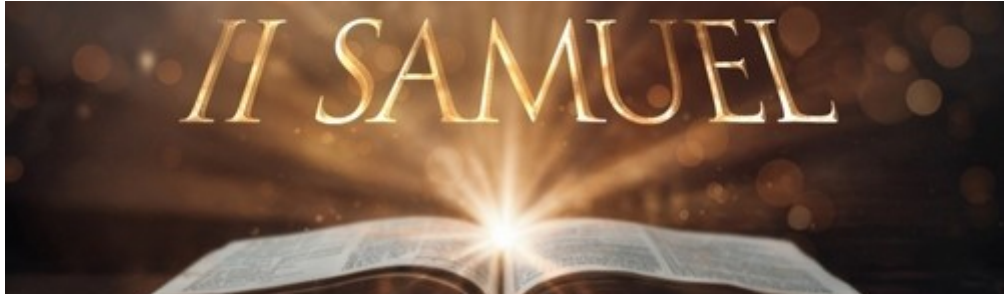


Let's Worship God

7th-12th September 2026

2 Samuel





Monday - 2 Samuel 23:1 - David's Last Words

We pay particular attention to someone's last words. You can read collections of the last words of famous people. The last words of our loved ones are likely words we'll never forget. Here in 2nd Samuel 23, we have the last words of the man who is named more frequently in the Bible than any other human character. Not necessarily his dying words, but the last words that he spoke under the inspiration of God - his final prophecy. For us it would be the equivalent to what we write in our will. Even if we write it a long time before we die, it's where we have the opportunity to say what we want to be remembered. It's an opportunity for us to say what we are going to our grave believing in. David was looking forward to a coming king - a far greater king than David himself, or any other human king. Through the Holy Spirit he speaks about the coming of Jesus Christ.

How much reason did David have to be confident about the future? Based on how things had gone in his lifetime, there was much that could discourage him. David's son Amnon had abused his half-sister Tamar, before being murdered by his brother Absalom. Absalom had then launched a rebellion which had ended with thousands of people dead, including Absalom himself. While David is still alive, as we read at the beginning of 1st Kings, his son Adonijah exalts himself and tries to set himself up as king, rather than Solomon, who was David's choice of successor. Yes at the same time, God has exalted David as king. And not just over one tribe as it was at the start, but over all the tribes. There have been encouragements. But there have also been plenty of discouragements. And looking to the future, the signs aren't positive that things will hold together once David is gone. In fact, God had told David through the prophet Nathan back in chapter 12 that the sword would never depart from his house. That on down the generations there will be trouble. So humanly speaking, there are plenty of reasons not to be confident about the future. But back in 2nd Samuel 7, God had made David a promise that one of David's descendants would have a kingdom that would last forever, which was a promise about the coming of Jesus. And that promise - that covenant - is what gives David hope now. As he puts it in v5: 'For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure'.

Question

1. Why are last words so important?

Prayer Points

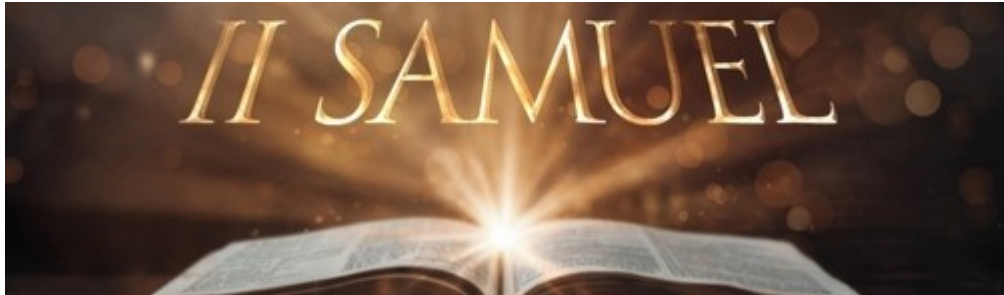
1. Give thanks for the faithfulness of God to his covenant promises.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure."

