



# ISRAEL THE KINGDOM OF DAVID

## 2 SAMUEL 8-10

February 15-16, 2023

1. Last week we studied the new promises God made to David. This week we will see some of God's past promises coming into view. Share some promises God has kept in your own life, and your response to God in light of His faithful love.
2. Read Genesis 12:1-2; 15:18-21 and Deuteronomy 1:6-8; 11:24. What do you learn about God's promise of land to Abraham and his descendants?
3. Chapter 8:1-14 in 2 Samuel is a summary of David's victories over Israel's enemies. Read the following verses as you look at the map provided and write down the enemy on the:

West side of Israel, 8:1 -

East side of Israel, 8:2 -

North side of Israel, 8:3, 8:7-8 -

South side of Israel, 8:13-14 -

What might be some benefits for the Israelites as their enemies are defeated on all sides of Israel?  
Read 2 Samuel 7:10-11.

4. Read 2 Samuel 8:6, 10-14. Although David's reputation as a mighty warrior and great king is growing among the foreign nations, Who is responsible for David's victories?

What action does David take demonstrating he recognizes the LORD is giving the victory?

Why do you think David's acknowledgment of God is important?

What are some ways you acknowledge God as the One who gives you victories?

5. Read 2 Samuel 8:15-18. (A better translation of priests in verse 18 is David's sons were royal advisors or chief officials.) Using your own words describe David's reign over Israel.

What evidence do you see in these verses that David is a man after God's heart and also the king of God's choosing?

6. Read Jonathan and David's covenant vow of loyal friendship in 1 Samuel 20:12-17, 42. Now read 2 Samuel 9:1-4. What is David wanting to do and why?

What do you learn about Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, from the description in verse 9:3? Also read 2 Samuel 4:4.

What do you think might be some hardships Mephibosheth has had to face?

7. Read 2 Samuel 9:5-10. List the promises David makes to Mephibosheth in verse 7.

What reason does David give for his kindness to Mephibosheth?

What do you find significant about Mephibosheth's response to David's kindness in verse 8?

What similarities do you see in the story of David and Mephibosheth and the gospel story of God's kindness to you? See John 3:16, Romans 5:8, and Ephesians 2:1, 4-7.

8. Read 2 Samuel 9:9-13. What do you think Mephibosheth will experience as he eats at King David's table?

9. Read 2 Samuel 10:1-5. After Nahash the king of the Ammonites dies, what is David's intention in verse 2 concerning Hunan, the son of Nahash?

Summarize what happens when Hunan follows foolish counsel.

Share some ways you guard yourself from speaking foolish or unwise words to others.

What are some steps you can take to guard yourself from following foolish counsel?

10. Read 2 Samuel 10:6-14. David sends his military forces led by Joab to battle Hunan's own army and his mercenaries. What stands out to you in Joab's battle plan?

What do we learn about Joab's character from the words he speaks in verse 12?

11. Finish reading the story in 2 Samuel 10:15-19. Who do we see leading Israel's army and defeating the Syrians?

12. Look back over chapters 8, 9, and 10 of 2 Samuel and notice the different acts of kindness. List a few examples of Jesus' kindnesses you have experienced this past week or month. Take a moment to thank Him.

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

## 2 SAMUEL 11-12

February 22-23, 2023



1. As 2 Samuel 10 closes, it is clear that God has blessed David and he is undoubtedly becoming a great king and military genius. What emotions may David have felt at the end of chapter 10?

What blessings and dangers come with great victory?

2. Read 2 Samuel 11:1. What point does the author make as he opens chapter 11?

Although no clear reason is given, what are some possible reasons David stayed behind instead of leading his military into battle with the Ammonites at Rabbath?

3. Read 2 Samuel 11:2-5. When David set aside his military duties, he took the first step toward a choice that would take him outside of God's will. Look back over verses 2-5 and record each time David could have made a different decision and been victorious against the temptation of sin.

With God's Word as our weapon, we can always resist temptation. What do the following portions of Scripture say about overcoming temptations?

Psalm 119:11

1 Corinthians 10:13

Ephesians 6:10-11

4. Read 2 Samuel 11:6-15. What steps did David take in an attempt to conceal his sin and how did Uriah respond?

5. According to 2 Samuel 11:14, who carried the letter to Joab that contained the details of David's last desperate plan to kill Uriah?

Besides desperation, what other things lead us to take unthinkable measures when trying to cover up our sin?

