

# The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 30

## Vengeance for Ziklag

While David and his men has been away with the Philistines preparing for war, the Amalekites have sacked their home of Ziklag.

### 73. Avenging Ziklag - I Samuel 30:1-31

- vs. 1 - third day - three days marching since leaving the Philistines
- The old enemy of Israel (that Saul should've wiped out), the Amalekites, have returned. We spoke before that their typical attacks were raids. They probably had heard that the Philistines were embarking on a campaign and seized the opportunity for easy victories.
- vs. 2 - The captives would be sold as slaves. This was once of the quickest ways a army could enrich themselves in the ancient world.
- vs. 3-5 - I'm not sure this scene has an equal in the modern world. Maybe the families of those taken captive in Indian raids in the 1800's would understand.
- vs. 6 - Not only must David deal with this personal tragedy he now faces a possible mutiny.
- vs. 6 - Note that "David encouraged himself in the LORD his God". He has no where else to turn but to God.
- vs. 7-8 - David enquires of God, almost certainly through Urim and Thummim.
- vs. 9-10 - the men had marched maybe 80+ miles in the past three days and dealt with great emotional stress. That some could not go on is understandable. These are left behind to watch the camp and supplies.
- Besor - means "cold", a stream near Gaza.
- vs. 11-15 - David's men stumble across an Egyptian man that was a slave belonging to one of the Amalekites. He had been abandoned for three days after falling sick. He agrees to aid David if his life is spared and he not be returned to his master.
- vs. 16 - Having made a great haul of spoils, the Amalekites have begun to celebrate now that they feel safe in the wilderness.
- vs. 17 - David attacks at dusk. The Amalekites were probably nomadic and the fighting may have been sporadic throughout the day as David and his men chased them down. 400 escape on camels that David and his men could not catch up to.
- vs. 18-20 - David and his men recover all that was taken from them, family and possessions. David claims the additional flocks as his share of the spoil.
- vs. 21-22 - The most striking part of this, which really shouldn't surprise us, is that there were pagans amongst David's men. These are not content with the victory or the recovery of their possessions.
- vs. 23-25 - David reminds them the victory was God's and not their's. He establishes a precedent that those that must stay behind in the camp will receive the same portion as those that go into battle.

- vs. 26-31 - David sends portions of the spoil to other in Judah, perhaps who had also been victims of the Amalekite's raid. He also finds a way to repay those that he had hid amongst.