

2nd Samuel Ch 8-9

Vs1-2

Vs 1 begins, “After this.” And the natural question that I suppose would proceed would be, “After what?” And if you take the position that ch 8 is out of chronological order due to the context of Ch’s 6-7, then you’d understand this to mean, “After the things of ch 6 but before Ch 7.” Because ch 7 begins by pointing out the rest that David had received from the Lord from his enemies all around, or on every side. And Because of the fact that Ch 8 speaks of all of these epic battles that David took part in, many believe that Ch 8 belongs chronologically between Ch 6 and 7. But because of the priority and context of the ark, and David’s dealings with it regarding his relationship to God there are those who say that Ch 8 was inserted after Ch 7 to simply chronicle the events that preceded David’s rest.

If you believe that there is nothing out of order regarding these Ch’s and that Ch 7 simply speaks of one of the rare seasons of rest that David found himself in and then it was back to the warfare, then, “After this” refers to that which began to take place after the rest, and refreshment that David had received in the Lord. And *There are* some insights that can be drawn from the latter perspective, because one thing we do see in these vs is that David went on the *offense*. He wasn’t being attacked, he was doing the attacking, in other words he was refreshed *by* the Lord, had his time of rest *in* the Lord, and then went on the attack, or the offense *for* the Lord, fighting the Philistines, and mowing down the Moabites. He was “Storming the gates of hell” if you will, he’s taking enemy territory for the Kingdom. Jesus said, “*I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*” Matt 16:18. And He went on to say that He would give us the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever we would bind on earth would be bound in heaven, and whatever we loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven. And here David is loosing the forces of the kingdom and binding the enemy and taking his territory, now we know that with us we don’t wrestle flesh and blood, “*The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.*” 2 Cor 10:4-5

And so to with us, we come into the sanctuary of God each Sunday morning, each Wednesday evening, and we’re refreshed, we’re revitalized spiritually, and we rest perpetually in Jesus. But once we’ve come to that place of being refreshed and rested up, we’re to leave this place and go on the offense, the attack. Once *we’re* rested up *in* the Lord and refreshed *by* the Lord, then we’re to go on the attack, or the offense *for* the Lord. How; through prayer, and the things that we share regarding the love and grace and forgiveness of God, we’re to be out there taking enemy territory and claiming it for the Kingdom, expanding Kingdom territory. Surely the forces of hell seek to expand their borders everyday by taking people off the planet with out Jesus Christ, and we’re to be out there taking back the territory that enemy has claimed that the Kingdom of God might be increased and established in the manner that God would have it to be.

Don't get me wrong it's great to serve the Lord in the fellowship, and we're so thankful for each individual who says, "Yes, count me in, in serving here at CCJ" but the territory is taken out there beyond these 4 walls. Don't be ashamed of the gospel, share the truth with your co-workers, or friends at school or whatever, when you're at lunch or on break and God opens that door, go for it.

So rather than being attacked by the enemy, David is on the attack, he's received his rest, has been refreshed; now he's expanding the kingdom.

And we see where it says, "David took Metheg Ammah from the hand of the Philistines." If you'll look in your margin you'll see where Metheg Ammah literally means, "The Bridle of the Mother city." Which is to say, this was a primary seat of power in Philistine territory, now when you compare this to 1st Chronicles 18 you realize that this was another name for the city of Gath, which as you know was where Goliath was from. This was like a capital city for the Philistines and anytime you have the bridle of anything you're in control of it. If you take the reins of the bit and bridle in the horse's mouth, you have control. So the point here is that he subdued, and cast them down, he has the upper hand even in their own territory, he's taking enemy territory for the kingdom.

