

2 SAMUEL 18:1-19:8

March 29-30, 2023



1. David, the king of God's choosing, has fled Jerusalem to Mahanaim and is preparing to battle his own son, Absalom, who is leading a coup. Read 2 Samuel 18:1-5 and list what David does and plans to do from verses 1-2.

What alternative do David's men suggest in verse 3?

Look back at 2 Samuel 17:1-3 and note the one person with a target on his back. Who is acting wisely in 2 Samuel 18:3-4?

2. What is David's last instruction to his army in 2 Samuel 18:5?

Considering David is the king and officer in charge, what seems unusual to you about this command?

3. Because Absalom has taken control of Israel, he and his men are referred to as "Israel" and "the men of Israel." Read 2 Samuel 18:6-8 and describe the battle and its outcome.

In addition to two powerful armies, what natural element proved deadly?

4. Read 2 Samuel 18:9 and describe Absalom's vulnerable state.

Absalom's history includes ordering his brother's murder, attempting to defame and dethrone his father, and sleeping with his father's concubines. Read the following verses and record God's position on these behaviors.

Exodus 20:12-13

Leviticus 24:17

While it appears that the forest has captured Absalom, read Deuteronomy 21:22-23 and consider Who is executing justice on this rebellious man.

5. Read 2 Samuel 18:10-15. What explanation is given by the warrior who refuses to harm Absalom?

Describe Joab's response. What is surprising about this response given Joab's position as a commander of David's army under David's rule?

6. Have you ever been tempted to bend the rules to accomplish your desired outcome? What types of excuses do we make when contemplating this?

Why is it hard to wait for God to act?

What can we learn from the following verses about waiting for God to act?

Proverbs 3:5-8

Psalms 37:6-7, 34

7. Read 2 Samuel 18:16-18. Describe Absalom's actual burial. How does this differ from Absalom's plans?
8. Read 2 Samuel 18:19-32. Two messengers are allowed to deliver the news of the battle to David. Compare and contrast the messages they deliver.

Whom do they credit for this victory?

If you were a messenger delivering this news to David, what concerns and thoughts would you have?

9. What appears to be David's primary concern in 2 Samuel 18:29, 32?

10. Read 2 Samuel 18:33. What phrase is repeated multiple times and what does this reveal about David's grief?

11. Continue reading 2 Samuel 19:1-8. How did David's public lament affect the feelings and actions of his victorious soldiers?

Joab roughly rebukes King David for this behavior. Write below Joab's reminder in verse 5 of what these people have done for David.

What does David's excessive lament communicate to the people in verse 6?

Describe the potential disastrous consequences if David does not correct this.

How does David respond to Joab's remarks?

12. Think of a time strong emotional responses led you away from God's priorities.
What can you do to remember God in the midst of emotionally charged circumstances?

13. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

2 SAMUEL 19:9-20:26

April 5-6, 2023



1. Begin by reading 2 Samuel 19:9-10. As David returned to his duties after the death of his son Absalom, an argument arose among the people of Israel. What was the main concern of the Israelites recorded in verse 10?

What reasons are given for returning David to Jerusalem?

Why had David left Jerusalem? Look at 2 Samuel 15:13-14 for insight.

2. Read 2 Samuel 19:11-15. Who did David enlist to sway the elders of Judah to allow him back into Jerusalem?

How were they to convince the elders to help David return home to Jerusalem?

3. According to 2 Samuel 19:13, what message was to be delivered to Amasa?

Why do you think David replaced Joab with Amasa as the leader of his army? Look also at 2 Samuel 18:5, 14-15.

What might be some consequences, good or bad, of replacing David's longtime military leader Joab with Amasa, the leader of Absalom's army?

4. Continue by reading 2 Samuel 19:16-23. What do we learn about Shimei in verses 16-21?

Look back at 2 Samuel 16:5-8 and briefly describe why Shimei feared David's punishment.

What does David's response recorded in 2 Samuel 19:22-23 tell us about David?

5. Mephibosheth also came to the Jordan River to meet with David. Read 2 Samuel 19:24-30 and describe Mephibosheth's appearance when he approached David at the Jordan River.

Mephibosheth remained in Jerusalem when David fled the city during Absalom's attempted takeover. What reason does Mephibosheth give for remaining in Jerusalem?

Look at 2 Samuel 16:3-4 and describe how Ziba had slandered Mephibosheth.

6. What does David's response to Mephibosheth reveal about David in 2 Samuel 19:29-30?

What does verse 30 reveal about Mephibosheth?

7. Read 2 Samuel 19:31-40. What do we learn about Barzillai in verses 31-32?

What kindness had Barzillai shown to David? Also look at 2 Samuel 17:27-29.

What stands out to you in David's act of kindness toward Barzillai recorded in 2 Samuel 19:36-40?

8. As Israel's earthly king, David was known to be merciful and kind. King David should remind us of Jesus, our heavenly King. Look back at David's encounters with Shimei, Mephibosheth, and Barzillai. Pick one of these encounters and list the ways David reminds us of Jesus, our heavenly King.

