

Let's Worship God

20th-25th April 2026
2 Samuel



II SAMUEL

Monday - 2 Samuel 5:1-9 - Building Jerusalem

2 Samuel 5 is a very significant chapter. It tells of the capture of the city of Jerusalem which was inhabited by the Jebusites. They were so confident of resisting David that they said that even the lame and the blind would ward him off. While what actually happens isn't crystal clear, it seems like David's men climb up the water shaft - a vertical tunnel cut into the limestone rock, to take the city.

There's a well-known hymn used by political parties that references building Jerusalem in England. It sums up the political dream right across the board. People want to see Jerusalem built here on earth. They think it can be brought in by social reforms, by political change, by government strategies. But has political change managed to build Jerusalem? Maybe for some of you the political sphere doesn't hold much interest, but you're trying to build Jerusalem in your own way. Maybe it's your house or your garden that you're trying to improve - or just get under control. Or maybe it's your family. In that way you want to build Jerusalem.

In this chapter, the actual Jerusalem is built, or at least, it becomes part of Israel, and in v9 it's built up. It's a city that had been promised to God's people many years before. It's the most significant city in the Bible, and now, at long last, it's theirs. Yet that only happens when God's true king is recognised for who he is. The story up to this point in 2nd Samuel is that only one of the 12 tribes of Israel has recognised David for who he really is - God's anointed king. But in this chapter things take a huge step forward as the other tribes recognise him as well, and it's only then that they know God's blessing. It's only then that they see God's promises being fulfilled around them. If you want to see Jerusalem built - if you want to know God's blessing on your life - you must recognise God's anointed king. You must bow the knee before him. If we don't do that as a nation, then all our hopes for political solutions will come to nothing. And all our desires for ourselves and our families will be left disappointed. Whatever we may be able to achieve by human effort - without Jesus at the centre, it will turn to dust in our hands. That's the big picture of this chapter.

Question

1. What is necessary to see true blessing in our nation and in our lives?

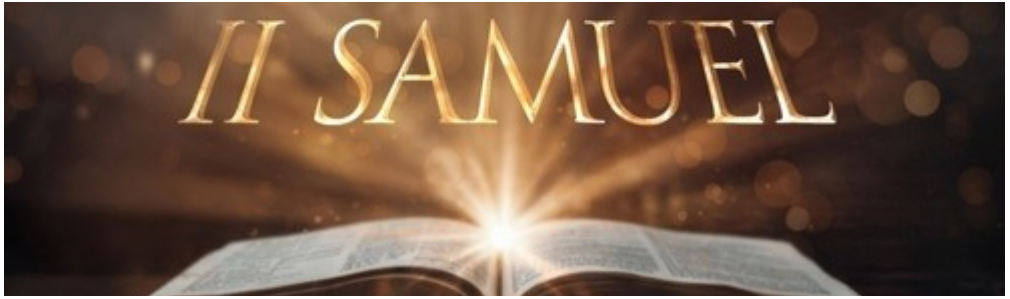
Prayer Points

1. Pray that our nation would bow the knee to King Jesus.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” 2 Samuel 5:2b

Praise: Psalm 144:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 5:1-3 - David is God's Choice

Normally when someone becomes king, it's simply because they're next in line, but here in 2nd Samuel 5 the royal family is changing from Saul's line to David's. One of the reasons the tribes of Israel give for recognising David as king is David has already been doing the job anyway (v.2). It was the king's role to lead the people out in battle. Yet they acknowledge here that even when Saul had been king, David had been the one doing that anyway.

While this isn't a major point of the chapter, there is a bigger principle here about life and service in the kingdom of God. If someone is cut out by God for a particular role in the church, then they will demonstrate that long before they're formally called to the task. Paul writes to Timothy about deacons and says 'let a deacon be tested first'. In other words, before someone is given a role, there should already be evidence that they can fulfil it. A church can't actually make anyone an elder or deacon, or at least they can only do so in name. Elders and deacons are gifts from God. Our only responsibility as congregations is simply to publicly recognise those whom God himself has already called and equipped to that role.