Now in vs 2 we see some profiling going on. Now you recall that when David was fleeing from Saul that he took his folks *into* the land of Moab and sought refuge for them there. He was actually related to them through his great grandma Ruth. And So it seems rather harsh the way he's measuring them off and killing them here, but it's thought that they may've killed his parents or somehow mistreated them to incite this type of retribution from David. But what seems to be happening here is that once he subjected them, he literally forced them all to lay down and he had some type of measuring line, and if you were a big guy and it took 2 lines to measure you, you were killed, and if you were a little guy and could be measured with 1 line, you were allowed to live. So then those who seemed to be a threat, were executed, and those who didn't pose much threat could live. And The fact is, that as politically correct as our society has come, there is a time when we have to exercise discernment as to what's going to be of benefit to the kingdom and what's going to be of detriment. Jesus put it like this, "*Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*" Matt 7:6 So for you and me, when you're out there taking ground for the kingdom, use discernment, when you're sharing with someone, send up a silent prayer, ask God to reveal to you if this is someone who has genuine skepticism and is open to reason, or is this someone who couldn't care less who just wants to argue. Because Satan would love nothing more than to get you engaged is a waste of time rather than seeing you redeem the time, to get you tangled up in a never ending no win argument, than sowing the seed of God's Word in a heart that's fertile and ready to be harvested. There are times that you'll just have to measure someone off, and move on, perhaps one day they'll be open, but it's not now, and it's not by you. But don't waste your time arguing with someone who has no interest, just move on.

Vs3-4

I'm not going to draw attention to it every time, but take note of the size of these battles and the victories that David is gaining over his enemies. How is it happening? By David's faith in the Word of God, he knew the land that God had promised to give the nation of Israel and he trusted that God was able to keep His Word. Remember what we observed in Ch 7 regarding our ability to trust the Word of God, #1 God has spoken it, #2 His Words are true, and #3 He has promised, and God is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of Man that He should repent, if He speaks, He'll bring it to pass. And So again David serves as a great example for you and me in that He trusted in the promises of the Word of God, and he acted upon them. And God's just looking for someone who has the faith to take Him for His Word. We take man for his word, if someone tells you that they'll meet you and such and such a place at such and such a time, we believe them. And We act upon their word by being at that place at that time, now if I'll trust man's word, (man being the lying, deceiving, sinner that he is), how much more should I trust God's Word?

And these are incredible victories that David is gaining; on foot he's taking out all these chariots and horsemen and all. And He's getting rid of all the horses except for 100 chariots worth. Because we find in Duet 17 the fact that the Kings of Israel weren't to multiply wives or horses to themselves, so apparently out of wives or horses David chose horses not to multiply. :0)

But this is how we are, he stood firm on that portion of God's Word, but wavered on the portion regarding wives, and we can be so strong on this point, yet faltering on another. We've got the tithe thing down maybe, but our temper stinks, or maybe it's the other way around. But really it's not the things that we speak out about that reveal who we are as much as the issues that we're silent on. Those things we're struggling with and seeking to gain victory over, maybe you don't struggle with lust, but you lie like a dog, or you gossip like crazy, you just can't keep your mouth shut. God help us to trust Him for victory in every area of our lives, not just the things that seem under control.

Vs5-12

So David is taking those things which once was the glory of the enemy, and the strength and stature of the enemy, (the gold shields, articles of silver and bronze) and using them as trophies that demonstrate the power and the goodness, and the work of God. And Back in vs 6, "The Lord preserved David wherever he went." This is that divine hedge of protection that God places around His servants that preserves you and me until the day God is finished with us. Now we know we're not to do foolish thing and test the Lord our God, but as long as you're serving Him with a true heart, until the day He's finished with you, He will preserve you. And When He's done with me, I'm ready to be with Him, who wants to be here a second longer than God desires you to be? But until He's finished, I want to be about the business of expanding and establishing the Kingdom to His glory. And David knew that this was all the Lord's doing, and so everything he had, (notice vs 11) he "dedicated to the Lord."

Can I tell you that everything you are, and everything you have, and that next breath you take is all by the Lord's doing. Dedicate those things to the Lord, we want to hang on to various threads in our lives, our own career, our own income, our own hobbies and interests, or whatever, all those things are yours because the Lord has granted them to you, dedicate them to Him, and He'll bless your life. Some people can handle failure, it sends them to their knees, causes them to cling to God, but it's the successes that hurt them, make them proud and self-confident. David knew how to handle success as well as failure; he gave everything to the Lord.

