Lesson 79 – The Reign of David Part II

Based on 2 Samuel 5:6 through 2 Samuel 10

In our last lesson, David, after a bad misunderstanding about the proper way to move the Ark of the Covenant, brought it to a tabernacle prepare for it in Jerusalem.

1) What happened after the celebration of its return?
   2 Samuel 6:18-19 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he _____ the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole _____ of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.

All the tribes had been represented in this service, the celebration of the most sacred event that had yet marked the reign of David. The Spirit of divine inspiration had rested upon the king, and now as the last beams of the setting sun bathed the tabernacle in a hallowed light, his heart was uplifted in gratitude to God that the blessed symbol of His presence was now so near the throne of Israel.

2) How was he received when he returned home?
   2 Samuel 6:20 Then David returned to bless his household. And _____ the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who _____ himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

In the bitterness of her passion, she could not await David's return to the palace, but went out to meet him, and to his kindly greeting poured forth a torrent of bitter words. Keen and cutting was the irony of her speech.

3) What was David's reply to his wife?
   2 Samuel 6:21-22 And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose _____ before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I _____ before the LORD. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

The solemn ceremonies attending the removal of the ark had made a lasting impression upon the people of Israel, arousing a deeper interest in the sanctuary service and kindling anew their zeal for Jehovah. David endeavored by every means in his power to deepen these impressions. The service of song was made a regular part of religious worship, and David composed psalms, not only for the use of the priests in the sanctuary service, but also to be sung by the people in their journeys to the national altar at the annual feasts. The influence thus exerted was far-reaching, and it resulted in freeing the nation from idolatry. Many of the surrounding peoples, beholding the prosperity of Israel, were led to think favorably of Israel's God, who had done such great things for His people.

4) What did David decide shortly thereafter?
   2 Samuel 7:1-2 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him _____ round about from all his enemies; That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the _____ of God dwelleth within curtains.

The tabernacle built by Moses, with all that appertained to the sanctuary service, except the ark, was still at Gibeah. It was David's purpose to make Jerusalem the religious center of the nation. He had erected a palace for himself, and he felt that it was not fitting for the ark of God to rest within a tent. He determined to build for it a temple of such magnificence as should express Israel's appreciation of the honor granted the nation in the abiding presence of Jehovah their King.

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5) What did the Prophet Nathan think of the idea?
2 Samuel 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, _____, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee.

6) What did God think of the idea?
2 Samuel 7:4-5 And it came to pass that night, that the _____ of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou _____ me an house for me to dwell in?
2 Samuel 7:12-13 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy _____ after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. _____ shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, giving him a message for the king. David was to be deprived of the privilege of building a house for God, but he was granted an assurance of the divine favor to him, to his posterity, and to the kingdom of Israel.

7) What did David say about this later?
1 Chronicles 22:7-8 And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed _____ abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt _____ build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.
1 Chronicles 22:9-10 Behold, a _____ shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. He shall _____ an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

8) How did David take the news initially?
2 Samuel 7:18-20 Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, _____ am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great _____ to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? And what can David _____ more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.

David knew that it would be an honor to his name and would bring glory to his government to perform the work that he had purposed in his heart to do, but he was ready to submit his will to the will of God. The grateful resignation thus manifested is rarely seen, even among Christians.

9) What promise did David keep once he got established?
2 Samuel 9:3-5 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of _____, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, _____ hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet. And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar. Then king David sent, and _____ him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

He was told of a son of Jonathan, Mephibosheth, who had been lame from childhood. At the time of Saul's defeat by the Philistines at Jezreel, the nurse of this child, attempting to flee with him, had let him fall, thus making him a lifelong cripple. David now summoned the young man to court and received him with great kindness. The private possessions of Saul were restored to him for the support of his household; but the son of Jonathan was himself to be the constant guest of the king, sitting daily at the royal table.

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10) How did their meeting go?

2 Samuel 9:6 Now when _____, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

2 Samuel 9:7-8 And David said unto him, _____ not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead _____ as I am?

11) What did David give him?