6. Read 2 Samuel 11:16-21. David's final plan was successful and Uriah was killed. In addition to Uriah's death, what were some indirect consequences of David's sins recorded in these verses?

Recall a time when you or someone you know went to drastic measures to cover up a sin. What are some other indirect consequences of sin?

7. Read 2 Samuel 11:22-27 and record how David attempted to encourage Joab.

What do you think David's motive is in attempting to encourage Joab?

David may think his sin had been concealed, but how do we know it was not hidden from the LORD?

8. Continue by reading 2 Samuel 12:1-6. Nathan prepares David to face his own sin by telling him a story about another crime. In Nathan's story who did the following characters represent?

The rich man

The poor man

The ewe lamb

Briefly compare Nathan's story to David's recent actions.

What do you find interesting about David's reaction to Nathan's story?

9. Read 2 Samuel 12:7-14. According to verses 7-8, how has the LORD blessed David? What does Nathan accuse David of in verse 9?

10. Although David's sins caused great suffering and death to those around him, against Whom is David ultimately sinning?

According to 1 John 1:9, what happens when we confess our sin?

David later wrote Psalm 103 where he tells of God's grace and forgiveness. Look at Psalm 103:3-5, 12 and record what David knows of God's forgiveness.

11. Read 2 Samuel 12:15-23. God forgave David's sin, but David would suffer the consequences of his actions. How did he respond to the discipline of his Heavenly Father in verse 13?

Look up the word chastening and write out the definition.

Read Proverbs 3:11-12 and Hebrews 12:10-11. Explain how God's punishment is different than punishment which comes from a human judge who is simply upholding the law.

Looking back over 1 Samuel 12:16-23, what evidence do you see that God's chastening had produced godly character traits in David?

12. Finish by reading 2 Samuel 12:24-31. How does God show His grace to both David and Bathsheba?

13. Look back over 2 Samuel 11-12. What other evidence of God's grace stands out to you?

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

## 2 SAMUEL 13

March 1-2, 2023

1. What are some reasons we are tempted to take revenge when we have been wronged?

Share some sad outcomes you have witnessed when people act out vengefully against each other.

What does God say about this subject? Read Romans 12:19.

What alternative does Paul command us to take in Romans 12:20-21?

2. Read the disturbing story of Amnon and Tamar in 2 Samuel 13:1-22. List the main characters in this story and the part they played.

Tamar was Absalom's full sister and Amnon's half-sister. How was the standard of sexual purity established by God's law violated in this story according to Leviticus 18:9,11?

Read 2 Samuel 12:11a, where we see one of the consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba. How do we see that consequence playing out in Tamar's rape?

What more can we learn about the consequences of our sin and the reasons behind our sins in Jeremiah 2:19?

3. Take a look again at Amnon in 2 Samuel 13:1-19. List all the deceitful actions he took to get what he wanted.

Read Amnon's request for Tamar to his father in 13:6. How do the words David sent to Tamar in 13:7 differ from the words in Amnon's request? What seems to be David's attitude about Amnon's request?

How would you describe the "love" that Amnon had for Tamar?

What are some of the ways we rationalize our selfish desires?

4. Read 2 Samuel 13:11-14. What were Tamar's many arguments against Amnon's selfish request?

Why do you think none of her arguments moved the heart of Amnon?

5. Read 2 Samuel 13:15-19. Why do you think the following quote is often true? "It is a principle of human nature to hate those whom you have injured."

6. Finish this part of the story by reading 2 Samuel 13:20-22. How did Amnon's sins specifically affect the lives of his own family members?

List the damage one person's sins can cause others according to Proverbs 16:27-30.

7. Absalom decided a sheepshearing festival would provide an opportunity to take his revenge against Amnon. Read 2 Samuel 13:23-27. How long had Absalom waited for retaliation?

After pressing his father, who accompanied Absalom to the festival?

8. Read 2 Samuel 13:28-29. What had God told David earlier in 2 Samuel 12:10 that was now coming true?

How does God describe the underlying cause of David's evil behavior in 12:9-10?

David confessed his sin and repented. What did Absalom do? Read 13:34, 37.

Amnon was David's firstborn son by Ahinoam and heir to David's throne. Why might David's sons have fled the murder scene so quickly?

9. Read 2 Samuel 13:3-5 to be reminded of Jonadab. Now read 13:30-36. How would you describe the part that Jonadab has played throughout this story? Consider his description in 13:3.