Vs13-18

What do we see here? Accountability in the responsibility, David wasn't a 1 man show, he delegated and facilitated his God given responsibilities, we don't read of this type of administration in Saul's reign. But we serve a God of order and structure, (flexibility, yes) but not random chaos, God is a God of order, and David who was a man after His heart had order to his kingdom.

Ch 9

Vs1-4

Now I like the progression here because in Ch 7 David's question was, "What can I do for God?" And now it's, "What can I do for others?" And that's always the way the pattern works, whenever you want to know what you can do for God, it will manifest itself somehow by doing for others. Jesus said, "*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*" John 13:35

In other words, people are going to be able to validate your time spent with Me by the way you interact with one another, the way you're treating others, the kindness, and love and forgiveness you extend to others. 1st David looked up, and now he's looking out, now you remember that David and Jonathon were the best of friends, and Jonathon knew that David was going to be the next king, and they made a covenant with one another that they would serve together and David would be gracious to his family. Because traditionally anytime another kind ascended to the throne they simply killed off all potential threats and rivals of the existing royal family.

And now that David's at a point where he's established in the kingdom he says, "Is there anyone left of Saul's house, I want to show them kindness for Jonathon's sake." Notice that, it's not because the lineage of Saul is so great, it's not because of any quality found in that individual, it's for the sake of the King's son (King Saul, Jonathon) and it's based upon a covenant.

And in vs 3 it's not simply kindness on a human level that David wants to extend, it's the "Kindness of God." And David knew what the kindness of God entailed because God had extended His kindness to David, it went well beyond anything David deserved and there were no strings attached. And I point that out because, to show someone kindness is one thing, but to show them the kindness of God is quite another.

If I show you kindness it's contingent upon you being kind to me as well. But if it's the kindness of God I extend, I just want to bless your life, it's like love on the human level, and love of God's level, the forgiveness of man, verses the forgiveness of God. The forgiveness of man says, "I'll forgive you, if you promise to never to that, or say that, or be apart of that again." "And if you do, or say, or are apart of that again, so help me I'll never speak to you, or see you again, or we're through." Or whatever, aren't you glad God doesn't forgive on the basis of the 3 strike rule or something? We'd all be out, we'd all be destined to burn in hell forever because we violate God in the same way over and over and over again. That's why God says that we're to forgive even as we've been forgiven, you know what "Irreconcilable differences" means? "Unable to forgive" that's it, can't get beyond it, grow through it, or focus on what I need to do vs what they need to do. But God actually gives to us His kindness, His love, and His forgiveness, why? So we can give them away, and bless others through them.

Now as of yet, Mephibosheth hasn't been named, Ziba is speaking in ambiguous terms because he's not altogether certain that David won't kill him. But we know a few things about Mephibosheth and that is, he was lame in his feet. He was unable to walk (maybe Ziba mentions that to David to incite mercy from him, make sure he knows that Mephibosheth is no threat to the throne.) But you recall when Jonathon was killed with Saul in that battle with the Philistines, and at the time Mephibosheth was only 5. And So his nurse, or nanny, his baby sitter, when she heard the news she immediately scooped him up to run for cover because she knew he'd be killed if they found him. But somehow she fell, or tripped, and I don't know if she landed on him or he fell a certain way but when he fell, it crippled him for life.

So he can't walk, and he's also very poor, we read where he's living with someone else (now he's about 20-21 or so now) and he has no place of his own, he's poor and he's living in Lo Debar which means, "Pastureless place" it's a desert, very dry, no life.

Vs5-6

Now put yourself in Mephibosheth's position, he's been in hiding in fear for his life all these 15yrs or so knowing that at any moment he could be summoned to appear before the king and when he does it's curtains for him. And One day you're there in the back room and you hear a knock on the door, "Is there a Mephibosheth that abides here?" "Who wants to know", "The king is calling for him and commands his immediate appearance before him." And terror strikes his heart and he's thinking, "This is it, I've made a pretty good run at it to this point, but I knew this day would catch up to me."

