

2 SAMUEL 1:1-2.7

Kingdom Reset: A Man After God's Own Heart

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

1 Samuel Review

The era of the Judges had been a particularly dark period for Israel, characterized by a frustrating cycle whereby Israel would lapse into apostasy and rebellion; the LORD's anger would be awakened, and he would send foreigners to oppress and subjugate Israel; the people would then cry out to the LORD for help, and the LORD would then send a deliverer, who would defeat the foreign oppressors and rule for a while as a Judge; only for the cycle to repeat.

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1 Samuel Review

- *With each cycle things spiraled further downward. Israel, left to its own devices, spun into anarchy, chaos, and spiritual darkness. Judges ends with this comment:*

Judges 21:25:

In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

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1 Samuel Review:

The Structure of that Book

1. **Samuel: A Prophet from God's Grace (1-7)**
 - (a) Hannah (echoes of Genesis, a new beginning)
 - (b) The birth of Samuel & his dedication to the LORD
 - (c) The catastrophe at Aphek and the fall of Eli's house
 - (d) Samuel the last and greatest Judge (but... his sons...)
 - (e) The people demand a king "like all the nations"
 - (f) Saul warns them about this: "He will take..."
 - (g) But they insist, and they are given what they want

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1 Samuel Review:
The Structure of that Book

1. Samuel: A Prophet from God's Grace (1-7)
 2. Saul: A King in God's Place (8-14)
- Saul is tall, handsome, and brave. He looks every part what people think a king should look like, a war leader. He would have made a terrific Judge – perhaps even one like Gideon or Samson. But he lacked the character to be king, as shown in a series of increasingly disturbing actions revealing his self-centeredness and paranoia:

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1 Samuel Review:
The Structure of that Book

1. Samuel: A Prophet from God's Grace (1-7)
 2. Saul: A King in God's Place (8-14)
- (a) His quitting the search for the donkeys and the seer (9)
 - (b) His unlawful sacrifice, done to hurry things along (13)
 - (c) His foolish vow, almost costing his son's life (14)
 - (d) His disobedience to the LORD's command in sparing Agag, the Amalekite king, and in keeping the best of the livestock rather than devoting them to destruction (15)

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1 Samuel Review:
The Structure of that Book

1. Samuel: A Prophet from God's Grace (1-7)
 2. Saul: A King in God's Place (8-14)
 3. David: A Man After God's Own Heart (15-31)
- After the incident with Agag, the LORD declares through Samuel that the kingdom would be torn away from Saul and his house.
 - Now David enters the story. For here forward, David becomes ever greater while Saul becomes ever less.

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1 Samuel Review

- David anointed by Samuel, then called to play for Saul.
- David slays Goliath and becomes a war hero.
- Saul is moved to envy and suspicion concerning David.
- Saul becomes increasingly erratic, trying to kill David.
- Saul's son, Jonathan, is noble, and a friend to David.
- Saul slaughters the priests at Nob, though innocent.
- Saul pursuing David relentlessly; David on the run.
- David spares Saul's life twice, as the LORD's anointed.
- David in exile among the Philistines.
- In a final bad decision, Saul consults a medium at Endor.

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1 Samuel Review

- Two final accounts. First, David returns home and finds that the Amalekites had raided his base in Ziklag, and carried off people and flocks, including David's wives. He avenges this and restores the stolen people and possessions.
- Second, Israel is defeated by the Philistines, who press forward and occupy Israelite towns; on Mount Gilboa, Saul's sons are killed in battle; and there Saul, seeing that all is lost and not wanting to be captured by the Philistines, takes his own life.

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1 Samuel Review

- 1 Samuel thus ends on this incredibly bleak note: Israel is defeated and scattered; Saul and his sons lie dead on Mount Gilboa; Saul's head is cut off and his armor stripped from his body by the Philistines; and his body is hung from the wall of Beth-shan, together with the bodies of his sons.

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1 Samuel Review: Three Major Themes

In terms of an overview, we see at least three themes:

1. Saul is presented as a sort of foil to David. Essentially, Saul is an example of how *not* to be a good king. David, on the other hand, is a man after God's own heart.
2. The book is framed by two catastrophes: first, the failure of the priests and the fall of Eli's house; second, the failure of the king and the fall of Saul's house.
3. Note the sinister role and hostile presence of the Amalekites, first, with Agag, then later at Ziklag.

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When Are All These Events Happening?

