

# Let's Worship God

24th-29th August  
2 Samuel



# II SAMUEL

## **Monday - 2 Samuel 21:15-22 - God Equips His Servants To Fight His Battles**

The first thing we want to focus on is how God equips his servants to fight his battles. Look at the final verse of the chapter. Speaking of the giants who were killed, it says: 'These four were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants'. We're told that they fell by the hand of David, as well as by the hand of his servants. But how many of these giants did David actually kill? The answer is zero. Yet because David is the king, and those fighting are his servants, then the victory is credited to him as well as them. Is that not even more the case with us, and with our king, Jesus Christ? 'Apart from me', he tells us, 'you can do nothing'. Does that mean we are to do nothing? Not at all! In his parables, Jesus condemns those who would bury their talents in the ground. Just before he ascends back up to Heaven, he commissions his church to take the gospel to all nations. So we're not to sit on our hands. Far from it! There can be a defeatist attitude that says: 'Well people are so hostile, and we're just so small, that's there's just no point'. When we know from the story of Gideon that bigger numbers can be more of a hindrance than smaller numbers. When we have examples like Jonathan, who's rallying cry was: 'Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few.' A defeatist attitude is particularly unworthy of Christians who live at a time when the Lord Jesus has poured out his Spirit on the church to equip us for witness. So we're not to sit back. We're to expect great things from God and attempt great things for God. But at the same time we're to remember that all our ability to do so comes from him. Whatever he calls us to do, we can do it 'through Christ who gives us strength'. Just as we are to 'work out our own salvation', knowing that 'it is God who works in' us. And whatever we achieve, our mindset must always be that of the Apostle Paul's: 'it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me'. So any good we do is to be attributed to God. Not just because that's the humble Christian thing to say, but because it's actually true! Because apart from him we really can do nothing. But the fact that it's all attributed - at least partly - to David in the end, doesn't stop these men going out and fighting. And as the one who had trained and equipped them, David rightly shares the honour. David is the one they're fighting for. And that's true in a far greater way of what we do for Christ. He isn't just our leader. He doesn't simply equip us and encourage us. He actually works through us. He could do it all without us - but he's chosen to use us.

### **Question**

1. Why does David get the credit for the victories?

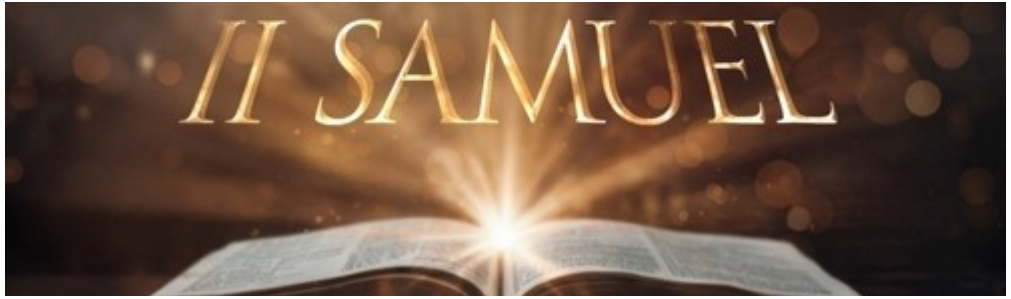
### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would do everything for Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

**Praise: Psalm 124 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Tuesday - 2 Samuel 21:15-16 - Honouring His Servants**

It's also true that God honours his servants for what they do. The full names of these 4 giant-slayers are listed here. Is that not God honouring them? We see the same thing in the New Testament. In the last chapter of Romans, Paul mentions Priscilla and Aquila, his fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for his life. There should be actual things we are doing for Christ that are worth commending. Surely we should want to be among those who contribute to the church in tangible ways, rather than those who are simply there in body.

As well as that - if the Apostle Paul recognised people's service, surely we should too. In fact, it's not just Paul. Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom'. The same Bible that gives all the glory to God also gives recognition and reward to God's servants. God's word says to us: 'Honour those to whom honour is due'. (Rom 13:7)

Richard Sibbes once said: “though Christ has undertaken this victory, he accomplishes it by training us up to fight his battles”. To put it more simply: God equips his servants to fight his battles. And if you're a Christian, he has equipped you. Your work for him may not be spectacular. It may not be noticed by many. It might even be overlooked by many in the church. But he notices it. He sees. And he gives honour to whom honour is due.

