

New Life Dresher Women's Bible Study Devotional

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Presbyterian Church of Dresher

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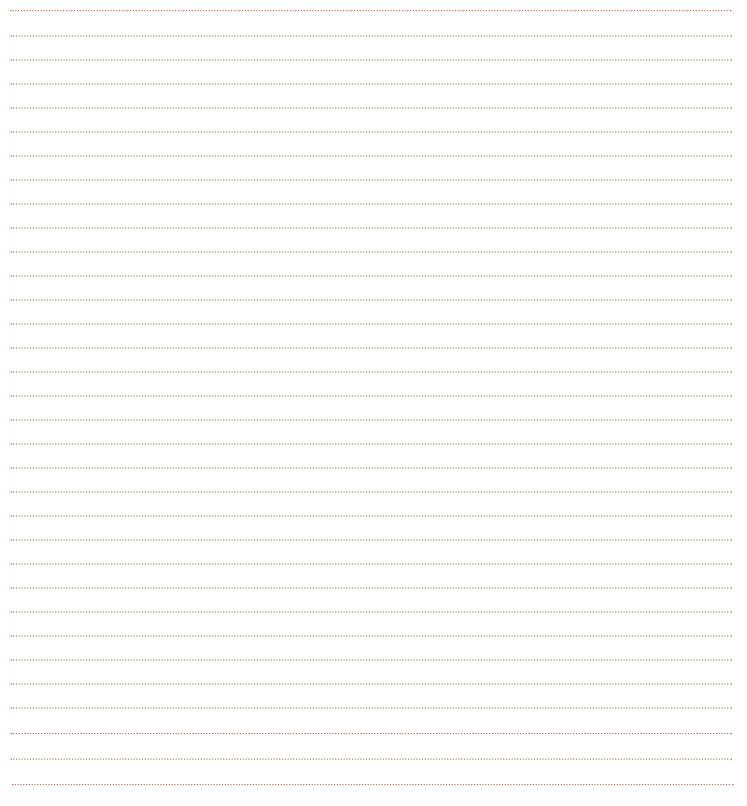
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Intro to II Samuel





After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down L the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. ²And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. ³David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." ⁴And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." ⁵Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" ⁶And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. ⁷And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' ⁸And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' ⁹And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' ¹⁰So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

¹¹Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. ¹²And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. ¹³And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." ¹⁴David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" ¹⁵Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. ¹⁶And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.""

"Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armorbearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it." I Samuel 31:4

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-39

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¹⁷And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, ¹⁸and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said:

- "Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!
- ²⁰ Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.
- "You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor fields of offerings!
 For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
 - the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.
- ²² "From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.
- ²³ "Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions.
- ²⁴ "You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.
- ²⁵ "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!
 - "Jonathan lies slain on your high places.
- ²⁶ I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women.
- 27 "How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"



It was a bleak and bloody day in the kingdom of God. The Philistines had decimated Israel. Severely wounded, King Saul falls on his sword to escape capture and torture. Jonathan, David's dearest friend, is killed. An Amalekite runs over 80 miles to give David the news. Suddenly everything changes for David. Yet, at this moment we must remind ourselves, 'this is not about David. It is about a covenant God who makes covenant promises to a king through whom He will preserve His people.' (Dale Ralph Davis)

1. Describe the discrepancies in the accounts of Saul's death in I Samuel 31:4 and II Samuel 1:6-8. How did the Amalekite assume David would react to his news?

- 2. The Amalekite's assumption about David is incorrect and that assumption cost the man his life (verse 16). Think back on I Samuel. Why was David so careful to preserve Saul's life during all the years of pursuit and exile?
- 3. The battle at Gilboa is a national disgrace for Israel. David and his men feel both grief and shame at the loss of life and damage to God's honor. What is David's goal in composing a lament to be memorized and recited/sung by all the 'sons of Judah'? What role can music play in shaping a people's consciousness?

4. In his song David refers to both Saul and Jonathan as "the mighty". Even so, how does David's lament for Saul differ from his lament for Jonathan? What were your thoughts as you read David's lament for Saul? How might you have responded in a similar situation?

5. David's dirge centers on his terrible grief at the loss of Jonathan. Experience teaches us that greater love means greater grief. How does the assurance of Romans 8:37-39 prepare you for suffering and grief? Reflect on the place that grief has within the Body of Christ.

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

"Wait for the Lord, be strong, let your heart take courage."

Psalm 27:14

Song: Softly and Tenderly - Will Lamartine Thompson

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:

Ideas for how to reach out: send a letter, call, text, connect in person for coffee or a walk



2 After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the 2cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." ²So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ³And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. ⁴And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

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When they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul," ⁵David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. ⁶Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. ⁷Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

Ish-bosheth Made King of Israel

⁸But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, ⁹and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel. ¹⁰Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. ¹¹And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

The Battle of Gibeon

¹²Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. ¹³And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. And they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool. ¹⁴And Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men arise and compete before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise." ¹⁵Then they arose and passed over by number, twelve for Benjamin and Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David. ¹⁶And each caught his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side, so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which is at Gibeon. ¹⁷And the battle was very fierce that day. And Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

¹⁸And the three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Now Asahel was as swift of foot as a wild gazelle. ¹⁹And Asahel pursued Abner, and as he went, he turned neither to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner. ²⁰Then Abner looked behind him and said, **10** "Is it you, Asahel?" And he answered, "It is I." ²¹Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and seize one of the young men and take his spoil." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him. ²²And Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to your brother Joab?" ²³But he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the butt of his spear, so that the spear came out at his back. And he fell there and died where he was. And all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died, stood still.

²⁴But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. And as the sun was going down they came to the hill of Ammah, which lies before Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon. ²⁵And the people of Benjamin gathered themselves together behind Abner and became one group and took their stand on the top of a hill. ²⁶Then Abner called to Joab, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitter? How long will it be before you tell your people to turn from the pursuit of their brothers?" ²⁷And Joab said, "As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely the men would not have given up the pursuit of their brothers until the morning." ²⁸So Joab blew the trumpet, and all the men stopped and pursued Israel no more, nor did they fight anymore.

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²⁹And Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, and marching the whole morning, they came to Mahanaim. ³⁰Joab returned from the pursuit of Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing from David's servants nineteen men besides Asahel. ³¹But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin 360 of Abner's men. ³²And they took up Asahel and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was at Bethlehem. And Joab and his men marched all night, and the day broke upon them at Hebron.



David is in Ziklag. He and his six hundred men had just returned from defeating Amalekite raiders and rescuing their families when David received news of Saul's death. Chapter one is David's deep lament over the loss of Jonathan and Saul. Let's find out David's next step.

1. After mourning Saul and Jonathan, what does David do first? What does this act show about his heart? What happens in Hebron?

2. How does David reach out to show respect for Saul as the Lord's anointed (verses 4b-7)? As the king of Judah, how does he honor the men of Jabesh-Gilead and suggest that they proceed? In what way is David's invitation to the men of Jabesh-Gilead like Jesus' invitation to us?

3. David's leadership is challenged by Abner, the commander of Saul's army. In the next chapter we will learn that Abner was already aware of God's promise to make David king. What were the personal motivations that likely caused Abner to pursue this course of action in spite of God's will? Why wasn't he afraid of God's reaction?

4. How do we discern God's guidance and will? To what extent do we, to whom God has revealed so much in Christ, actually live within that light in practical terms? If you do not, why not?

5. Who is David's military commander? In the scripture, underline the main events that occur at Gibeon and its aftermath (verses 12-28). Which side is victorious? Why do you think Joab calls a halt to the conflict after Asahel is killed?

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!
For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:1-4

Song: Do It Again - Elevation Worship

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



3 There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.

²And sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel; ³and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; ⁴and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; ⁵and the sixth, Ithream, of Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

⁶While there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul. ⁷Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. And Ishbosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?" ⁸Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, "Am I a dog's head of Judah? To this day I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David. And yet you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman. ⁹God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the LORD has sworn to him, ¹⁰to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba." ¹¹And Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

¹²And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring over all Israel to you." ¹³And he said, "Good; I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you; that is, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face." ¹⁴Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, for whom I paid the bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines." ¹⁵And Ishbosheth sent and took her from her husband Paltiel the son of Laish. ¹⁶But her husband went with her, weeping after her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "Go, return." And he returned.

¹⁷And Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, "For some time past you have been seeking David as king over you. ¹⁸Now then bring it about, for the LORD has promised David, saying, 'By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.'" ¹⁹Abner also spoke to Benjamin. And then Abner went to tell David at Hebron all that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do. "¹⁵You may indeed set a king over you whom the Lord your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. ...¹⁷And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold."

Deuteronomy 17:15,

²⁰When Abner came with twenty men to David at Hebron, David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him. ²¹And Abner said to David, "I will arise and go and will gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

²²Just then the servants of David arrived with Joab from a raid, bringing much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David at Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace. ²³When Joab and all the army that was with him came, it was told Joab, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has let him go, and he has gone in peace." ²⁴Then Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you. Why is it that you have sent him away, so that he is gone? ²⁵You know that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing."

Joab Murders Abner

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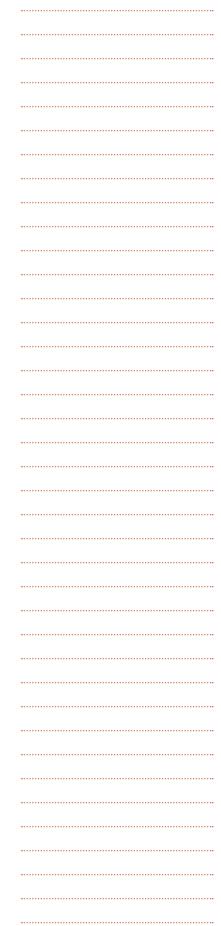
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²⁶When Joab came out from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah. But David did not know about it. ²⁷And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the stomach, so that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother. ²⁸Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before the LORD for the blood of Abner the son of Ner. ²⁹May it fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house, and may the house of Joab never be without one who has a discharge or who is leprous or who holds a spindle or who falls by the sword or who lacks bread!" ³⁰So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon.

David Mourns Abner

³¹Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and mourn before Abner." And King David followed the bier. ³²They buried Abner at Hebron. And the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept. ³³And the king lamented for Abner, saying,

"Should Abner die as a fool dies?
³⁴ Your hands were not bound; your feet were not fettered; as one falls before the wicked you have fallen." And all the people wept again over him. ³⁵Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was yet day. But David swore, saying, "God do so to me and more also, if I taste bread or anything else till the sun goes down!" ³⁶And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as everything that the king did pleased all the people. ³⁷So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner the son of Ner. ³⁸And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? ³⁹And I was gentle today, though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruiah, are more severe than I. The LORD repay the evildoer according to his wickedness!"





Events in the last chapter and this one can cause us to marvel if God's promise about David's kingship could ever come to pass. Again and again we see people resist the kingdom promise by force, seek David's kingship for the wrong reasons or zealously protect their own little 'kingdom' and ignore God's plan. In spite of human plotting and weakness, Yahweh's promise will come to pass.

1. The chapter begins by describing how David's house is literally growing stronger than the house of Saul. List in order the sons born to David at Hebron then read Deuteronomy 17:15,17. How might this list be a foreshadowing of what is to come?

2. You may recall that Michal is Saul's daughter. When David escaped from Saul in I Samuel, Saul married Michal to another man. Why does David make the return of Michal a critical condition for dealing with Abner? How does your heart respond to the grief of Paltiel?

3. What reason does Joab give for his concern about David's agreement with Abner? Who or what is Joab really defending when he kills Abner?

4. How does David handle Joab's murder of Abner? Why is it important for David to be clear about his lack of participation in any plot against Abner?

5. Consider the self interest of Abner and Joab. How are we like them? Can you think of a recent example where you've been tempted to act in self-interest while expressing a more acceptable motive?