2 Samuel 9:9-10 Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son _____ that pertained to _____ and to all his house. Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread _____ at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

Through reports from the enemies of David, Mephibosheth had been led to cherish a strong prejudice against him as a usurper; but the monarch's generous and courteous reception of him and his continued kindness won the heart of the young man; he became strongly attached to David, and, like his father Jonathan, he felt that his interest was one with that of the king whom God had chosen.

12) What happened early on in David's reign?

2 Samuel 10:1-2 And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon _____, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead. Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to _____ him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.

Tidings were received at Jerusalem announcing the death of Nahash, king of the Ammonites, a monarch who had shown kindness to David when he was a fugitive from the rage of Saul. Now, desiring to express his grateful appreciation of the favor shown him in his distress, David sent ambassadors with a message of sympathy to Hanun, the son and successor of the Ammonite king.

13) Did the Ammonites understand what David was doing?

2 Samuel 10:3-4 And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent _____ unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it? Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their _____, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away.

David's courteous act was misinterpreted. The Ammonites hated the true God and were the bitter enemies of Israel. The apparent kindness of Nahash to David had been prompted wholly by hostility to Saul as king of Israel. The message of David was misconstrued by Hanun's counselors.

It was by the advice of his counselors that Nahash, half a century before, had been led to make the cruel condition required of the people of Jabesh-gilead, when, besieged by the Ammonites, they sued for a covenant of peace. Nahash had demanded the privilege of thrusting out all their right eyes. The Ammonites still vividly remembered how the king of Israel had foiled their cruel design and had rescued the people whom they would have humbled and mutilated. The same hatred of Israel still prompted them.

When Satan controls the minds of men, he will excite envy and suspicion which will misconstrue the very best intentions. Listening to his counselors, Hanun regarded David's messengers as spies, and loaded them with scorn and insult.

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The Ammonites had been permitted to carry out the evil purposes of their hearts without restraint, that their real character might be revealed to David. It was not God's will that Israel should enter into a league with this treacherous heathen people.

14) What followed in short order?
1 Chronicles 19:6 And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves _____ to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to _____ them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syriamaachah, and out of Zobah.
1 Chronicles 19:7 So they hired _____ and _____ _____ chariots, and the king of Maachah and his people; who came and pitched before Medeba. And the children of Ammon gathered themselves together from their cities, and came to battle.

It was indeed a formidable alliance. The inhabitants of the region lying between the river Euphrates and the Mediterranean Sea had leagued with the Ammonites. The north and east of Canaan was encircled with armed foes, banded together to crush the kingdom of Israel.

15) Did Israel under Joab's command wait to be invaded?
1 Chronicles 19:10-11 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose out of all the choice of Israel, and put them in _____ against the Syrians. And the rest of the people he delivered unto the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in array against the children of _____.
16) What was Israel's battle cry?
1 Chronicles 19:13 Be of good _____, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight.

The united forces of the allies were overcome in the first engagement. But they were not yet willing to give over the contest, and the next year renewed the war. The king of Syria gathered his forces, threatening Israel with an immense army. David, realizing how much dependent upon the result of this contest, took the field in person, and by the blessing of God inflicted upon the allies a defeat so disastrous that the Syrians, from Lebanon to the Euphrates, not only gave up the war, but became tributary to Israel. Against the Ammonites David pushed the war with vigor, until their strongholds fell and the whole region came under the dominion of Israel.

The dangers which had threatened the nation with utter destruction proved, through the providence of God, to be the very means by which it rose to unprecedented greatness.

17) What did David say about it?
Psalms 18:49-50 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name. Great _____ giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his _____, to David, and to his seed for evermore.
Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will _____ the name of the LORD our God.
18) What promise from God had been fulfilled?
Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river _____:

But in the midst of prosperity lurked danger. In the time of his greatest outward triumph David was in the greatest peril, and met his most humiliating defeat… ***More to come…***

Can you see it's important to be obedient to what we know?

Would you like to see God's promises fulfilled?

When is it time to humbly seek the LORD for guidance?

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