

## ***THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for May 19:***

### *1 Samuel 24:1-25:44:*

Chapter 24 furthers the distinction between David and Saul. Though Saul is seeking to kill David unjustly, David does not take the life of Saul when the opportunity arises. The reason David gives in 24:6 for not taking Saul's life is that he is the LORD's anointed, in other words, he is the one whom God has chosen to be king over His people (see 1 Samuel 9:16; 10:1, 24) for this time. As such, one should not rebel against that man (Numbers 16), but leave it to the LORD to deal with him and to remove him from the throne when He sees fit. To take the life of the anointed would be against the will of God. David's men, on the other hand, were arguing it must be the LORD's will since David and his men found themselves in such an opportune time. To paraphrase, "It must be God's will," their reasoning went, "after all, we wouldn't be in this situation if it were not." Yet, David did not look merely at the situation and define his actions by that. He looked at the clear, authoritative revealed will of God and acted accordingly. Surely, the reader should see, this is the kind of king Israel needs. What is more, in David's actions and words, we find a powerful example for us. Do not define our course in life merely by what opportunities arise. Allow God's Word to define your direction. His Word may lead you to see an opportunity as something God has brought your way. The deciding factor, however, is God's revealed will.

In chapter 25 we learn how God is showing Himself faithful toward David as He keeps the future king from wrongly avenging the sinful actions of foolish Nabal against him and his men. He also continues to bless David. This is another indicator that David is the rightful king of Israel and his ancestors the true dynasty. Though the wise widow of Nabal, Abigail, is taken by David as a wife (he was already married, 25:43), the Old Testament never condones polygamy. It merely records kings and others having multiple wives. The ideal standard, however, is one woman for one man (Genesis 2:24).

### *John 10:22-42:*

Jesus was in the temple area during the time Israel celebrated the 164 B.C. rededication of the temple after it had been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes IV in 167 B.C. That celebration is now called Hanukkah. Some Jews gathered about Him and wanted Him to be clear with them whether or not He was the Christ. His answer was basically to tell them that He has already told them and done works to witness to His identity. What is more, His sheep (i.e. the elect, those who have or will come to Him, the ones for whom He died [15] and the ones given to Him by the Father [29]) are the ones who hear His voice, believe He is the Christ, and follow Him. The implication is that since these are not of His sheep, it doesn't matter what He does, they will not believe (see 6:35-45). In the process of His answer, He says of his sheep no one will be able to snatch his sheep out of His hand—after all the Father who has given them is greater than all and no one can snatch them out of His hand and He and the Father are one (27-29). In response the Jews pick up stones to stone Him (31). They understood He was affirming He is God (33). Jesus answers with a very technical legal argument, one based on the fact that "God" (*Elohim*) was used of human leaders in the Old Testament and the Scripture cannot be broken, nullified, truly shown to be wrong. So, even on that basis they should not

stone Him. His answer in no way denies the special way “God” is used of Him, so He doesn’t deny His deity. What is more, He affirms the inerrancy of the Scriptures down to the very words used. Jesus left them and went to the east side of the Jordan for a time.

To summarize, this passage teaches some very important doctrinal truths: (1) Those whom God has chosen, those whom God has covenanted with the Son in eternity past to give to Him, those for whom Jesus definitely died (as we saw in yesterday’s reading), these are effectively called to God, will come to faith in Christ as Savior, and will persevere in that faith. This means that the Scriptures truly do teach the doctrines of sovereign grace, a teaching which collectively has been known as Calvinism. (2) This passage teaches us that the ultimate deciding factor in salvation is God’s sovereign grace. Though this does not nullify the importance of our obedience and responsibility in evangelism, it does teach us that people will believe or reject ultimately because of issues beyond whether or not we “get it just right” or use the best arguments. Again, this should not be used as an excuse for laziness or shoddiness. Rather, we must rest in God’s wisdom and working in our evangelistic and missionary endeavors. (3) Jesus teaches the doctrine of inerrancy.

Commit yourself to: (1) Pray and ask the LORD to help you understand and hold firmly to these teachings. (2) Study these doctrines in greater detail. (3) Give praise to God that He truly is the one who saves and the glory goes to Him! (See also Psalm 68:19; Isaiah 43:11; Hosea 13:4; Jonah 2:9; Romans 9:16, 22-23; Ephesians 1:4-12; 2:1-10; Revelation 7:10) (4) Take heart in the doctrines of sovereign grace as you engage in evangelism and missions. God’s Spirit will work through His powerful Word in response to prayer to bring to Himself His sheep.

*Psalms 116:1-19:*

Here we find rich thanksgiving offered to God in public acts of worship for ways the LORD has delivered an individual. As such, we not only learn the importance of theologically-rich public worship, but also are reminded: God answers prayer (1), God is gracious, righteous, and merciful (5), and God works to preserve His people (6).

*Proverbs 15:20-21:*

Though the glory of God should be our ultimate purpose in life, we can also be motivated by other secondary purposes. One would be that when we are skillful in godliness (we are wise), this will often make our parents glad (especially when they are also wise). Those who lack godly understanding also often lack godly skill. Yet, those who truly are wise walk straight ahead on the right path without wavering and without shame.