10. Absalom fled 80 miles to the home of his grandfather, the king of Geshur. Read 2 Samuel 13:37-39. While Absalom took refuge in his grandparent's home, what was happening in the home of David?

Tamar was David's daughter. How might things have turned out differently if David had disciplined Amnon for raping Tamar?

What must be the priorities of someone who desires God's blessings according to Micah 6:8?

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

## 2 SAMUEL 14

March 8-9, 2023

1. What does the Bible say about how we should plan and make decisions in our lives? Read Psalm 37:23-24, Proverbs 3:5-7 and Proverbs 14:12 for insight.

From these verses, what is the benefit of seeking counsel from the Lord instead of relying on your own wisdom or the wisdom of others?

2. Read 2 Samuel 14:1-3. Absalom has spent the last three years exiled in Geshur after he carried out the murder of his brother Amnon. What is Joab's plan to reunite the king and Absalom?

What does 14:1 say was Joab's motive?

3. Read 2 Samuel 14:4-7. What are the main points that Joab gave the woman to tell the king?

Now read Genesis 4:8-16. What are the similar points of this story and the story that the woman told the king?

What characteristics of God do you see in Genesis 4 that the woman might have been trying to remind the king?

What is the king's response to the woman in 2 Samuel 14:8?

4. Read 2 Samuel 14:9-11. The woman, unsatisfied with the king's answer petitions him further. What is the woman's main concern? See 2 Samuel 14:7, 11.

The avenger of blood was a family member who could avenge the death of a relative that had been wrongly killed. What is the king's response to the woman's further pleas?

5. Read 2 Samuel 14:12-20. Having received the answer, the woman was looking for, she now speaks to the real reason she came before the king. Now that Amnon is dead, Absalom is the heir to the throne. What is the wrong she says the king has committed against the people of God?

How does the woman soften the bluntness of her words in verses 14:17, 20?

6. Read 2 Samuel 14:21-24. After realizing that Joab was behind the woman's words, the king allows Joab to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem. What are the stipulations of Absalom's return?

In 2 Samuel 14:1 Joab's motive seems to be reconciling the king with Absalom. Do the king's stipulations solve the problem that Joab was trying to fix? Explain your answer.

The king's plan of dealing with his son's sin was to not deal with it. Think of a time in your life when you have seen the consequences of inaction. What is God's desire for us in relationships? See Hebrews 12:14 and Luke 17:3 for further insight.

7. Continue reading 2 Samuel 14:25-27. List all the things you learn about Absalom.

What is the focus of most of these descriptions?

What does God say we should look at when assessing others? See 1 Samuel 16:7.

8. Finish reading 2 Samuel 14:28-33. Absalom tried to summon Joab twice, but Joab refused. What is Absalom's plan to assure that Joab will see him?

What is Absalom's opinion of his "house arrest?"

On a scale from 1-10 (10 being the best) how would you rate the reunion of the king and Absalom in verse 33? Is this what you would have expected from a father who missed his son? Explain why or why not.

9. Look back over 2 Samuel 14. How many times do you see God consulted?

Take a minute and think about how you make plans in your own life. What things could you put in place to remind you to seek the Lord's guidance first?

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

## 2 SAMUEL 15

March 15-16, 2023

1. Write down your definition of loyalty.

What are some reasons loyalty might be important in a relationship?

2. Absalom's story continues in 2 Samuel 15. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-6 and summarize Absalom's actions.

What words would you use to characterize Absalom's behavior?

According to verse 6, what is Absalom's motive behind his actions?

Looking back at your definition of loyalty, how would you assess Absalom's loyalty to his father, King David?

3. Continue reading in 2 Samuel 15:7-12. How long did Absalom's actions of undermining his father continue according to verse 7?

What request does Absalom make of his father in verses 7-8?

Look back at 2 Samuel 2:1-4. How has Hebron been significant in David's kingship?

4. What steps does Absalom take against his father, King David in 2 Samuel 15:10-12?

5. What is the result of Absalom's actions according to verse 12?

Give some reasons that David's chief advisor Ahithophel might abandon his loyalty for King David and join Absalom.

Now think about your friendships and work relationships. What are some traits of a loyal friend or co-worker?

Share some ways you can cultivate being a loyal friend or co-worker. Read Proverbs 17:17; 18:24 and 27:9.

