

The Covenants

Part 13

“No Covenant with the World”

1 Samuel 11

Intro:

Jabesh = means

“*dry*: - dried (away), dry”

Jabesh-Gilead {from ISBE}

“A city east of the Jordan

At an earlier time the inhabitants failed to share with their brethren in taking vengeance upon Benjamin. This laxity was terribly punished, only 400 virgins being spared alive, who afterward became wives to the Benjamites (Jdg 21).

The gratitude of the inhabitants to Saul was affectingly proved after the disaster to that monarch on Gilboa (1Sa 31:1-13). David, hearing of their deed, sent an approving message, and sought to win their loyalty to himself (2Sa 2:4).

The site remains in doubt; but the ancient name still lingers in that of the valley, the stream from which enters the Jordan fully 9 miles Southeast of Beisān.”

1Sa 11:1 Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

Note 1.

How easily they seek to make a covenant with the enemy.

Matthew Henry

They had lost the virtue of Israelites, else they would not have thus lost the valour of Israelites, nor tamely yielded to serve an Ammonite, without one bold struggle for themselves. Had they not broken their covenant with God, and forsaken his service, they needed not thus to have courted a covenant with a Gentile nation, and offered themselves to serve them.

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Note 2.

The merciless nature of the enemy.

1Sa 11:2 *And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I*

may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it *for* a reproach upon all Israel.

Consider:

When we try to make peace with the enemy it will always lead to shame for God's people.

Note 3,

The world will never bring us real peace.

Compare:

Joh 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Consider:

According to the words of our saviour the world will only bring us trials.

Joh 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

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1Sa 11:3 And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if *there be* no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

Note 4,

It is a secondary option for the inhabitants of Jabesh to seek help from God's people.

App:

Q. When you are in trouble, do you seek help from God's people or the world?

Note 5,

The shallowness of their faith in God exposed.

*if there be **no man to save us**, we will come out to thee.*

Consider:

They never prayed!

How much do you pray when you are in trouble.

God often brings us into times of trial that we may seek him.

Compare:

Read Psalm 130

See following:

Matthew Henry on Psalm 130

The best men may sometimes be in the depths, in great trouble and affliction, and utterly at a loss what to

do, in the depths of distress and almost in the depths of despair, the spirit low and dark, sinking and drooping, cast down and disquieted.

But, in the greatest depths, it is our privilege that we may cry unto God and be heard.

A prayer may reach the heights of heaven, though not out of the depths of hell, yet out of the depths of the greatest trouble we can be in in this world, Jeremiah's out of the dungeon, Daniel's out of the den, and Jonah's out of the fish's belly.

It is our duty and interest to cry unto God, for that is the likeliest way both to prevent our sinking lower and to recover us out of the horrible pit and miry clay,

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1Sa 11:4 Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

Note 6,

Weeping, but not prayer.

Consider:

It is not enough to feel sorry for each other but we are to pray for one another.

Jas 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Consider:

If Saul, verse 5, had not come the people might have continued in the weeping while Jabesh was being taken.

1Sa 11:5 And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What aileth the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.

1Sa 11:6 And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

Note 7,

We should be Angry when the world seeks to put shame on God's people.

Anger in itself is not a sin!

Consider:

The Anger of the Lord in John 2

Joh 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

Joh 2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

Joh 2:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

Joh 2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

Joh 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

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1Sa 11:7 And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

This act is similar to that in;

Jdg 19:29 *And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel.*

Note 8,

Why does he name Samuel?

John Gill

"he names both, because he himself, though chosen king, was not inaugurated into his office, nor was Samuel put out of his; and because he knew he was despised by some, who would not object to and refuse the authority of Samuel, and therefore if they would not follow him, they would follow Samuel"

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1Sa 11:8 And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

Bezek = means = Lightning

God was going to strike his enemies like lightning!!!

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1Sa 11:9 And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

Note 9,

There is no delay in the help promised.

To morrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help.

App:

Q. When we promise help, do we procrastinate?

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1Sa 11:10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you.

Note 10,

The expectation of the Ammonites was now fixed on victory.

Compare:

(Pro 10:28) The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

(Pro 11:7) When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.

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1Sa 11:11 And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

Note 11,

The help came even earlier than promised

The promise in verse 10 was:

To morrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help.

In verse 11:

and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day

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Note 12,

Saul's response to his over-zealous people

1Sa 11:12 And the people said unto Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

1Sa 11:13 And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.

Consider:

Saul had such a good start to his reign.

He showed many good qualities.

Humility; Zeal; leadership; Compassion; etc.

But let us remember;

“It is not how a man starts, but how he finishes”

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Note 13;

The chapter concludes with, instead of a covenant being made with the heathen, one being made with each other.

1Sa 11:14 Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

1Sa 11:15 And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.