In fact, that's actually the other reason that the leaders of the tribes of Israel give for accepting David as king in v2. They remind David: 'The LORD said to you: 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel'. They acknowledge what Abner had initially refused to acknowledge. They acknowledge what Ish-bosheth had persistently refused to acknowledge. That is that David was God's choice. That's what we're doing when we elect elders and deacons in the church. We're simply looking for men who it's clear from their character and gifts that God has already chosen. And if that's clear, then it would be foolish for either the congregation, or the man himself, to fight against that. It wouldn't have been humble for David to turn round here and say: 'You know, I don't really think I'm the man for the job'. Because the leaders of the tribes are simply recognising him as the one God has already chosen.

Question

1. What are two reasons the people give for making David king?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would raise up men to be elders and deacons.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” 2 Samuel 5:2b

Praise: Psalm 144:5-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL



Wednesday - 2 Samuel 5:1-5 - God's King Is Our Flesh And Blood

The people declare when they come to make him king, that David was their bone and flesh. In other words, he wasn't a foreigner. He may have belonged to a different tribe, but he was still part of Israel. In making that consideration, they were remembering Deuteronomy 17:15: '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'. So in choosing someone who was their bone and flesh, they were doing what God had commanded them to do. But in light of the coming of Jesus as God's anointed king, I think we're right to see more here.

We need a Saviour who is like us. A Saviour who wasn't of our bone and flesh would be no use to us. He wouldn't be able to save us - because he wouldn't have been able to live or die in our place. He wouldn't be able to comfort us. Hebrews 2 finishes: 'Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of his people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted'. Then Hebrews chapter 4 ends: 'For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin'. That's your king, believer. He is flesh and blood - even now in heaven - and as a result you can be sure that he is a merciful high priest, who knows what it's like to be tempted and who can sympathise with your weaknesses. In your struggle with sin this week, in your battle, perhaps, with discouragement, remember that if you could look up into heaven, you would see a king on the throne of the universe who is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. So by faith, look up and see him there.

Questions

1. What did the people say about David?
2. Name some reasons we can take comfort in Christ being our flesh and blood?

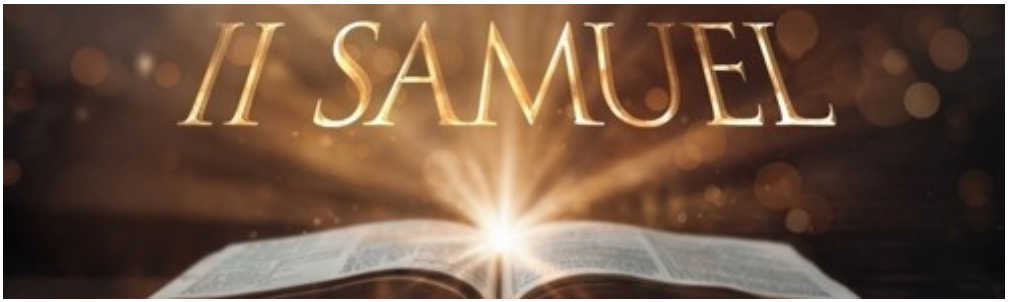
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is bone of our bone and all that it means.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” 2 Samuel 5:2b

Praise: Psalm 144:9-13 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Samuel 5:6-12 - God's King Exalted

This chapter describes one of the most momentous events in the whole Bible - God's chosen king reigns visibly on earth - no longer just over a single tribe - but over all Israel. In fact, the bit about Hiram sending trees to David so he could build a house is a hint of David's fame spreading even beyond Israel. Just as Jesus would be a light to the nations, so in this chapter David is highly exalted.

It's now 20 long years since Samuel - himself now long dead - had anointed David as king. For most of those years it must have seemed that God's promise was never going to be fulfilled. For most of those years, David was on the run. His very life was constantly in danger from Saul. In God's providence David was also picturing for us what the life of the ultimate Messiah would be like with first suffering, then exaltation. If that was the pattern of David's life, if that was the pattern of Jesus' life, why would we expect our lives to be any different? It's the same pattern we see in Romans 8 - first suffering, then glorification, and yet the glorification will soon make us forget the suffering.

