

The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 26

Saul's Last Pursuit of David

We have seen Saul seek out David many times and this will be the final time before Saul is killed. There are many parallels here to their previous meeting. Both times show David refusing to kill his king.

68. David Spares Saul Again - I Samuel 26:1-25

- We open with the Ziphites once again betraying David's location to Saul, just as the did in I Samuel 23:19
- Saul takes 3,000 men just as before in I Samuel 24:2
- vs. 4 - it looks like David sent spies to see if Saul was with the army
- vs. 5 - "in the trench" means that Saul was in the camp surrounded by his army for protection. The word has a meaning of being encircled.
- Abishai - the son of David's sister Zeruah (II Chronicles 2:16) and brother to Joab. He was one of David's mighty men (II Samuel 23:18)
- vs. 8 - Abishai has already seen that David will not kill Saul himself, so he offers. He promises to do it in one quick blow.
- vs. 9 - David again spares Saul.
- vs. 10 - David had just God execute judgment against Nabal, so perhaps he had learned his lesson in leaving that sort of thing to God.
- vs. 11 - David this time takes Saul's spear (it's about time somebody too thing away from him!) and a water jar. The water jar was probably there for refreshment in the hot climate.
- vs. 12 - It is important to note the Divine Providence at work here. This was no accident. God allowed David to sneak into a military camp of three thousand soldiers and enter the very tent of the king. David was a great soldier would be well able to accomplish this on his own, but God was at work.
- vs. 14 - David addresses Abner, Saul's general, and his army from across the valley.
- vs. 15 - I wonder if Abner had to send soldiers to check on Saul at this point...
- vs. 16 - David does not exhibit these yet, but Abner would have checked and seen that they were missing.
- vs. 17 - two things of note here. Saul returns to calling David his son. David acknowledges that Saul is both king and his master.
- vs. 19 - Maybe David is insinuating that people like Abner or Doeg are manipulating Saul?
- vs. 19 - the last part of this verse is speaking of the fact that David had been driven from the land of Israel to seek refuge amongst the heathen.
- vs. 20 - The first part of this verse is almost a challenge. David has stated the facts and is willing to let God be judge between them. The second part of the verse shows how foolish Saul's attempts to chase David have been, comparing it to catching a flea or a bird in the wilderness.
- vs. 21 - just as before, Saul is thankful to be spared but is not truly penitent.

- vs. 22 - I want to image this as a dramatic moment with David revealing that he has Saul's spear in his hand, thus also signaling it was he that had entered the camp.
- vs. 23-24 - in this beautiful passage David appeals to God instead of Saul and shows his trust was not in Saul's mercy (like that was going to happen) but it was in God's divine protection
- vs. 25 - Perhaps at this point Saul is convinced that God's Hand that had been removed from himself and been placed on David. Saul returns to his throne (he's not going to give it up, after all). David almost assuredly returns to the wilderness, knowing the fickleness of Saul.
- We end here with the last time these two will meet. In about a year Saul will be dead.