

Let's Worship God

18th-23rd May 2026

2 Samuel



II SAMUEL



Monday - 2 Samuel 8:1-2 - A Much Needed Chapter

If we knew what was going to happen in the future, it would affect what we do here and now. There are always people trying to work out what's going to happen next. But our problem in many areas of life is that we don't know where life is going, so we just have to guess. But there are some areas of life where people are pretty confident about where things are going. For example, they're confident that history is only moving in one direction, and so there's a desperate fear of being on the wrong side of history. The good news is that we do know where things are going. It is possible to be on the right side of history. We see that pictured for us in this chapter.

If this chapter is just a list of the achievements and victories of some ancient king, then it doesn't have much to tell us about where history is heading. But if David's role in Scripture is to give us a pattern and a picture of 'the prince of princes Christ Jesus the son of David and his spiritual kingdom' - then it actually has far more to tell us about where history is heading than TV news or the opinions of experts. David is God's anointed - God's messiah. But he also points us forward to God's ultimate messiah, Jesus Christ. The advance of David and his kingdom in this chapter isn't here merely for our historical interest, but to give us confidence about the advance of Jesus' kingdom. That Scripture-fuelled confidence is something we desperately need, because from our perspective it often looks like things are all heading in the wrong direction, rather than the right one. You could easily get the impression in this world that to invest your life in God's kingdom is pointless because it would be like trying to bail out a sinking ship. So this is a much-needed chapter.

Questions

1. Who does David point us to?
2. What might we be tempted to think from the state of the world?

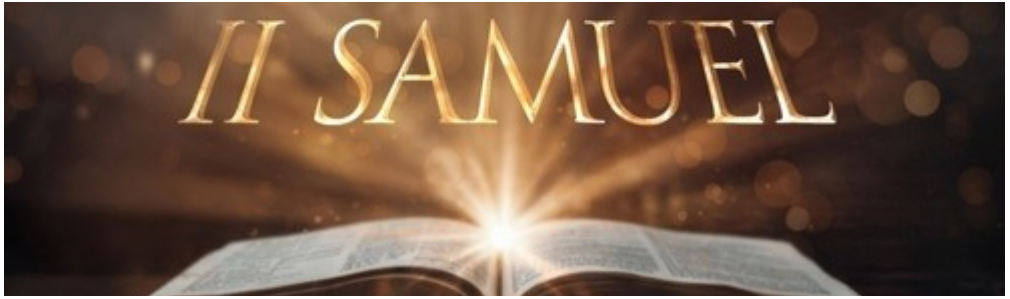
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ's Kingdom is advancing.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. 2 Samuel 8:15

Praise: Psalm 66A:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 8:1-14 - Success Because of God's Promises

What we see in this chapter is a king who is on the up. This is a king who is rising in power. The key word in the chapter is the word 'defeated'.

v1: David defeated the Philistines

v2: And he defeated Moab

V3: David also defeated Hadadezer

V5: David struck down - which is the same word in Hebrew - David struck down, or defeated, 22,000 men of the Syrians.

V13: 'And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites'. Again, it's the same word.

The word is also used in verses 9 and 10 to tell us that Toi, king of Hamath, had heard reports of David striking down these other nations. The way David's victories are reported is to give us a sense of him capturing every corner of the map. He defeats the Philistines in the West, the Moabites in the East, Aram in the North and Edom in the South.

But why was David so successful? Was it just chance? Was it because his army was better equipped or his generals were better strategists? The last part of v14 is clear about where David's success comes from: 'And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went'. David was successful because the LORD's hand was on him. We see the same thing in the first verse of the previous chapter: 'Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies'. And again in chapter 22v1: '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'. David was victorious because the LORD was with him.

Neither was God's presence with David something temporary that might be here one minute and gone the next. God was present with David because he had promised to be. Back in v9 of the previous chapter, God had promised: 'I will make for you a great name'. David's victories in this chapter are because God was with him, and God was with him because he had promised to be.