### **Question**

1. What are some ways that God honours His servants?

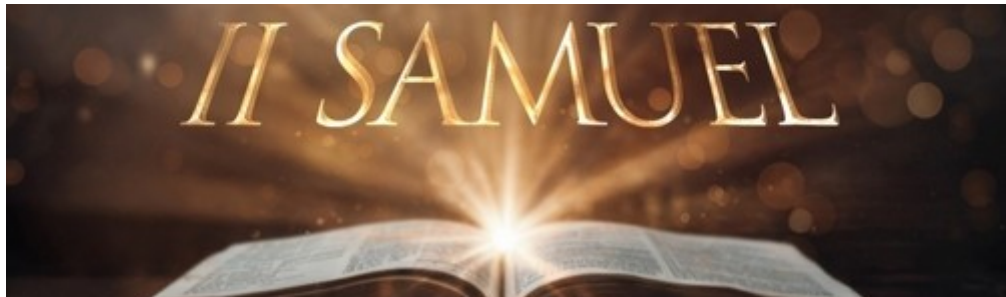
### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that God sees what we do for him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

**Praise: Psalm 18:1-8 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



### **Wednesday - 2 Samuel 21:15-18 - God Keeps His Promises**

If you've been a Christian for a long time, and particularly if you've been plodding on in an area of service to Christ without seeing much fruit, one of the exhortations of Scripture which you may need to keep coming back to is: 'do not grow weary in doing good'. That command actually appears a couple of times in Scripture, which suggests how important it is. But how can you do that? How can you stop yourself growing weary in doing good? You'll only be able to do it if you let the promises of God sustain you. Even when things seem bleak and discouraging, hold on to the promises of God. And remind yourself of the promises of God that have already been fulfilled.

We see one such promise being fulfilled in these verses. Way back in 2nd Samuel 3:18, we are told of God's promise about David: 'By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines'. What do we have in verse 15? 'War again between the Philistines and Israel'. And because of God's promise, there can be no doubt about the result. In verse 17, the first Philistine giant is killed. Then in verse 18 there is again war with the Philistines, and a second giant is struck down. In verse 19, again there's war with the Philistines, and a third giant bites the dust. And in verse 20 there's war at Gath, one of five key Philistine cities, and the fourth and final giant is struck down. God keeps his promises. God keeps his promises despite the weariness of his servant. In verse 15 David is weary. Perhaps through getting older. Perhaps he's simply exhausted from many battles. On the verge of burnout, we might say. And yet despite the exhaustion of God's servant, God keeps his promises. Perhaps we feel that if some of us had to take a step back, or take some time out, that God's purposes would be thwarted. But as someone once put it: 'God can send us off to bed like little children and his kingdom will still grow'. God kept his promises in these verses. And he'll keep his promises today. Despite the size of our enemies. And despite our weakness. Salvation means you are set free to serve the God who doesn't need you, but will graciously use you anyway.

#### **Question**

1. How can God keeping His promises encourage us?

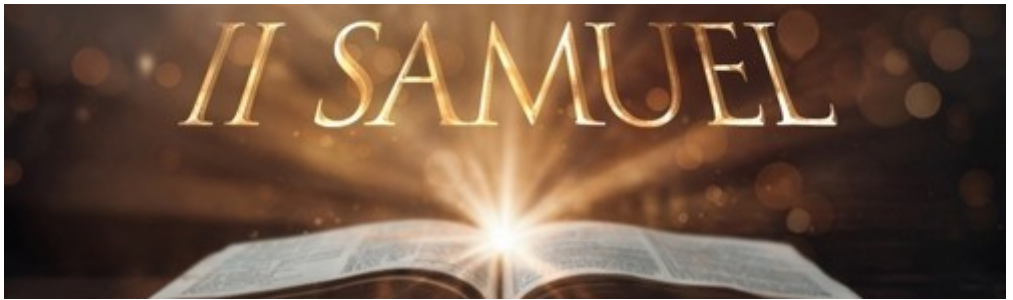
#### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that God keeps His promises.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

#### **Memory Verse**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

**Praise:** Psalm 18:9-18 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.



### **Thursday - 2 Samuel 21:15-21 - God Silences His Enemies**

Something else which will help you not grow weary in doing good is the reminder here that God silences his enemies. Not only do we have Goliath's brother in this chapter. (*He's called Goliath here, but in 1 Chronicles 20:5, he's referred to as Goliath's brother.*) We also have someone who talks like Goliath. We're not told his name in verse 20. But this 12-fingered and 12-toed giant talks like Goliath. We're told in verse 21 that he 'taunted' Israel. The word means defy, mock, deride. It's the same word used repeatedly for Goliath's derision of Israel and Israel's God, back in 1st Samuel 17. And he should have known better. Years before, Goliath had come out with the same trash talk about God, and he had been silenced. And this Philistine is no different.

How many people are there in our day who trash-talk God and trash-talk the church? And yet one day every tongue will be silenced. Isaiah 54.17: 'No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that raises against you in judgement'. In fact Philipians 2 tells us that one day every knee will bow, and every tongue will not be silent, but will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. And we pray that that will happen in this life. That scoffers will be converted. That like the Apostle Paul, those who once blasphemed the name of Christ would praise it instead. But either way, one day all their scoffing will be silenced. So do not grow weary in doing good. Because God will keep his promises. And one day soon all those who rage against Christ and his church will be silenced. Just keep going a little while longer.