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

God of Abraham, You're the God of covenant And of faithful promises. Time and time again, You have proven, You'll do just what You said. Though the storms may come and the winds may blow, I'll remain steadfast. And let my heart learn, when You speak a word, It will come to pass

Song: Promises - Maverick City Music

Prayer Requests

Friend:	Request:
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When Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed. ²Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of raiding bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon a man of Benjamin from Beeroth (for Beeroth also is counted part of Benjamin; ³the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there to this day).

⁴Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled, and as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

⁵Now the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out, and about the heat of the day they came to the house of Ish-bosheth as he was taking his noonday rest. 6And they came into the midst of the house as if to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. 7When they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and put him to death and beheaded him. They took his head and went by the way of the Arabah all night, ⁸and brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The LORD has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring." 9But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity, ¹⁰when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. ¹¹How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?" ¹²And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron.



Now with Abner's death, only Ish-Bosheth stands in the way of the reunion of Israel and Judah under David's rule.

1. Why would Abner's death cause Ish-Bosheth to lose courage? How do the people react to Abner's death?

2. Without inquiring of the Lord, Recab and Baanah take matters into their own hands. What outcome do they hope for? How does this scene unfold? From his reaction, what do we learn about David's character?

3. When have you been tempted to act according to your own plan instead of bringing it to the Lord? What was the result? Has the "sword" of revenge ever backfired on you?

4. Why do you think Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, is mentioned in this passage? What is his relationship to David's kingship?

5. It's been a long road for David marked by many obstacles, from his anointing by Samuel as a young shepherd boy until now. Yet he never tried to advance himself to the throne ahead of God's plan. He writes in Psalm 27:14, "Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage and wait for the Lord." What have you learned from David as he has journeyed the long road to becoming king? Is there something you are "waiting on the Lord" for? How can the group pray for you as you wait and trust in God's timing?

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

Were You to count my sinful ways How could I come before Your throne. Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze I stand redeemed by grace alone.

Yeah, I will wait for You, I will wait for You On Your word I will rely. And I will wait for You, surely wait for You 'Til my soul is satisfied.

So put Your hope in God alone, Take courage in His power to save Completely and forever won By Christ emerging from the grave.

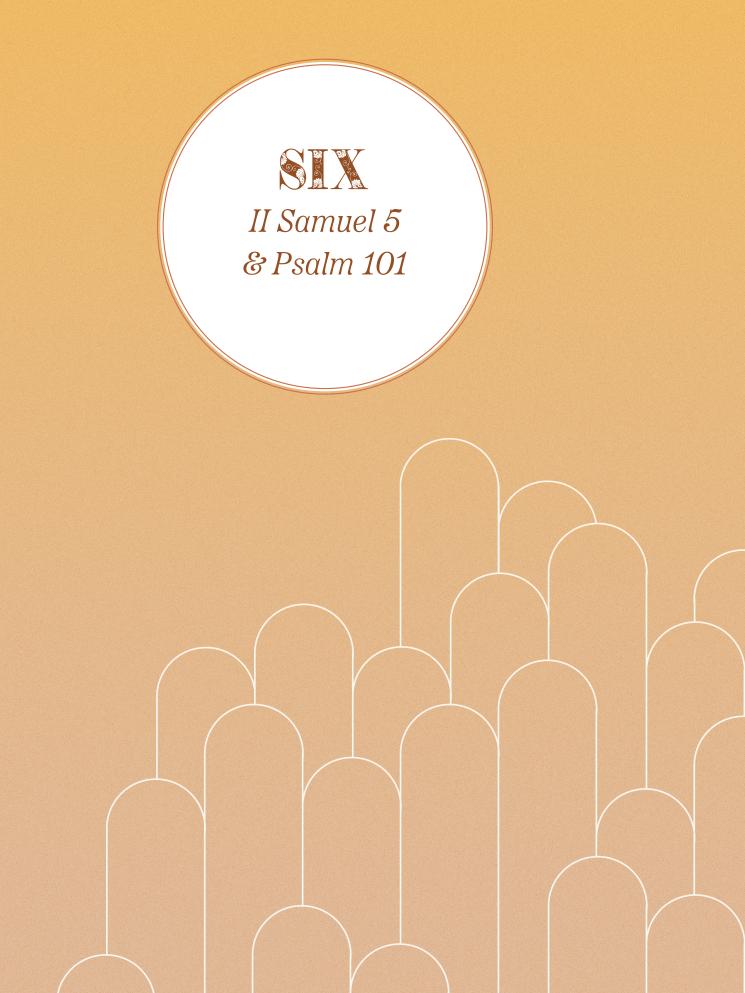
Psalm 130 by Shane and Shane

Song: Psalm 130 - Shane and Shane

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



5 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. ²In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" ³So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. ⁵At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

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⁶And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." ⁷Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. ⁸And David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack 'the lame and the blind,' who are hated by David's soul." Therefore it is said, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." ⁹And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward. ¹⁰And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

¹¹And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house. ¹²And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

¹³And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. ¹⁴And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ¹⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, ¹⁶Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

David Defeats the Philistines

¹⁷When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. ¹⁸Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁹And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand." ²⁰And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. ²¹And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away.

²²And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. ²³And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. ²⁴And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines." ²⁵And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

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Psalm 101

1	I will sing of steadfast love and justice;	
	to you, O LORD, I will make music.	
2	I will ponder the way that is blameless.	
	Oh when will you come to me?	
	•	
	I will walk with integrity of heart	
2	within my house;	
3	I will not set before my eyes	
	anything that is worthless.	
	I hate the work of those who fall away;	
	it shall not cling to me.	
4	A perverse heart shall be far from me;	
-	•	
	I will know nothing of evil.	
5	Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly	
	I will destroy.	
	Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart	
	I will not endure.	
6	I will look with favor on the faithful in the land,	
	that they may dwell with me;	
	he who walks in the way that is blameless	
	shall minister to me.	
7	No one who practices deceit	
	shall dwell in my house;	
	no one who utters lies	
	shall continue before my eyes.	
	shan continue before my cycs.	
8	Morning by morning I will destroy	
	all the wicked in the land,	
	cutting off all the evildoers	
	e	
	from the city of the LORD.	
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David's long journey to the throne finally comes to an end at Hebron as he makes a covenant with all the elders of Israel. Although certainly not a perfect king, David beautifully points ahead to the One who is, King Jesus.

1. In the opening verses of chapter 5, why do the people embrace David as king?

- 2. David conquers Jerusalem and fulfills God's promises in Genesis to secure this land. We read in verse 10 that the "Lord God Almighty was with him." We have the same assurance of the Lord with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. How does that assurance allow you to step out in faith and have victory over your fears and feelings of inadequacy?
- 3. In verses 17-25, David faces the Philistines again in battle. How does he approach and memorialize these encounters? How might you use David's example to face your own enemies?
- 4. In Psalm 101, King David's desire is to lead a blameless life and an uncorrupt government. Read Psalm 101. Consider the behaviors mentioned that convict your heart. Underline the positive attributes that David seeks for himself as well as the behaviors he despises. Unfortunately, we know David and his son, Solomon, violate these standards, as do our leaders today. Lord, help us to faithfully pray for our leaders and to keep a faithful check on the purity of our own hearts.
- 5. David is now established and recognized as king over a united Israel and the country enters a period of success, power, and prosperity. David is no longer a fugitive hiding in caves, dependent on the Lord for survival. Now there is the potential for self-sufficiency and pride to creep in. His heart is tempted to wander from the Lord and follow the culture. We see in verse 13 that David "took" many wives. In Deuteronomy 17:17 we read, "The King shall not acquire for himself many wives, lest his heart turn away." What strategies do you use to determine whether a culturally acceptable behavior is aligned with God's ways? What current cultural "norms" are you tempted to follow that you suspect are not in line with God's desire for His child?

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

"David was no cardboard saint, but a flesh and blood flawed man of deep faith. The good news for other flawed people of faith is that it is precisely with such people that God chooses to build his kingdom."

Philips Long

Song: Surrounded (Fight My Battles) - Michael W. Smith

Prayer Requests

Friend:	Request:	X		
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"And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel."

The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

ODavid again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. ³And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, ⁴with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark.

Uzzah and the Ark

⁵And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. ⁶And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. ⁷And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. ⁹And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" ¹⁰So David was not willing to take the ark of the LORD into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹¹And the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

¹²And it was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom to the city of David with rejoicing. ¹³And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. ¹⁴And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

David and Michal

¹⁶As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷And they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. ¹⁸And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people

in the name of the LORD of hosts ¹⁹and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

²⁰And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" ²¹And David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD—and I will celebrate before the LORD. ²²I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor." ²³And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

"And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry."

Numbers 4:15

Inumbers 4:	17
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Psalm 132

		Remember, O LORD, in David's favor,
	2	all the hardships he endured,
•	2	how he swore to the LORD
•	2	and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
	3	"I will not enter my house
		or get into my bed,
	4	I will not give sleep to my eyes
		or slumber to my eyelids,
	5	until I find a place for the LORD,
		a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
	6	Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah;
		we found it in the fields of Jaar.
•	7	"Let us go to his dwelling place;
•		let us worship at his footstool!"
•	8	Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place,
•		you and the ark of your might.
•	9	Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
•		and let your saints shout for joy.
	10	For the sake of your servant David,
		do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
•	11	The LORD swore to David a sure oath
•		from which he will not turn back:
•		"One of the sons of your body
•		I will set on your throne.
•	12	If your sons keep my covenant
•		and my testimonies that I shall teach them,
•		their sons also forever
		shall sit on your throne."
	13	For the LORD has chosen Zion;
		he has desired it for his dwelling place:
	14	"This is my resting place forever;
•		here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
	15	I will abundantly bless her provisions;
•		I will satisfy her poor with bread.
_	16	Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
		and her saints will shout for joy.
•	17	There I will make a horn to sprout for David;
•		I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
•	18	His enemies I will clothe with shame,
•		but on him his crown will shine."
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We know from I Samuel that the Ark stayed at Abinadab's house for twenty years. Now, in the prime of life, king of all Israel, his enemies defeated and confident of the Lord God Almighty, David finally prepares to bring the Ark, the representation of God's presence, to Jerusalem. David plans a huge celebration for this event.

1. In Exodus 25:21-22 the Lord explains something of the Ark's purpose. Numbers 4:15 gives specific instructions on how and by whom the Ark of the Covenant should be transported. II Samuel 6:7 describes what happened when the oxen stumbled and Uzzah touched the ark. In what ways did the Israelites fail to obey the Lord? What does the Lord's response to Uzzah's action say about His character?

2. Finally, the Ark enters Jerusalem. How does David respond on this momentous day?

3. The text mentions three times that Michal is Saul's daughter. As David danced before the Lord, Michal was more concerned about David's outward appearance than about his heart. Can you think of a time you were more concerned about outward appearances than your heart for the Lord? Reflect on this and write about the experience.

4. Psalm 2 calls us to "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling." How do David's responses to the Lord throughout this chapter point us to "rejoice with trembling" in our own lives? What might that look like for you?

5. Underline the promises made by the Lord to David in Psalm 132:10-18. These promises are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. In light of these promises, how can you be encouraged when you experience suffering?

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

Fearfulness and gladness are held together. In Yahweh's presence you should both shudder and dance! Whether you comprehend it or not, II Samuel 6 teaches you that a fearful sense of God's holiness does not suppress joy but stimulates it. You have to be one of Zion's children to know how true this paradox is.

Dale Ralph Davis

Song: Psalm 116 - Mission House

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



II Samuel 7

The Lord's Covenant with David

/ Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. 7In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." ¹⁷In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

David's Prayer of Gratitude

¹⁸Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁹And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD! ²⁰And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! ²¹Because of your

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will_also_give_life_to_your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

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"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

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Ephesians 1:13-14

promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. ²²Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²³And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?²⁴And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O LORD, became their God. ²⁵And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. ²⁶And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you. ²⁷For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. ²⁸And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. ²⁹Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."



David is given a season of rest from his enemies. Filled with gratitude to God, David's deep desire is to build a house of cedar and stone for the Ark of the Covenant.

