

Daily Bible Study

“A Covenant Kept”

Selected Scripture ~ 1 & 2 Samuel

October 31 – November 6, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – In preparation for coming to The Lord’s Table this week we are going to take a look at several Old Testament texts that God willing will serve and help us in our understanding of God’s grace expressed to us as unworthy sinners in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is in fact the Gospel that we proclaim together in The Supper. This weeks Bible Study will not be like usual with substantial commentary; rather, it will focus on several texts of Scripture from **1 & 2 Samuel** which take us through the lives of a few men and provide a picture of *A Covenant Kept*. Our reading will be preparation for our study which we will do in more detail this Lord’s Day. I would ask you to just read and meditate on God’s Holy Word this week and may His Holy Spirit guide you and teach you. Our first text is the foundational one in which we see David & Jonathan make their Covenant. **1 Samuel 18:1-4** *“Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father’s house anymore. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.”*

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, give me ears to hear You speak from Your Word this week.

TUESDAY – These next few passages express to us the earnest and unselfish love which was behind the *Covenant* promise between these men. This unselfishness extends outside the lives of the men themselves as we read that they promised also to care for each others families in the event of their deaths. We see so clearly and beautifully the genuine love between David & Jonathan that their *Covenant* was built upon. Such a simple word as “*kindness*” is used in the making of this *Covenant* and how much depth of truth is expressed in that word (**Ephesians 4:32**). Read the passages and notice the love, kindness, and unselfishness: **1 Samuel 20:4** *“So Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you.”* **1 Samuel 20:8** *“Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. Nevertheless, if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?”* **1 Samuel 20:11-17** *“And Jonathan said to David, “Come, let us go out into the field.” So both of them went out into the field. Then Jonathan said to David: “The LORD God of Israel is witness! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day, and indeed there is good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you, may the LORD do so and much more to*

Jonathan. But if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “Let the LORD require it at the hand of David’s enemies.” Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.” **1 Samuel 20:35–42** “And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad was with him. Then he said to his lad, “Now run, find the arrows which I shoot.” As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, “Is not the arrow beyond you?” And Jonathan cried out after the lad, “Make haste, hurry, do not delay!” So Jonathan’s lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master. But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter. Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, “Go, carry them to the city.” As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so. Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.’” So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for the Biblical example from David & Jonathan and their true and genuine covenant love for each other and also the care of each others families. Thank You also for Your Covenant love for me which made me apart of Your family.

WEDNESDAY – In the text for today we see that the *Covenant* was not a temporary, spur of the moment decision made in hast by these men. Neither was it dependent upon times being “good”. These men remembered their promises to each other and reaffirmed them to one another in the midst of a difficult time in their lives. It is interesting to note that Jonathan *strengthened his (David’s) hand in God*. It is important that we see even in this human Covenant, The Lord God was the basis and foundation as Jonathan reminded his beloved friend David of God’s faithfulness and promise to make him King. This promise to David, (The Davidic Covenant as it is called) with its eternal and forever blessings would later be expressed in detail to “The Lesser David” by Nathan the Prophet speaking for The Lord Himself in **2 Samuel 7**. Read today’s texts and notice the Lord’s place and involvement in the Covenant: **1 Samuel 23:14 - 18** “*And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand. So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest. Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. And he said to him, “Do not fear,*

for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.” So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for friends and friendship that is centered in You and Your Word. Thank You that You have also given us each other to encourage, strengthen, and remind one another of Your promises to us from Sacred Scripture.

THURSDAY– Today’s passages are two emotional ones as we read first of David lamenting over the death of his beloved friend Jonathan and King Saul. It is so wonderful to see the example of David in respecting and loving even King Saul who sought to kill David. Although David was a sinful man he displays a heart to obey and honor God as he loved even those who didn’t love him. Secondly, we read of another sad event as we are given some details into the life of Jonathan’s son *Mephibosheth*. We find out how he became lame in an accident that was prompted by fear after his nurse had received word of his father Jonathan’s death. Read the texts: **2 Samuel 1:17 - 27** “*Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, and he told them to teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher: “The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon—Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. “O mountains of Gilboa, Let there be no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty. “Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions. “O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. “How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. “How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!” **2 Samuel 4:4** “Jonathan, Saul’s son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.”*

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for David's example like that of Christ's; who expressed love for both Jonathan and King Saul who many would consider to have been his enemy. Thank You for making us in your image and likeness; with emotion.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY –We close the week with a wonderful text of the beauty of A Covenant Kept as we see David keeps the promise he made to his beloved friend. **2 Samuel 9:1 - 13** “Now David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?” And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” He said, “At your service!” Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet.” So the king said to him, “Where is he?” And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.” Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, “Mephibosheth?” And he answered, “Here is your servant!” So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.” Then he bowed himself, and said, “What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?” And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, “I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always.” Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then Ziba said to the king, “According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do.” “As for Mephibosheth,” said the king, “he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons.” Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Thank You for loving me even though I am an unworthy, lame, “dead dog”. Thank You for the eternal Covenant that Jesus ratified with His blood on the cross and which allows me to be forgiven & sit at Your Table with You as Your son.