

Introduction: In general, there are two ways people can live, and two ways God will respond to how people live. Usually, over time, people reap what they sow. Paul wrote that whatever people may sow, they will reap. If they sow to please themselves, they reap corruption; but, if they sow to the Holy Spirit, they will reap life (Galatians 6:7-8). Hosea wrote that those who sow to the wind, will reap the whirlwind (Hosea 8:7), meaning the punishment may exceed the precipitating cause after many minor disobediences. Later Hosea also wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit: sow righteousness, and reap (God's) steadfast love (Hosea 10:12). Today, we heard of an Amalekite who unexpectedly reaped what he had sowed. Saul's armor-bearer saw him die 'on his sword' (1 Samuel 31:4-6): but, this foreigner lied to David about killing Saul, expecting a reward. Instead he was executed for killing the covenant God, Yahweh's, anointed! **Woe to any man who strikes Yahweh's anointed.** The life of David is one continuous case study in sowing and reaping. As a young man caring for his father's sheep, he experienced Yahweh's strength to save the flock from both a bear and a lion (1 Samuel 17:34-36a). This gave him faith that Yahweh would give him victory over Goliath (1 Samuel 17:36b-37). And this is exactly what Yahweh-God brought about as a result of David's faith in Him (1 Samuel 17:45-50). *** Between now and the end of June we will see David continue to reap good for himself and God's people as he is established as king over all Israel and receives a prophetic word that a descendant of his will be the Eternal King (2 Samuel 2-10). But, then David sows much evil when he commits two great transgressions against God and Uriah (2 Samuel 11). Even though David was forgiven (2 Samuel 12), one of his sons killed his brother (2 Samuel 13), then this favorite son rebelled against his father David and was killed by his cousin (2 Samuel 14-18). Then a man from Saul's tribe rebelled against David (2 Samuel 20). *** As we go through David's life this church year, let's humble ourselves and search our hearts, praying that we will always be led to obey all Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:18-20) by His grace through His faithfulness (Ephesians 2:8-10).

I. An Amalekite goes south for three days to tell David Saul and Jonathan died in battle and brags that he killed Saul; after mourning Saul and Jonathan, David executes the Amalekite. (2 Samuel 1:1-16)

A. As David returns to southern Judah, he meets an Amalekite who traveled three days from Saul's last battle who says he killed Saul. (*Verses 1-10*)

1. Then it was, after the death of Saul, and David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David dwelt in Ziklag two days. (*Verse 1*)

David re-oriented: Before David finally killed the Amalekites, as Saul had failed to do (1 Samuel 15), and Saul died in the great battle with the Philistine army ninety miles north of Ziklag, David had sinned twice. First, he sought refuge with God's enemies, the Philistines; then, to compound matters, he lied to the leader of the enemy (1 Samuel 27). Now David returns to Ziklag after he and his men rescue their families twenty miles south of the Philistine city of Gath.

2. Then it was on the third day, behold! A man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and earth on his head, when he came to David he fell on the ground in respect; then David said to him, 'From where have you come?' He said, 'I have escaped from the camp of Israel'. (*Verses 2-3*)

Third day: This man who escaped the battle in which most of Israel's men had been killed had traveled ninety miles on foot, averaging thirty miles a day in rugged terrain, to meet David. After he shows respect to David, David questions him.

3. Then David said, 'How did it go? You must tell me!' He said, 'The people fled the battle, and also many of the people fell and then died; and also, Saul and his son Jonathan are dead'. Then David said to the young man who told him, 'How do you know that Saul and Jonathan are dead?' (*Verses 4-5*)

Many dead: David questions the young man based on his prior answers. It had to hurt David to hear Jonathan is dead. So far this account matches the last chapter (of 1 Samuel). But David wants credible verification.

4. Then the young man who told him said. 'I happened to be on Mt. Gilboa, and behold! Saul is leaning on his spear, and behold! The chariots and horseman overtook him. Then he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me; and I said, 'Behold me!' (*Verses 6-7*)

Happened to be: Those who know God realize that God is behind much of what appears to be happenstance. The young Amalekite sees Saul hanging on to life using his spear as a crutch.

5. Then he said to me, 'Who are you?' Then I said to him, 'I (am) Amalekite'. Then he said to me, 'You must stand, please, by me; and you must kill me, because great agony has seized me, and all my soul (is) still in me. (*Verses 8-9*)

Amalekite: Now his story deviates from the inspired Word of God, because Saul's armor-bearer, who really refused to put Saul out of his misery, so Saul fell on his [own] sword [and died], he [the armor-bearer] also died.

6. Then I stood by him and killed him because I knew he could not live after he fell; and I took the crown on his head and the arm band on his (upper) arm; then I brought them here to my lord. (*Verse 10*)

Action: He continues his fabricated story by saying he executed the action Saul requested; and, he brought the crown to David because it was widely known David was chosen to succeed Saul as king.