- 1. Can you remember a time when you planned "to do good for God?" Did your "doing" keep you from His very best? Explain. In the process, how did He draw you into a new kind of relationship with Himself?
- 2. The Lord speaks to Nathan about David's 'good plan.' How does God redirect David's focus in this effort (verses 7-16)? Has your experience been similar or different than David's? How has God redirected you in your plans?
- 3. David's house for the Ark was a way for David to ensure God remained with Israel. God has promised so much more! We have the advantage of hindsight as we look at this prophetic glimpse of God's plan. How is the coming Messiah, God with us, and the gift of the Holy Spirit so much greater than a God housed in an earthly temple? Refer to Romans 8:11 and Ephesians 1:13-14 (printed in the margins above) for some ideas:
- 4. David sets aside his plan and follows God's will revealed through Nathan. What does David's worship acknowledge about God in the following verses?

Verse 18:

Verses 19-20:

Verses 21-22:

Verses 23-24:

5. Refer to the previous question. How do these promises bring comfort to you as you seek God's plan for your life?

Notes

Speaker:	Date:
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How easily our imaginations can be captured by and our energies exhausted by what we want to build for God when what He really wants is for us to sit attentively, witnessing what He is building so that we might marvel and give Him thanks! Philips Long

Song: Goodness of God - Jen Johnson

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



II Samuel 8 & Psalm 60

Q David's Victories

• After this David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and David took Metheg-ammah out of the hand of the Philistines.

²And he defeated Moab and he measured them with a line, making them lie down on the ground. Two lines he measured to be put to death, and one full line to be spared. And the Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute.

³David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the river Euphrates. ⁴And David took from him 1,700 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers. And David hamstrung all the chariot horses but left enough for 100 chariots. ⁵And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down 22,000 men of the Syrians. ⁶Then David put garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went. ⁷And David took the shields of gold that were carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. ⁸And from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took very much bronze.

⁹When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, ¹⁰Toi sent his son Joram to King David, to ask about his health and to bless him because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Hadadezer had often been at war with Toi. And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold, and of bronze. ¹¹These also King David dedicated to the LORD, together with the silver and gold that he dedicated from all the nations he subdued, ¹²from Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

¹³And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. ¹⁴Then he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

David's Officials

¹⁵So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. ¹⁶Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, ¹⁷and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary, ¹⁸and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were priests. "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father." Ephesians 2:18

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Psalm 60

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."	D A of
Galatians 2:20	
Galatians 2:20	

He Will Tread Down Our Foes

To the choirmaster: according to Shushan Eduth. A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.

2 3	O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; oh, restore us. You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair its breaches, for it totters. You have made your people see hard things; you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.
4	You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that they may flee to it from the bow. <i>Selah</i>
5	That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer us!
6	God has spoken in his holiness: "With exultation I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Vale of Succoth.
7	Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my scepter.
8	Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast my shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph."
9	Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?
10	Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go forth, O God, with our armies.
11	Oh, grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man!
12	With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.



Verses 14-15 "...The Lord preserved and gave him victory wherever he went. So David reigned over all Israel and executed justice and righteousness for all his people."

- 1. As we read of battles that included death, spoils, delivery from evil, restoration of power, and many hard choices, we must consider all of these consequences in light of verses 14-15. What do you understand about God's commitment to justice and righteousness after reading this chapter?
- 2. Jesus' death and resurrection provide us with the opportunity of full access to His Holy Father! What does His commitment to our holiness, empowered through the Spirit, mean to you? Consider the verses printed in the margin as you respond to the question.

3. In II Samuel 5:21, David destroys the idols of gold, but in 8:11, he dedicates the gold recovered to the Lord. David demonstrates discernment about what honors God in this decision. In what other ways do we see David's careful discernment in how to best honor God?

4. In verses 17 and 18 David appoints two high priests and names his own sons as priests. These choices compromise God's instructions to Israel. What do these decisions tell us about David at this point in his life?

5. After a season of great victories and blessings, many biblical "heroes" reveal their fallen humanity. Have you ever experienced a season of spiritual blessing and been surprised by your own "fall"? Reflect on that experience below.

Notes

Speaker:	Date:
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We ought to be planting kingdom righteousness in our own present garden plots, in whatever relationships or capacities we do have. Your task is not to leave doing what is just and right to David but to peel off that kingdom ideal and stick it over the circumstances of your own life; you must be doing what is just and right for all your people.

Dale Ralph Davis

Song: See a Victory - Elevation Worship

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



ODavid's Kindness to Mephibosheth

And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" ²Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." ³And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." 4The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. ⁶And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." 7And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always." 8And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

⁹Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. ¹⁰And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. ¹¹Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. ¹²And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. ¹³So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

"As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing."

"But should it please my father to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also if I do not disclose it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. May the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father. If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD take vengeance on David's enemies." And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul."

1 Samuel 20:13-17



Now that David's enemies outside and inside Israel are quelled and his kingship is firmly established, he pauses. David reflects back on his relationship with Jonathan and the promises between them. Our passage is a beautiful picture of covenant loyalty, a foretaste of our Savior's steadfast loyalty toward the lowliest and least of His children.

1. Who is Mephibosheth? Review I Samuel 20:13-17. Why is David concerned for him?

2. The author makes a special point of mentioning Mephibosheth's disability—twice. Why do you think this is significant? We see hints in the exchange between David and Mephibosheth in verses 5-8.

3. Mephibosheth was not poor, especially after David restored his grandfather Saul's property to him. He had his own household, family (a son, Mica, is named), and an income managed for him by the steward of Saul's estate, Ziba. How might Ziba and his household have felt about Mephibosheth's reinstated wealth and the honor of being seated as family at King David's table?

4. For further insight on attitudes toward disability during Biblical times, read John 9:1-7. How are current attitudes different? How are they the same? The work of God is displayed in the New Testament through Jesus' healing of the blind man. How is God glorified in the Old Testament story of David and Mephibosheth?

5. David and Jonathan had a "covenant" relationship which led to David's care for Mephibosheth. As believers in Christ's death and resurrection, we have a covenant relationship with God, the Father. How does our covenant with God impact our daily lives?

Notes

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"The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.
He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world." 1 Samuel, Song of Hannah

Song: Grace Greater Than All Our Sin - Julia H. Jonston

Prayer Requests

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1 O*David Defeats Ammon and Syria* After this the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. ²And David said, "I will deal loyally with Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father dealt loyally with me." So David sent by his servants to console him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the Ammonites. ³But the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think, because David has sent comforters to you, that he is honoring your father? Has not David sent his servants to you to search the city and to spy it out and to overthrow it?" ⁴So Hanun took David's servants and shaved off half the beard of each and cut off their garments in the middle, at their hips, and sent them away. 5When it was told David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Remain at Jericho until your beards have grown and then return."

⁶When the Ammonites saw that they had become a stench to David, the Ammonites sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob, 12,000 men. 7And when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the host of the mighty men. 8And the Ammonites came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the gate, and the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the open country.

"When Joab saw that the battle was set against him both in front and in the rear, he chose some of the best men of Israel and arrayed them against the Syrians. ¹⁰The rest of his men he put in the charge of Abishai his brother, and he arrayed them against the Ammonites. ¹¹And he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come and help you. ¹²Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him." ¹³So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. ¹⁴And when the Ammonites saw that the Syrians fled, they likewise fled before Abishai and entered the city. Then Joab returned from fighting against the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.

¹⁵But when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together. ¹⁶And Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the Euphrates. They came to Helam, with Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer at their head. ¹⁷And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan and came to Helam. The Syrians arrayed themselves against David and fought with him. ¹⁸And the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed of the Syrians the men of 700 chariots, and 40,000 horsemen, and wounded Shobach the commander of their army, so that he died there. ¹⁹And when all the kings who were servants of Hadadezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became subject to them. So the Syrians were afraid to save the Ammonites anymore.

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Nahash, king of the Ammonites has died. His son, Hanun, is the new king and in a great show of kindness David thoughtfully sends a delegation to express his condolences. Once again, God's chosen king is acting out of hesed (loyal kindness), this time toward an Ammonite king. But instead of welcoming David's ambassadors, Hanun physically humiliates them in a crass rejection of friendship. One thing leads to another, as often happens in the world of political intrigue.

1. Following Hanun's disgraceful treatment of his delegation, how does David alleviate the shame for his men? Why did the men stay in Jericho rather than return to Jerusalem?

2. When the Ammonites understand that they have mis-read David's intentions, what do they do? What does David do in turn? What is the result?

3. In verses 9-12, David's general, Joab, leads with a combination of strategy, alliance, and trust in God. Underline verses 11-12 and reflect on Joab's words. How can you apply these same tactics in your battles? Elaborate with specifics and/ or examples.

4. It seems as if David's attempt at kindness toward Hanun may have been a mistake since it led to war with multiple nations. However, what good does God bring out of this chapter for David? For the Israelites? Can acts of hesed ever be a mistake when we follow Jesus?

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Speaker:	Date:

Chesed (Hebrew: דְסָד, also Romanized Hesed) is a Hebrew word that means kindness or love between people, specifically of the devotional piety of people towards God as well as of love or mercy of God towards humanity.

Song: Kindness - Chris Tomlin

Prayer Requests

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But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. James 1:14-15

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David and Bathsheba

I David and Damoster In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

²It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

⁶So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. ⁸Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. 'But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing." ¹²Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." ¹⁶And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. ¹⁷And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died. ¹⁸Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. ¹⁹And he instructed the messenger, "When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, ²⁰then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, 'Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?²¹Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?' then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

²²So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. ²³The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. ²⁴Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." ²⁵David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him."

²⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. ²⁷And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.



Spring is the time of year when kings go out to war. Yet while Israel's army lays siege to Rabbah, King David lounges on his palace rooftop. He sees a beautiful woman bathing and sets in motion a series of sins that nearly destroy David, his household, and Israel.

 Read James 1:14-15 and describe how temptation progresses to full-blown sin and mirrors David's actions in verses 2-5. What could David have done to halt his unbridled desire? What could David have had in place to protect him from slipping into this tempting scenario?

2. David compounds his sin of adultery by taking steps to cover it up. List in sequence David's actions in verses 7-25. Do you have a "cherished" sin that you need the Lord's help to uproot? Confess it to the Lord and have someone you trust pray for you.

3. David often acts with faith and nobility. Yet he also fell into great sin. By contrast, Uriah, one of David's valiant men, shows himself to be a true Israelite. In verses 8-18, circle examples of Uriah's integrity. Name one spiritual habit you see the Lord developing in you this season.

4. We understandably recoil from David's surrender to lust and his callous abuse of power. Yet we, too, are also "prone to wander...prone to leave the God [we] love." What's one way you can draw on the Lord's direction when you feel weak?

5. After Uriah is killed in battle it seems that the king has escaped the shame that he deserves. But chapter 11 concludes with the sentence: "...the thing that David had done displeased the Lord." (verse 27) Do you sometimes forget how "all seeing" God is? To what harm?

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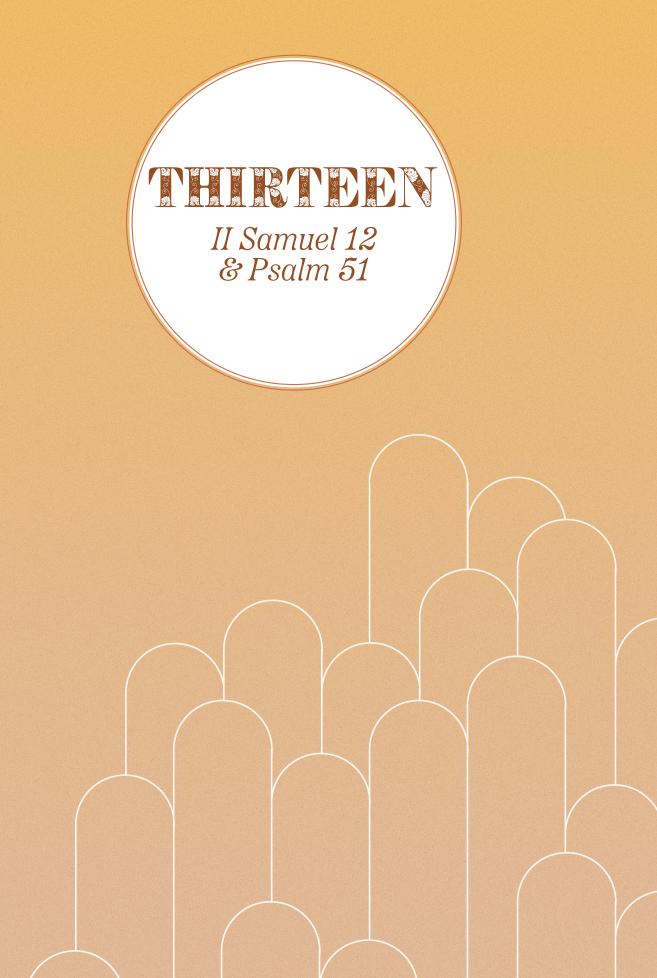
"Sin seldom shows itself all at once, or even as sin at all. The temptation to sin is usually more subtle than that. But once in its grip, one is taken to places one never intended to go, and held longer than one ever intended to stay."

