

David 7: Out of Wilderness - Dark before the Dawn (1 Sam 27-31)

1. Life of Compromise & Importance of Hope (1 Sam 27:1-28:2)
 - a. David in lowest point? Following 2 victories & passing the test David fell into despair? *'Just before the dawn is the darkest'* – i.e. 1 year & 4 months or 16 months to go for the promise of God to come to pass (27:7). Instead 16 months of life of compromise & living outside of God's will. Have you been in one? What happened?
 - b. 'Has David lost 'hope?' (No hope, no protection over mind) – putting on the hope of salvation as helmet (1 Thess 5:8) → being driven by fear (27:1) → Life of Compromise.
 - c. When you lose hope, it is dangerous time. *'Those who lose hope lose everything.'*
 - 'Out of God's perfect will' – i.e. Land of Judah is God's will for David. But driven by fear David goes to Gath and becomes servant to Philistine king Achish for 16 months, despite God's prophetic word to David (22:5)
 - 'Life of lie' – David raided Geshurites, Girzites, and Amelekites (27:4), but left no survivor at all (men/women). Then lied to Achish and told him that he raided southern borders of Judah (27:9-10). [David walking in darkness & compromise] David living the *life of deception & lie*, 16 months prior to the fulfillment of God's word.
 - *'And thus was his behaviour (unusual) all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.'* (27:11) – being 'out of the will of God' makes us vulnerable to the powers of darkness.
 - Importance of keeping hope! David's psalms overflow with message of 'hope' out of the most hopeless situations of life! – Dr. Viktor E. Frankl.
"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." (Ps. 27:13-14)
"Truly my soul silently waits for God. For Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense. I shall not be greatly moved...My souls, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense. I shall not be moved." (Ps. 62:1-2. 5-6).
 - d. God's sovereign grace – God did not disqualify David for 16 months life of compromise. This is God's incredible goodness & kindness of God.
 - (1) God protected David during those raids by God's sovereign grace. Outside of God's will spiritual protection thins out. E.g. Josiah's death (2 Chr 35:20-24).
 - (2) God didn't allow David to join in the war with Israel as part of the Philistine army that would have Saul's family killed (1 Sam 31). Imagine David in battle against Saul & Jonathan. God used Philistine lord's disfavour to save him out of situation that could have been a *'deal breaker'* for David's calling.
2. Death of Saul and Sin of Witchcraft (1 Sam 28:3-25, 31:1-11)
 - a. Saul's heart began to tremble in 'fear' as the anointing lifted off of Saul (28:5). *When the anointing lifts off of God's servants, a darkness equal to the level of anointing sweeps into the unyielded soul.* E.g. after a time of anointed ministry is dangerous time. Only 'humility' & 'obedience' is protection against such attack.
 - E.g. (1) Saul started out with divine confidence to war against Philistines – Saul's humble beginning (1 Sam 11:11-13). (2) Distressing spirit began to harass Saul (1 Sam 16:14, 23). (3) Under the unction of the Spirit Saul prophesied while being