2 Samuel 23:8b

Praise: Psalm 132:1-5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 23:2 - The King is Coming

If we were to judge the future of Christianity based on how things have been going lately, we could well conclude: the future's looking grim. But what does God tell us to base our confidence for the future on? On how things are going now? Or on his promises? In these verses, David gives us a glorious vision of the future, and it's based not on circumstances, but on God's promises. It's an example for us. If we rely on what we can see with our eyes, we'll have plenty of reason for discouragement. But what do we see if we look to God's promises? And particularly his promises about Jesus Christ, which is what David is holding on to here? We have Jesus' own words: 'I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it'. We have the book of Revelation which can be summed up in three words: 'The Lamb Wins'. This confidence we can have about the future comes not simply from man, but from God himself. That word 'oracle', which we have twice in v1, is a word that occurs lots and lots of times in the prophetic books. So it flags up that this is a prophecy. And in fact, in Acts chapter 2 the Apostle Peter calls David a prophet. Acts 2:30: 'Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ'. In verse 2 of our passage David makes the massive claim that 'the Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue'. And so God himself is the one telling us to fix our eyes on the one who is coming.

Now unlike David, we live in the days after Jesus has been born, crucified and resurrected. And yet our faith is still a forward-looking faith. All that the OT prophesied about Jesus wasn't fulfilled at his first coming. Some of it was - but for the rest of it, we're going to have to wait until his second coming. And these verses are God himself telling us to keep our eyes on Jesus and not give up. No matter how well or badly things are going now. At the times when we just don't understand what's happening in our lives, remember: The King is Coming. That certainty should put a spring in our step and strength in our bones.

Question

1. How should we judge the future?

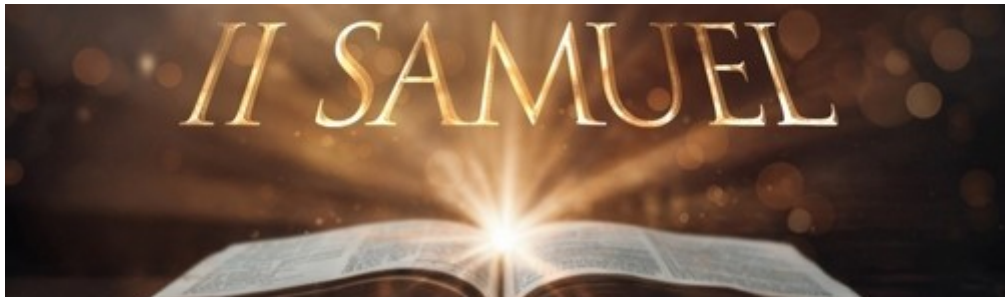
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is reigning over all.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure." 2 Samuel 23:8b

Praise: Psalm 132:6-11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - 2 Samuel 23:3-4 - A Better King

Who is David talking about in verse 3? Is he just giving general principles for how kings should act? Or is he speaking about a specific king to come? Verses 3 and 4 do give us general principles about kingship. But everything that comes before - in verses 1 and 2 - is preparing us for a prophecy of a particular individual. The fact that we're told these are David's last words. The fact that these verses are described twice as an oracle. The fact that David says in verse 2 that it's the Holy Spirit speaking through him. In fact, we should perhaps see verses 2 and 3 as a reference to the whole Trinity. We have the Holy Spirit in verse 2 - the Spirit of the LORD. We have the God of Israel in verse 3. And then we have the Rock of Israel. And 1st Corinthians 10.4 tells us that the Rock was Christ. So given that build-up, I think we'd be right to expect more than general principles for kingship here. David is speaking of one particular coming king.

On top of that, you have the reference to the covenant in verse 5. The covenant God had made with David back in chapter 7 was about one specific individual. As Peter put it in Acts 2, David knew that God had sworn an oath to him to put one of his descendants on the throne. So what we have in verses 3 and 4 are a picture of the true king, and a picture that all human kings fall short of. A king is coming, verse 3 tells us, who will rule justly. And not just rule over Israel, but rule over mankind. He will rule in the fear of God. That's not saying that he will rule justly AND rule in the fear of God - as if they were two different things. Rather it's telling us that ruling justly means ruling in the fear of God. And vice versa. If someone rules in the fear of God, then they'll rule justly. And that's what's prophesied of Jesus in Isaiah chapter 11:3-4. How different from the rulers we have today!