That's why there in vs 6 when David sought to confirm his identity that he immediately fell prostrate upon his face and said, "Here is your servant!" And the underlying current woven through there is, "Please don't kill me!" But his fear of the king is in no way founded on fact, only assumption, notice what David says.

Vs7-8

So David makes good on the covenant he established with Mephibosheth's dad. And 1st of all restored what was rightfully his, his inheritance that would've gone to him after the death of his granddad and his dad, and Mephibosheth knew about this inheritance, but he was too fearful to stand up and make his claim because then he would be exposed as a potential rival to the throne, so he chose to live in poverty. But not only did David give him what was rightfully his, he went beyond that in giving Mephibosheth the honor of a close personal relationship with the king, promised that he would be nourished at the king's table continually. And In Vs 8 Mephibosheth humbly receives David's grace and kindness, realizes he's done nothing to deserve this type of treatment, much like David before the Lord, "Who am I, and what is my house that you have brought me this far?"

Vs9-13

So the king's kindness didn't change the fact that he was lame, he still had issues, but the kindness of the king wasn't based upon Mephibosheth's perfection, it was based upon a covenant relationship and the kindness of God.

Now you well know that in this chapter is one of the great foreshadowing's of God's work of redemption towards you and me. We're Mephibosheth and David takes the role of the Father in this scenario:

Here we were not seeking after God, but in reality before our King called for us we were hiding from Him, poor, weak, and lame, not walking upright but in deceit. Mephibosheth lived in separation from the king because of the enemy Saul had made David out to be, because of what Saul had done and how he had lived. We are separated from our King (initially) because of what Adam had done, how he had lived. But Mephibosheth also chose deliberately to stay away from the King and even so we make a conscious decision to stay away from God prior to His seeking us out.

Mephibosheth's separation was due to the fact that he didn't understand the King's love for him, how that he was for him and not against him, had thoughts of peace and not evil toward him, to give him a future and a hope.

Why don't we seek to reconcile with our King prior to His seeking us out? Because we don't understand His love for us, the fact that He's for us and not against us, has thought's of peace and not evil and judgment against us, wants to give us a future and a hope. And Just like in this Ch, Our King sought us out before we sought Him.

David didn't extend himself to Mephibosheth because of Mephibosheth, the fact that he was so cool or would be such an asset to the kingdom, he had nothing to offer, if anything he as a physical detriment and handicap to the kingdom. And Even so God doesn't extend Himself to us because we're so cool or because we'd be such an asset to His kingdom, if anything we're a handicap and a detriment to His kingdom. But He looks upon the world and says, "Is there anyone of the house of Adam that I might show kindness to for the sake of Jesus." He extends Himself to us on the behalf of Jesus, not because of who we are.

And even as David made a covenant with Jonathon God's relationship with us is based on the covenant relationship extended to us in Christ. How are we to receive our Kings kindness? In humility; David gave back what Mephibosheth had lost, Joel 2:25 assures us that God will restore to us the years that the Locust has chewed away from our lives when we come to Him. But He gives us more even as David did; we have the privilege of provision at the King's table.

We are received as sons at the King's table, with access to the King and fellowship with Him, even as Mephibosheth received servants the bible tells us that God sends angel's to minister on the behalf of those who will inherit salvation. How many times we've been spared that we don't even know it because of the labor of the servants given to us.

And as much as we're like Mephibosheth, poor, weak, lame, living in dry and deserted places before the Lord sought us out, and extended to us the position of dining at His royal table with Him continually. We also do well to model David's grace as a pattern of serving and ministering to others.

David had every right to view Mephibosheth as an enemy, but rather than blast him he sought to bless him. Not because he deserved it, but because he wanted to demonstrate to him the kindness of God. We don't bless people for their sake, but for Jesus sake, so that He might be seen in us, what good is it to love those who love us back. Or to do good to those who've already treated us right. *"I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."* Matt 5:44-45