

1 Samuel 30
Hitting Rock Bottom—God is Still There

Review

CHAPTER	KEY EVENTS
27	<p>David Flees to the Philistines; meltdown in depression, fear and deception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joins as a mercenary for King Achish in Gath
	<p>David serves with Philistines for 16 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Achish gives David city of Ziklag to dwell (former Israelite town) • Secretly fights pagan nations and returns spoil to Achish (pretending it's from Israel) • Achish trusts David's fake loyalty
	<p>Massive battle planned: Philistines vs Israel</p>
28	<p>Saul afraid of Philistine army amassing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prophet, Samuel is dead • Sought guidance from the Lord—but no answer • Sought guidance from Witch of Endor • Vision of Samuel foretells the defeat of Israel and Saul's death...by tomorrow
	<p>Day before the Battle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David is caught in a dilemma of his own doing • God rescues David from his mess • God's purposes stay intact



David's Wives Are Captured

30 Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire ² and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way. ³ And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴ Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. ⁵ David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶ And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

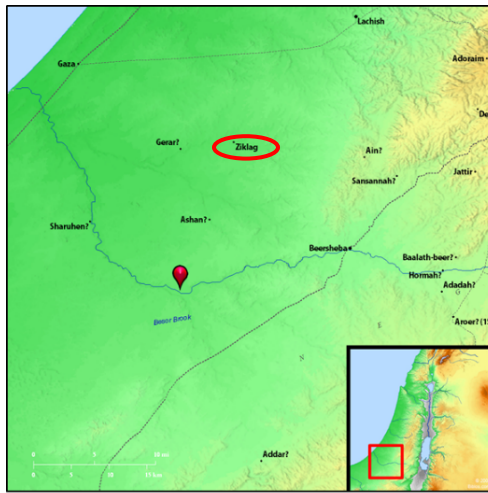
⁷ And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. ⁸ And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue." ⁹ So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed. ¹⁰ But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor.

David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.	
DID (Correctly)	DID NOT DO (Correctly)

How we believers can "Strengthen ourselves in the LORD our God."	
DO	DO NOT

How we believers can “Strengthen Ourselves in the LORD our God.”

DO	DO NOT
<p>Rehearse the <u>attributes</u> of God:</p> <p>Eternal, Faithfulness, Foreknows, Good, Holy, Immutable, Impartial, Incomprehensible, Infinite, Jealous, Justice, Longsuffering, Love, Mercy, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Righteous, Self-existent, Self-sufficient, Sovereign, Transcendent, Truth, Wise, Wrath</p>	<p><u>Blame God for:</u></p> <p>Not knowing Not Caring Not Powerful enough</p> <p>View obstacles as God’s opposition to me</p>
<p>Rehearse <u>promises</u> of God regarding His plans & desire for me. It’s the promises that <u>strengthen</u></p> <p>James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.</p> <p>Rom 8:31-32 If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?</p>	<p>Assume I was not chosen intentionally and with unfathomable love</p>
<p>Rehearse the truth about God’s work in the <u>past</u> ie: Jonathan reminding David he would be king</p>	<p>Fail to connect the dots of God’s past faithfulness and miracles that I witnessed personally</p>
<p>Spiritual Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God has provision for me in this • Expect to find the Lord’s resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assume God has no provision for me in this • Assume God cannot/does not answer prayer
<p>Read God’s Word to remind me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What God is like • What He can do • Let these form/change my view of God 	<p>Listen to sermons and read devotionals alone (not Scripture)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for removal/change in circumstances— and also thank God that not even a sparrow can fall to the ground apart from my Heavenly Father. • Find refuge in God alone (under His wings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for “X” alone with no room for God to answer more completely • Want specific answers more than God’s grace
<p>Repent deeply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid my own blame & fault • Repent casually
<p>Yield to God</p>	<p>Demand, fight and insist I know what I need and God needs to deliver it</p>



Brook Besor

¹¹ They found an Egyptian in the open country and brought him to David. And they gave him bread and he ate. They gave him water to drink, ¹² and they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. And when he had eaten, his spirit revived, for he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights. ¹³ And David said to him, "To whom do you belong? And where are you from?" He said, "I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite, and my master left me behind because I fell sick three days ago. ¹⁴ We had made a raid against the Negeb of the Cherethites and against that which belongs to Judah and against the Negeb of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire." ¹⁵ And David said to him, "Will you take me down to this band?" And he said, "Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band."



Marv Levy – Former Buffalo Bills Head Coach

David Defeats the Amalekites

¹⁶ And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. ¹⁷ And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled. ¹⁸ David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. ¹⁹ Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all. ²⁰ David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, "This is David's spoil."

²¹ Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow David, and who had been left at the brook Besor. And they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near to the people he greeted them. ²² Then all the wicked and worthless fellows among the men who had gone with David said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except that each man may lead away his wife and children, and depart." ²³ But David said, "You shall not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us. He has preserved us and given into our hand the band that came against us. ²⁴ Who would listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike." ²⁵ And he made it a statute and a rule for Israel from that day forward to this day.

²⁶ When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD." ²⁷ It was for those in Bethel, in Ramoth of the Negeb, in Jattir, ²⁸ in Aroer, in Siphmoth, in Eshtemoa, ²⁹ in Racal, in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, in the cities of the Kenites, ³⁰ in Hormah, in Bor-ashan, in Athach, ³¹ in Hebron, for all the places where David and his men had roamed.

I have a friend who sometimes signs her letters to me, "Yours at Brook Besor."

She's never explained to me what she means, and I've never asked her. What I imagine is that she sees herself as one of the two hundred at the Brook Besor, too tired to go on (she's been living for a long time in Philistine country), feeling consigned to the sidelines because of her lack of stamina, resigned to a marginal status with the people of God but inwardly assured of God's affirmation. And then hearing it again, undeserved and unexpected, the generous Davidic verdict. Brook Besor, indeed.

Eugene Peterson
Leap Over a Wall