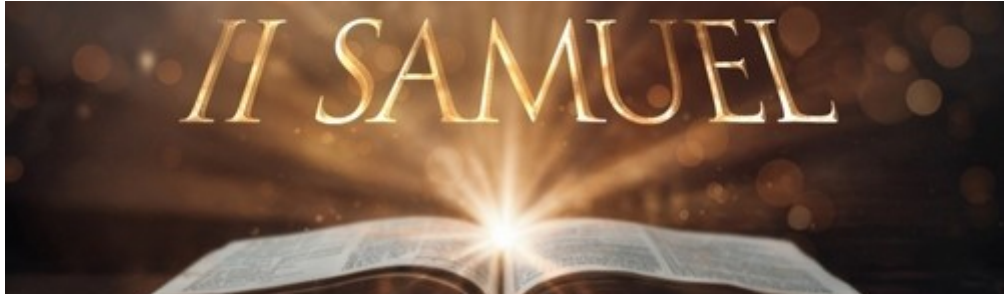


Let's Worship God

6th - 11th July 2026

2 Samuel





Monday - 2 Samuel 15:1 - Presenting An Image

David is king. He's finally ruling after so many years on the run from Saul. And yet his own son Absalom is going to launch a challenge for the throne. By the end of the chapter, David will be on the run again. There's a lot we can learn from David's faith, and be warned about from Absalom's scheming. But there's something more going on here, as I trust we'll see as well. And that is God's anointed king being betrayed by someone he trusted and rejected by the people. In this, David points us forward very clearly to the Lord Jesus Christ, betrayed by one of his 12 disciples, and rejected by the people he came to save.

Our current king is Charles III. But there could have been another Charles III, 200+ years ago. He was the grandson of James II, who was removed from the throne in 1688. James the II's son James, tried to regain the throne during the Jacobite rising of 1715, and then his son Charles tried to do the same thing in 1745. That would-be king is better known to us as 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', but in his lifetime he was known as 'The Young Pretender'.

Here in 2 Samuel 15, we also have a young pretender. Absalom, as we saw in the last chapter, has just returned from exile, having fled to escape justice after the cold-blooded murder of his brother Amnon. And as soon as Absalom is back, he gets to work winning the hearts and minds of the people. It's all part of a plan to remove his father from the throne and become king himself. So what's his strategy? By looking at it we can learn to beware of similar people today.

Firstly, in verse 1 Absalom cultivates his image. He gets himself a chariot and horses and 50 men to run before him. In other words, he does what he can so that he starts looking like a king. He tries to look like something he isn't - and can't rightfully claim to be. What a temptation that can be for us, whether on social media or in real life, to present an image to the world of the person we'd like people to think we are, but which isn't real. It's particularly easy to do if we don't have friends who know what we're really like.

Question

1. What's the first part of Absalom's strategy?

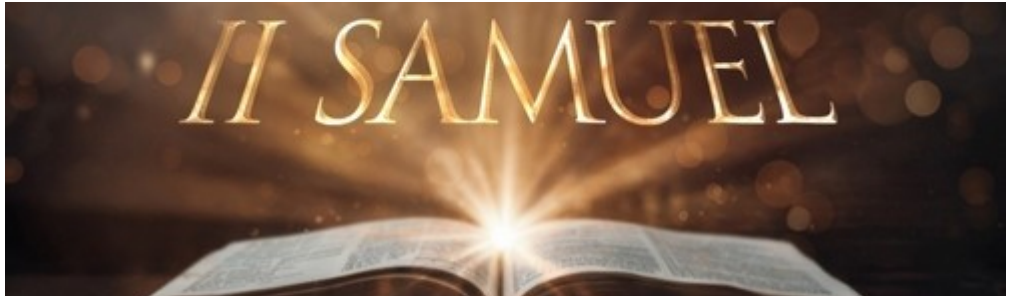
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would not present a false image to the world.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place." 2 Samuel 15:25

Praise: Psalm 77:1-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 15:2-6 - Winning Hearts and Minds

The next thing Absalom does in verses 2-6 is to try and win the hearts and minds of the people. In v2 he makes sure he's standing at the gate when anyone comes to the king to ask him to rule on a dispute. Absalom pretends to show an interest in them by asking where they're from. Then he says: 'your claims are good and right'. And he does that for every single person who comes! Of course, if he was really king, if he really had to make hard decisions, he would have had to say no to some people. But because he's not in that position of responsibility, he can just say whatever he wants.