Using the same encounter, describe how King David falls short when compared to Jesus, our Heavenly King.

9. Finish 2 Samuel 19 by reading verses 41-43. In one sentence, describe the situation recorded in these verses.

10. Read 2 Samuel 20:1-3. What claim does Sheba make in verse 1 and how do the men of Israel respond to his claim?

Thinking about the relationships in your life, what can you do to avoid becoming divisive when feeling offended, hurt, or overlooked?

11. Continue by reading 2 Samuel 20:4-13. David first appointed Amasa to lead the men of Judah in the battle against Sheba and the Israelite army. Why does he later enlist Abishai to take over?

Who do we see going into battle with Abishai in verses 6-7?

Look again at verses 8-10. Why do you think Joab killed Amasa?

12. Read 2 Samuel 20:14-22. Joab led the men of Judah to the city of Abel of Beth-maacah to attack Sheba and the Israelites. In the middle of the battle, according to verses 16-22, who stepped forward to peaceably put an end to the battle?

What admirable qualities do you see in this woman?

13. Finish by reading 2 Samuel 20:23-26. The last time we saw a list of David's administration was at the end of 2 Samuel 8 when he was experiencing a great deal of success. What are some specific areas David might desire success as he re-establishes his kingdom?

14. David, a king of God's choosing was a great king, but he was also a king with many flaws. List the ways you know Jesus, your heavenly King, is perfect in all His ways.

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

2 SAMUEL 21

April 12-13, 2023

1. The four-chapter epilogue that closes the book of 2 Samuel begins with 2 Samuel 21. The events in chapter 21 are not in chronological order with the rest of the book. Read 2 Samuel 21:1-3, which looks back at some earlier years of King David's rule. What hardship was Israel enduring?

What are some ways this would dramatically impact life in Israel?

How might this have weakened Israel's ability to defend itself against foreign nations?

David finally "sought the face of the Lord" after three long years. What reason did the Lord give David for Israel's prolonged famine?

2. In the days of Joshua, God's people were entering the Promised Land when the Gibeonites tricked Israel into making a binding oath with them. Read Joshua 9:1-21. By Whom did Israel swear this oath?

Record the specific promise Israel make to the Gibeonites.

What did Israel's leaders acknowledge would be the consequence of breaking this promise?

Read Numbers 30:1-2. What is God's commandment regarding oaths?

3. Read 2 Samuel 21:4-9. What did the Gibeonites request of David to make atonement for Saul breaking Israel's binding oath with Gibeon?

David chooses two sons and five grandsons of Saul for execution. Who does David spare?

Why was this man spared?

4. Look again at David's inquiry and God's response in 2 Samuel 21:1. In your own words, what do the following verses illuminate about God's character that help us understand why He would bring famine to Israel in response to their national sin?

Isaiah 6:1-3

Ezekiel 38:23

Hebrews 12:5-6

5. Read 2 Samuel 21:10. Describe Rizpah's extraordinary actions in the months following the execution of the seven descendants of Saul.

6. Read 2 Samuel 21:11-14. Why do you think hearing Rizpah's story motivated David's actions?

Share a time when the actions of a courageous and faithful Christ follower inspired you to act likewise.

7. Read 2 Samuel 21:14 again. What are some good things Israel would experience after God responded to the plea for the land?

8. Read 2 Samuel 21:15-22. This series of four battles with the Philistine giants most likely take place late in King David's reign. Look again at verse 15. What difficulty did David face that made it hard for him to fight alongside his men?

According to verse 17, what promise did David's fellow soldiers make about his future as a warrior?

What did these men know about David that made it so important for them to preserve his life?

9. Look back at the following verses and record some of the ways God used King David to be a spiritual light and protective leader to the nation of Israel during his long life.

1 Samuel 17:23-26, 36, 49

2 Samuel 5:17-25

2 Samuel 6:12b-15

10. Read 2 Samuel 21:15-22 once again. List the four Philistine giants and the Israelite soldier who bravely killed each one.

What do you think these men knew to be true about God that contributed to their valiant and successful battles?

11. Read 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 23-24 to remember how Israel had once responded to the Philistines. David's men had now observed his leadership and faith for many years. How might David's example have influenced the way they now approached hard battles?

What is one way you can encourage someone in your life to trust God during a personal battle?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

2 SAMUEL 23:8-24:25

April 19-20, 2023

1. Make a list of the people that have influenced your journey with God.

Now list some of the specific ways they have influenced your journey with God.

2. Look up the following verses. What do they teach us about Christian community?

Ephesians 4:1-3

Colossians 3:16

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

Hebrews 10:24-25

3. David had many outstanding military men that surrounded him and strengthened his kingdom. In 2 Samuel 23 we find a memorial for their loyalty to David and their military endeavors. What are these men called? Read 2 Samuel 23:8a.

This band of men first gathered to assist David before he was king. 1 Chronicles 12:1, 22 explain the details about the origin of this group of men. What do we learn?