Philips Long

Song: Just As I Am - Charlotte Elliot

Prayer Requests

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2 Nathan Rebukes David And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds, ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, ⁶and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

⁷Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. "Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' 11 Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹²For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun." ¹³David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die." ¹⁵Then Nathan went to his house.

David's Child Dies

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And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. ¹⁶David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." ¹⁹But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." ²⁰Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." ²²He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' ²³But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

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Solomon's Birth

²⁴Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him ²⁵and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Rabbah Is Captured

²⁶Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and took the royal city. ²⁷And Joab sent messengers to David and said, "I have fought against Rabbah; moreover, I have taken the city of waters. ²⁸Now then gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called by my name." ²⁹So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah and fought against it and took it. ³⁰And he took the crown of their king from his head. The weight of it was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone, and it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount. ³¹And he brought out the people who were in it and set them to labor with saws and iron picks and iron axes and made them toil at the brick kilns. And thus he did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

Psalm 51

ר	<i>Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God</i> To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.
1	Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
	Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
3	For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
	Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
	Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
	Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
	Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
	Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
	Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
	Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
	Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
	Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
	Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
	Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,
	and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

- ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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- ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- ¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.



"But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD." Remembering this final warning from chapter 11, we suspect that God is justifiably primed to launch into visible action. Is David about to confront the wrath of the Almighty? What we will discover and can never comprehend is the deep mercy of Yahweh and His unbounded grace.

1. "And the LORD sent Nathan to David." Why does Nathan say that David himself is the same as the rich man in the story he tells (verses 7-8)? How does Nathan's story lead David to repentance? What does this say about God's grace?

2. Reread verses 11-14 and underline the ways David is punished for his sin. Whose lives did/will David's sin destroy? The law tells us that David deserved death. Why does God spare David's life?

3. David fasted and wept while his child was still alive, so much so that his servants were scared and baffled (verses 16-23). As you reflect on David's reactions to his dying child, in what ways and why does his behavior change after his child dies? In what ways does David and Bethsheba's tiny son foreshadow a later Son of David, Jesus?

4. I and II Samuel show us again and again that human leaders are flawed, even the very best. All kingdoms can only be established and maintained by grace. Why is Solomon a sign of the Lord's grace to David, Bathsheba and the world?

5. Read through Psalm 51. Underline each of David's confessions to the Lord and place a star beside every desperate plea. What is most instructive about his prayer of repentance? Which of David's confessions resonate with your own life?

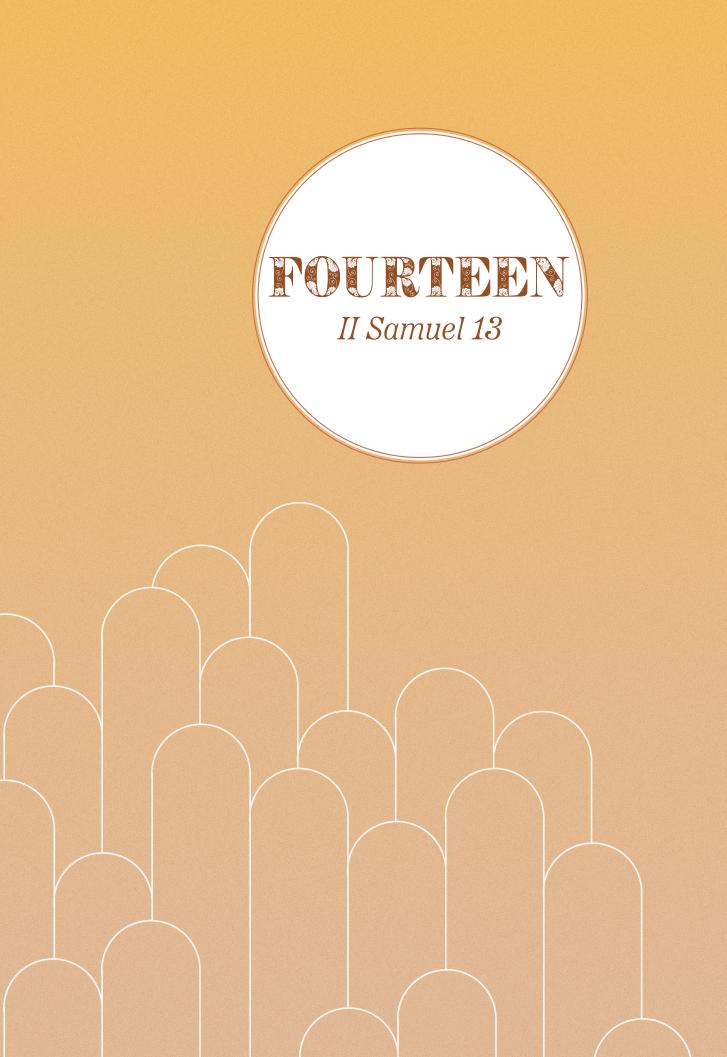
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"Grace is not merely favor; it is also the fury that precedes the favor." Dale Ralph Davis

Song: Jireh - Elevation Worship

Prayer Requests



"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

Leviticus 19:18

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.'"

Romans 12:19-20

2 Amnon and Tamar

1 Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. ²And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. ³But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man. ⁴And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." ⁵Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand." ⁶So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

⁷Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him." ⁸So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes. 9And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him. ¹⁰Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. ¹¹But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." ¹²She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. ¹³As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." ¹⁴But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.

¹⁵Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up! Go!" ¹⁶But she said to him, "No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. ¹⁷He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her." ¹⁸Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. ¹⁹And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went.

²⁰And her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house. ²¹When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. ²²But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar.

Absalom Murders Amnon

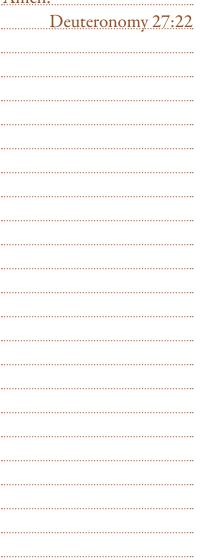
²³After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons. ²⁴And Absalom came to the king and said, "Behold, your servant has sheepshearers. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant." ²⁵But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go, lest we be burdensome to you." He pressed him, but he would not go but gave him his blessing. ²⁶Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" ²⁷But Absalom pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. ²⁸Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant." ²⁹So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled.

³⁰While they were on the way, news came to David, "Absalom has struck down all the king's sons, and not one of them is left." ³¹Then the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the earth. And all his servants who were standing by tore their garments. ³²But Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, "Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day he violated his sister Tamar. ³³Now therefore let not my lord the king so take it to heart as to suppose that all the king's sons are dead, for Amnon alone is dead."

Absalom Flees to Geshur

³⁴But Absalom fled. And the young man who kept the watch lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, many people were coming from the road behind him by the side of the mountain. ³⁵And Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons have come; as your servant said, so it has come about." ³⁶And as soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came and lifted up their voice and wept. And the king also and all his servants wept very bitterly. "You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home." Leviticus 18:9

"Cursed be anyone who lies with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother." And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'"



³⁷But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son day after day. ³⁸So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. ³⁹And the spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, because he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead.

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The roots and effects of sin can run deep and have ripple effects. Yet, we worship a God who delivers us and restores us. The gospel is the only antidote to the sin that so easily entangles. The gospel alone can break the cycles of sin that run through our family histories. When we encounter the gross displays of sin in this chapter, we can look higher to a God of promises.

1. In verses 3-4, Amnon receives counsel from his friend Jonadab. How can seeking counsel solely from a friend lead us astray as we see here with Amnon? Where else could Amnon have turned and should we turn with our struggles? How do we balance where we seek wisdom?

2. Why do you think Amnon pivots into anger towards Tamar and responds in fury when he was the one who mistreated her? What is the root heart problem that feeds such anger? Do you ever respond with anger because your pride has been hurt?

3. How does Absalom handle his anger towards Amnon? What does scripture teach us about revenge? (Leviticus 19:18 and Romans 12:19-20) How does this differ from the world's view of revenge?

4. Read Leviticus 18:9 and Deuteronomy 27:22. These passages clearly state the Old Testament law that David was well acquainted with. How did David deal with Amnon's violation of Tamar? Why do you think he acted this way?

5. How does David's sin affect his family and lead to a trail of sin in Amnon and Absalom? How can sin affect our own lives in the same pervasive way?

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

I will carry you Through your darkest night When you're terrified I will carry you When the waters rise When your hope runs dry I will carry you Ellie Holcomb

Song: I Will Carry You - Ellie Holcomb

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



Absalom Returns to Jerusalem

L⁴ Now Joab the son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart went out to Absalom. ²And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman and said to her, "Pretend to be a mourner and put on mourning garments. Do not anoint yourself with oil, but behave like a woman who has been mourning many days for the dead. ³Go to the king and speak thus to him." So Joab put the words in her mouth.

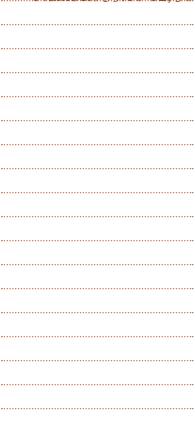
⁴When the woman of Tekoa came to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and paid homage and said, "Save me, O king." ⁵And the king said to her, "What is your trouble?" She answered, "Alas, I am a widow; my husband is dead. ⁶And your servant had two sons, and they quarreled with one another in the field. There was no one to separate them, and one struck the other and killed him. ⁷And now the whole clan has risen against your servant, and they say, 'Give up the man who struck his brother, that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed.' And so they would destroy the heir also. Thus they would quench my coal that is left and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth."

⁸Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you." ⁹And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, "On me be the guilt, my lord the king, and on my father's house; let the king and his throne be guiltless." ¹⁰The king said, "If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall never touch you again." ¹¹Then she said, "Please let the king invoke the LORD your God, that the avenger of blood kill no more, and my son be not destroyed." He said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

¹²Then the woman said, "Please let your servant speak a word to my lord the king." He said, "Speak." ¹³And the woman said, "Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God? For in giving this decision the king convicts himself, inasmuch as the king does not bring his banished one home again. ¹⁴We must all die; we are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God will not take away life, and he devises means so that the banished one will not remain an outcast. ¹⁵Now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid, and your servant thought, 'I will speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his servant. ¹⁶For the king will hear and deliver his servant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the heritage of God.' ¹⁷And your servant thought, 'The word of my lord the king will set me at rest,' for my lord the king is like the angel of God to discern good and evil. The LORD your God be with you!"

Israeland say to them, When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person without intent may flee there. The cities shall be for you a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment ... 'If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness."

Numbers 35:10-12, 30



¹⁸Then the king answered the woman, "Do not hide from me anything I ask you." And the woman said, "Let my lord the king speak." ¹⁹The king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" The woman answered and said, "As surely as you live, my lord the king, one cannot turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has said. It was your servant Joab who commanded me; it was he who put all these words in the mouth of your servant. ²⁰In order to change the course of things your servant Joab did this. But my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the angel of God to know all things that are on the earth."