- stripped off clothes (naked) all night (clash of the spirits). (4) Saul's heart trembled greatly in fear (28:5), then consulted witch of En Dor prior to his death.
- b. It is no accident Saul ended up consulting a witch at En Dor prior to death. Like attracts like. Saul was operating out of a spirit of divination already! How? He was stubborn & rebellious against the word of God that came to him through Samuel. Saul's attitude toward the word of God was his attitude toward God Himself.
- *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king." (15:22-23)* – In here the sin of 'rebellion & stubbornness' is identified as the sin of witchcraft & idolatry (worshipping of self).
 - That's why God had to make sure that there is no spirit of rebellion in David.
 - Caution: Seeking 'anointing' while subbing God's word is deadly combination. Jesus' warning of the false prophets in the last days. Many will attain to a measure of 'anointing' while disobedient to God's word in their life to their demise. i.e. Many will operate out of true anointing initially then move into witchcraft later.
3. Ziglag Disaster and Recovery (1 Sam 30:1-31)
- a. David came back to Ziglag spared by God's mercy from war with Israel (Saul & Jonathan's demise). Meanwhile Ziglag was raided/torched and the entire family of David's army was taken away by Amalekites – i.e. Principle of 'Sowing & reaping'. 'What goes around comes around.' (God's protection didn't stretch quite that far.)
- b. David and his men wept until they had no more power to weep (30:4). *"David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God." (30:6)*
- Lowest point of David's life up until now. 'David almost got stoned by his own people!' However, 'David strengthened himself in the LORD his God' – Q: how did he do that? How do we do this? 'praying in the Spirit'
 - You are God's soldier in a battle. When you get wounded and your soul turns bitter, don't crumble under pressure and stay down. We have no divine right to stay bitter, but do what David did before God! 'Encourage ourselves before God' – Remember that the Holy Spirit is the great Encourager!
 - How important it is to 'keep our heart supple before God' – Paul's dream. *"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)*
- c. What next? David enquired of the Lord again! (30:8). David asked the right question: *"Shall I pursue this troop?"* Not "Is it too late Lord?" God's answer: "Pursue for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all." (30:8) The Lord speaks the same word to you and me also. If David didn't take up courage to pursue, he would have lost all, and perhaps ended up being 'stoned to death'?
- d. God arranged everything including Egyptian slave who fell sick 3 days ago and was left behind. David's men came upon Amalekites camp and slaughtered them from twilight to the next day evening and recovered everything! "...And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they [Amalekites] had taken from them; David recovered all." (30:17-19)
- *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Rom 8:28)*

- e. The words of *'certain wicked & worthless men'* (30:22). 200 of David's army were too tired to cross the Brook Besor and fight. Certain wicked & worthless men said to David, *'Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered except for every man's wife and children, that they may lead them away and depart.'* (30:22)
- Spirit of 'what's in it for me' (unity breaker): In God's army one fights for all & all fight for one! We fight for our brother's inheritance.
 - David's response: (1) The Lord has given us the victory hence the victory belongs to all (30:23); (2) We fight for our brother's inheritance (30:24). *Since this day this principle became a law for Israeli army (30:25).*
 - E.g. Reuben, Gad & half tribe of Manasseh wanted to settle on the east side of Jordan and asked for their inheritance first (Num 32:1-5). But they were mandated to fight until all Israel received their inheritance before they came to settle. Until this day 2 ½ tribe's inheritance has been the most vulnerable to attack to this day (Golan Heights).
 - Leadership lesson: Leaders' attitude toward one another is more important than their gifts. Godly leadership is willing fight for brother/sister's inheritance. Not only interested in my portion. (Ps. 133)
4. Psalms 18 (c.f. 2 Sam 22) – Psalm of David...who spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from Saul:
- a. David's resolve to love the LORD:
"I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (18:1-2)
 - b. God's kindness to David:
"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundation of the hills also quaked and were shaken, because He was angry. Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet." (18:6-9)
"He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me." (18:19)
"You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great." (18:35)
 - c. God's character in dealing with mankind:
"With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful
With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless
With the pure You will show Yourself pure
And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd." (18:25-27)

Discussion Questions:

