

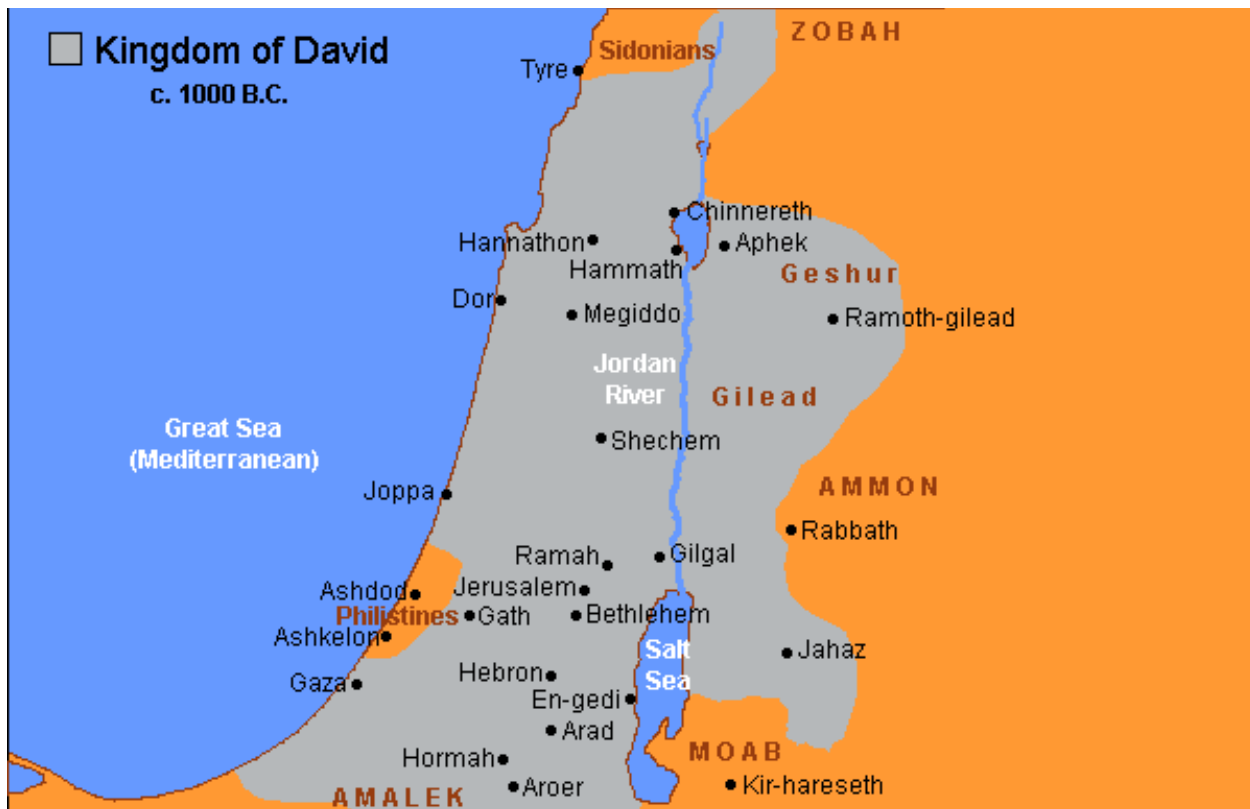
1. Tonight we will continue our study of the Book of Colossians at verse 13 of chapter 3. Last week I taught Col 3:13 and when time expired we were in the middle of a case study to demonstrate the horrific results of what can happen when people (particularly family) cannot completely forgive.
2. Before we continue that analysis you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
3. We are now ready to resume our study, but first let's take a look at an expanded translation of Col 3:12-13.

Expanded translation

Col 3:12 Therefore in view of what we have just learned, you must clothe and invest yourselves like the elected ones of God, set-apart and loved by each member of the Trinity, manifesting an emotional stability and control consistent with your holy and beloved status; full of virtue love and kindness, modesty and humility of mind; always displaying stability even under pressure;

Col 3:13 you must endure and tolerate without complaint your fellow believers while also being gracious and forgiving to all others. And if any of you has a complaint against another person be he believer or unbeliever, you should forgive just as Christ forgave you.

4. I want to review some of that learned last week and then pick up with new material at point 6 below.
5. Now let's return to our case study.
6. A review of the cast of characters and their part in our case study might be helpful. David is king of Israel and Judah.
7. David won a civil war with a northern coalition led by Saul's titular head, Ishbosheth and his military Chief of Staff, Abner.
8. Saul and his son Jonathan were killed in battle by the Philistine army on Mount Gilboa. Ishbosheth, secularly speaking, is the rightful heir to the throne by right of primogeniture.
9. Ishbosheth and Abner have a falling out over a woman belonging to the harem of Saul.
10. As a result Abner sues for peace with David. The two agree the kingdoms should be merged. As part of the deal David makes Abner his Chief of Staff.
11. The Kingdom of David in c. 1000 B.C. looks something like this.