You shouldn't hear 'exaltation' and think of David finally enjoying having others serve him. The chapter makes it abundantly clear that David wasn't exalted for his own sake, but for the sake of his people. That's hinted at in v3. David makes a covenant with the people of Israel. No doubt it outlined both the peoples responsibilities to him and his responsibilities to them. Then v12 makes it crystal clear: 'And 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'. That's what leadership in God's kingdom looks like. When people are raised up to positions of authority, it's for the sake of the people. Yes ultimately of course it's for God's glory - but God is glorified in the sheep being fed, protected, cared for. For David, kingship wasn't to be an end in itself. It was to be kingship for the sake of the people. It's the same in the church. If someone is ordained as a minister, elder or deacon, it's not for their benefit, but for the benefit of the flock.

Questions

1. What pattern do we see in David that is in Christ?
2. What was David to do as king?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would seek to serve others in the church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” 2 Samuel 5:2b

Praise: Psalm 78A:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Friday - 2 Samuel 5:6-16 - God's King Fulfils God's Promises

If David's exaltation has been a long time coming, the capture of Jerusalem has been even longer in the making. Eight hundred years before, God had promised Abraham - at the end of Genesis 15 - 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and **the Jebusites.**' Eight whole centuries. Whole civilisations had come and gone. The other names on the list had been dispatched long ago. But finally, in this chapter, God gives his people the land of the Jebusites, the original inhabitants of Jerusalem, in fulfilment of his promise.

It couldn't have happened at a better time. David wouldn't be an effective king over all Israel if he tried to rule from a Judean city like Hebron. Jerusalem was more central. It was just over the border into Benjaminite territory [Josh 18.28] - which would likely please those in Saul's tribe - but it had never been claimed by them. Yet there was both a promise and a command, not just in Genesis, but also in Exodus and Deuteronomy for God's people to defeat them. Joshua 15 contains the sad statement, 'But the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the people of Judah could not drive out, so the Jebusites dwell with the people of Judah at Jerusalem to this day'. But no longer!

For centuries God's people had been waiting for someone who would fulfil this promise. Now, in the fullness of time, he had come! Just like Jesus came after God's people had been waiting centuries - millennia even - for the one who had been promised who would crush the head of the snake. God's true king doesn't just arrive on the scene. He arrives, as God had planned long ago, ready to bring God's promises to fulfilment. God's king fulfils God's promises.

Questions

1. What had God promised about Jerusalem?
2. What are some of God's promises that Jesus fulfils?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

“And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” 2 Samuel 5:2b

Praise: Psalm 78A:11-15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Saturday - 2 Samuel 5:17-25 - God's King Defends His People

The Philistines, it seems, were happy enough when David was just king over Judah. While there was civil war between Israel and Judah, God's people were obviously in a weak position. But this united kingdom is a far bigger threat to the Philistines, and so they go on the offensive. But David, in reliance on God, and with the blessing of God, fights them off and defends his people. In that he points us to Christ.

“How does Christ execute the office of a king? Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.” (Shorter Catechism 26) Today his defending us is seen in defending us from the very accusations and charges that others bring against us, and in sheltering us from the very wrath of God. None of us are lying awake at night worrying about the Philistines. But the accusations of others, our consciences, the threat of judgement, Jesus is our defence against it all.

It's worth noting David's dependence on God in vs 19 and 23. It's commendable that David inquires of the LORD. Especially the second time when he might assume that God's answer will be exactly the same as the first time. David is a humble king, fully reliant and dependent on God. In that he's an example for us.

But I wonder if there's a bigger application here than simply the need to pray about big decisions. Because when we're told that David inquires of the LORD, as we've seen before in 1st and 2nd Samuel, it's almost certainly through the priest's ephod. Basically it was some way of getting a direct answer from God that we don't have today, nor for that matter did the ordinary people in David's day. It's a reminder that the king we serve has direct access to God, and that if we pray through him, he will take our requests into the very throne room of heaven. Does that not just highlight the folly of saying: 'I hope to go to Heaven, but don't talk to me about Jesus'. Or 'I'm a good person, so I don't need Jesus'. There's only one person in this chapter with direct access to God, and that's God's chosen king. So if you want access to God, if you want heaven's door opened to you, you have to go through Jesus.

Question

1. How does Christ fulfil the office of a King?

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

“And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” 2 Samuel 5:2b

Praise: Psalm 78A:25-27 - 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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