2 Samuel - Commentaries by Norman W. Berry

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 2 Samuel 6, Verses 8-23, Day 108 -

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V.8-10 Do we do right in getting angry when the Lord tries to show us that we are acting in disobedience when we are connected with what is contrary to God's Word?

V.11 But what a difference with this man. He was blessed.

V.12-23 Now David acts according to the Word of the Lord. Turn to 1 Chronicles 15:25-29 to see who carried the ark. The result is great rejoicing. May you find this joy!

V.20-23 One person despised all this in her heart! She didn't say a word! But God knew, and acted, and she was the loser.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 2 Samuel 6, Verses 1-7, Day 107 -

David did not have the ark with him in his new capital. He could not have real rest without the Lord's Presence. Neither can we believers have true heart-rest until we are living close to the conscious presence of the Lord.

V.1-3 But not a word about their asking how this was to be done. They acted by their own thoughts!

V.4-7 Sad results. We often ask the Lord's help about problems, yet think that we can decide how and where we are going to worship the Lord. What a sad situation exists today among the believers. So many trying to act for the Lord's glory without asking Him the question Peter and John asked the Lord in Luke 22:9, "where wilt thou"? Nowhere do we need more direct guidance froth the Lord than in the question of the worship of God. Where did they get the idea of a new cart? From the heathen Philistines we read of in 1 Samuel 6:7. Where do we get many of the religious customs of today? From a mixture of paganism and Old Testament ritual.

V.6 Did this man do the right thing in steadying the ark? But God tells us the answer. He had said that no one but a priest could touch the ark. So the whole thing was wrong.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 2 Samuel 19, Verses 16-40, Day 122 -

V.16-23 Do you remember what this man did to David when David was fleeing? (16:5). Now David accepts this man on his words. During the millennium there will be many who pretend obedience but what is really in their hearts will come out, and they will be punished. Try to remember this man when we come to king David's son Solomon. He has something to say about Shimei.

V.24-30 Beautiful contrast. There was no pretending here. Go back to chapter 9, also 16:1-4. But today we learn what really was in Mephibosheth's heart. All the time David was away, notice what Mephibosheth did not do! Also notice the difference between the words of Shimei (v. 20) when he talked to King David, "I have sinned" and the words of the faithful Mephibosheth (v. 30) when he heard that Ziba (v. 26) had deceived him, he said "Let him take all." He was satisfied to have David back, so he didn't care about the properly he had lost (Read Heb. 10:34).

V.31-40 Another lovely character. This man had no interest in earthly glory or rewards. He loved David and supported him in David's time of rejection. Are we faithful to Christ during the time of His rejection? David wants to reward Barzillai, but cannot. The type fails again. But everyone will receive his due reward when the Lord Jesus comes (1 Cor. 4:5).

V.41-43 The people try to outdo each other in bringing their king back to his beloved capital. What a glorious day is coming when the Lord Jesus shall return to reign over this earth in righteousness, and we will be with Him (Ezek. 43:2; Rev. 5:10).

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 2 Samuel 19, Verses 1-15, Day 121 -

V.1-15 The king's leaders are unhappy at the sorrow which David had for his son Absalom. Joab speaks pretty sharply to David. Possibly David did overdo the sorrow, forgetting that God was directing everything. The types always fail in some way. David fails but the Lord Jesus never! All will be perfect when the Lord Jesus comes in power.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 2 Samuel 15, Verses 19-37, Day 118 -

A wonderful example of faithfulness to David personally by a man from an enemy country (Philistine). Read these verses slowly and realize that King David had won Ittai's heart so much that nothing would stop him from following David totally, including his little children. It is one thing to follow the Lord when we have a lot of people with us, but another when everything opposes and only a few are with us as we follow a Man, Who has been rejected.

V.24-29 A century before this, Israel didn't have a man like David as their head. In 1st Samuel 4:3-4 the people and the priests panic when they are attacked, and bring the sacred ark out into the battlefield, and lose it to the enemy. In contrast, here David refuses to use such a sacred object and orders the priests to take the ark back to Jerusalem.

V.30-37 Notice what David does (v. 31). He pours out his heart to God. He directs the priests to stay with his rebellious son.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 2 Samuel 15, Verses 1-18, Day 117 -

After all the gracious way Absalom has been treated, now his treacherous heart is exposed. After all the kindness and grace of God to man has been shown at the cross in bringing salvation, then after all this, there is yet going to arise on this earth, the man of sin, the antichrist. This will happen after we believers arc gone to glory see chart and 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12. Absalom is a clear picture of the antichrist. The last sentence of yesterday's chapter indicated that Absalom was taking a very low place before his father, but notice the first sentence of our chapter today, "after this" which shows the true heart of Absalom ... he exalts himself!

V.1-16 Absalom works out his subtle plans. There are two objects he is after. One is to undermine the king, the other to build himself up. So he uses flattery. Absalom never loved these people as David did.

V.7 This probably should be "four," not "forty."

V.7-9 Notice that Absalom uses the Lord's name while he is lying to his father. His father is thoroughly deceived.

V.10 He has his plan well organized throughout Israel to start a rebellion against his father.

V.11 He even deceives these 200 men.

V.12 Worse He offers up sacrifices to the Lord while working his deceits!

V.13-18 King David now must gather his few loyal people around him, and leave his capital Jerusalem.

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