What would it be like to have a King like this? We're given 3 pictures in verse 4. The first one is of the morning light dawning. Have you ever been anxiously waiting for the dawn? Perhaps after a long night of struggle, work, waiting, anxiety, fear, danger. Then the morning comes and ushers in a new day, and the fear and anxiety of the night disappear. That's what Jesus' rule will be like after the unjust, godless, self-interested rule that we experience so often on earth. For many people, political corruption, incompetence and abuse of power simply make them angry. And that's a right reaction. It should make us angry. But let it also make you long for a better king. It's the very lack of that in this world which should lead us to pray: 'Your kingdom come'. We're longing for the morning to come after the long, dark night.

Question

1. How is the king described here in verses 3-4?

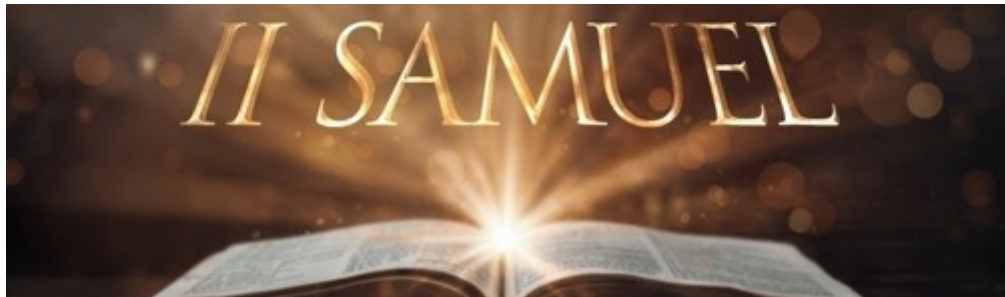
Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christ's kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure." 2 Samuel 23:8b

Praise: Psalm 72:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Samuel 23:4- The King is Beautiful

The other two illustrations in verse 4 fill in the picture a bit. The first is of the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning. The final picture of his reign is as rain. His 'reign' - his rule - will be like 'rain' that makes the grass sprout. Unlike other rulers who tramp people down, like a heavy boot on the grass, the Lord Jesus will not break a bruised reed or trample down the grass. This is our king. And it's not just a future picture. Through his word and by his Spirit, his light is already dawning on us. We have begun to experience a refreshing, reviving, rejuvenating power that we won't experience anywhere else. Is that not your experience if you've become a Christian recently? It's like the morning light has dawned, the sun is shining without clouds, and refreshing rain showers are sprinkling the parched earth.

If we know this king, if we've experienced the sun shining on us and been refreshed by the rain he sends, then there should be something different about us. If the king is beautiful, if there's something attractive about him, then there should be something attractive about us as well. Proverbs 4:18 says that 'the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day'. And it contrasts that with the way of the wicked, which is like deep darkness. Your life and mine should be a contrast to those around us. And not simply because of what we don't do. Is Jesus an attractive, beautiful king because of what he doesn't do? Or because of what he does? Now he is a beautiful contrast to the rulers of this world because he doesn't do the things that they do. But above all it is his sheer goodness that makes him most beautiful - his positive righteousness and holiness. What does this sort of positive righteousness and holiness look like? It doesn't have to be anything particularly complicated. It's just living out the implications of the gospel in our everyday lives: our work, relationships, and so on. Whatever your calling is, simply living it out wholeheartedly as a Christian can really make those around you sit up and take notice. The Psalms talk about the beauty of holiness. We see that in Jesus. And others should be able to see it in us. Yes, the most we'll ever be is a candle, while he is the sun. But what is true of the king here should be true of the king's people.

Question

1. What kind of things should be different about us as believers?

Prayer Points

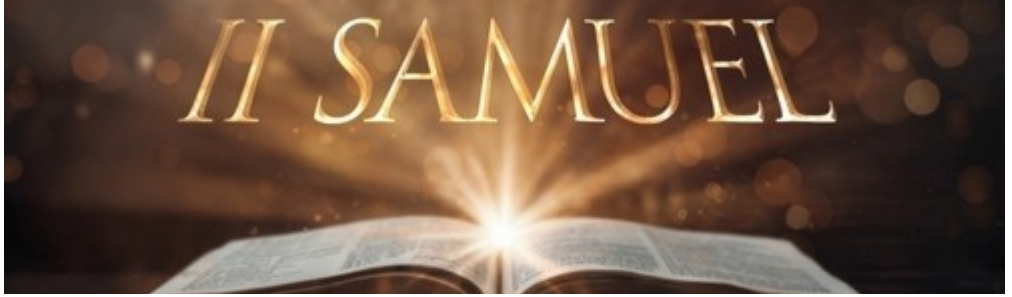
1. Pray that people will see the beauty of holiness in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure."