²¹Then the king said to Joab, "Behold now, I grant this; go, bring back the young man Absalom." ²²And Joab fell on his face to the ground and paid homage and blessed the king. And Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord the king, in that the king has granted the request of his servant." ²³So Joab arose and went to Geshur and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. ²⁴And the king said, "Let him dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence." So Absalom lived apart in his own house and did not come into the king's presence.

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²⁵Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. ²⁶And when he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the king's weight. ²⁷There were born to Absalom three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a beautiful woman.

²⁸So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king's presence. ²⁹Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but Joab would not come to him. And he sent a second time, but Joab would not come. ³⁰Then he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire. ³¹Then Joab arose and went to Absalom at his house and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?" ³²Absalom answered Joab, "Behold, I sent word to you, 'Come here, that I may send you to the king, to ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still." Now therefore let me go into the presence of the king, and if there is guilt in me, let him put me to death." ³³Then Joab went to the king and told him, and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom.



Our way maker makes a way for the outcast to come home. Nothing can keep Him from His children. In this chapter we watch Absalom come home to Jerusalem. But his homecoming is carried out in unexpected ways.

- 1. Why do you think Joab sent the woman from Tekoa to confront King David with a fabricated story rather than simply going to the king himself regarding David's relationship with Absalom? What do you think this says about Joab's relationship with David and David's kingship?
- 2. In verse 14, the Tekoan woman says God makes a way so that the banished one will not remain an outcast. What provisions has God made in the Old Testament to deal with these situations? Read Numbers 35:10-12, 30. What provisions has God provided for us so that we are not outcasts?
- 3. After David's interaction with the woman he tells Joab that Absalom can return to Jerusalem but that he could not be in David's presence. Why do you think David gave this stipulation? What insight might this give you into David and Absalom's relationship?
- 4. In verses 25-27, the author describes Absalom as the perfect specimen, with a great head of hair and a beautiful family. How do his outward qualities affect Absalom's ability to be a leader in Israel? In light of the behavior that follows in verses 29-32, why do you think the author wanted to emphasize Absalom's favorable appearance?
- 5. In chapter 14, Joab, David and Absalom all vie to be in control of the situation. List specific ways you see this.

Joab David

How do their actions align, or not, with Godly character? Can you think of an example from your own life where you tried to control a situation with less than noble intentions? Spend some time repenting and praying for God to reveal the heart issues that led to those actions.

Absalom

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

The call for saved sinners is to forget what lies behind (whether personal victories or defeats) and to press forward in the power of the Holy Spirit. Philips Long

Song: Waymaker - Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



II Samuel 15 & Psalm 3

🕇 🗲 Absalom's Conspiracy

A fter this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. ²And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," ³Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you." ⁴Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." ⁵And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. ⁶Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷And at the end of four years Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD, in Hebron. ⁸For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the LORD will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the LORD.'" ⁹The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron. ¹⁰But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, 'Absalom is king at Hebron!'" ¹¹With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing. ¹²And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

David Flees Jerusalem

¹³And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." ¹⁴Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." ¹⁵And the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides." ¹⁶So the king went out, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house. ¹⁷And the king went out, and all the people after him. And they halted at the last house.

¹⁸And all his servants passed by him, and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the six hundred Gittites who had followed him from Gath, passed on before the king. ¹⁹Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why do you also go with us? Go back and stay with the king, "And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, 'Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.""

I Samuel 4:3	-
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"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

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servant be." ²²And David said to Ittai, "Go then, pass on." So Ittai the Proverbs 18:24 Gittite passed on with all his men and all the little ones who were with him. ²³And all the land wept aloud as all the people passed by, and the king crossed the brook Kidron, and all the people passed on toward the wilderness. ²⁴And Abiathar came up, and behold, Zadok came also with all the Levites, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God until the people had all passed out of the city. ²⁵Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place. ²⁶But if he says, 'I have no pleasure in you,' behold, here I am, let him do to me what seems good to him." ²⁷The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your two sons, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. ²⁸See, I will wait at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me." ²⁹So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem, and they remained there. ³⁰But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as

³⁰But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went. ³¹And it was told David, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."

for you are a foreigner and also an exile from your home. ²⁰You came only yesterday, and shall I today make you wander about with us, since I go I

know not where? Go back and take your brothers with you, and may the

LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you." ²¹But Ittai answered

the king, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my

lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, there also will your

³²While David was coming to the summit, where God was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn and dirt on his head. ³³David said to him, "If you go on with me, you will be a burden to me. ³⁴But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father's servant in time past, so now I will be your servant,' then you will defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel. ³⁵Are not Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? So whatever you hear from the king's house, tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. ³⁶Behold, their two sons are with them there, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son, and by them you shall send to me everything you hear." ³⁷So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.

Psalm 3

	<i>Me, O My God</i> lm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.		
	O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;		
2	many are saying of my soul,	Selah	
3	But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.		
4	I cried aloud to the LORD,	Selah	
5	I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.		
6	I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around	d.	
7	Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God!		
	For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.		
8	Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! Selah		
	your blessing be on your people.		

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We find Israel at a pivotal moment in this chapter. Will their loyalty remain with David, the chosen and anointed king, or will their hearts be swayed by the manipulative showmanship of Absalom? As we study together, consider your own heart's proclivity for leaning toward the world's enticing influence.

1. Underline Absalom's manipulative actions which contributed to his conspiracy found in verses 1-12.

2. Reread II Samuel 12:10-12. Here in chapter 15, we see God's word coming to fulfillment. How does this reality draw you into worship?

3. Upon hearing of the coup, David flees Jerusalem. He doesn't want to see the city destroyed and wants to identify his true supporters. Now compare verses 25-26 with I Samuel 4:3. Where else do you see maturity in David's leadership?

4. Contrast the characteristics we see in Ittai against those of Absalom. Consider Proverbs 18:24. Give thanks for the Ittais the Lord has brought into your life.

5. As David ascends the Mount of Olives weeping, he cries out to the Lord in prayer. Surprisingly, his prayer is answered almost immediately by his servant, Hushai. We have all lived through times of seemingly unanswered prayers. But many of our prayers draw us directly into thanksgiving. Consider this past season and write out the prayers that you have seen God answer.

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

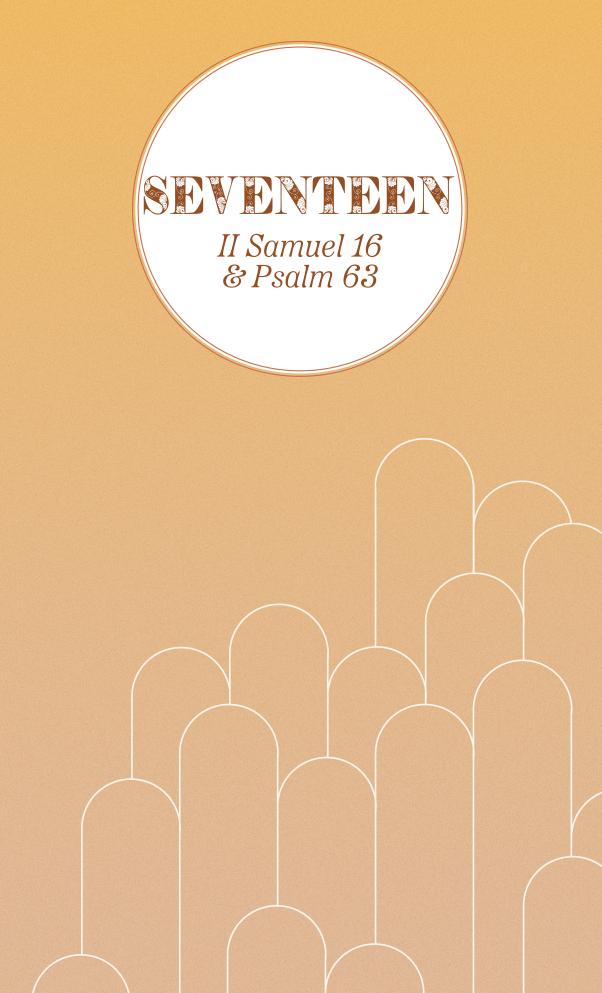
One of God's ways of supporting you is to give you a friend who stands with you in the darkest hour. Ittais are God's gifts.

Dale Ralph Davis

Song:Lord I Need You - Matt Maher

Prayer Requests

Friend:	Request:	X	
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David and Ziba

16 When David had passed a little beyond the summit, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, bearing two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred bunches of raisins, a hundred of summer fruits, and a skin of wine. ²And the king said to Ziba, "Why have you brought these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who faint in the wilderness to drink." ³And the king said, "And where is your master's son?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he remains in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will give me back the kingdom of my father." ⁴Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours." And Ziba said, "I pay homage; let me ever find favor in your sight, my lord the king."

Shimei Curses David

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⁵When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually. ⁶And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. ⁷And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! 8 The LORD has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood."

⁹Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head." ¹⁰But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" ¹¹And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. ¹²It may be that the LORD will look on the wrong done to me, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing today." ¹³So David and his men went on the road, while Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went and threw stones at him and flung dust. And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan. And there he refreshed himself.

Absalom Enters Jerusalem

¹⁵Now Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. ¹⁶And when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" ¹⁷And Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" ¹⁸And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, for whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain. ¹⁹And again, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? As I have served your father, so I will serve you."

²⁰Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel. What shall we do?" ²¹Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened." ²²So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. ²³Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom.

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Psalm 63

My Soul Thirsts for You A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, 3 my lips will praise you. 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, 6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. 9 But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword; 10 they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; 11 all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

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In the last chapter, we were introduced to some of David's friends and supporters. Chapter 16 confronts us with some of his enemies. It is important to remember that while David has not always acted according to his high calling, he still remains Yahweh's chosen - the Lord's covenant king - and should be honored as such.

 The chapter opens with Ziba, who at first read, might be considered thoughtful and generous. However, as we look closer, we see that he too has a mind for manipulation. What is Ziba offering and what does Ziba gain by his offer to David? Confess where you too can have a manipulative heart, appearing to serve others when ultimately seeking to serve yourself.

2. Next, we encounter Shimei, a man from the house of Saul. Underline his actions in the text and then describe in your own words David's reaction to Shimei. How is it that David can respond this way? Where does his faith play a role in this response? How do you respond to rebuke and ridicule?

- 3. Verse 14 gives us a picture of David and his supporters. Weary, broken, and heavy laden they arrive on the banks of the Jordan River. Here they find refreshment. Imagine trudging along with the heart-sick travelers. What is it about this pause in the journey that refreshes them? How might God meet them here? How do you find that God meets you when you feel washed up from the ache of life?
- 4. Read Psalm 63 and underline the action words that David declares to the Lord. Which responses from the Lord in the Psalm do you long to see more of in your life?

5. The chapter ends with horrific counsel and action on the part of Ahithophel and Absalom. On what aspect of God's character do you base your faith and hope when reading such terrible acts? Reread 2 Samuel 12:11-12 and Psalm 63:9.

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar Up from the ashes hope will arise Death is defeated, the King is alive

I Raise a Hallelujah

Song: I Raise a Hallelujah - Bethel Music

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



II Samuel 17 & Psalm 62

17 *Hushai Saves David* Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. ²I will come upon him while he is weary and discouraged and throw him into a panic, and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king, ³and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace." ⁴And the advice seemed right in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

⁵Then Absalom said, "Call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he has to say." ⁶And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom said to him, "Thus has Ahithophel spoken; shall we do as he says? If not, you speak." 7Then Hushai said to Absalom, "This time the counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good." 8Hushai said, "You know that your father and his men are mighty men, and that they are enraged, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Besides, your father is expert in war; he will not spend the night with the people. ⁹Behold, even now he has hidden himself in one of the pits or in some other place. And as soon as some of the people fall at the first attack, whoever hears it will say, 'There has been a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.' ¹⁰Then even the valiant man, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will utterly melt with fear, for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and that those who are with him are valiant men. ¹¹But my counsel is that all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, as the sand by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person. ¹²So we shall come upon him in some place where he is to be found, and we shall light upon him as the dew falls on the ground, and of him and all the men with him not one will be left. ¹³If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we shall drag it into the valley, until not even a pebble is to be found there." ¹⁴And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel." For the LORD had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the LORD might bring harm upon Absalom.