12. David's nephew Joab is passed over for promotion even though he had loyally and very effectively and successfully pursued the battle against the forces of Abner.

13. In one such battle Abner had reluctantly killed Asahel the baby brother of Joab thus there was already bad blood between Abner and Joab, only to be exacerbated by Abner being made Chief of Staff.

13.1 Joab, Abishai and Asahel were sons of Zeruiah David's half sister. Each of her sons became famous as warriors. Asahel was known for his speed afoot and both Joab and Abishai were decorated on numerous occasions for valor.

13.2 Joab will not forgive David for his being passed over. Joab will also refuse David's authority by murdering Abner. Joab is a good friend of Absalom and for reasons of self-preservation he wants Absalom to take over the kingdom at David's death. At this point I want to review the Doctrine of Joab.

Doctrine of Joab

1. Joab was one of three sons of Zeruiah, who was a half sister of David. They had the same mother but different fathers. According to 2Sa 17:25 she was the sister of Abigail who is said to be the daughter of Nahash. Thus she was only a half sister of David. These loyal nephews of David are consistently identified as sons of Zeruiah rather than sons of their father.

1.1 David's sisters' names were Abigail and Zeruiah. According to 2Sa 17:25, these girls were daughters of Nahash. Apparently David's mother had the two daughters by a previous marriage. The name of David's mother is unknown.

2. The three sons raised by Zeruiah were: Joab, Abishai and Asahel.

2Sa 2:18 The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai and Asahel. Now Asahel was as fleet-footed as a wild gazelle.

2.1 Zeruiah is mentioned often in Scriptures due to the prominence of her sons. A few examples:

1Sa 26:6 David then asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?" "I'll go with you," said Abishai.

2Sa 3:39 And after news of Abner's death David lamented, though I am the anointed king, I am weak, and these sons of Zeruiah are too strong for me. May the LORD repay the evildoer according to his evil deeds!"

2Sa 8:16 Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army ...

2Sa 14:1 Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom.

2Sa 16:9 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head."

2Sa 16:10 But the king said, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

2Sa 18:2 David sent the troops out--a third under the command of Joab, a third under Joab's brother Abishai son of Zeruiah, and a third under Ittai the Gittite. The king told the troops, "I myself will surely march out with you."

2Sa 19:21 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said, "Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this? He cursed the LORD'S anointed."

2Sa 19:22 David replied, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? This day you have become my adversaries! Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Do I not know that today I am king over Israel?"

2Sa 21:17 But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, saying, "Never again will you go out with us to battle, so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished."

1Ki 2:5 "Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me--what he did to the two commanders of Israel's armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He

killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.

1Ch 2:16 The sisters of David and his seven brothers were Zeruiah and Abigail. Zeruiah's three sons were Abishai, Joab and Asahel.

1Ch 11:6 David had said, "Whoever leads the attack on the Jebusites will become commander-in-chief." Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, and so he received the command.

1Ch 11:39 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite, the armor-bearer of Joab son of Zeruiah ... were among the mighty men ...

1Ch 26:28 And everything dedicated by Samuel the seer and by Saul son of Kish, Abner son of Ner and Joab son of Zeruiah, and all the other dedicated things were in the care of Shelomith and his relatives.

1Ch 27:24 Joab son of Zeruiah began to count the men but did not finish. The wrath of God came on Israel on account of this numbering, and the number was not entered in the book of the annals of King David. The Lord had already promised they would be as numerous as the sand ...

3. The name of Zeruiah's husband is not known.

3.1 The only thing known about Asahel's father is that he was buried in Bethlehem.

2Sa 2:32 They took Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb at Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night and arrived at Hebron by daybreak.

4. The three nephews of David were military leaders in David's army. Joab and Abishai being the foremost.

5. The first mention of Joab's military service is at the battle of Gibeon.

5.1 Here is where David's men led by Joab battled and defeated Ishbosheth's forces under the command of Abner; the battle took place near the pool of Gibeon.

5.2 It is also where Abner reluctantly slew Joab's younger brother Asahel.

2Sa 2:32 They took Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb at Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night and arrived at Hebron by daybreak.

5.3 A blood revenge developed between the two leaders that led to the death of Abner.

2Sa 3:26 Joab then left David and sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah. But David did not know it.

2Sa 3:27 Now when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the gateway, as

though to speak with him privately. And there, to avenge the blood of his brother Asahel, Joab stabbed him in the stomach, and he died.

2Sa 3:28 Later, when David heard about this, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever innocent before the LORD concerning the blood of Abner son of Ner.

