

Let's Worship God

30th March - 4th April 2026
2 Samuel



II SAMUEL



Monday - 2 Samuel 2:1-4 - What is God's King Like?

What is Jesus like? And what should we expect life in his kingdom to look like? I guess if you asked many Christians where you might find answers to those questions, they would limit their suggestions to places in the New Testament. But if God's plan to send Jesus wasn't just an afterthought, and was actually his plan all along, then we would expect to find pointers in the Old Testament as well. We do so very clearly in the book of 2nd Samuel. If we can see 2 Samuel as ultimately being about Jesus Christ and his kingdom, then that changes everything. It also helps answer some very real, and very pressing questions. For example - what should we expect the kingdom of God to look like? That's a question that's answered in these opening chapters of Second Samuel. And it's one that's absolutely vital to get right.

What do we mean when we pray 'your kingdom come?' If you'd asked a Jewish person at the time of Jesus, they would have said that the kingdom coming would be something spectacular. God splitting the heavens and coming down. Or raining down lightning bolts. Something big and dramatic that everyone would have to sit up and pay attention to. And we can be similar. We can think that God mostly works through big, dramatic revivals. And the rest of the time, there's not much happening. And we forget that Jesus said that the kingdom of God would be like a mustard seed. Something small and apparently insignificant. Growing into something huge - but not doing so overnight.

If we don't understand what the Bible teaches about the kingdom of God, we might end up disillusioned. The Jews in Jesus' day didn't understand what the kingdom was like. They should have. But they didn't. And when the king finally arrived, they rejected him, because he wasn't the sort of king they were expecting. So as we come to this chapter, we're going to do so asking 'What is God's king like?'

Questions

1. What did Jesus say the kingdom of God would be like?

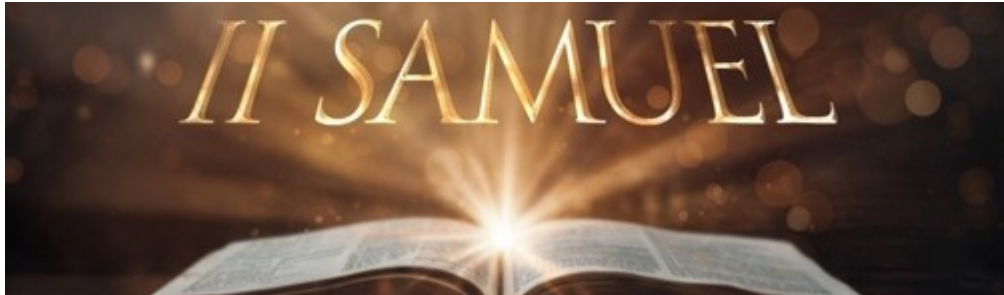
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would understand what the Bible teaches us about the kingdom of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing." 2 Samuel 2:6

Praise: Psalm 77:1-5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 2:1-4 - A Prayerful King

Finally, the moment David has waited many long years for has arrived! David had been anointed King by Samuel way back in 1st Samuel 16. But Saul was determined to hold onto the throne. So soon after, David went on the run. And he'd been running ever since. But now, Saul is dead. As we saw last week, David had refused to take opportunities to kill Saul himself. Instead he determined to wait on God's timing. Now that time had come. The obvious thing for David to do at this point would be to head for Judah. That's the tribe he was from, and so if anyone was going to recognise him as king, it would be them.

Yet David doesn't do the obvious thing - he doesn't do the thing he's been waiting years to do - without inquiring of God first. Right from the start we see that David's going to be a different kind of king from Saul. Saul had ignored God's word. He'd done things that God has specifically told him not to do. But David isn't going to go up without a word from the LORD.

That word translated 'go up' is repeated 5 times in these first 3 verses. On one level that just describes going to somewhere that's geographically higher up. But it's also a reference to David being exalted. What we're being told here is that he isn't someone who's going to take the throne for himself. David is going to be highly exalted. But like with the Lord Jesus, it could be said of him that '**God** has highly exalted him'. David's pattern is the same as Christ's. First suffering, and then - as a result - he's highly exalted. His Father exalts him as the reward of his suffering. That was the case for Jesus - and it's the same with David.