¹⁵Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so have I counseled. ¹⁶Now therefore send quickly and tell David, 'Do not stay tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means pass over, lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up." ¹⁷Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were waiting at En-rogel. A female servant was to go and tell them, and they were to go and tell King David, for they were not to be seen entering the city. ¹⁸But a young man saw them and told Absalom. So both of them went away quickly and came to the house 106

"And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever"

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Daniel 2:44

of a man at Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard. And they went down into it. ¹⁹And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth and scattered grain on it, and nothing was known of it. ²⁰When Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house, they said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" And the woman said to them, "They have gone over the brook of water." And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

²¹After they had gone, the men came up out of the well, and went and told King David. They said to David, "Arise, and go quickly over the water, for thus and so has Ahithophel counseled against you." ²²Then David arose, and all the people who were with him, and they crossed the Jordan. By daybreak not one was left who had not crossed the Jordan.

²³When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and went off home to his own city. He set his house in order and hanged himself, and he died and was buried in the tomb of his father.

²⁴Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel. ²⁵Now Absalom had set Amasa over the army instead of Joab. Amasa was the son of a man named Ithra the Ishmaelite, who had married Abigal the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother. ²⁶And Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

²⁷When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Machir the son of Ammiel from Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, ²⁸brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, flour, parched grain, beans and lentils, ²⁹honey and curds and sheep and cheese from the herd, for David and the people with him to eat, for they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."

Psalm 62

-	My Soul Waits for God Alone To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.					
1	For God alone my soul waits in silence;from him comes my salvation.He alone is my rock and my salvation,my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.					
3	How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? They only plan to thrust him down from his hi They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.	igh position. <i>Selah</i>				
5 6 7	 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. 					
8	Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.	Selah				
9	Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on ther	n.				
11	Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast For you will render to a man according to his work.	love.				



David and a group of loyal followers continue fleeing for twenty-one miles through the wilderness from Jerusalem toward the Jordan River. Meanwhile chapter 17 gives us a glimpse of Absalom and his advisors as they eagerly debate the best military strategy to eliminate David and seize the kingship. Filled with action and human plotting, God's sovereign hand works behind the scenes in every detail to preserve His anointed.

- 1. In spite of what appears to be a hopeless situation for David, what assurance does II Samuel 7:12-16 and Daniel 2:44 provide as we read this passage? How can the same scripture calm your heart during the chaotic events of our time?
- 2. Contrast Ahithophel's battle plan with Hushai's plan in the chart below. Given what you know about Absolam, why might he prefer Hushai's plan?

	Timing	Size of force	Assumptions about David	Who leads the attack?	Who is to be killed?	Which plan benefits David?
Ahithophel						
Hushai						

- 3. In this passage, Absalom actively plots the murder of his father. Read Psalm 62. Underline and write down the words and phrases describing the bedrock state of David's heart toward God that prepares him for the murderous rebellion of his own son.
- 4. Exhausted and short on supplies David and his followers cross the Jordan and continue another thirty-seven miles north to the town of Mahanaim. Absalom pursues him after gathering all the men of Israel. How is God's steadfast love for David made tangible in verses 24-29?
- 5. Israel has a covenant king, anointed by Yahweh, and has no right to abandon him. The Christian stands in the same position to Jesus our King. In what ways is your loyalty to Christ being tested and how do you prepare for the tests?

Speaker:	Date:

Our ultimate security does not rest on any immunity from personal disasters or any guarantee that our own nation will never fall but only in the fact that the God of Heaven has set up a kingdom and it shall stand forever.

Dale Ralph Davis

Song: Steadfast - Sandra McCracken

Prayer Requests



"And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor." Joshua 7:26 _____ "But at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set large stones against the mouth of the cave.

which remain to this very day."

Joshua 10:27

O Absalom Killed

18 Absatom Kutea Then David mustered the men who were with him and set over them $1 - \frac{1}{2}$ and David sent commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. ²And David sent out the army, one third under the command of Joab, one third under the command of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the men, "I myself will also go out with you." ³But the men said, "You shall not go out. For if we flee, they will not care about us. If half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us. Therefore it is better that you send us help from the city." ⁴The king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood at the side of the gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands. ⁵And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom.

⁶So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. ⁸The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.

⁹And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. ¹⁰And a certain man saw it and told Joab, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." ¹¹Joab said to the man who told him, "What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt." ¹²But the man said to Joab, "Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not reach out my hand against the king's son, for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, 'For my sake protect the young man Absalom.' ¹³On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof." ¹⁴Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." And he took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak. ¹⁵And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

¹⁶Then Joab blew the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained them. ¹⁷And they took Absalom and threw him into a great pit in the forest and raised over him a very great heap of stones. And all Israel fled every one to his own home. ¹⁸Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself the pillar that is in the King's Valley, for he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." He called the pillar after his own name, and it is called Absalom's monument to this day.

David Hears of Absalom's Death

¹⁹Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run and carry news to the king that the LORD has delivered him from the hand of his enemies." ²⁰And Joab said to him, "You are not to carry news today. You may carry news another day, but today you shall carry no news, because the king's son is dead." ²¹Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed before Joab, and ran. ²²Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "Come what may, let me also run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, seeing that you will have no reward for the news?" ²³"Come what may," he said, "I will run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and outran the Cushite.

²⁴Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. ²⁵The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he drew nearer and nearer. ²⁶The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also brings news." ²⁷The watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man and comes with good news."

²⁸Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, "All is well." And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king." ²⁹And the king said, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant, your servant, I saw a great commotion, but I do not know what it was." ³⁰And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still.

David's Grief

³¹And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you." ³²The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" And the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man." ³³And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

"Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."		
	1 John 3:8	



The town of Manhaniam is a welcome haven. Supporters gather and King David, the commander, moves briefly into action. God selected the perfect geography for battle, a deep canyon and unpredictable forest. II Samuel 18:8b tells us that "the forest devoured more people that day than the sword."

- 1. Why wouldn't David's men allow him to go with them into battle? Why was Jesus in a completely different position when He "went into battle" on the cross for us? Think about the differences in the two situations.
- 2. In what ways does Joab dominate the action in this chapter? Describe how you feel about his actions and orders?
- 3. Why is David's heart divided as the battle approaches? How does David's divided heart impact his army during battle? Consider where your heart might be divided today. Confess this to the Lord.
- 4. Absalom, the pretend celebrity king, faces an unplanned disaster. How are the deaths of Achan and the five enemy kings in Joshua 7:26 and Joshua 10:27 similar to Absalom's death?
- 5. In this chapter as in previous ones, events continue to fulfill Nathan's prophecy to David from II Samuel 12. How is Absalom's death a fulfillment of that prophecy? How does David react to the news of his son's death? Can you recall a situation in your own life where your sin brought harm on someone else?
- 6. Read, reflect and respond to the following quote by Dale Ralph Davis: "If the kingdom of God under God's chosen king is to be saved, then the enemy who assaults that kingdom must be destroyed. We must stop praying, 'Deliver us from evil' unless we yearn for its destruction." (1 John 3:8)

Speaker:	Date:

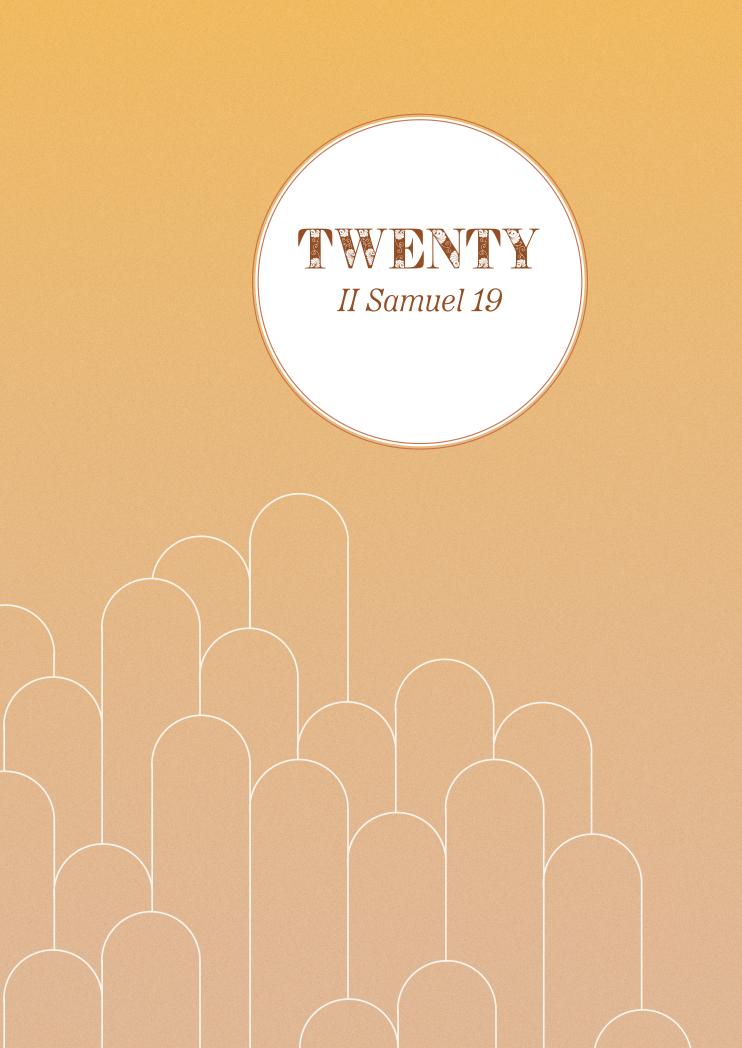
Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O Lord, and whom you teach out of your law, to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked.

Psalm 94:12-13

Song: Canyon - Ellie Holcomb

Prayer Requests

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"But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother."

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1 Kings 2:7

Joab Rebukes David It was told Joab, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." ²So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people, for the people heard that day, "The king is grieving for his son." ³And the people stole into the city that day as people steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. ⁴The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!" 5Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, "You have today covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who have this day saved your life and the lives of your sons and your daughters and the lives of your wives and your concubines, 6because you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have made it clear today that commanders and servants are nothing to you, for today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased. ⁷Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the LORD, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now." 8 Then the king arose and took his seat in the gate. And the people were all told, "Behold, the king is sitting in the gate." And all the people came before the king.

David Returns to Jerusalem

Now Israel had fled every man to his own home. ⁹And all the people were arguing throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies and saved us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled out of the land from Absalom. ¹⁰But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?"

¹¹And King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests: "Say to the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his house, when the word of all Israel has come to the king? ¹²You are my brothers; you are my bone and my flesh. Why then should you be the last to bring back the king?' ¹³And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me and more also, if you are not commander of my army from now on in place of Joab." ¹⁴And he swayed the heart of all the men of Judah as one man, so that they sent word to the king, "Return, both you and all your servants." ¹⁵So the king came back to the Jordan, and Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and to bring the king over the Jordan.

David Pardons His Enemies

¹⁶And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahurim, hurried to come down with the men of Judah to meet King David. ¹⁷And with him were a thousand men from Benjamin. And Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan before the king, ¹⁸and they crossed the ford to bring over the king's household and to do his pleasure. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was about to cross the Jordan, ¹⁹and said to the king, "Let not my lord hold me guilty or remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. Do not let the king take it to heart. ²⁰For your servant knows that I have sinned. Therefore, behold, I have come this day, the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king." ²¹Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?" ²²But David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should this day be as an adversary to me? Shall anyone be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?" ²³And the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king gave him his oath.

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²⁴And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. He had neither taken care of his feet nor trimmed his beard nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came back in safety. ²⁵And when he came to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?" ²⁶He answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me, for your servant said to him, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go with the king.' For your servant is lame. ²⁷He has slandered your servant to my lord the king. But my lord the king is like the angel of God; do therefore what seems good to you. ²⁸For all my father's house were but men doomed to death before my lord the king, but you set your servant among those who eat at your table. What further right have I, then, to cry to the king?" ²⁹And the king said to him, "Why speak any more of your affairs? I have decided: you and Ziba shall divide the land." ³⁰And Mephibosheth said to the king, "Oh, let him take it all, since my lord the king has come safely home."