Question

1. Why was David successful?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we have an even greater king than David.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. 2 Samuel 8:15

Praise: Psalm 66A:5-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Wednesday - 2 Samuel 8:9-12 - The Inevitability of Messiah's Victory

Because God had promised to be with him, David's victories in this chapter are inevitable. Just as it is with the progress of the church of Jesus Christ. The church may look doomed in this country, just like it has looked extinct in certain countries before. But we have Christ's promise: 'I will build my church and that gates of hell shall not prevail against it'.

Sadly many of the nations David was fighting against didn't accept that. They tried to fight against him, even though it was futile. But there was one king who didn't. Did you notice him? Vg: When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, Toi sent his son Joram to King David to ask about his health and to bless him... And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold and of bronze. Toi stands out as the only king mentioned in the chapter who doesn't have to be struck down or defeated, because he sees the writing on the wall - and he realises that it's pointless to fight against the inevitable.

That's a pattern that we see elsewhere in the Bible as well. Everyone in the city of Jericho had heard of God leading his people through the Red Sea. They were terrified, but still they tried to fight against him. But Rahab didn't. Isaiah prophecies about 'foreigners who [will] join themselves to the LORD'. He speaks about brothers from all nations coming to serve the LORD. Micah prophecies of the day when 'many nations shall come and say: Come let us go the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways, and that we may walk in his paths'. Jeremiah talks about the nations gathering to Jerusalem and no longer stubbornly following their own evil hearts.

Here we have more firstfruits of the great harvest there would be when the gospel went out to all the nations of the earth. Toi is a fulfilment of Psalm 66: 'So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you, and sings praises to you'. Today we've seen these prophecies fulfilled in amazing ways. The message to submit to God's ultimate king - Jesus Christ - has gone out to the nations of the world, and many have and are responding gladly.

Question

1. What did Toi do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the nations of the world will come to faith in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. 2 Samuel 8:15

Praise: Psalm 66A:9-12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Thursday - 2 Samuel 8:1-2 - Spared to Serve

What about you? Do you realise that all of history is moving towards the moment when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD? Have you bowed the knee to him? Have you acknowledged Jesus Christ as the Lord of all? Or are you still fighting against him? If so, be warned, that in the words of the Apostle Paul, there is a day coming when the 'Lord Jesus [will be] revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus'.

In many ways, the Moabites in v2 are a picture of everyone who has ever lived - these defeated Moabites who David lines up in two lines. There are only two types of people in the world. Not good people and bad people, because we're all bad people. We all deserve death. In v2 you have one group who receives the penalty they deserve for rebelling against God's king. But you also have a second group who're spared. But the group who are spared - do they just do their own thing? No, they become servants to David and bring him tribute.

It is a glorious thing to be a servant of the Lord Jesus! We're not saved to do our own thing. God grants his people freedom - but not independence. Anyway to try and live for our own little kingdom would be both pathetic and futile. We know where history's heading. It's moving towards the moment when the Lord Jesus will be recognised by everyone for who he truly is - by some reluctantly and others gladly. The moment when we as his people will be openly acknowledged and acquitted, and when we can take our seats at the wedding supper of the lamb. So will we not live for that day? If you knew for sure that a company was going to quadruple in value over the next year - would you not invest in it if you had some spare cash? But we know for certain that God's kingdom is going to topple every other kingdom there is. Will we not invest in his kingdom? As individuals, as families, as a church? Or will we be like the rich fool trying to store up for ourselves treasure on earth?

Question

1. What did David do to the Moabites?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would be a joyful servant of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. 2 Samuel 8:15

Praise: Psalm 72:1-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL



Friday - 2 Samuel 8:1-12- Using What We Have for God

It's easy to do the right thing for the wrong motives. So what about David in this chapter? He's winning these great victories, but maybe it's just his own reputation that he cares about? There are little hints here that that's not the case. In v4 David takes 1700 horsemen. What does he do to them? He hamstringed all the horses apart from 100. Why would he do something like that? There may be a number of reasons. But one is the command of Deuteronomy 17:16 where God says that the king 'must not acquire many horses for himself'. Why? Because of the tendency to trust in them rather than God and forget that, as Psalm 33:17 puts it: 'A horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue'.