1446 BC	Exodus (480 yrs pre-Temple; 1 Kgs. 6:1)
1406	Entry into the Promised Land under Joshua
1366	Estimated date of Joshua's death (Josh. 24:29) Era of the Judges begins (lasting 316 yrs)
1070	Estimated date of the death of Eli Samuel becomes Judge of Israel
1050	Samuel "old"; appoints sons (1 Sam. 8:1) Israel demands a king; Samuel appoints Saul Saul becomes Israel's king (reigns for 40 yrs)
1010	Death of Saul; David becomes king at Hebron

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A Word on Authorship

- Though named for the Judge and prophet Samuel, the books (1 and 2 Samuel) do not claim an author. Talmudic tradition declares that Samuel wrote the book. He certainly supplied the information for 1 Samuel 1-24, but given that we read of his death in 1 Samuel 25:1...!
- The first 24 chapters of the 1 Samuel may be seen to constitute a biography of Samuel's life and career. But what about the rest of 1 Samuel (chapters 25-31) and 2 Samuel? Who wrote these?

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A Word on Authorship**1 Chronicles 29:29:**

Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the Chronicles of Samuel the seer, and in the Chronicles of Nathan the prophet, and in the Chronicles of Gad the seer,

- *Thus, taken altogether, the evidence from Scripture suggests that the 1 and 2 Samuel were compiled by someone from the prophetic school who used documents from Samuel, Nathan, and Gad.*

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2 Samuel: Structure of the Book

1. David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)
2. David's Troubles (11:1-19:43)
3. Appendix (20:1-24:25)

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David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)

1. David Mourns Saul & Becomes King of Judah (1:1-2:7)
2. Civil War & the Consolidation of David's Rule (2:8-5:5)
3. Jerusalem Made the Capital of the Kingdom (5:6-6:23)
4. God's Covenant with David (7:1-29)
5. David's Kingdom at Its Height (8:1-10:19)

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David Mourns Saul & Becomes King of Judah (1:1-2:7)

1. Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)
2. David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)
3. David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**2 Samuel 1:1:**

After the death of Saul,
when David had returned
from striking down the Amalekites,
David remained two days in Ziklag.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**2 Samuel 1:2-8:**

And on the third day, behold,
a man came from Saul's camp,
with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.

And when he came to David,
he fell to the ground and paid homage.
David said to him, "Where do you come from?"
And he said to him,
"I have escaped from the camp of Israel."

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**2 Samuel 1:2-8: (cont'd)**

And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me."
And he answered,
"The people fled from the battle,
and also many of the people have fallen and are dead,
and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead."

Then David said to the young man who told him,
"How do you know that Saul
and his son Jonathan are dead?"

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**2 Samuel 1:2-8:** (cont'd)

And the young man who told him said,
 "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa,
 and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold,
 the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him.
 And when he looked behind him,
 he saw me, and called to me.
 And I answered, 'Here I am.'
 And he said to me, 'Who are you?'
 I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.'"

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- An Amalekite! With this, the spine of every Israelite would have stiffened reflexively. Here is a representative of the ancient enemy of Israel, intractable and unrelenting in its hatred of and hostility towards God's people.
- More on this in a moment.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**2 Samuel 1:9-10:** (cont'd)

"And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and kill me,
 for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.'
 So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure
 that he could not live after he had fallen.
 And I took the crown that was on his head
 and the armlet that was on his arm,
 and I have brought them here to my lord."

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- But we know that this story is false. We know that Saul had fallen on his own sword to avoid capture by the Philistines. Why then did the Amalekite lie about killing Saul?
- Well, it would seem that he thought it would work to his advantage; that David would rejoice in the death of his enemy and would reward the person who not only brought the news but claimed to be the executor of his enemy's demise.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- *Obviously, this proved to be a bad idea. He thought that David would rejoice with the demise of his persecutor. But this Amalekite did not understand the man after God's own heart!*

Titus 1:15:

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**Ephesians 4:18:**

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Psalms 18:25-26:

With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
with the purified you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**2 Samuel 1:11-12:**

Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them,
and so did all the men who were with him.
And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening
for Saul and for Jonathan his son
and for the people of the LORD
and for the house of Israel,
because they had fallen by the sword.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- Davis sees a chiastic structure for this passage, that reveals something interesting. We ask, what is the pivot, what is the center of the narrative, the thing to which the writer is most intent on drawing our attention? Is it the Amalekite? No! It is David's grief, in verses 11-12:

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- A. Arrival of the Amalekite (1:1-2)
- B. Conversation (1:3-10) (3 questions)
- X. Reaction (1:11-12)
- B'. Conversation (1:13-14) (2 questions)
- A'. Elimination of the Amalekite (1:15-16)