³¹Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim, and he went on with the king to the Jordan, to escort him over the Jordan. ³²Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. He had provided the king with food while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man. ³³And the king said to Barzillai, "Come over with me, and I will provide for you with me in Jerusalem." ³⁴But Barzillai said to the king, "How many years have I still to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? ³⁵I am this day eighty years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or what he drinks? Can I still listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? Why 120

then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? ³⁶Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king repay me with such a reward? ³⁷Please let your servant return, that I may die in my own city near the grave of my father and my mother. But here is your servant Chimham. Let him go over with my lord the king, and do for him whatever seems good to you." ³⁸And the king answered, "Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do for him whatever seems good to you, and all that you desire of me I will do for you." ³⁹Then all the people went over the Jordan, and the king went over. And the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own home. ⁴⁰The king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. All the people of Judah, and also half the people of Israel, brought the king on his way.

⁴¹Then all the men of Israel came to the king and said to the king, "Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away and brought the king and his household over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?" ⁴²All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is our close relative. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?" ⁴³And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king, and in David also we have more than you. Why then did you despise us? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?" But the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

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Victory is won. The kingdom is safe but the king is incapacitated by grief over the death of his son. Instead of joy, David's people are filled with shame.

1. Reviewing your study questions from previous lessons, describe David's major weaknesses as a parent. Given those weaknesses, why do you think he experienced such grief over his son's death? In what ways do you identify with David's sorrow?

2. In what specific ways does David's grief interfere with his duties as a king? Although Joab's criticism of David is a sharp one, why is it also correct?

3. Once again we meet Shimei, Mephibosheth and Ziba. After reading II Samuel 16:1-13 and 17:27-29, describe how each person has treated David. How does David treat them in return?

Shimei-

David's response:

Mephibosheth-

David's response:

Ziba-

David's response:

- 4. What do we learn about David's character from his responses to the previous question? In what ways do you see him as a Christ figure?
- 5. II Samuel 19:31-39 contains a touching description of David's parting with his old friend, Barzillai. How does David reward his friend's faithfulness (II Samuel 19:31-40 and 1 Kings 2:7)? If you've had a similar friendship in your past, what role does this friend play in your life now?

Speaker:	Date:
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I and II Samuel clearly show us that as the anointed king, David is also a suffering king. Here, however, he sheds tears over his own grief and his own guilt. We have to wait for his descendent, the man of sorrows, who will bear our griefs and carry our sorrows.

Dale Ralph Davis

Song: Death Was Arrested - North Point Worship

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



20 The Rebellion of Sheba Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said,

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"We have no portion in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel!"

²So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

³And David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten concubines whom he had left to care for the house and put them in a house under guard and provided for them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up until the day of their death, living as if in widowhood.

⁴Then the king said to Amasa, "Call the men of Judah together to me within three days, and be here yourself." 5So Amasa went to summon Judah, but he delayed beyond the set time that had been appointed him. 6And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he get himself to fortified cities and escape from us." 7And there went out after him Joab's men and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men. They went out from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. ⁸When they were at the great stone that is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them. Now Joab was wearing a soldier's garment, and over it was a belt with a sword in its sheath fastened on his thigh, and as he went forward it fell out. ⁹And Joab said to Amasa, "Is it well with you, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. ¹⁰But Amasa did not observe the sword that was in Joab's hand. So Joab struck him with it in the stomach and spilled his entrails to the ground without striking a second blow, and he died.

Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri. ¹¹And one of Joab's young men took his stand by Amasa and said, "Whoever favors Joab, and whoever is for David, let him follow Joab." ¹²And Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the highway. And anyone who came by, seeing him, stopped. And when the man saw that all the people stopped, he carried Amasa out of the highway into the field and threw a garment over him. ¹³When he was taken out of

the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹⁴And Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Bethmaacah, and all the Bichrites assembled and followed him in. ¹⁵And all the men who were with Joab came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah. They cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart, and they were battering the wall to throw it down. ¹⁶Then a wise woman called from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell Joab, 'Come here, that I may speak to you.'" ¹⁷And he came near her, and the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Listen to the words of your servant." And he answered, "I am listening." ¹⁸Then she said, "They used to say in former times, 'Let them but ask counsel at Abel,' and so they settled a matter. ¹⁹I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the heritage of the LORD?" ²⁰Joab answered, "Far be it from me, far be it, that I should swallow up or destroy! ²¹That is not true. But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, called Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against King David. Give up him alone, and I will withdraw from the city." And the woman said to Joab, "Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall." ²²Then the woman went to all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the trumpet, and they dispersed from the city, every man to his home. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

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²³Now Joab was in command of all the army of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the Cherethites and the Pelethites; ²⁴and Adoram was in charge of the forced labor; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder; ²⁵and Sheva was secretary; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests; ²⁶and Ira the Jairite was also David's priest.



The world is full of loud, enticing voices that can draw us away from wisdom and truth. It can be easy to think we are protected from this and strong enough to stand firm. Yet, our hearts can be persuaded to give way. As we watch Sheba, "a worthless man," enter the story and turn Israel away from the king, consider how easily your heart can be swayed from your King.

1. What does it say about the state of the kingdom and the perception of David's rule that, "all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba," "a worthless man"? What loud voice often covers the quiet voice of wisdom in your own life?

2. Re-read verse 3. Remember that these concubines had been ruined by Absalom in a previous chapter. What does this verse reveal about David?

3. In verse 10, Joab kills Amasa in an act where he was willing to sacrifice David and the kingdom for his own personal revenge. In what ways, though smaller and less obvious, do you find that you put yourself before God's kingdom?

4. In verse 19, a wise woman says to Joab, "Why will you swallow up the heritage of the Lord?" These words eventually lead to Sheba's death with no harm done to the rest of the city or its inhabitants. What do these verses teach us about speaking up with boldness for the Lord? Is this hard for you?

5. In verse 23, we learn that David does not punish Joab for Amasa's death and that "Joab was in command of all the army of Israel." What does this reveal about David's current mental state, his relationship with the Lord, and his rule?

Speaker:	Date:
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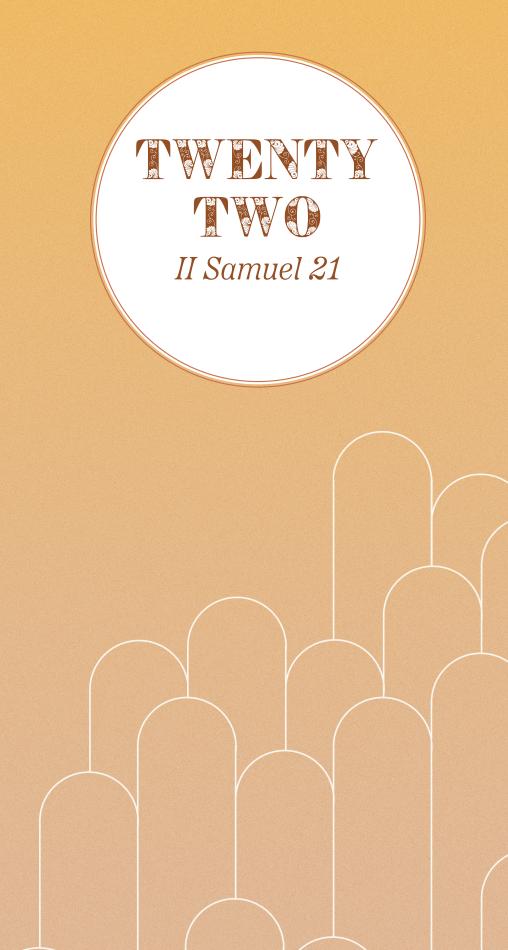
On Christ the solid rock I stand All other ground is sinking sand All other ground is sinking sand. Edward Mote

Song: On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand - Edward Mote

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



21 David Avenges the Gibeonites Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the LORD. And the LORD said, "There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death." 2So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the people of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites. Although the people of Israel had sworn to spare them, Saul had sought to strike them down in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah. ³And David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And how shall I make atonement, that you may bless the heritage of the LORD?" ⁴The Gibeonites said to him, "It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house; neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel." And he said, "What do you say that I shall do for you?" ⁵They said to the king, "The man who consumed us and planned to destroy us, so that we should have no place in all the territory of Israel, ⁶let seven of his sons be given to us, so that we may hang them before the LORD at Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD." And the king said, "I will give them."

⁷But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Saul's son Jonathan, because of the oath of the LORD that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. 8 The king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite; ⁹and he gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the mountain before the LORD, and the seven of them perished together. They were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the beginning of barley harvest.

¹⁰Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell upon them from the heavens. And she did not allow the birds of the air to come upon them by day, or the beasts of the field by night. ¹¹When David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done, ¹²David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, on the day the Philistines killed Saul on Gilboa. ¹³And he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan; and they gathered the bones of those who were hanged. ¹⁴And they buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin in Zela, in the tomb of Kish his father. And they did all that the king commanded. And after that God responded to the plea for the land.

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War with the Philistines

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¹⁵There was war again between the Philistines and Israel, and David went down together with his servants, and they fought against the Philistines. And David grew weary. ¹⁶And Ishbi-benob, one of the descendants of the giants, whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of bronze, and who was armed with a new sword, thought to kill David. ¹⁷But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid and attacked the Philistine and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, "You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."

¹⁸After this there was again war with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph, who was one of the descendants of the giants. ¹⁹And there was again war with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. ²⁰And there was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number, and he also was descended from the giants. ²¹And when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimei, David's brother, struck him down. ²²These four were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.



"What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear And what a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer."

Tune your heart to the Lord's today as you read His word, meditate on His faithfulness, and bring before Him your every need in prayer.

1. After three years of famine, David finally seeks the face of the Lord. How does David's inconstancy in prayer convict your heart? In times when you are neglecting to seek Him, what draws you back?

2. Reread verses 1-14. After finally seeking the Lord, what steps does David take to restore righteousness and justice to the land? What final action was taken before "God responded to the plea for the land"? What does this remind us about the God we serve?

3. David the soldier in II Samuel 21 is a sharp contrast to David the soldier found in I Samuel and previous chapters in II Samuel. What might be the purpose of revealing David's physical decline?

4. Despite his own decline, David's army continues to win in battle, as we see in the war with the Philistines. What might we learn from this seeming dichotomy?

5. Although David was God's chosen king, in what ways does chapter 21 work to reveal our need for Jesus, the true King?

Speaker:	Date:
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Repeat this! The kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of David's kingdom. Jesus will never weaken. He will never die. He will reign forever and of his kingdom there will be no end. The defeat of the giants foreshadows the ultimate defeat of all of our enemies. Realize Jesus deals with our enemies in the same way as David and his servants dealt with the Philistines. We are given victory over all our gigantic enemies...Satan, sin, and death. Remember we shall all be changed...death where is your victory? Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Alistair Begg, sermon on II Samuel 21

Song: Champion - Dante Bowe

Prayer Requests

Friend:

Request:



 $22^{\text{David's Song of Deliverance}}$ And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. ²He said,

- "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, 3 my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence.
- 4 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.
- "For the waves of death encompassed me, 5 the torrents of destruction assailed me;
- 6 the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.
- 7 "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice,
 - and my cry came to his ears.
- 8 "Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry.
- 9 Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him.
- 10 He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet.
- He rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind.
- 12 He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water.
- 13 Out of the brightness before him coals of fire flamed forth.
- 14 The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice.
- 15 And he sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning, and routed them.
- 16 Then the channels of the sea were seen; the foundations of the world were laid bare, at the rebuke of the LORD.

