

"David's Success"

2 Samuel 8-10

Introduction:

Precept: There is the success that is by God's grace and there is the success of making Godly decisions that God nearly always blesses.

Military Success - 2 Samuel 8:1-14; 10:1-19

Summary: Military success in these stories is rooted in the fact that the Lord gave David victories on the battle field (2 Samuel 8:6b, 10b). The spoils of war are the tangible rewards of following the Lord. When I focus on the things of the Lord, the Lord takes care of my battles.

Organizational Success - 2 Samuel 8:15-18 - The Hebrew terms translated "justice and equity" should be understood together and mean 'justice and righteousness'; where the leader does the right thing in every situation and a person's status or rank does not play any role in the outcome.

Summary: Anyone who leads needs help; only the Lord has the skill set to do all of this himself and He still chooses to use us as leaders and administrators in this life, in this Church. The most important thing about those who hold these roles is identified in verse 15, "*So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people.*" (NASB)

Relational Success - 2 Samuel 9:1-13

David's blessing is wrapped up on three things: first, David was kind to him; second, David restored the land of Saul to him and called upon Ziba to administrate the land for Mephibosheth; third, he insisted that he eat at the Kings table from then on.

Summary: Can one man be ruthless in battle and compassionate in blessing a total stranger? This is the nature of someone with his heart in the right place—simply obeying God.

Conclusion: Notice David's attention to the words of Jonathan in 1 Samuel 20:13b-15. His personal pledge to be kind going forward. This is the Old Testament idea of hesed, the undeserved blessing of someone over us.

When I am defeated by God he waits for my submission to his rule and authority in my life; but many of us are humiliated and inwardly refuse to submit to his position and control. (Job 40:12; Isaiah 25:5; Philippians 2:10)

Amos 5:23-24 - These are the words of God to Israel at the end of the Old Testament. Israel was abusing their own people and God was weary of it. Isaiah in Jerusalem wrote the words of Isaiah 9:6-7. Woodhouse comments, "The kingdom of David, 1,000 years before Jesus was born, anticipated the promised kingdom of perfect justice and righteousness and gave us a glimpse of what it will be like." (245) Chapter 8 gives us an outline of that what might be, victory over all of God's enemies, the wealth of the nations brought into the coffers of the King, the name of the King spread throughout the nations and justice and righteousness for all people.