

## Life-Study of 1 and 2 Samuel Summaries – Messages 11 - 20

### MESSAGE 11 – The History Concerning Saul

1 Samuel 15 is a record of Saul's **disobedience** in his conquest of the Amalekites. He conquered the enemy, yet he was altogether disobedient to God. In typology the Amalekites signify the **flesh**. In the entire universe, **God's real enemy is not Satan but us**. As long as we remain in the status of the flesh, we are an enemy to God. The **hardest thing** for God to deal with is the flesh.

Saul struck the Amalekites and captured Agag their king. Saul utterly destroyed all their people but **spared Agag and the best of the livestock**. For Saul, this was an opportunity to make himself rich. He was trying to build up his own monarchy within God's kingdom. **We should be warned of Saul's disobedience not to do anything in the kingdom of God by our flesh**. Rather, we should **do everything in the Son of God who has come into us to regenerate our spirit**, and is living in our spirit, moving, acting, and taking the lead to guide us into the line of life.

The hardships in the church life are related to the flesh. All the flesh in the church life needs to be diminished. Christ had crucified the flesh, and now we must apply this to ourselves.

### MESSAGES 12–20 – The History Concerning David

#### Chosen, Trained, Anointed, Tested, and Approved

1 Samuel 16 begins the history concerning David as one prepared by God as a man **according to the heart of God**. David was chosen by God and trained by God in **humility** through his circumstances. He was anointed by Samuel with oil, confirmed by the Spirit of Jehovah rushing upon him from that day. David was then tested and approved in trusting God and defeating Goliath. **David's assurance was based upon his experience of Jehovah** delivering him from the paw of the lion and of the bear in his shepherding of his father's sheep.

David was persecuted and tried by Saul. In the trials that God gave to him in His sovereignty, God prepared a **provision** for David. God prepared Jonathan, Saul's son, who loved David. When we are under God's trial, **God knows that we need His provision to support us and sustain us in the trials**. Saul became envious of David after David's return from striking the Philistines. Saul went from being envious of David to plotting how he might kill him without damaging his own name. Saul not only plotted to have David killed but determined to kill him.

As Saul was seeking to kill David, Jonathan and Michal helped him flee. When David was fleeing from Saul, he and his companions were supplied with the holy bread of the presence and with the sword of Goliath by Ahimelech the priest. David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath. David went from Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. From there he went to Mizpeh of Moab. Gad the prophet then told him to depart and go into the land of Judah, so he went into the forest of Hereth of Judah. Even though David was persecuted, he could still fight against the Philistines. However, instead of staying in the proper place, the good land, he stayed in Keilah. Then David remained in the wilderness of Ziph. When David and his men were hiding in a deep cave, Saul fell into David's hand. **David's God-fearing and God-honoring life subdued the reckless Saul and stopped Saul from pursuing him**. In his relationship with Saul, David is a very good pattern for us in the church life today.

#### The Ending of Saul

The first point concerning Saul's ending was that **he lost God's presence**. God's presence is just the Spirit. If we have Christ, we have the embodiment of God. Saul lost God's presence, and **eventually death came in every way**, in every aspect, and in every sense. Saul and his sons died a corporate death. David was deeply saddened by the death of Saul. The record of Saul's terrible

end is a strong **warning** to all the serving ones in the kingdom of God not to do a separate work within the kingdom of God or to abuse anything in the kingdom. **In the Lord's recovery we must be in fear and trembling, always working for God's kingdom and not for our own work.**

### **God's Sovereignty and David's Taking the Lessons of the Cross**

It is crucial for us to have a vision of **God's sovereignty**. As the sovereign One, God is above everything, behind everything, and in everything. On the one hand, God prepared David to be a man according to His heart for His kingdom. On the other hand, God prepared a Saul to perfect David by testing him and putting him on trial. In His sovereignty God not only prepared Saul but also Jonathan, the son of Saul, and Michal, the daughter of Saul who became David's wife, to help David.

Although David was persecuted and suffered so much, he never fought, reacted, or responded. Using the New Testament term, he was always **under the cross**. He bore the cross every day under any kind of situation. He did not complain, criticize, oppose, or condemn. He was just under the cross to suffer the dealing. While we are bearing the cross, actually we are not the ones who are doing this. The Christ who is within us is the One who bears the cross.

We need to learn two vital lessons – the lesson of God's sovereignty and the lesson of taking the cross with the power of resurrection. The more we learn the lessons of God's sovereignty and of taking the cross, the more we will be the gainers and the enjoyers.