



# 2021

PART ONE

Closure • Clarity • Covenant  
**RECOVER ALL!**

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**1 Samuel 30:1**, Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, 2 and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way. 3 So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. 4 Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep...

**1 Samuel 30:6**, Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. 7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them? And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

**John 15:7**

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

On this first Sunday of the new year, the Lord has given me a word to share with you and to all who have ears to hear. We're going to use the story of David's recovery following the attack of the Amalekites as a narrative for our times. We're also going to keep in our hearts and minds the words of Jesus who promised that if we abide in Him and His words of being within us that we would always bear much fruit.

Most attacks and setbacks cannot be anticipated. The Amalekites (and today's enemies, like COVID-19) don't come to destroy everything, but to enslave, discourage, and take away our resources. We're going to draw many lessons, and encouragement, from the story in I Samuel 30. We will look more specifically at this text in the next message.

*"The Amalekites, descendants of Amalek, were an ancient biblical nation living near the land of Canaan. They were the first nation to attack the Jewish people after the Exodus from Egypt, and they are seen as the archetypal enemy of the Jews. The nation of Amalek is long gone, but they live on as the internal enemies that we each battle on a daily basis."*

Source: [www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/3942715/jewish/Who-Were-Amalek-and-the-Amalekites.htm](http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/3942715/jewish/Who-Were-Amalek-and-the-Amalekites.htm)

Let me share this quote with you from a Jewish Bible history resource called Chabad, which is an orthodox Hasidic Organization.

Notice that the Amalekites were the first nation to attack the Jewish people after the exodus from Egypt. And they continue to be an enemy of the Jews. It is interesting to note the symbolism of Amalek as a continuing enemy.

From our perspective as Christ followers, this is similar to our recognition of the three-fold enemies of the world the flesh and the devil, which Jesus defeated, but that continue to present challenges as we pass through this world.

- There are always forces that try to resist your progress: “The spirit of Amalek”
- This is why we abide in Jesus and allow His words to abide in us.

Looking at the process of how David recovered all following the attack of the Amalekites, we're going to address that first word, closure, as we have left the year 2020 and have entered into the year 2021.

**Closure** is coming to terms with what something is, or what was, for the purpose of being able to move forward.

David had closure and could move forward when he did not let his grief prevent him from seeking the Lord and hearing the word, *"Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."*

Let me give you a working definition of the words closure and recovery for this message:  
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## **2021 is a year of recovery!**

A new year represents an opportunity, a **Kairos** season, to make adjustments, spiritually, mentally, and practically.

2020 was one of the most unusual and abnormal years of our lives, if not THE most unusual and abnormal. It was a year of delay, separation, and setback. 2021 is a year of recovery! To be sure, everything that was present on the last day of 2020 is still with us on the first days of 2021. A new year represents an opportunity, a Kairos season, to make adjustments, spiritually, mentally, and practically.

We might first think of recovery as getting back things that have been stolen and lost. This was the case with the story of David at Ziklag. We are going to focus not the first definition: Return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength.

2020 was also a year of learning, adapting, and growing. That learning and growth was not so much voluntary, but involuntary. 2020 revealed the state of foundations and showed the area needing repair or change.

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We all have heart breaking stories as a result of the pandemic. And there was none so heartbreaking as losing loved ones to Covid. Then there was the debacle of our national leadership in denying, minimizing, and mismanaging the impacts of coronavirus, which contributed to misery and death.



In the middle of that was the murder of George Floyd that brought to the forefront discourage racism and police brutality is in our nation. As Will Smith famously said, racism is not getting worse, it's getting filmed.

Before George Floyd there was Philando Castile, Michael Brown, Terence Crutcher, Eric Garner, Alton Sterling, Oscar Grant, Freddie Gray, Botham Jean, Atatiana Jefferson, Bettie Jones, Trayvon Martin, Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Jacob Blake, and unnamed people.

*Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor;  
Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)*

*He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does  
the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)*

Add to this the disrespect shown toward Black lives matter. I'm not talking about the movement or the organization I'm talking about people, Black lives matter. We had to listen to people say, "No, ALL lives matter" as a response to BLM. This was nothing short of disrespect towards black folks in the guise of caring about all people.

In September 2020, as Hurricane Sally tracked towards Mississippi and Louisiana, prayers went out for the people and preparations were made. No one said, "All states matter." Mississippi and Louisiana mattered.

I am fully aware that people are tired of all this and just want to forget about it and move on. We are certainly moving on, but the issues that remain in front of us cannot be ignored. This is why history repeats itself and the same mistake are made over and over again. This is why closure, clarity, and covenant are always necessary.

## **BLACK LIVES MATTER**

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**Recovery requires closure.**

**Closure** is coming to terms with what something is, or what it was for the purpose of being able to move forward.

This is why silence in the face of injustice or bad conditions is wrong.

We are dealing with a culture that is adamant on maintaining control, including controlling narratives, and maintaining a status quo, even when it is imperative that some things must change. This is a major reason that God inspired me to write the book biblical and social justice, what is it?

The things that people don't want you to say is often a clear indicator of exactly what you should be saying. I've heard people say that talking about race stirs up racism. But that's what the Amalekites want you to believe. The spirit of Amalek is not your friend. Amalek is always your enemy God is a God of justice. Justice equals righteousness.

- Closure is about settling issues.
- “Settle” does not mean figuring everything out or resolve something to your satisfaction.
- You can never fully satisfy yourself or others.
- You need to settle on a plan of action and make a decision. That’s the biggest part of closure.

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Closure does not require disclosure. There is  
knowledge that you don't need to know.

Joseph didn't understand why his brothers sold him into slavery, but he had closure:

**Genesis 45:4-5**, *"I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life."*

Joseph didn't understand why his brother sold him into slavery, but he had closure going to Egypt and serving there. Much later he learned that God "sent him" ahead to Egypt to save his family and nation from a future famine 22 years later.

He said in Genesis 45:4-5, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life."

Mary and Joseph didn't fully understand what God was doing. Mary "pondered" many things.

Luke 1:29, *"Mary was greatly troubled at his words,"* referring to Gabriel.

Mary and Joseph didn't fully understand what God was doing in bringing Jesus into the world. Mary "pondered" many things.

Luke 1:29 says "Mary was greatly troubled at his words," referring to Gabriel. Mary decided to trust God's divine plan for her life. She surrendered to God's will. In Luke 1:38, Mary proclaims "I am the Lord's servant, and tells Gabriel, "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Mary decided to trust God's divine plan for her life.

Luke 1:38, *"I am the Lord's servant...May your word to me be fulfilled."*

**That was Mary's closure.**

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