Beware if you hear people saying: 'The church should be doing this, this and this'. Or: 'If I was an elder, I'd do that'. Now maybe the church could be doing XYZ. But it's very easy to say things like that when you don't have to weigh up pros and cons, when you don't have to take on board a range of legitimate views, or when you know that there may be many good options, and you have to choose between them. There are those who can be all talk. But they don't ever take on responsibility. They're quick to criticise, but slow to get involved. Talk is cheap. And we see that here with Absalom. He can talk all day about how much he would help people if he could. But he never actually helps anyway. Beware of people who only ever tell you what you want to hear.

It's also the case that what Absalom says just isn't true. He says in v3: 'There is no man designated by the king to hear you'. People no doubt believed him, because he was the king's son. But what have we just seen in the last chapter? We've seen a woman pretending to be in mourning, and coming and being allowed to speak to the king himself. Perhaps David wasn't able to hear everyone himself. But we only have Absalom's word to say that he hadn't delegated others to listen to the cases he couldn't. So Absalom's strategy is to say: Your case is right, but there's no-one to hear it. Then to passionately cry out: 'Oh that I were judge in the land!' He's like a politician during an election campaign. It's easy to promise the world when you're not the governing party.

Question

1. What is the danger of people telling us only what we want to hear?

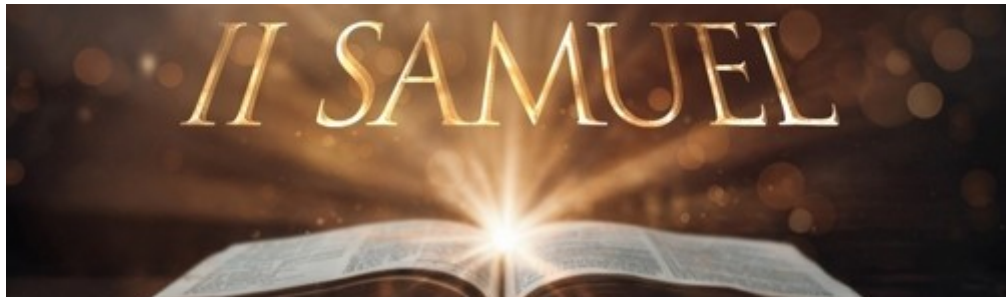
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be slow to speak critically.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place." 2 Samuel 15:25

Praise: Psalm 77:7-12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - 2 Samuel 15:5-12 - The Conspiracy Grows Strong

The final string to Absalom's bow in v5 is to pretend to be a man of the people. Whenever someone comes near to him to pay homage, to bow down before him perhaps, Absalom instead reaches out and hugs and kisses him. He doesn't have any airs or graces. It's easy for Absalom to do. He doesn't have any other responsibilities keeping him busy. In v7, after years of preparation he finally makes his move. He lies to his father. He says that he's vowed a vow to the LORD. So he not only breaks the ninth commandment by lying. But he breaks the 3rd commandment by taking God's name in vain. David gives him his blessing and Absalom goes to Hebron, the place where David had been anointed king. The end of v12 is ominous: 'The conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing'.