Here's a simpler version:

- A. An Amalekite Lies! (1:1-10)
- X. David Cries! (1:11-12)
- A'. The Amalekite Dies! (1:13-16)

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- David had demonstrated his covenant faithfulness when he had twice refused to kill Saul when he had had the opportunity, because he refused to put out his hand against the LORD's anointed (1 Sam. 24:6-7; 26:8-11).
- Now David showed this faithfulness again, in mourning for Israel's fallen king, and Saul's fallen house, and for Israel, respecting the office of kingship and the fact of Saul's having been the LORD's anointed – however much he failed to live up to the calling of that office.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- In this, we see once again David's greatness and worthiness to rule as the anointed king of Israel.
- It was almost as if Israel had been given, in Saul, a negative picture for purposes of comparison so they could see what a righteous king looks like when David came along.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**Proverbs 24:17-18:**

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,
and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles,
lest the LORD see it and be displeased,
and turn away his anger from him.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**2 Samuel 1:13-16:**

And David said to the young man who told him,
"Where do you come from?"

And he answered,
"I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite."

David said to him,
"How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand
to destroy the LORD's anointed?"

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**2 Samuel 1:13-16:** (cont'd)

Then David called one of the young men and said,
"Go, execute him."

And he struck him down so that he died.

And David said to him,
"Your blood be on your head,
for your own mouth has testified against you,
saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'"

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- And so the young Amalekite who expected to be rewarded for his false story instead found himself executed for it – executed for the sin of having been not afraid to put out his hand to destroy the LORD's anointed. Of course, there is a bit of dark irony here in that he hadn't really done it. But God knew the truth!

Matthew 10:26b:

"Nothing is covered that will not be revealed,
or hidden that will not be known."

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- There's a deeper dynamic at work here. We noted the presence of the Amalekites through the course of 1 Samuel and now here, at the very beginning of David's reign. Who were the Amalekites?
- They were a nation of people who lived in the southern areas, in Negev and in the Sinai, related to the Edomites (Amalek was the name of Esau's grandson). In Exodus 17, they attacked Israel, unprovoked and without warning, in the wilderness.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**Exodus 17:14-16:**

[After Israel had prevailed, by God's help, in the battle] the LORD said to Moses,

"Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven..."

The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- During the period of the Judges, the Amalekites were always in league with Israel's enemies; when Israel would plant its crops, the Amalekites would come in and burn them; we have seen their role in 1 Samuel, with King Agag and their raid on Ziklag; even in Esther, we encounter Haman the Agagite! And by extension, through their intimate connection with Edom, we see their descendants, the Idumaeans, and Herod, the agent of the Serpent who sought to snatch the male child of the woman when he was born (Rev. 12:1).

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- In their implacable hostility to the LORD and to the LORD's people, the Amalekites come to represent the seed of the Serpent. The LORD's command that Israel should not forget to destroy Amalek echoes what Adam ought to have done in the Garden, crush the head of the Serpent!
- And this is just what David does here, albeit with a measure of irony, in that the Amalekite is killed for a story that was factually untrue. But God knew the truth and the malice he represented, and justice was done.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

In any event, David asks him, "How is it that you were not afraid...?" Here is a principle of the kingdom: godly fear of the unutterably holy God.

Luke 12:4-5:

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!"

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)**Isaiah 33:14:**

The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: "Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?"

Hebrews 10:31:

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

But as for those who trust in him:

Hebrews 12:28-29:

Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

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Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)

- And this fear of God – not being afraid of God, but the reverent fear of him – will be forever!

Psalms 19:9:

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.

Davis: "This is the way all kingdom servants should live, controlled by fear grounded in love. Only Amalekites would call that pathological."

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Mourns Saul & Becomes King of Judah (1:1-2:7)

1. Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)
2. David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)
3. David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)

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David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)**2 Samuel 1:17-18a:**

And David lamented with this lamentation
over Saul and Jonathan his son,
and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah;
behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar.

- *What is the Book of Jashar? It means "the book of the upright." This is an ancient, non-canonical, and no longer extant text mentioned twice in the Old Testament (the other instance being Joshua 10:13).*

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David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)

- So what is this Book of Jashar? Most biblical scholars believe the Book of Jashar was a national collection of ancient Hebrew poems, military victory songs, and heroic ballads.
- Interestingly, the medieval Jewish commentator Rashi suggested that the Book of Jashar was not the title of some lost text, but rather an alternate reference to the Pentateuch, and specifically Genesis, pointing to the "upright" patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Interesting!

