

Let's Worship God

23rd-28th March 2026

2 Samuel



II SAMUEL



Monday - 2 Samuel 1 - David - Pointing to Christ

We're starting a new series on the book of 2nd Samuel with notes written by Rev. Stephen Steele.

One mistake to avoid when we come to 2nd Samuel is thinking that it's just history. We are being shown who God is and how he rules his people; and we are being pointed to the Christ who would come, and is foreshadowed to a large extent in the life of David. David's name is mentioned 1,141 times across the Bible. In terms of the Bible's content, nearly a seventh of the Bible is about him. So as Christians, as people who believe that the whole Bible has been breathed out by God, we need to get to grips with David. We need to understand the role that he plays in God's plan. 16 times in the gospels, Jesus is called 'son of David'. To fully understand that title, we must understand David. But as we study David, we can't stop with David. We need to draw the lines to Jesus that the New Testament shows us how to draw.

David is God's anointed king. At times David lived up to that. And at other times he didn't. When he did, he prefigured Jesus. And on the occasions when he didn't, we feel our need for a better king.

David is God's chosen king - and yet his life is marked by suffering. And in 1st Samuel it's mostly undeserved suffering - just like Jesus. But as we come to 2nd Samuel, with his suffering finished for now, David ascends the throne and his kingdom begins to flourish. What we have is really an Old Testament version of the book of Acts. The King has ascended to the throne - and slowly but surely his kingdom is beginning to grow.

Questions

1. What are some ways in which David points to Christ?
2. How is 2 Samuel like Acts?

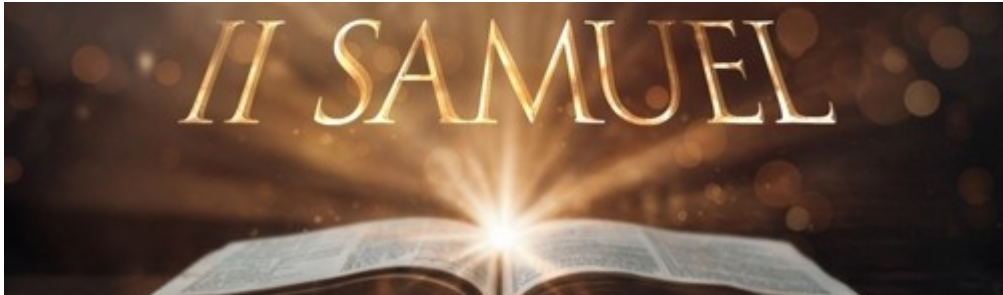
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is the better King.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!” - 2 Samuel 1:27

Praise: Psalm 121 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 1:1-16 - Killing the LORD's Anointed

As the book starts, David still isn't on the throne. In fact, no-one is on the throne, because Saul has just fallen on his sword - literally - at the very end of 1st Samuel. As Saul and Jonathan have been fighting on the battlefield, David has been away rescuing his wives who've been taken captive by the Amalekites. 1st Samuel 30 records the rescue. He brings them safely back to Ziklag. And now, 3 days later, another Amalekite arrives. He's been travelling for days, and covered 80 miles. His clothes are torn and there's dirt on his head. And he brings a message of defeat. But his message is only partly true. Saul and Jonathan are dead alright. But Saul died at his own hand, not at the hand of the Amalekite. We know it's a lie, because the narrator has just told us, in 1st Samuel 31, how Saul died. And the two accounts don't match up. And David probably suspects it's a lie as well. When he passes sentence in v16 he says: 'Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying 'I have killed the LORD's anointed'. He's killed because of what he's said he's done - whether he actually did it or not.

Now obviously this wasn't the reaction that the Amalekite was expecting. He expects David to be pleased by the news, and give him a reward. He's maybe hoping for a government role once David takes the throne. But what the Amalekite probably doesn't know is that David has already had two chances to kill Saul, and hasn't taken them. They're recorded for us in 1st Samuel 24 and 26.

So why won't David kill the man who's trying to kill him? When providence seems to be giving him the opportunity to do so. When his men are urging him to do so. And when he knows that God's plan is for him to be king one day anyway? Because Saul was the LORD's anointed king.

Questions

1. What is the lie the Amalekite tells?
2. What did the Amalekite hope to gain?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be faithful to do what is right.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!” - 2 Samuel 1:27

Praise: Psalm 45:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - 2 Samuel 1:11-16 - Sticking to His Principles

Saul was the first king that Israel had ever had. And yet Saul was in many ways the people's choice rather than God's. God had told his people long before this that one day they would have a king. But they had demanded a king for the wrong reasons - so that they would be like all the nations around them. But Saul was ultimately rejected by God not for that, but for his own sin. And yet even after he's been rejected, David won't lift a hand against him. Saul was on the throne as God's representative. And to curse a ruler of God's people was the same as reviling the God who had put him there in the first place. Exodus 22:28 links the two things: 'You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people'. Their behaviour may not deserve respect - but their office does. Of course, if cursing a ruler of God's people is forbidden, how much more is killing him! And if David holds God's anointing of Saul in such high regard that he wouldn't take opportunities to kill him himself, he's understandably outraged when this Amalekite claims to have done just that.

The world finds it very hard to believe that when we as Christians say something, that we'll stick to it, no matter what the cost. They think it's just empty rhetoric. The world thinks that everyone has their price. And so what an amazing thing it is when an opportunity comes along to show them otherwise. Many Christians in the workplace have amazed others by refusing to turn a blind eye to something, even if offered a promotion to sweeten the deal.

And the sad thing is, it's not an unreasonable assumption. Because there are many, many people who will say one thing in public but then do pretty much the opposite in private. And yes there's hypocrisy in all of us. But what an opportunity we have to honour God - and surprise the watching world - by actually sticking to our principles, even if there's a cost.