What were some of the skills of these men according to 1 Chronicles 12:2, 8, 21?

4. Describe the spirit and desires of the mighty men after reading 1 Chronicles 12:18, 38-40.

Think of a couple ways this would specifically affect the heart of David.

5. The listing of David's mighty men near the end of his life is divided into groups. Read about the first group which is called 'the three' in 2 Samuel 23:8-12. What specific victories are attributed to each of these elite soldiers?

We find a different group of three that were part of David's thirty chief men in 2 Samuel 23:13-17. What do we learn about their relationship with David in this story?

What does this tell you about David?

Read 2 Samuel 23:18-23 to be introduced to two more honored men. List their amazing achievements.

The list of David's special force of chief men appears in 2 Samuel 23:24-39. Take note of the last man named in 2 Samuel 23:39. Then read 2 Samuel 11:14-17. What sad tragedies do we realize when we connect these verses?

6. Read 2 Samuel 24:1-4. In these verses, God permits Satan to tempt David in order to accomplish His purposes. We are not told why God is angry with Israel. Who are the specific people that David wants to number? Read 2 Samuel 24:9 for insight.

Why might Joab have protested David's command? Also read Proverbs 16:18.

Share a time a wise friend stopped you from making a poor choice.

7. Read 2 Samuel 24:5-9. What is the total number of eligible fighting men?

Read Joab's original protest to the military census again in verse 3. Who does he credit for Israel's military power?

8. In 2 Samuel 24:10, David realized his sin of pride and self-sufficiency. Think about the various battles Israel faced while David was king. Consider the details before, during, and after these battles. What were the many realities of Israel's military victories that David ignored when he sent out Joab?

9. Read 2 Samuel 24:11-14. Why did David choose pestilence as God's discipline?

What is the benefit of remembering God's mercy when He disciplines us for our sins?
Also read Lamentations 3:22-23, 31-33.

10. Read 2 Samuel 24:15-17. What was the result of David viewing the angel striking God's people with his own eyes? Also read 2 Samuel 5:1-2 when David was anointed king of Israel.

11. Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25 and explain the wisdom in each of David's actions in this part of the story.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

2 SAMUEL 22:1-23:7

April 26-27, 2023



1. Just as Hannah, Samuel's mother, begins 1 Samuel with a prayer of praise, David also ends 2 Samuel extolling the LORD. Look back at 1 Samuel 2:1-10. What are the characteristics of God Hannah praises?

Now read 2 Samuel 22:1-4. What is David celebrating according to verse 1?

Record the words David uses to describe the LORD in the first 4 verses.

Compare David's words to Hannah's praises in 1 Samuel 2. What similarities do you see?

2. In 2 Samuel 22:4, David proclaims that the LORD has saved him from his enemies. Read 2 Samuel 22:5-6. What peril was he facing from his enemies?

Who were some of the enemies desiring David's death? See 1 Samuel 23:15 and 2 Samuel 17:1-4.

When he feared for his life, what action did David take according to 2 Samuel 22:7?

Read 2 Samuel 22:8-16. Write down the words or phrases David uses to convey God's great power and majesty as He rescues him from death.

3. How does David personalize God's power in 2 Samuel 22:17-20?

As you think on descriptions David uses to describe God's power manifested in his own life, consider your life. Which of David's descriptions reminds you of His work in your life?

4. In 2 Samuel 22:21-25, David shares insight into the truth that God rewards and blesses faithful perseverance in godliness. Next to the following verses list the ways David has persevered in godliness:

22:21

22:22

22:23

22:24

Which one of these would you like to pursue more faithfully? Stop and pray for that life change.

5. Read 2 Samuel 22:26-31. Describe ways David is empowered through his relationship with the LORD according to verses 29-31.

6. In 2 Samuel 22:32-46, David continues to extol all the LORD has done specifically for him. Write out a description of David based on his affirmation of the LORD's work in his life.

Just like David, the LORD has shaped our lives through our relationship with Him. List some words or phrases that describe who you are because of God's mighty power manifested in you.

Read John 1:12; Romans 5:1; Romans 8:37-39; Ephesians 1:4,7; Ephesians 2:10 for insight.

7. Although David had much power and success as Israel's king, he gives credit where credit is due in 2 Samuel 22:47-51. Who deserves credit for David's successes?

Although David has been extolling the LORD for his past blessings, what does he affirm about the future in verse 51?

8. Read 2 Samuel 23:1-4. According to David in verse 1, how has God intervened in his life?

In addition to being God's chosen king, what do verses 2-3 also reveal about David?

What are the two primary responsibilities of a righteous king revealed by God to David in verse 3?

In your own words, describe the outcome when an ideal king fulfills these responsibilities according to verse 4.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Who will ultimately be the perfect King on David's throne one day?

9. Read 2 Samuel 23:5-7. What does David believe will be the result of God's covenant on his dynasty?

10. David's last words in 2 Samuel are beautiful words of praise and affirmation for God's great favor in his life. What blessings and insight have you received this semester from our study of 2 Samuel together?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.