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)**2 Samuel 1:18b-20:**

He said: "Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!
Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult."

- *I experienced an awful feeling of shame when the World Trade Center fell, anguished in the knowledge that people were rejoicing over this evil. For David, this shame was felt not just for Israel, but for the dishonoring of the LORD.*

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)**2 Samuel 1:21-22:**

"You mountains of Gilboa,
let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor fields of offerings!
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.
From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan turned not back,
and the sword of Saul returned not empty."

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)**2 Samuel 1:23-24:**

"Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles;
they were stronger than lions.
You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel."

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)

For these verses, Davis writes:

"A lament differs from the informal, spontaneous, immediate outburst of grief like that in verses 11-12. A lament is no less sorrowful or sincere; but it is a vehicle for the mind as well as for the emotions. Lament is an expression of thoughtful grief... structured sorrow... coherent agony... In a lament, therefore, words are carefully elected, crafted, honed, to express loss as closely yet fully as possible."

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David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)

- *We shouldn't just write praise songs, but songs of lament as well, putting into words the experience of sorrow and grief that accompanies living in a fallen world.*

Matthew 5:4:

"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted."

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David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)**2 Samuel 1:25-26:**

How the mighty have fallen
in the midst of the battle!
Jonathan lies slain on your high places.
I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
very pleasant have you been to me;
your love to me was extraordinary,
surpassing the love of women.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)

- There are many contemporary interpreters who go into overdrive here, claiming that this is evidence of a homosexual relationship between David and Jonathan.
- But Davis writes: "It is utterly wrong-headed to read the idea of homosexuality into this text. The comparison between Jonathan's love and a wife's love is not at the point of sexuality, but at the point of fidelity."

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David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)

- From everything we know about OT law and practice, they would both have found the implication abhorrent (Lev. 18:22; 20:13). Moreover, the word '*ahav*' ("love") is not used elsewhere to express homosexual desire or activity; the word that is used to express this is *yada'* ("know," Gen. 19:5), which is never used of David's relationship with Jonathan.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)

- The idea that there existed some sort of homosexual relationship between David and Jonathan ignores huge differences between that age and culture and our own and rather massively imposes our own categories on an ancient context.
- First, we must be careful not to import our (postmodern) romantic and sexual connotations of the word "love" into the Hebrew word '*ahav*' which is here describing the deep *friendship* between the two men (see Deut. 13:6).

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David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)

- Second, in speaking of love ('*ahav*'), we must also recognize the covenantal dimension of this terminology. "Love" is the word that describes the agreed-upon and sworn-to-keep behavior between covenant parties.

1 Kings 5:1:

Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram always loved David.

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David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)**2 Samuel 1:27:**

"How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!"

- *In composing this lament, David is also leading the people by example, showing them that they, too, should lament. "Lest anyone imagine that I, David, or anyone else should celebrate at the death of Israel's anointed king, we must not do so!" Saul was tormented in his life, full of envy and disobedience and persecution. But he was also the king, and we will now honor him as such, having now fallen.*

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Mourns Saul & Becomes King of Judah (1:1-2:7)

1. Amalekite Lies, David Cries, Amalekite Dies (1:1-16)
2. David's Lament for Saul and His House (1:17-27)
3. **David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**2 Samuel 2:1:**

After this David inquired of the LORD,
"Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?"
And the LORD said to him, "Go up."
David said, "To which shall I go up?"
And he said, "To Hebron."

- *Here is David, inquiring of the LORD, the way a righteous king should – as opposed to Saul:*

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**1 Chronicles 10:13-14:**

So Saul died for his breach of faith.
He broke faith with the LORD in that
he did not keep the command of the LORD,
and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance.
He did not seek guidance from the LORD.
Therefore, the LORD put him to death
and turned the kingdom over to David
the son of Jesse.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**Proverbs 3:5-6:**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

James 1:5:

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
who gives generously to all without reproach,
and it will be given him.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)

- By the way, the priest from whom David seeks guidance is probably none other than Abiathar, the sole survivor from among the priestly descendants of Eli who were slain by Saul at Nob (1 Sam. 23:6-14).
- Note that Eleazar, the eldest surviving son of Aaron, had a son named Phinehas, with whom God made a covenant of a perpetual priesthood; his descendant was Zadok. Ithamar was the younger surviving son of Aaron; his descendants included Eli and his sons, Hophni and Phinehas; Abiathar was a descendant of this Phinehas.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)