"They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies." Psalm 139:20-22 at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

	"He sent from on high, he took me he drew me out of many waters.
are broken, but the feeble bind on strength." 1 Samuel 2:4	He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.
	They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
	but the LORD was my support. He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.
21	"The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.
	For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not wickedly departed from my God.
	For all his rules were before me,
	and from his statutes I did not turn aside. I was blameless before him,
	and I kept myself from guilt.
	And the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.
	"With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
	with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.
	You save a humble people,
	but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down. For you are my lamp, O LORD,
	and my God lightens my darkness.
	For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.
31	This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.
	"For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?
33	This God is my strong refuge and has made my way blameless.
	He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights.
35	He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

36	You have given me the shield of your salvation,	
	and your gentleness made me great.	"He bee brought down
37	You gave a wide place for my steps under me,	"He has brought down
	and my feet did not slip;	the mighty from their
38	I pursued my enemies and destroyed them,	thrones and exalted those
	and did not turn back until they were consumed.	of humble estate."
39	I consumed them; I thrust them through, so that they did not rise;	Luke 1:52
	they fell under my feet.	
40	For you equipped me with strength for the battle;	
	you made those who rise against me sink under me.	
41	You made my enemies turn their backs to me,	
	those who hated me, and I destroyed them.	
42	They looked, but there was none to save;	
	they cried to the LORD, but he did not answer them.	
43	I beat them fine as the dust of the earth;	
	I crushed them and stamped them down like the mire of the	
	streets.	
44	"You delivered me from strife with my people;	
	you kept me as the head of the nations;	
	people whom I had not known served me.	
45	Foreigners came cringing to me;	
	as soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me.	
46	Foreigners lost heart	
	and came trembling out of their fortresses.	
47	"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,	
	and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation,	
48	the God who gave me vengeance	
	and brought down peoples under me,	
49	who brought me out from my enemies;	
	you exalted me above those who rose against me;	
	you delivered me from men of violence.	
	you derivered me from men of violence.	
50	"For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,	
	and sing praises to your name.	
51	Great salvation he brings to his king	
	and shows steadfast love to his anointed,	
	to David and his offspring forever."	



Looking back at Yahweh's faithfulness, King David composes the longest poem attributed to Him. Along with its companion, Psalm 18, chapter 22 praises God for delivering David from Saul during his wilderness trials (I Samuel 23:24-28) and for His faithfulness throughout David's life.

- 1. Chapter 22 opens with an exuberant catalogue of all the ways God has delivered David from violence. Underline in the scripture the ways that God has helped David (verses 2-3). What do these verses teach us about David's varied and intimate relationship with God?
- 2. In verses 8-16 David describes God's deliverance in images that remind us of God's rescuing Israel from the Egyptians. Underline these in the scriptures. What do they reveal about the lengths God will go to rescue His people from their oppressors?
- 3. Throughout I and II Samuel, David faces fierce enemies who seek his destruction. God repeatedly tests David, teaching him to trust and wait for the Lord to rescue him. Underline the specific actions that God takes on David's behalf in verses 17-19. What encouragement do God's interventions on David's behalf offer you?
- 4. God does rescue David and in verses 21 and 25 David explains that God "dealt with me according to my righteousness." Has David forgotten his adultery with Bathsheba and his treachery toward Uriah? Read verses 22-24 and Psalm 139:20-22. Based on these verses, in what way does David claim to be righteous?
- 5. David's declaration in verse 28 that "you save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down" bookends Hannah's thoughts in I Samuel 2:4. Both verses look ahead to Mary's praise for the Lord in the Magnificat, specifically Luke 1:52. How has God revealed himself similarly in your life? Take a moment to thank and praise Him for this.
- 6. God's activities in verses 32-51 parallel those described earlier in verses 2-20 but this time God's actions focus not on deliverance but on dominion. In verses 34-37, underline the "He" and "you" statements as well as the "I" statements of verses 38-43. Choose one or two that describe God's actions in your life.

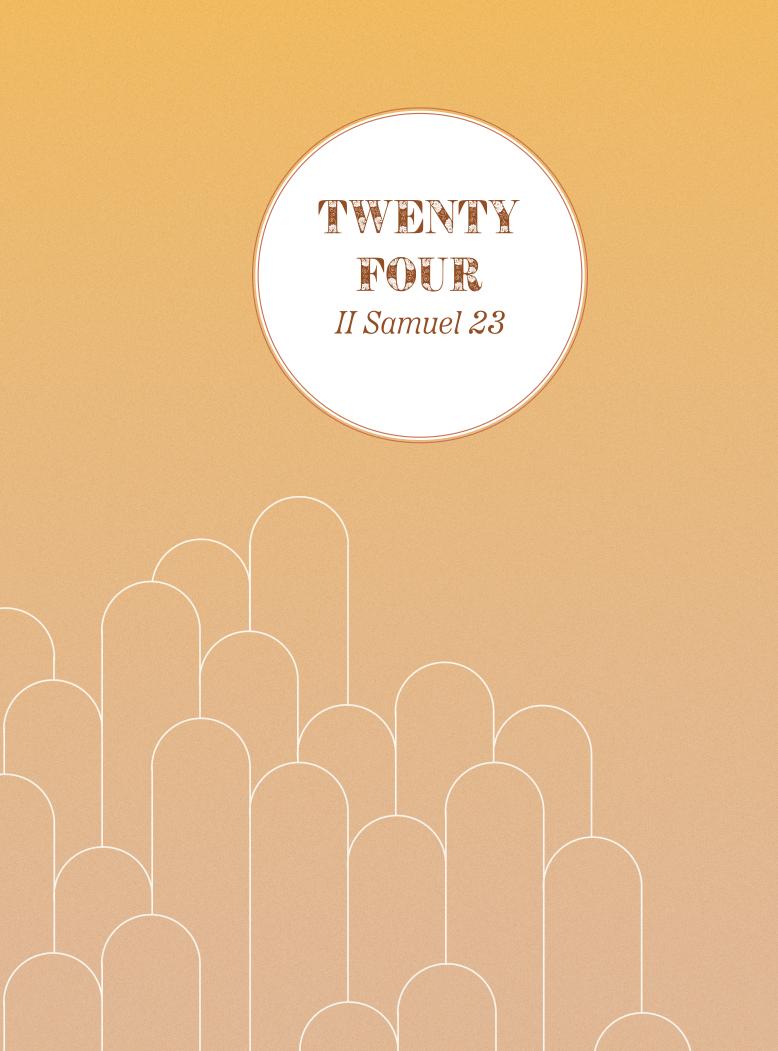
Speaker:	Date:

"The Psalms repeatedly call God a refuge because we so constantly need it. Habitually turning to God for refuge is the only real support we have in life." Tim Keller, *The Songs of Jesus*

Song: Honey in the Rock - Brooke Ligertwood

Prayer Requests

Friend:	Request:	XX
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"Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant." Hebrews 9:15

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23 *The Last Words of David* Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel:

- ² "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.
- ³ The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God,
- ⁴ he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.
- ⁵ "For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure.
 - For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?
- ⁶ But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be taken with the hand;
- ⁷ but the man who touches them arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear, and they are utterly consumed with fire."

David's Mighty Men

⁸These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Joshebbasshebeth a Tahchemonite; he was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time.

⁹And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, son of Ahohi. He was with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew. ¹⁰He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And the LORD brought about a great victory that day, and the men returned after him only to strip the slain.

¹¹And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. ¹²But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the LORD worked a great victory.

¹³And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁴David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. ¹⁵And David said longingly, "Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!" ¹⁶Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the LORD ¹⁷and said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

¹⁸Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of the thirty. And he wielded his spear against three hundred men and killed them and won a name beside the three. ¹⁹He was the most renowned of the thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the three.

²⁰And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two ariels of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen. ²¹And he struck down an Egyptian, a handsome man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear. ²²These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and won a name beside the three mighty men. ²³He was renowned among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard.

²⁴Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, ²⁵Shammah of Harod, Elika of Harod, ²⁶Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh gof Tekoa, ²⁷Abiezer of Anathoth, Mebunnai the Hushathite, ²⁸Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai of Netophah, ²⁹Heleb the son of Baanah of Netophah, Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the people of Benjamin, ³⁰Benaiah of Pirathon, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash, ³¹Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth of Bahurim, ³²Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan, ³³Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite, ³⁴Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai of Maacah, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, ³⁵Hezro of Carmel, Paarai the Arbite, ³⁶Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, ³⁷Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth, the armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah, ³⁸Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, ³⁹Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.



In this chapter, we find David's last words. And in them he includes a picture of Israel's future, one with a coming kingdom that is good and most certain. We, too, revel in this promise and sure, everlasting covenant.

1. We find David's last words in verses 2-7. What do you notice about the style of writing in these verses as compared with verses 8-39?

2. In verse 5, David mentions a secure everlasting covenant. In II Samuel 7:16, what has God promised in this covenant?

3. Read Hebrews 9:15. What are we promised when we enter into the new covenant in Jesus? God is faithful to us. How have you seen Him be faithful to you this week?

4. Verses 8-39 focus on David's mighty warriors. In verse 15, David asks for water from the well near a gate in Bethlehem, familiar to David from his youth. At great risk to their lives, three of David's most heroic warriors go to the well and return with the water. Why does David then pour out the water?

5. David's warriors could be described as loyal and devoted to King David. Would you use these words to describe your relationship with Jesus? What other words would you use?

Notes

Speaker:	Date:

"And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

II Samuel 7:16

Song: Yes and Amen - Pat Barrett and The Housefires

Prayer Requests

TWENTY FIVE II Samuel 24

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 $24^{\text{David's Census}}$ Again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah." ²So the king said to Joab, the commander of the army, who was with him, "Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and number the people, that I may know the number of the people." ³But Joab said to the king, "May the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king still see it, but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?" ⁴But the king's word prevailed against Joab and the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king to number the people of Israel. ⁵They crossed the Jordan and began from Aroer, and from the city that is in the middle of the valley, toward Gad and on to Jazer. ⁶Then they came to Gilead, and to Kadesh in the land of the Hittites; and they came to Dan, and from Dan they went around to Sidon, ⁷and came to the fortress of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and Canaanites; and they went out to the Negeb of Judah at Beersheba. ⁸So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. ⁹And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king: in Israel there were 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were 500,000.

The Lord's Judgment of David's Sin

¹⁰But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly." ¹¹And when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, ¹²"Go and say to David, 'Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you." ¹³So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, "Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me." ¹⁴Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."

¹⁵So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time. And there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba 70,000 men. ¹⁶And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the calamity and said to the angel who was working destruction among the people, "It is enough; now stay your hand." And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. ¹⁷Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house."

David Builds an Altar

¹⁸And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, raise an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." ¹⁹So David went up at Gad's word, as the LORD commanded. ²⁰And when Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming on toward him. And Araunah went out and paid homage to the king with his face to the ground. ²¹And Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be averted from the people." ²²Then Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Here are the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. ²³All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God aaccept you." ²⁴But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. ²⁵And David built there an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.

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We have come to the end of our journey. We find David, once again, confronted with his sin and humbly repenting. Let's consider his posture before the Lord and all that we have learned about his character and the character of our merciful God.

1. This chapter begins with David "being incited" to number Israel and Judah. The parallel verse in 1 Chronicles 21 states, "Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel." Why does the author use the word "incited"?

2. After the census is taken, David realizes he has sinned against God in doing so. What are some reasons that counting the people, including the acquisitions from battles, could be sinful?

3. The Lord allows David to select one of three possible consequences for this sin. What are they and why do you think David chooses the one he does?

4. In looking back at David's life, we see his great love for God and his great capacity to sin against Him. What traits do you most and least admire about David?

5. What has II Samuel revealed to you about the character of God? Write about what has encouraged and/or convicted you from this study.

Notes

Speaker:	Date:
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The book ends with the theme that resounds so often through the pages of the Old Testament - the ongoing need for reconciliation between God and His people. Reconciliation is needed because God's own people - even great kings such as David - so often prove fickle and faithless.

Philips Long

Song: His Mercy is More - Shane and Shane

Prayer Requests

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Passages that spoke to me this year:

Something a speaker said that has stuck with me:

An encouraging moment from our small group:

Something I want to share:



Presbyterian Church of Dresher