We know from the psalms that one of the things which especially marked David was the closeness of his fellowship with God. Talking to God wasn't unnatural for him. In fact it was the most natural thing in the world. Don't we see him pointing forward to the Lord Jesus? If it seemed that David didn't need to pray here - how much more would we have thought that Jesus didn't need to pray. Yet again and again we find him going somewhere he can be alone and pray to God. Because it was the most natural thing in the world for him to talk to his Father.

Questions

1. What does David's suffering and exaltation point to?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be prayerful in all we do.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing." 2 Samuel 2:6

Praise: Psalm 77:6-10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Wednesday - 2 Samuel 2:1-4 - An Unnoticed King

God makes clear to David that he's to go to Hebron. Hebron was the most important town in Judah, and it had a rich history for the people of God. Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah - they were all buried there. It was the only parcel of land that Abraham ever owned. Abraham had faith in God's promise that his descendants would be given the land. Here God's promise take a huge step forward as David comes to Hebron and the men of Judah anoint him as king over them. It's an absolutely momentous event. Yet at the same time, it wouldn't have made many headlines - even back then. It was a small beginning. Judah was only one tribe. Hebron was a significant place in Judah - but on a worldwide scale it was a provincial backwater. But was that not what it was like when Jesus came? When Jesus was born in Bethlehem it was the most significant moment in human history. And yet hardly anyone noticed. The angels did of course. The eyes of heaven were fixed on the manger. But apart from that, just a few despised shepherds witnessed it. And eventually some wise men from the east.

Then Jesus grows up and begins his ministry and says 'if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you'. And yet it wasn't the coming of the kingdom that people had been looking for. No lightning bolts. No armed overthrow of the Romans. There was nothing very kingly looking about Jesus and his disciples. Yet where Jesus is, there the kingdom of God is already present. Even if it looks like a mustard seed.

So don't despise the Hebron-stage of the kingdom. Whether that's in 2nd Samuel 2, or whether it's what you see around you. As we gather, and as God's word is proclaimed, the kingdom of God will be made visible for those who have eyes to see. And that is no small thing.

Questions

1. How does David point us to Jesus in the beginning of his kingdom?

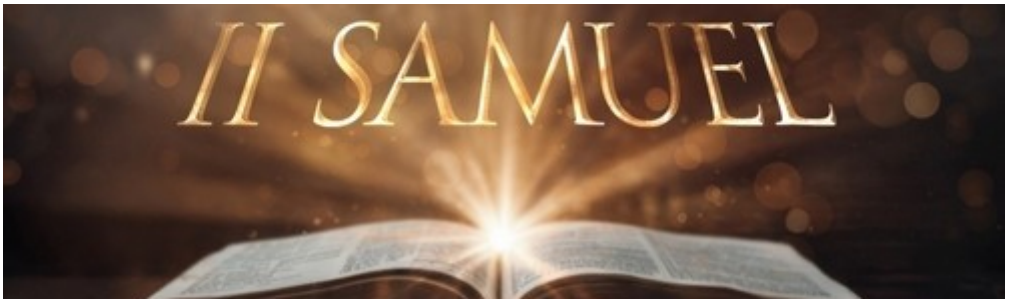
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be encouraged even when the kingdom of God looks like a mustard seed.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing.” 2 Samuel 2:6

Praise: Psalm 77:11-16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Samuel 2:4-7 - A Gracious King

If the men of Judah were expected to accept David as king, the same probably couldn't have been said about the men of Jabesh-gilead. They weren't part of David's tribe. More than that, they had a special loyalty to King Saul which stretched all the way back to his first action as a king, when he had saved them from attack. After Saul dies, the Philistines impale his body to a wall. But when the men of Jabesh-gilead hear about it, they march all night, take down the bodies of Saul and his sons, and bring them back to Jabesh, burn them, bury their bones and fast for seven days. So Jabesh had always been pro-Saul. But now Saul was dead, what would they do?

