

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

July 24

MONDDAY

David, in this on-going prayer, told the Lord that it was because of the Lord's promises that he is praying. He affirmed God's greatness and the fact that what He says is always true. He told God that he was confident that the Lord would bless his family line forever as He had promised to do.

READ: II Samuel 7:27-29

Here, David prays once again for his family. He's prayed for them before. He's heard the promises of God concerning the way God will bless and honor his family forever. But still he prays for them. What a great value David puts upon his family! He desires so strongly that those whom he loves the most in life will experience the same relationship he has with the Lord. Let us dedicate ourselves anew to pray for our families. To pray them, and love them into the Kingdom!

TUESDAY

David fought against the Philistines again, and soundly defeated them. He recaptured the town of Methegammah (another name for Gath - hometown of Goliath and the chief city of the Philistines). Dividing and conquering, he defeated the forces of Moab. And the Moabites became his servants.

READ: II Samuel 8:1-2

Using (*measuring with* in the KJV) a line means drawing a line on map. He divided the Moabites' territory into three parts. He destroyed two parts, killing the inhabitants, but left the third part alone so that the people there could keep on farming. These farmers became David's servants. This defeat of Moab fulfilled a prophesy of Balaam long ago (Num.24:17) that a king would one day appear who would *smite the corners of Moab*. Just think of it, 480 years ago, God made a promise through the prophet Balaam. Many had forgotten it. But God remembered! And carried it out! So it is with every promise to you and me. They are as good as gold! And as good as done!

WEDNESDAY

As Hadadezer, the son of King Rehob of Zobah, was fighting in a border clash, David killed him. And he captured over 1000 chariots, 700 cavalry, and 20,000 soldiers in the victory. David had all but 100 of the horses hobbled.

READ: II Samuel 8:3-4

What seems at first to be animal cruelty - hobbling the horses - was not. The horses would have had the sinews on their hind legs cut but they could still walk, and do so, without pain. Hobbling them meant they would never be war horses again. (in a very real sense, this was a distinct kindness to the horses - war horses tended to have shortened life spans!) In Deut.17, the Lord prohibited the Israelites from accumulating a great number of horses for battle because then they would credit their "horse power" for victories and not the Lord Himself. David is obeying God, and in doing so, he is giving glory to God now and later: now in his obedience, and later, when victories are won, and that glory goes to God, and not horses. Exactly what God wants from us today, isn't it! He wants the glory! Anything we might need to "hobble" in our lives?

THURSDAY

When the Syrian army intervened in order to rescue Hadadezer, David defeated them, too, killing 22,000. He built outposts across Syria, and the Syrians became servants who also brought gifts to the King. And the Lord protected David. David collected gold and brass from the defeated armies.

READ: II Samuel 8:5-8

When I read these verses, I think of the associations we make in life. You can tell a lot by a person's friends! That's one reason our church family is such a blessing to us. That's one reason we need to examine carefully the ties we make with others. Isaiah 8:9 says *associate yourselves (with the wrong people) and you shall be broken into pieces!* That is to say, there will be consequences. This is not an area where we need more rules and regulations. Instead, we need to constantly leave this matter of associations with the Lord, and be committed to following what He has for us.

FRIDAY

When King Toi (Yes, a king not to be toyed with!) of Hamath, an enemy of Hadadezer, heard of David's victory over him, He sent his son Joram with gifts of gold, silver, and brass, to give to David. David dedicated the gifts to the Lord, along with the booty taken from six other nations.

READ: II Samuel 8:9-12

Other kings, rulers, and emperors have claimed booty and spoils, and have received gifts and tokens, but what sets David apart is that he dedicated them to the Lord. He aimed at God's glory. What a heart for God he had! David destroys some things, and dedicates other things to the Lord. We, too, must crucify those things of the old man and of the old life, and put them to death. We, too, must dedicate to the Lord what can be used for His kingdom and for His glory. Help us, Lord, to crucify and dedicate today! Amen?

SATURDAY

David's became even more famous when he defeated an army of Syria in the Valley of Salt, killing 18,000 of them. He put outposts in Edom and the Edomites became his servants. And the Lord continued to preserve David wherever he went. And he ruled over Israel in a just way.

READ: II Samuel 8:13-15

David's story is our story, remember? We are reading about David's battles on the plains, and in the valleys, in this case, of Syria, and, at the same time, we are talking about the spiritual battles we face day by day. David won victories and established outposts. When we experience victory, let us claim the land, so to speak. We have won victories in our lives and those victories have secured us in some areas. We can move on to other battles. What God has for us today may be a new battle - a new area of challenge and a new testing. We have been strengthened and prepared by what has gone before. We are ready. We are in His power! We are ready for another victory!

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