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David Destroys the Amalekites
First Samuel 30: 1-31

Though **David** had seen **God's** providential purpose in sparing **him** from fighting against **Sha'ul**, **he** met yet another challenge when **he** and **his men** returned to **Ziklag**. **Their** camp had been destroyed and **their wives** and **children** taken captive. But even when all seems lost, **David** continues to prosper. Through **YHVH's** help, **he** tracks **the Amalekites** down and recovers all of **the people** and **the plunder they** had taken. **He** then ingratiates **himself** to **his** troops and **his** neighbors by sharing **his** good fortune with **them. Chapter 30** is a case study of the qualities that make for strong and compassionate leadership: persistence, empathy, and faith in **ADONAI**, commitment to a cause, integrity, decisiveness and generosity. **Sha'ul**, disobeying **God's prophet**, defeated **the Amalekites** but lost **his** kingdom **First Samuel 15:1-35)**; **David**, seeking **God's** will, destroyed **the Amalekites** and began **his** reign. The chapter displays a chiastic arrangement:

A David reaches destroyed Ziklag and finds it plundered (30:1-3)

B David and his men are promised the LORD's help (30:4-8)

C David destroys the Amalekites (30:9-20)

B David shares the LORD's plunder with his men (30:21-25)

A David returns to Ziklag and distributes the remaining plunder (30:26-31)[200]