B. After David and his men mourn until evening, he calls out the foreigner for killing Yahweh's once anointed king, and orders him executed. (*verses 11-16*)

1. Then David took hold of his clothes, then he tore them; and also all the men who (were) with him; then they mourned and wept and fasted for Saul and Jonathan his son, and the people of Yahweh, and the people of the house (family) of Israel until it was evening. (*Verses 11-12*)

David and men: David and his six hundred men (1 Samuel 30:9-10) tore their clothes and mourned with fasting for Saul and Jonathan and their fellow Israelites who died in battle, until twilight came.

2. Then David said to the young man who told him, 'Where from this (are) you?' Then he said, 'The son of a resident sojourner, I (am an) Amalekite'; then David said to him, 'How were you not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy Yahweh's anointed?' (*Verses 13-14*)

Yahweh's anointed: By his questions David discovers more about the young man. He is a second generation sojourner who should have known the Torah. So he has no excuse for doing what David would not do: strike the man Yahweh chose to be king of Israel.

Woe to any man who strikes Yahweh's anointed

3. Then David called one from the young men; then he said, 'You must go near and fall on him'; then he smote him and he died; then David said to him, 'Your (life)blood (is) on your head because your mouth testified against you to say: I have killed Yahweh's anointed. (*Verses 15-16*)

Blood on his head: If he had not lied because of his ignorance of David and Yahweh's ways, he might have saved his life. But, because he claimed to have stricken dead Yahweh's anointed, he died!

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Application: We must pray God will give us wisdom to distinguish between a person and the office that person occupies. We must respect the office, but not follow a 'bad' person. In other words, we must pray for God's will for the person; then, we must wait for God to do His will, as David did twice (1 Samuel 24, 26).

II. God takes no delight in liars and will destroy them; and, Yahweh's strong love inspires worship and upright living.

(*Psalms 5:4-8*)

- A. God does not delight in foolish evil liars who deceive and shed blood, He will destroy them. (*Verses 4-6*)
 1. For not (You are a) God (who) delights in wickedness / evil will not sojourn with You. (*Verse 4*)
No evil: With two parallel word pictures David says evil and wickedness have no place in the presence of God! God has no delight in wickedness or wicked people; and, furthermore, He will not allow evil to even temporarily reside with Him!
 2. Those foolishly boasting will not stand before Your eyes / You have hated all doing evil. (*Verse 5*)
Fools not stand: Building on the first line, David now adds in people who foolishly boast about themselves, not God. God also hates evil-doers, and fools will not continue to stand in His presence.
 3. You will destroy those speaking lies / blood-thirsty and deceitful men, Yahweh will loathe. (*Verse 6*)
Destroy liars: Until now David was speaking to God as the Creator of everything. The Creator will destroy (un-create) all habitual liars. Finally, people who deceive (extreme lying) in order to murder innocent people, will be considered an abomination before the covenant God of love.

God destroys those who tell lies

- B. Yahweh's abundant love and holiness inspire reverent worship so people will be made to walk in uprightness. (*Verses 7-8*)
 1. And I, in the abundance of Your steadfast love, I will enter Your house / I will worship toward the Temple of Your holiness, in reverential fear of You. (*Verse 7*)
Abundant love: David declares that because he has experienced Yahweh's abundant strong life-giving, life-changing love, he will enter Yahweh's holy presence in His Temple to reverentially worship Him!
 2. Yahweh, You must lead (guide) me in Your righteousness on account of my enemies / You must make straight before me Your path. (*Verse 8*)
Your righteousness: When David feels his own righteousness is not enough to overcome his enemies, he implores his covenant God to act on his behalf; and, in Yahweh's righteousness (which is perfect) He would lead David on His straight (holy and righteous) path (Proverbs 3:5-6)! We know that because Jesus was 'stricken' by God for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:4-5) we may become the righteousness of God IN Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21), the anointed God-Man who transforms the woe of all who turn to Him from their foolish pride into joy and peace in order to receive His forgiveness by grace through faith!

Application: So, we must seek God daily to receive His love and righteousness IN Jesus SO we can, in His strength, overcome evil liars. And, we can confront those who disrespect God's truly anointed leaders by exercising spiritual discernment IN Christ, who has been made for us the wisdom of God, and our righteousness, holiness and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30).

Conclusion: An Amalekite goes south for three days to tell David Saul and Jonathan died in battle and brags that he killed Saul. After mourning Saul and Jonathan, David executes the Amalekite. God takes no delight in foolish liars and will destroy them. Yahweh's strong love inspires worship and upright living.

Woe to any man who strikes Yahweh's anointed