6. Read 2 Samuel 15:13-18. What words reveal to David that Israel's loyalty to his kingship has been lost?

Describe the action David takes in 2 Samuel 15:14-17 in response to the message he receives.

How do David's servants express their devotion to him?

7. Read 2 Samuel 15:19-23. Why is David surprised that Ittai the Gittite is remaining with him as they evacuate the city?

Compare Ittai the Gittite's words in 2 Samuel 15:21 to Ruth's words in Ruth 1:16-18. What similarities do you see between Ruth's loyalty to Naomi and Ittai's loyalty to David?

8. Read 2 Samuel 15: 24-29. What insight do you gain into David's relationship with the LORD from his words to the priests as they bring him the ark during his escape?

David might have written Psalms 3 and 4 while he was fleeing from Absalom. Read Psalm 4 and write down evidence you see of David's trust and loyalty in the LORD alone.

9. Read 2 Samuel 15:30-37. Describe David's emotional state as he makes his way up the Mount of Olives.

How does he respond to the news his advisor Ahithophel has joined Absalom's conspiracy?

What plan does he make with his friend Hushai?

Why do you think Hushai is willing to put himself in danger by returning to Jerusalem?

10. What lessons do you learn from David's continued loyalty to the LORD even as his life and kingship is threatened?

How can you apply these lessons to your own life?

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

## 2 SAMUEL 16-17

March 22-23, 2023

1. David leaves Jerusalem and experiences multiple hardships. His son Absalom is trying to steal the kingship and kill him. Former friends are conspiring against him. David and his people are on the run and need basic supplies just to survive. Reflect on a difficult season in your life. What truths about God encouraged you during that time?
2. Read 2 Samuel 16:1-4. What provision does David receive?

Read also 2 Samuel 19:24-30. Contrast Ziba's explanation in chapter 16 with Mephibosheth's explanation of the same events in chapter 19. Mephibosheth is the son of Jonathan and the grandson of Saul.

3. Read 2 Samuel 16:5-14. Summarize Shimei's concerns about David in verses 7-8.

What do you learn about David and his character by his response to Shimei in verses 9-13?

Read 2 Samuel 16:15-23. Based on descriptions of Absalom throughout 2 Samuel along with 16:20-22, what insight do you have about Absalom's character?

4. David prayed Psalm 3 while fleeing from Absalom. Read Psalm 3 to see David's inner thoughts and prayers to God during this hard time.

What concerns does David express to God in verses 1-2?

What brings David hope in verses 3-6?

What does David ask God in verse 7?

5. Reread Psalm 3:3. Which of the descriptions of God in this verse most encourages you and why?

Consider a difficult situation you are facing right now. Express your concerns to God and ask Him for His help and intervention.

6. David and Hushai crafted a plan in 2 Samuel 15:32-37 to foil Absalom's evil plans to kill David and steal the kingship. They decided Hushai would befriend Absalom and contradict the advice of Absalom's counselor Ahithophel. Read 2 Samuel 17:1-14. Contrast Ahithophel's plans with Hushai's plans.

Reread 2 Samuel 17:14. What did Absalom and his men believe about Hushai's advice?

What did God ordain through Hushai's advice?

7. Because Hushai did not know whether Absalom would follow his advice or Ahithophel's advice, he enacts another plan to save David. Read 2 Samuel 17:15-22 to see God protect David and his people. List the people God uses and what each person does.

8. We are often attacked in a variety of ways, through lies, betrayal, pressure to compromise God's principles and much more. Share a time in your life that God protected you.

9. Read 2 Samuel 17:23-29. In 2 Samuel 17:29 and 2 Samuel 16:14, how are David and the people with him described?

Based on what you know of David's experiences during this season, in what ways would David be weary emotionally?

10. What David wrote Psalm 63 while he was in the wilderness in Judah. Some commentators believe it was written during this time in the wilderness while David was fleeing from Absalom. Read Psalm 63.

What words in verse 1 describe David's physical and emotional state?

What encourages David in verses 2-3?

What verbs describe the actions David commits to take in verse 4-8?

In verse 11, David calls himself the king. God's protection and care was not just for David as a person but for David as a king and for his kingdom. Read God's earlier promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:15-16. Why is God's protection for David and his kingdom significant?

11. David's difficult season did not pass quickly. He continued to turn to God and strove to obey over and over again. What actions do you want to take this week to help you seek and obey God?

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