- Where was David directed to go? To Hebron! What's so special about Hebron?
- Abraham dwelt there. Recall that in his journey through the Promised Land, he first stopped at Shechem, then went on to Bethel and Ai, then went on further south to Hebron, where he ended up remaining:

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**Genesis 13:18:**

So Abram moved his tent and came
and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron,
and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Genesis 18:1-2:

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre,
as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)*Also, the patriarchs were buried in Hebron:***Genesis 49:29-32:**

Then he commanded them and said to them,
 "I am to be gathered to my people;
 bury me with my fathers in the cave
 that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,
 in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah,
 to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan,
 which Abraham bought with the field
 from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place."

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)*Also, the patriarchs are buried there in Hebron:***Genesis 49:29-32:** (cont'd)

"There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife.
 There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife,
 and there I buried Leah –
 the field and the cave that is in it
 were bought from the Hittites."

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)

- When the Israelites entered the land, Caleb, who had been one of only two spies that returned from their exploration of Canaan arguing that Israel should obey the LORD's command and enter it (the other being Joshua), was given this important real estate (Josh. 14).
- In sum, Hebron was the most important town in Judah and served as David's capital prior to the taking of Jerusalem. Here is where, with the beginning of David's rule and of his dynasty, the kingdom of God first became visible in the world, for those who have eyes to see.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**2 Samuel 2:2-3:**

So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)

David had two wives at this time:

- Ahinoam of Jezreel (1 Sam. 25:43),
the mother of David's firstborn, Amnon (2 Sam. 3:2)
- Abigail, widow of Nabal of Carmel (1 Sam. 25:3, 40-42)

Saul had given his daughter, Michal, to be David's first wife (1 Sam. 18:27), but Saul had then taken her back and given him to Palti (1 Sam. 25:44). As king, David would later bring her back to be his wife (2 Sam. 3:14).

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**2 Samuel 2:4a:**

And the men of Judah came,
and there they anointed David
king over the house of Judah.

- *It was 13 years since David was anointed by Samuel, now at last he has become king – and not by nefarious means, but by the hand of God. Here for the first time, the Lord's chosen King visibly rules on earth. The kingdom of God here, in Hebron, is like a mustard seed.*

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)

- It is a small beginning, but a good one!

Zechariah 4:10a:

For whoever has despised the day of small things
shall rejoice.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**2 Samuel 2:4b-7:**

When they told David,
"It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul,"
David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead
and said to them, "May you be blessed by the LORD,
because you showed this loyalty
to Saul your lord and buried him.
Now may the LORD show steadfast love
and faithfulness to you."

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

David Becomes King in Hebron (2:1-7)**2 Samuel 2:4b-7:** (cont'd)

"And I will do good to you
because you have done this thing.
Now therefore let your hands be strong,
and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead,
and the house of Judah
has anointed me king over them."

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

In Summary

- In this passage, we see the inauguration of David's kingdom, and there is a profound contrast between David's person and character and that of Saul.
- Here is a man after God's own heart, whose rule is consciously submitted to the LORD as to his own Lord, who knows that his rule over the kingdom of Israel on earth must be informed, guided, and led by the principles and prophetic word of the kingdom of God.

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KINGDOM RESET: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

In Summary

- Three things. First, in mourning for Saul's death, David shows his people, and us, how to respect the office even when the office-bearer has not done well or rightly in it.
- David is mourning for what Saul had been called to be, what Saul could and been and should have been had he had the courage and character to be truly faithful and trusting in the LORD. And this mourning and lament, at the vast falling short of things and people, is something that we would do well to acknowledge and speak to in our lives together and in our worship (see Matt. 5:4).

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In Summary

- Second, we see here in the very beginning of David's reign the presence of the Amalekite, the representative of the nation that epitomized, in its relentless malice and hostility to the LORD and his people, the seed of the Serpent, snapping at the heel, ever seeking to destroy the Anointed One and to drag his people into the bondage of darkness. And David did what Adam ought to have done, and gives us a shadow and type of what Jesus the Christ would do most fully: he crushed the head of the Serpent as it manifested itself that day.

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In Summary

- Third, we see in the small beginnings of David's reign a picture of what righteous kingship looks like. It is rule and authority submitted wholly and willingly to the higher rule and authority of the LORD.
- In these ways, David foreshadows the greatness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who would mourn with those who mourn, deliver his people from darkness, crush the head of the Serpent, and reign seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. Amen!