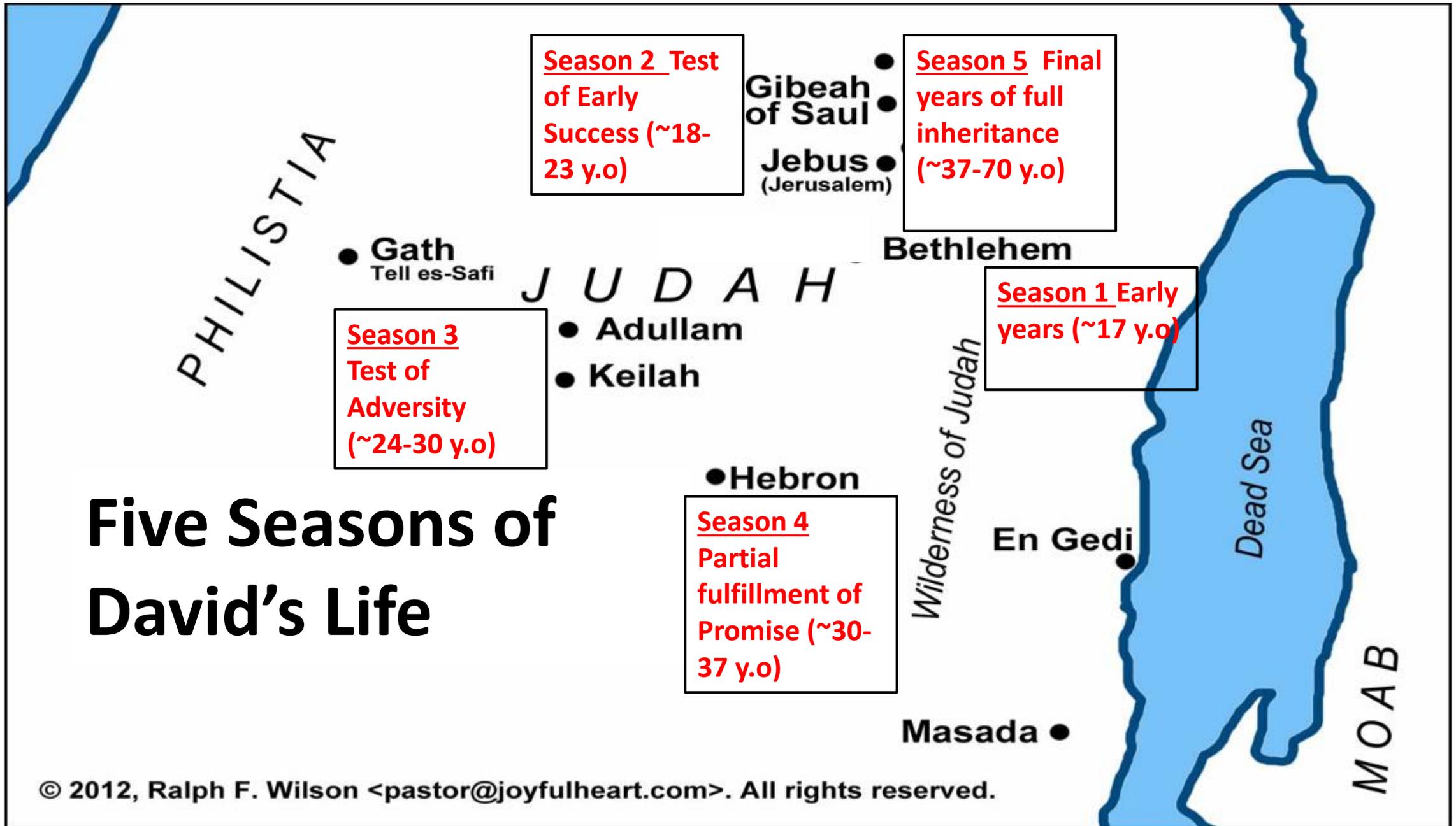
1. What happens when we lose hope? What did David do for 16 months when he lost hope? (C.f. 1 Sam 27:7) Why is it essential to maintain hope in Christian living?
2. How did David encourage himself in the LORD his God in the most challenging situation? (1 Sam 30:4-5) How do you encourage yourself in God?
3. How is Saul's manner of death connected to his inner condition of heart? (c.f. 1 Sam 15:22-23) What lessons can we learn from Saul's death?
4. Are there any area of your life God is saying, "*Pursue, for you shall surely over take them and without fail recover all.*" (1 Sam 30:8)
5. Can you summarise the message of Ps. 18? How does David recount God's kindness & God's character?



Life of David 7:
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2019-02-17 Ps. Paul Kim

Five Seasons of David's Life



David 7: Out of Wilderness - Dark before the Dawn (1 Sam 27-31)

27 And David said in his heart, *“Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.”* ² Then David arose and went over with the six hundred men who were with him to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. ³ So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal’s widow. ⁴ And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more.

⁵ Then David said to Achish, *“If I have now found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?”* ⁶ So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. ⁷ Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months.

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⁸ And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those *nations* were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt. ⁹ Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish. ¹⁰ Then Achish would say, “*Where have you made a raid today?*” And David would say, “*Against the southern area of Judah, or against the southern area of the Jerahmeelites, or against the southern area of the Kenites.*” ¹¹ David would save neither man nor woman alive, to bring *news* to Gath, saying, “*Lest they should inform on us, saying, ‘Thus David did.’*” ***And thus was his behavior all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.*** ¹² So Achish believed David, saying, “He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever.”