Don't we feel like that in our own day? The conspiracy has grown strong. Those seeking to push a humanistic, secular, anti-God agenda are on the rise. People are taken in by it, and the people with the enemy keep increasing. It looks grim for David in 2nd Samuel 15. And in many ways it looks grim for us in Europe and America at the minute. It's important to remember that that isn't the case everywhere. If our assessment of the state of the Christian church is one of doom and gloom, it's probably because we're not looking at the worldwide picture. But certainly in our own country and in many others it looks like the conspiracy is growing strong, and the people with the enemy keep increasing. Yet who is Absalom? He's a pretender. He's not the rightful king. Sooner or later, the true king will come back. How do we know? Because God had made a promise to David that his kingdom would never end. It's the same with Jesus' kingdom. It might look like it's in trouble. But he is the true king. One day soon all pretenders to his throne will have to acknowledge that. In the meantime, God in his grace gives us enough hope and enough encouragement to keep going. This chapter ends by telling us that Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem. Absalom entering Jerusalem is bad. But just in the nick of time, David's friend has got there first so that he can be in prime position to help David (a fact to which Absalom is oblivious). It's not a significant verse in many ways. But it's just enough to encourage us that all is not lost. It often looks bleak for Messiah's kingdom. But for those who have eyes to see, there are enough encouragements to keep us going.

Question

1. What is Absalom's strategy?

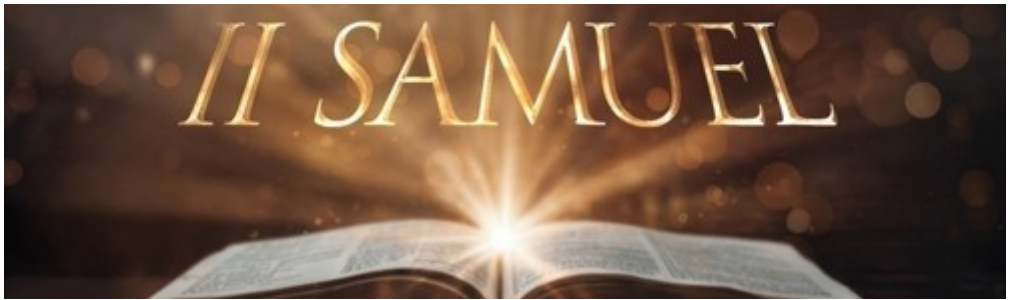
Prayer Points

1. Pray that the nations would acknowledge the kingship of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place." 2 Samuel 15:25

Praise: Psalm 77:13-16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Samuel 15:13-31 - God is Sovereign

David is the Lord's anointed. Even when David knew it was God's will for him to be king one day, he refused to put out his hand and touch Saul. Because Saul was still the Lord's anointed. But Absalom has no such qualms. And now David has to leave the city of David. He's a fugitive once again. He knows that if he and those closest to him don't leave, Absalom will have no mercy on them.

How does God's anointed react when trouble comes? And how should his people? The first thing to notice in verse 25 is that David acknowledges God's sovereignty. Leaving the city was never part of David's plan. He leaves weeping. It's hard not to be moved as we picture David in verse 17 stopping at the last house, taking his last sight of Jerusalem. He is hurting. That much is clear. But he's not frantic. He realises what must be done. He acts with the urgency that's needed. But you don't get a sense that he's panicking. He knows, in verse 25, that the LORD is ultimately behind what's happening. He realises that he's in the LORD's hand. In trouble, he looks to the LORD. And he prays to the LORD.

When he hears in verse 31 that Ahithophel was among the conspirators, he doesn't respond by giving vent to his anger or frustration. He doesn't start into personal attacks on Ahithophel. Instead, he simply responds by shooting an arrow prayer up to God: 'O LORD, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness'. If we were quicker to do that when someone lets us down rather than using our tongues to tear strips off them, we'd be much the better for it.

