

Learning the Heart of God

By Bob Young

Text: 2 Sam 21-24

Introduction

Most admit that the text flows from 2 Sam 20 to 1 Kings.

What shall we do/think about these four chapters?

Obvious construction; serve as appendix, summary to reign and life of David.

Not chronological, not a historical narrative continued.

Apparently a collection of miscellaneous stories, but not random. Arranged with purpose.

Several areas come into focus:

Will we do what God says?

Will we depend on God or self?

Will we serve God for selfish ends?

Note the chiasmic structure of this section.

21:1-14 God's judgment—the sin of a king

21:15-22 Four Mighty Men stories—focused on the Philistines

22 Song of David the warrior-king (Psalm 18)

23:1-7 Song of David's victories as a spiritual leader, the psalmist

23:7-39 Four Mighty Men stories—1+1+1+3; two more described, then 29; total of 37

24:1-17 God's judgment—the sin of a king

But...the king repents, 24:18-25

It is that story of repentance that catches our attention, the difference between a king after God's own heart and one who did not have a heart for the things of God.

Here are lessons of leadership, but also lessons for every God-follower

24:1-25

David counts the fighting men

Events that generate God's wrath against Israel

Is what I call a "king sin" story

Lessons

Sin is no respecter of persons

The battle is not won by force; don't depend on your own power

The key is "heart"

Keep a tender conscience, soft heart

Admit your situation; admit you are wrong, confession

Listen to God, commit to obedience

Do whatever it takes and do it now, no shortcuts, even at personal sacrifice

Be concerned about others; pray for others