2 Samuel 23:8b

Praise: Psalm 72:5-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - 2 Samuel 23:5-7 - The King's Enemies Will Be Consumed

The same news can have the opposite effect on different people. The King's coming is good news for his friends - but spells disaster for his enemies.

Again and again the Bible divides the human race into two categories, and only two: Those who are for Christ - and those who are against him. In verse 6, those described as worthless men - those who have no time for the coming King - are described as thorns that are thrown away. They are prickly. They cause trouble on earth. The same word for thorn is used way back in Genesis 3 to describe the effects of the fall. That's how thorns came into the world. But one day, we are going to live in a renewed Eden. The new heavens and the new earth will be like Eden, only better. And there won't be any thorns there. Why not? Because God has said that nothing unclean will ever enter it. And because, at the end of verse 7, they'll be utterly consumed with fire. As John the Baptist had said of Jesus: 'His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' And the reason that hasn't happened already is because he is being so patient with people. But one day his patience will be at an end.

Questions

1. What are the two categories the human race can be divided into?
2. What will happen to those who oppose Jesus?

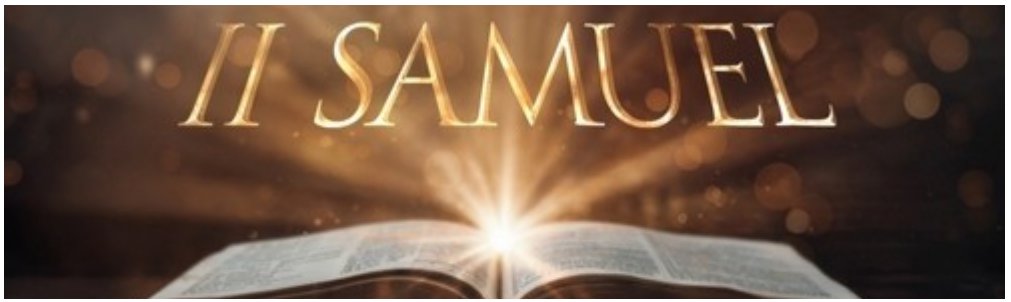
Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure." 2 Samuel 23:8b

Praise: Psalm 72:9-12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 23:6-7 - Do You Know The King?

We've seen in recent weeks the stories of people who rebelled against David. What a wicked thing that was. David wasn't perfect. But he was God's anointed king. He was a man of humble origins - the son of Jesse as it says in verse 1. But, also as it says in verse 1, God had raised him on high. The God of Jacob had anointed him. And so people had no right to resist his authority.

And if all that is true of David, how much more is it true of Jesus Christ? He humbled himself to come to this earth at all, never mind to be born into a poor family. But as a result of his death on the cross, God raised him on high. He was the anointed of the God of Israel. And he is the true sweet psalmist of Israel. He spoke through David. And he is the one who leads our praise. According to the book of Hebrews, he is the one speaking in Psalm 22 when the writer says: 'in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise'.

And of course, Jesus wasn't just foreshadowed by David. He is the one David is speaking specifically about in these his last words.

And if David could speak to you, he would ask: 'Do you know my king?' This king is coming - to put all things right. And so you don't need to fear or fret. This king is beautiful. Let the failure of earthly leaders make you long for him all the more. And this king will consume his enemies. The only way to escape that never-ending fire is to put your trust in him while there's still time. And why would you not? Because to know him is to know the morning light dawning after the darkest night. It's to see the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning. And it's to experience the first showers of rain after a long drought. And so we say with David: 'Will he not cause to prosper all my salvation and my desire?'

Questions

1. How does David point us to 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

"For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure." 2 Samuel 23:8b

Praise: Psalm 72:13-16 - 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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