

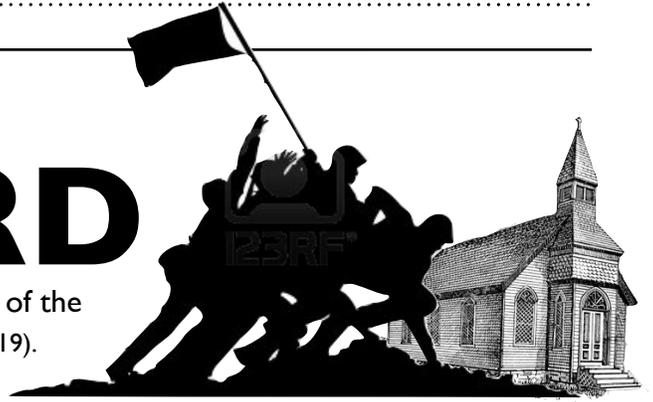


“No More Power To Weep”

(First Samuel 30:4)

Lifting Up The **STANDARD**

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 34 - September 8, 2014

“Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.”

(First Samuel 30:4)

Choices And Consequences

David survived in the wilderness for about fourteen years while running for his life from Saul, and three-thousand soldiers who hunted him. During all of it we read four times that *“David behaved himself wisely.”*

Finally, he got weary of it all and we read that he said, *“I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines”* (First Samuel 27:1).

This was the end of David's problem concerning Saul; however, in order to end this problem David became a traitor to Israel, even to the place that he lined up with the Philistines to battle against Israel. The king of the Philistines said, *“He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever”* (First Samuel 27:12).

David went to war against Israel; however, by the grace of God the princes of the Philistines would not allow David and his men to go to the battle. They said, *“Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place*

It only takes a second to make a choice; however, the choice made in a second will have consequences that will last a lifetime.

Everything we do is based on our choices. We must not blame our past environment or anyone for the choices we make.



*“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore **choose** life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”*
(Deuteronomy 30:19)

which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us” (First Samuel 29:4).

David was sent back to Ziklag, where he and his six-hundred men lived, only to find it on fire and their families gone.

First Samuel 30:1-3,

“And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.”

“It Came To Pass”

The story begins with the phrase “it came to pass.” Why did it happen? It happened as a result of David’s choice to leave the will of God and live in peaceful co-existence with the enemy. As a result we read in verse three, “Their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.”

They wept until they had no more power to weep and we also read that, “David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters.” **We, like David, are free to make whatever choices we want to make; however, we cannot choose the outcome of our choices.**

David’s Wise Response

While the men were talking to one another about stoning David, David was talking to God. We read in verse six that, “David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”

1. David encouraged himself in the LORD his God v.6.
2. David inquired at the LORD v.8.

God’s direction for David was, “Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all” v.8. David chose to follow God’s directions and as a result we read, “And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all” (First Samuel 30:19).

We can’t make bad choices and have good outcomes.

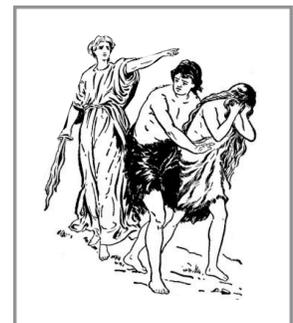
If you don’t like your life start making better choices

Those who influence us to make bad choices are least likely to be around to help when we must face the consequences of our choices

Let us be careful not to influence people to make bad choices

“How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be **chosen** than silver!”
(Proverbs 16:16)

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose** you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
(Proverbs 16:16)



Choices And Consequences

The Other Battle Was Raging

While David was rescuing the families that had been taken captive by the Amalekites the battle was raging between the Philistines and Israel. Things were not going well.

First Samuel 31:1,

“Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.”

In verse six we read,

“So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.”

Verse seven says,

“And when the men of Israel that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were on the other side Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

David’s Response

One might think that David would be glad to hear that Saul was dead. Saul had been trying to kill David for many years. David knew he had been anointed to be king of Israel and now that door was open. However, David response concerning Saul’s death was one of grief.

Second Samuel 1:11,12,

“Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.”

What Next?

David had learned to wait on God.

Second Samuel 2:1,

“And it came to pass after this, that David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.”

The throne was empty, Israel was in a mess as the Philistines continued to conquer them, Israel needed a leader; however, David did not rush up to Jerusalem to take charge of things, rather he *“inquired of the LORD.”* God’s plan was for David to go to Hebron. Jerusalem and the throne would come in God’s timing.

Making Decisions

1. Could I ask God to bless this decision?
 2. Could it be a stumbling block to someone?
 3. Have I thought about the consequences?
 4. Would I want to be doing this when Christ returns?
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Choices And Consequences

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”
(Proverbs 3:5,6)

Choose

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart.”

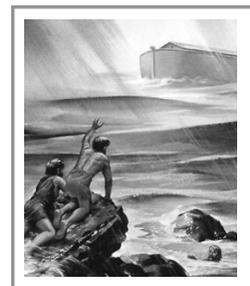
Yes ___ **No** ___

“Lean not unto thine own understanding.”

Yes ___ **No** ___

“In all thy ways acknowledge him,”

Yes ___ **No** ___



Choices And Consequences

We read in verse four,

“The men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.”

In verse eight we read,

“But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim; And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.”

David Patiently Waited On God

Second Samuel 2:11,

And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.”

David ignored his enemy and only fought when being attacked. He was only king over one tribe at this time; however, he would wait on God's timing for the throne of Israel. At this point in his life he had been waiting for about twenty years since he had been anointed king.



Years ago we started a church (pictured here). There was a retired pastor who came to our services every week. He had had a stroke and could not walk well. I waited for him each week to help him up the steps. It was a slow trip. Every week, he would say to me in a slurred voice, “always remember, God is never in a hurry but He is never late.” **It was one of the greatest sermons I have ever heard.**

David Got His Throne In God's Timing

Second Samuel 5:1-5,

1 Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that ledest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

*3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and **they anointed David king over Israel.***

4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

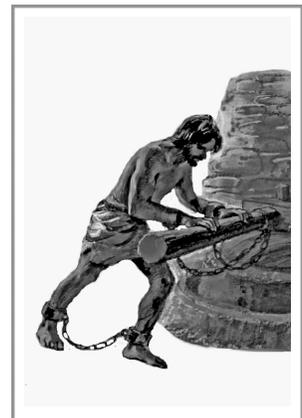
5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.



Choices And Consequences



Choices And Consequences



Choices And Consequences

Be Patient
God's delays
Are Not
Denials