### **Questions**

1. What did Goliath's brother do?
2. What happened to him?

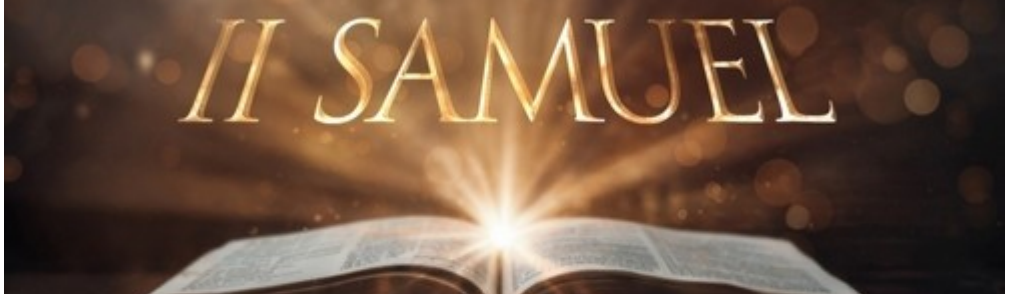
### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that Christ has the ultimate victory.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

**Praise: Psalm 18:19-24 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



### **Friday - 2 Samuel 21:10-14 - The Lamp of Israel**

In these verses, David is both like and unlike the Lord Jesus Christ. He's like the Lord Jesus in that the nation's hopes are completely bound up with him. After Ishbi-benob nearly kills David, his men say to him: 'You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.' To talk about David as the lamp of Israel isn't just a nice flowery thing to say. It's actually a true description of his role and his importance. To talk about a nation's lamp being quenched is to talk about them being snuffed out - to cease to exist. In a way that had almost been what was at stake when David fought Goliath, before he was even king. Goliath had said that whoever won the contest, their nation would serve the other person's nation. Whether David beat Goliath or not didn't just mean success or failure for him as an individual, but for the nation. That's even more the case now that David is king, and that God had made a covenant with him. For David himself, any resemblance he had to a lamp was simply in reflecting the light of God. If you look at chapter 22 verse 29, David will say: 'For you are my lamp, O LORD'. Or in Psalm 18, which we sing as 'The Lord will light my candle so'. David says: 'For it is you who light my lamp'. So yes David is a lamp. But his light is a reflected light. As is ours.

This language of the king being a lamp to the people is carried on in the kings that follow David. For example 1st Kings 15:4: 'Nevertheless, for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem'. The picture is used as a description of the Messiah himself in Psalm 132:17. Jesus of course described himself as the light of the world. And we're told in Revelation 22:5 that in heaven we will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be our light. And so to call David the lamp of Israel points us forward to the true and better David, the light of the world, Jesus Christ.

### **Question**

1. Whose light did David reflect?
2. What did Jesus call Himself?

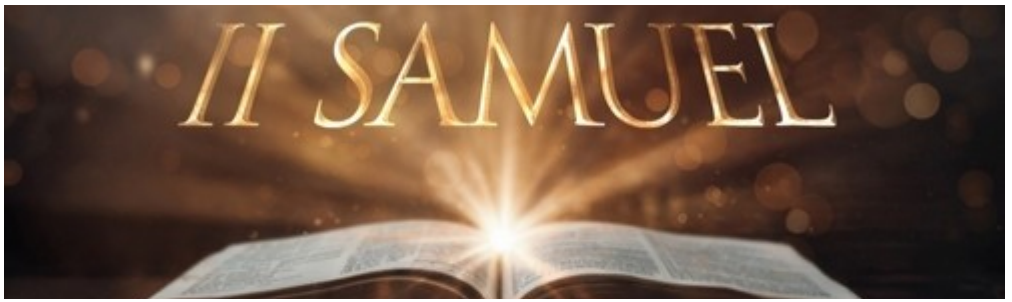
### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would reflect the light of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

**Praise: Psalm 18:25-32 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



### **Saturday - 2 Samuel 21:15-22 - Jesus Never Grows Weary**

One of the reasons that Jesus is the true and better David is because he will not grow weary. Compare verse 15 here with Isaiah 40:28. Verse 15: 'And David grew weary' and Isaiah 40:28: 'He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable'. We grow weary in our service of God at times. Sometimes simply physical weariness. Maybe exhausted at the end of a Lord's Day, or a GO Team week. Sometimes we grow spiritually weary as well. We do grow weary in doing good. But not so the Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep his promise to build his church, and that the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. Our greatest need is simply to keep looking to him.

Psalms 18 is David's own testimony that the LORD is the one who lights his lamp. We serve in the strength he supplies - and he gets the glory. There's no defeatism here, but simply stepping out in faith, knowing that our power to do anything comes from God. He is the one who clothes us with strength and makes our way perfect. He makes our feet sure, and trains our arms to bend a bow of bronze. And it's his right hand that holds us up, and his kindness that makes us grow.

### **Questions**

1. How is Christ a better king than David?
2. How do we have strength to serve Christ?

### **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**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

**Praise: Psalm 18:33-41 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://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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