Questions

1. Why did David refuse to kill Saul?
2. How can we be an example to the world?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would like Christ-like lives before the world.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!” - 2 Samuel 1:27

Praise: Psalm 45:5-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL



Thursday - 2 Samuel 1:17-27 - How The Mighty Have Fallen

David is a good picture of the Lord Jesus in the second half of the chapter. As he shows us yet again what it looks like to love your enemies.

The books of Samuel have songs at the beginning, middle and end which all reflect on kingship. 1st Samuel begins with Hannah's song. 2nd Samuel draws to a close with David's song of deliverance. And here in the middle, as it were, we have David's lament over Saul.

It's hard to square his lament for Saul in vs 17-27 with what we know of Saul from 1st Samuel. Yet such is God's grace in David's life that he can speak about man who repeatedly tried to kill him, without bitterness. And in doing so he coins a phrase which is still used today, though I'm sure most people don't know where it comes from. Did you notice the threefold repetition in vs 19, 25 and 27? 'How the mighty have fallen'. Often today that phrase is used sarcastically when someone who is high and mighty is brought down to earth. But David genuinely means it. Maybe we wonder - is he talking about the same Saul?!

Even if someone isn't a Christian, I think we have warrant here to celebrate God's common grace in their lives. Not his saving grace - but what he has enabled them to accomplish. Of course we don't tell lies about the dead. We don't say they're in heaven when they're almost certainly not. But we can still celebrate how God has used someone. And yet note what David doesn't say. There's no mention of God, or Saul's relationship to him.

Questions

1. How does David show love for his enemies?
2. What does David not mention?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!” - 2 Samuel 1:27

Praise: Psalm 45:9-12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Friday - 2 Samuel 1:19-27 - The Cause of God on Earth

David says in v23 that Saul and Jonathan weren't divided. When in a sense they very much were. Jonathan recognised David as the rightful king, and Saul didn't. And yet they died beside one another on the battlefield. Fighting side by side until the end. Jonathan's recognition of David as the rightful king is what evokes David's heartfelt anguish in v26. Notice that David talks not primarily about his love for Jonathan, but Jonathan's love for him.

Sometimes the relationship between David and Jonathan is thought of primarily as an example of friendship. But it's far more than that. Jonathan was next in line to the throne. But he recognises that David is the rightful successor to his father, not him. And in one very moving scene in 1st Samuel 18, he strips himself of his robe, his armour, even his sword, his bow and his belt. Jonathan's attitude to David was like John the Baptist's to Jesus: 'He must increase; I must decrease'.

There's more going on in this lament than just David not wanting to speak ill of the dead. David's biggest concern is for God's cause. Yes, Saul's death is good for David's career prospects. But it's a devastating blow for the people of God. David knows that as a result of the Philistine victory, the Lord's name will be dragged through the muck -- and he can't bear it.

It makes us ask the question: Do we grieve over God's cause on earth? Or does it not bother us, as long as things are going ok for us personally?

David is someone motivated by God's honour. Just as he had been many years before when he stood before Goliath and said: 'Who then is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?'

Questions

1. How was Jonathan different from Saul?
2. What is David's big concern?

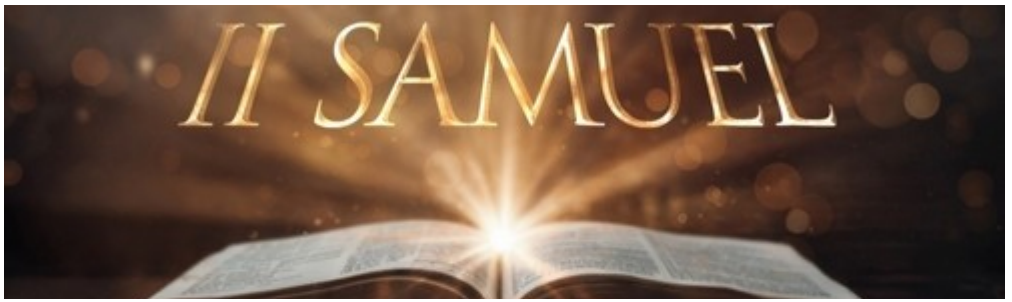
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would seek God's honour above all else.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!" - 2 Samuel 1:27

Praise: Psalm 45:13-15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 1 - Conclusion

So then, where does all this leave us? Be like David? Well, yes. But there's more. If you had to put yourself into the chapter, who would you be? Well none of us are David. None of us are God's anointed king. We're more like the Amalekite. In fact, we're worse than the Amalekite! Why? Because we haven't just claimed that we've killed God's anointed king, we've actually done it. How have we done that, you might ask? Because by our sin we nailed Jesus to the cross. If we had been alive at the time, but for God's grace we would have been in the crowd shouting 'Crucify him, crucify him!'

David says of Saul in v19 that the glory of Israel was slain on the high places. Well on the cross, not just the glory of Israel, but the glory of the universe was slain on a high place. And yet how amazing that we, who were his enemies, have been reconciled to God by the death of his Son

If you're not a Christian today, you are guilty before God of the sin of unbelief. And the logical end point of unbelief - as we see in the Pharisees - is putting to death the son of God.

But the good news of the Bible is that it doesn't have to be that way. King Jesus loves his enemies so much that he went to the cross for those of them who would repent and believe. That rather than their blood being on our own heads, he took the punishment we deserved.

We're not David. But by God's grace, we can be like Jonathan. Acknowledging the true king. Gladly sacrificing the rights we once thought we had. And bowing the knee before him.

Questions

1. How can we be like Jonathan?

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

"How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!" - 2 Samuel 1:27

Praise: Psalm 45:16-17 - 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
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