 21:1 What was in the land and why?
- 7) 21:56 What did the Gibeonites want to atone (pay) for Saul's acts against them? Did David allow it?
- 8) 21:14 Did God bring back the land from famine?

Daily Thought

Though David had many trials in his life God had made him so his men fought for him. Literally Judah and Israel fought or disputed who was getting more or less of the king's time (19:40-43). "He's more our king than yours!" "Not so, David is our king more than yours!" "David. David. David. Long live God's men!"

God bless you all.