Question

1. How does David react when trouble comes?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would recognise God's gracious sovereignty in our life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place." 2 Samuel 15:25

Praise: Psalm 23B - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Friday - 2 Samuel 15:24-30 - The Sovereignty of God

What is it that helps David look to the LORD in all this? It's because he knows that Absalom, with all his scheming, isn't sovereign. Only God is sovereign. David didn't just know the truth of that in a general way, but specifically. After his sin with Bathsheba, the LORD had told him through Nathan the prophet: 'Behold I will raise evil against you out of your own house'. Now that prophecy is being fulfilled. Evil has risen against David out of his own house. And it's been raised up by God. That doesn't excuse Absalom at all. He's killed his brother, and he would have no qualms about killing his father as well. Yet God, not Absalom, is ultimately in charge. People are responsible for their own wickedness. But God is also sovereign. There's nowhere we see that more clearly than at the cross. And if God was sovereign even over that act of unspeakable wickedness, you can be sure that nothing he sends into your life this week will be a mistake.

David refuses to try and use God for his own personal ends. In v24 Zadok the priest and the Levites come with the ark of the covenant. If that rings a bell, it's because way back in 1st Samuel chapter 4, when Israel was defeated by the Philistines, they called for the ark. '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.' It was an attempt to use God and his ark as a lucky charm. David refuses to use God. 'But if he says I have no pleasure in you, behold, here I am, let him do what seems good to me'. He will cast himself on God, and accept the outcome - and not try and force God's hand.

Question

1. What does David realise about what's happening?
2. How does the cross help us understand God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?

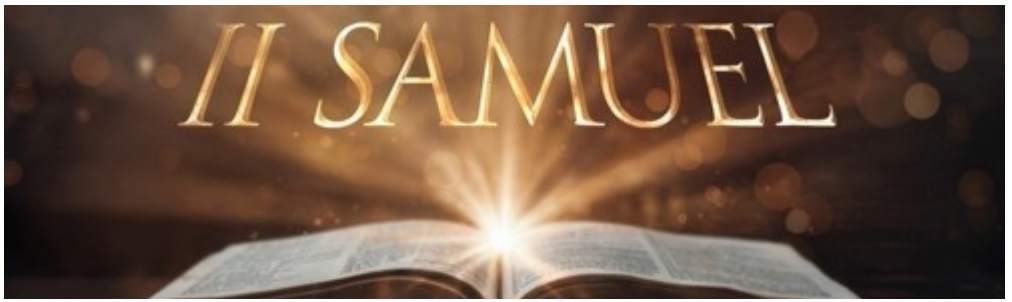
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would take comfort in God's sovereignty.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place." 2 Samuel 15:25

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 17A - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 15:30-36- The Weeping King

The final thing we want to see about David's reaction in the face of adversity is his tears. It shows us that it's ok to weep. David weeps, and the people weep. Some Christians might want to say to them: Man up! The Bible says to weep with those who weep. Particularly, they are weeping over the state of God's kingdom. Everything we've seen about David shows that he isn't a man desperately trying to preserve his own prestige by all means possible. Rather, his biggest concern is about God's honour. The people weep not just because of affection for David - though no doubt they had plenty of that, but because the people have by and large rejected God's king.

Do we not look out at our own nation in the same way? There's a place for denunciation. There's a place for prophetic rebuke. But prophets like Jeremiah rebuked their nation with tears in their eyes. But of course, Jeremiah isn't our ultimate example of a weeping prophet, is he? The Bible tells us of someone other than David, weeping on the Mount of Olives. It's none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the true and better David. David here in verse 30 is going up the Mount of Olives, away from Jerusalem. But we read in Luke 19 about Jesus going down the Mount of Olives, towards Jerusalem. And when he sees the city, the same city that David had been driven out of 1000 years before, he wept over it, saying: 'Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.'

So Jesus weeps - just like David did. But Jesus does more than David. Because Jesus would once again ascend the Mount of Olives, this time, to a Garden called Gethsemane, as he faced his own departure. Just as David was rejected by the city of David. So the Lord Jesus was rejected by the world he had made. Yet in God's plan his rejection would mean life for the world. Because Jesus would rise from prayer in the garden and go to the cross. In order to do for us what we could never do for ourselves, and through his death bring us life.

Question

1. How does David point to Christ in this chapter?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place." 2 Samuel 15:25

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 17B - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

**The goal of Let's Worship God is to
encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.**

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

**Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.**

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