David's Life of Compromise & Importance of Hope (1 Sam 27:1-28:2)

1. After coming through God's test in flying colours has David fallen into despair? *'Just before the dawn is the darkest'* – i.e. **1 year & 4 months to endure** before God's promises to come to pass (27:7). *But David is living a life of compromise outside of God's will.*
 - a. **No hope, no protection:** *'putting on the hope of salvation as helmet'* (1 Thess 5:8) → *fear driven life (27:1)* → *Life of Lie & Compromise*. When you lose hope, it is dangerous time. *'Those who lose hope lose everything.'*
 - b. *'Out of God's perfect will'* – i.e. Land of Judah is God's will for David. But driven by fear David goes to Gath and becomes servant to Philistine king Achish for 16 months, despite Gad's prophetic word to David (22:5)
 - c. *'Life of lie'* – David raided Geshurites, Girzites, and Amelekites (27:4), but left no survivor at all (men/women). Then David lied to Achish about his raids and told him that he raided southern borders of Judah (27:9-10). **This is a life of deception**, 16 months prior to the fulfillment of God's word.
*'And thus was **his behaviour** (unusual) all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.'* (27:11) – Living *'out of God's will'* makes us susceptible to darkness.

David's Life of Compromise & Importance of Hope (1 Sam 27:1-28:2)

- d. **Importance of keeping hope!** David's psalms flow with stream of 'hope' e.g. Dr. Viktor E. Frankl.
- *"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." (Ps. 27:13-14)*
 - *"Truly my soul silently waits for God. From Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense. I shall not be greatly moved. My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense. I shall not be moved." (Ps. 62:1-2, 5-6).*
- e. **God's sovereign grace** – *God did not disqualify David for 16 months of compromise* – i.e. Incredible goodness & kindness of God.
- **God protected David during those raids.** Outside of God's will spiritual protection thins out. E.g. Josiah's death (2 Chr 35:20-24).
 - **God didn't allow David to join in the war with Israel** that would have Saul's family killed (1 Sam 31). Can you imagine David in battle against Saul & Jonathan? God used Philistine lord's disfavour to rescue him out of *'deal breaker' situation*.

Death of Saul and Sin of Witchcraft (1 Sam 28:3-25, 31:1-11)

- 1. Saul's heart began to tremble in 'fear' as the anointing lifted off of Saul (28:5).**
When the anointing lifts off of God's servants, a darkness equal to the level of anointing sweeps into the unyielded soul. E.g. after a time of anointed ministry is dangerous time. Only 'humility' & 'obedience' is protection against such attack.
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 - b. Lowest point of David’s life! But David strengthened (encouraged) himself in the LORD. HOW?
 - c. We are God’s soldiers in a battle. When we get wounded in spiritual battle and our soul tastes bitterness, we must do same as David. Don’t crumble under pressure. No divine right to stay down & stay bitter. ‘Encourage ourselves in our God!’ Holy Spirit, the encourager!
 - d. How important it is to ‘keep our heart supple before God’. *“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”* (Proverbs 4:23)
2. What next? David enquired of the Lord again! (30:8). David asked the right question: “Shall I pursue this troop?” Not “Is it too late Lord?” God’s answer: “Pursue for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.” (30:8) – (that sounds like God’s voice.) *If David didn’t take up courage to pursue what would have happened to David?*

Ziglag Disaster and Recovery (1 Sam 30:1-31)

3. God arranged everything including Egyptian slave who fell sick and was left behind. David's men came upon Amalekites camp and slaughtered them from twilight to the next day evening and recovered everything! *"...And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they [Amalekites] had taken from them; David recovered all."* (30:17-19)
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 - **Watch out for 'what's in it for me' spirit (unity breaker!).** In God's army one fights for all & all fight for one! We fight for our brother's inheritance. David's response: (1) *The Lord has given us the victory hence the victory belongs to all (30:23);* (2) *We fight for our brother's inheritance (30:24).* *Since this day this principle became a law for Israeli army (30:25).*
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 - **Leadership Principle:** *Leaders attitude to each other is more important than their gifts. – i.e. godly leadership is willing to fight for brother/sister's inheritance. Not only interested for my portion. (Ps. 133)*

Psalm 18 – Psalm of David...who spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from Saul:

1. David's resolve to love the LORD:

"I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (18:1-2)

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3. God's character :

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With the pure You will show Yourself pure

And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd." (18:25-27)