What does David do down in v10 with all the silver, gold and bronze that King Toi sends him? He dedicates it to the LORD, together with the silver and the gold that he dedicated from all the nations he subdued. Again he was following Deuteronomy 17, where kings are told not to acquire for themselves silver and gold. 1st Chronicles 18 tells us that Solomon used it to build the temple. The bronze was used for the bronze sea and the pillars and the vessels of bronze. 1st Kings 7 tells us that the rest of it - the silver, gold and the vessels which David had dedicated to the Lord - were put by Solomon in the Temple's treasuries. There's an application here to us. Rather than using the gifts that God gives us to try and build our kingdom, we're to use them in the service of his kingdom. How terrible to take gifts and abilities God gives us, and use them for our own ends, rather than his! Yet how easy it is to do. But we're to be different. We're to take what God gives us and devote it to him -- our time, talents, gifts and abilities, and our material blessings.

Notice as well that David doesn't see the fruit of his labours in his lifetime. Are we willing to serve God if we don't see immediate fruit for what we're doing? Are we prepared to serve God for the good of future generations, even if we won't live to see it? David's concern for the cause of God on earth is a concern that goes way beyond his own death.

Questions

1. How does David follow God's instructions for kings?
2. How can we use what we have for Christ?

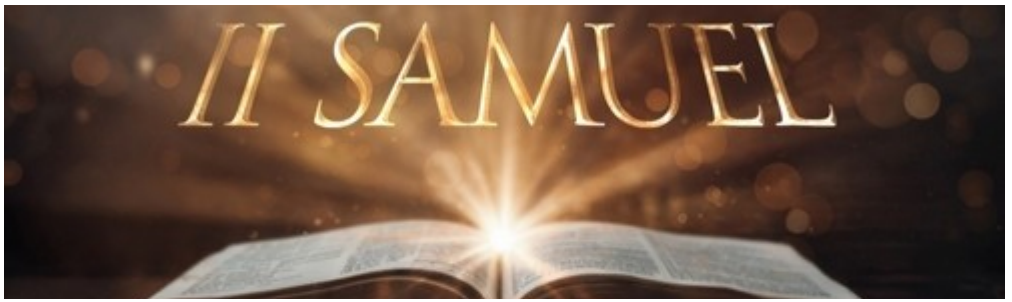
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would use all we have been given for the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. 2 Samuel 8:15

Praise: Psalm 72:7-11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 8:15-18 - The Aim of Messiah's Victory

What David is doing in this chapter is very much focused on God's glory rather than his own, but David's actions are also for the good of the people. Those two things always go together. A victory for God's king is a victory for God's people. Not just because the kingdom they're part of will expand, but because David is here striking down some of the ancient enemies of God's people. David isn't off fighting his own personal battles - he's fighting nations who've been longstanding threats to God's people. Then look down at v15: 'So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people'. David's kingdom was a kingdom where true justice was done, where people who committed terrible crimes didn't get off with token sentences, where decisions were marked by fairness and honesty. This isn't a king who's out to serve his own interests. He's a king whose rule benefits the people. That's because he's a king whose rule reflects what God is like.

The aim of Messiah's victory is God's glory - and the people's good. In this, David, points us to the true Messiah, Jesus Christ. His great desire and motivation was the glory of God. The cross was about God's glory, but of course, it was also for our eternal good. We who deserved to drink the cup of God's wrath, are given a cup of blessing. And now, the Lord Jesus governs all things for the good of the church. That's why all things work together for the good of those who love God, because Christ is working them together, for our sake! 1 Corinthians 3 tells us: 'For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all are yours, and you are Christ's and Christ is God's'. The risen and ascended Lord Jesus is reigning on the throne of the universe for the good of his church. There is nothing in all creation that doesn't exist for the benefit of God's people. So whatever you face this week, in God's providence it will be for your ultimate good. God's glory and our good aren't opposed to one another. That's what the devil would like us to think. But actually, they go hand in hand. That was true in the reign and victories of King David, and it's true in the reign and victories of King Jesus. The aim of Messiah's victory is God's glory and our good.

Question

1. What is the aim of Messiah's victory?

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

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. 2 Samuel 8:15

Praise: Psalm 72:12-16- 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.

If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com