5.4 This act of Joab will later result in Joab's execution by Benaiah on the order of Solomon. Solomon's command was in conformity with an earlier death bed wish uttered by David. The killing of Joab by Benaiah was "doubly heinous" since Hebron was a city of refuge.

5.4.1 David lamented Abner's death.

2Sa 3:28 Later, when David heard about this, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever innocent before the LORD concerning the blood of Abner son of Ner.

2Sa 3:29 May his blood fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house! May Joab's house never be without someone who has a running sore or leprosy or who leans on a crutch or who falls by the sword or who lacks food."

2Sa 3:30 (Joab and his brother Abishai murdered Abner because he had killed their brother Asahel in the battle at Gibeon.)

2Sa 3:31 Then David said to Joab and all the people with him, "Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and walk in mourning in front of Abner." King David himself walked behind the bier.

2Sa 3:32 They buried Abner in Hebron, and the king wept aloud at Abner's tomb. All the people wept also.

6. Joab's revenge of Asahel's death was also in part motivated by David's act of negotiating an end to his 7 year civil war with Ishbosheth, the *de facto* head of the northern Kingdom, though the *de jure* leader was Abner.

6.1 David's act of placing Abner in charge of the new kingdom's military force was but another "burr under Joab's sensitive blanket."

2Sa 3:17 Abner conferred with the elders of Israel and said, "For some time you have wanted to make David your king.

2Sa 3:18 Now do it! For the LORD promised David, 'By my servant David I will rescue my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies.'"

2Sa 3:19 Abner also spoke to the Benjamites in person. Then he went to Hebron to tell David everything that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin wanted to do.

2Sa 3:20 When Abner, who had twenty men with him, came to David at Hebron, David prepared a feast for him and his men.

2Sa 3:21 Then Abner said to David, "Let me go at once and assemble all Israel for my lord the king, so that they may make a compact with you, and that you may rule over all that your heart desires." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

2Sa 3:22 Just then David's men and Joab returned from a raid and brought with them a great deal of plunder. But Abner was no longer with David in Hebron, because David had sent him away, and he had gone in peace.

2Sa 3:23 When Joab and all the soldiers with him arrived, he was told that Abner son of Ner had come to the king and that the king had sent him away and that he had gone in peace.

2Sa 3:24 So Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Look, Abner came to you. Why did you let him go? Now he is gone!"

2Sa 3:25 You know Abner son of Ner; he came to deceive you and observe your movements and find out everything you are doing."

7. David is not happy with this act of Joab but because he fears the sons of Zeruah he does nothing.

7.1 David's feelings about these events are expressed in 2Sa 3:39.

2Sa 3:39 And today, though I am the anointed king, I am weak, and these sons of Zeruah are too strong for me. May the LORD repay the evildoer according to his evil deeds!"

7.2 The act of Joab in killing Abner did result in the surrender of Ishbosheth's forces.

2Sa 4:1 When Ishbosheth son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel became alarmed.

7.2.1 He was murdered by two of his military captains, his head cut-off and taken to David where the two were surprised at David's reaction.

2Sa 4:5 Now Recab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, set out for the house of Ishbosheth, and they arrived there in the heat of the day while he was taking his noonday rest.

2Sa 4:6 They went into the inner part of the house as if to get some wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Recab and his brother Baanah slipped away.

2Sa 4:7 They had gone into the house while he was lying on the bed in his bedroom. After they stabbed and killed him, they cut off his head. Taking it with them, they traveled all night by way of the Arabah.

2Sa 4:8 They brought the head of Ishbosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ishbosheth son of Saul, your enemy, who tried to take your life. This day the LORD has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his offspring."

2Sa 4:9 David answered Recab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of all trouble,

2Sa 4:10 when a man told me, 'Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and put him to death in Ziklag. That was the reward I gave him for his news!

2Sa 4:11 How much more--when wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed--should I not now demand his blood from your hand and rid the earth of you!"

2Sa 4:12 So David gave an order to his men, and they killed them. They cut off their hands and feet and hung the bodies by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in Abner's tomb at Hebron.

8. Later in the battle for Jerusalem Joab is made head of the army.

1Ch 11:6 And David said, Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain. So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief.

2Sa 5:6 The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, "You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off." They thought, "David cannot get in here."

2Sa 5:7 Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David.

2Sa 5:8 On that day, David said, "Anyone who conquers the Jebusites will have to use the water shaft to reach those 'lame and blind' who are David's enemies." That is why they say, "The 'blind and lame' will not enter the palace."

2Sa 5:9 David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the supporting terraces inward.

2Sa 5:10 And he became more and more powerful, because the LORD God Almighty was with him.

End Lesson Taught 12-24-09