David calls on them to acknowledge his kingship. But he does so in a very gracious way. Firstly, he commends them for burying Saul. In fact, it was this loyalty which brought them to his attention in the first place. David is consistent. In the last chapter he's shown his anger when the Amalekite claims to have killed the LORD's anointed. Here he commends the men of Jabesh-gilead for their loyalty to the LORD's anointed. But now David is the LORD's anointed. The men of Judah have already recognised it. He calls on the men of Jabesh-Gilead to recognise it too - and promises to do good to them if they do.

It's not hard to see the similarities with great David's greater Son. How does Jesus call people into his kingdom? 'Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' Jesus attracts us both by his character and by his promises. He is a winsome, a gracious king. As his representatives, we must be too.

We aren't told how they respond. It wouldn't have been an easy choice for the men of Jabesh-gilead to follow David, with a strong pro-Saul faction still around and civil war looming. But the true king had offered them steadfast love and faithfulness. He'd done it patiently, graciously and winsomely. What a thing it would be to turn that down! If you're not a Christian, the Lord Jesus is graciously offering you the same thing. How will your respond?

Questions

1. How does David show graciousness to others?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the grace God has shown us in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing.” 2 Samuel 2:6

Praise: Psalm 2:1-3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Friday - 2 Samuel 2:8-17 - An Opposed King

If Jabesh-gilead's response to David is left hanging, the response of Abner, Saul's army commander, is clear. Rather than submit to David he sets up one of Saul's sons as a rival king. But while Ish-bosheth may be on the throne, Abner is the one calling the shots.

And the most tragic thing about it is that Abner knows that David is God's choice. Saul admitted as much - and Abner would have heard him do so. In fact, Abner tells Ish-bosheth that himself when they fall out in the next chapter. He says in chapter 3v9: 'God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the LORD has sworn to him, to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and Judah'. Abner knows what God's will is, yet he opposes it. That should frighten us. It should frighten us that it's possible to know who God's chosen Messiah is - but still try to fight against him.

We think - if only people have the right information, if only we can demonstrate the reliability of the Bible, or the fact that Jesus fulfils all the prophecies, if only we could get them to come and hear a certain preacher, then they'd believe. But the human heart is far more stubborn than that. Without the work of God's Spirit, we could know all the facts. We could believe that Jesus was God's chosen king, and still try to fight against him. Sin makes us stupid. But it also makes us perverse and twisted. As someone has said, it's possible to: know the truth but not embrace the truth, to quote the truth but not submit to the truth, to hold the truth and yet assault the truth. It's possible for those in the pulpit. And it's possible for those in the pew. And the bloodbath that follows - which we'll come back to look at next week - is totally pointless. Because it's futile to fight against God's chosen king.

Questions

1. How does Abner respond to David?
2. What does Abner know about David?

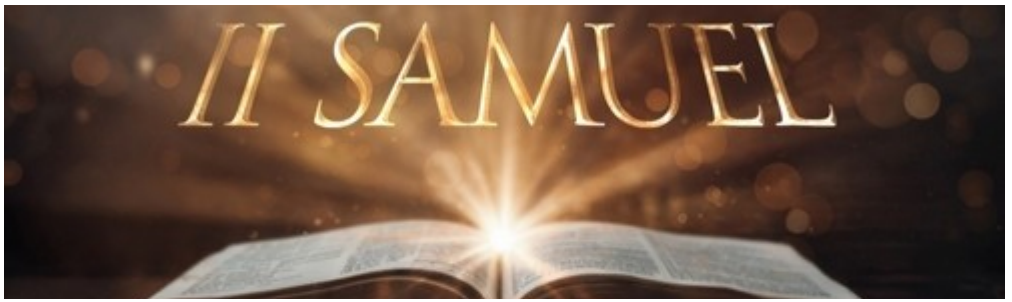
Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would change the hearts of those who fight against Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing.” 2 Samuel 2:6

Praise: Psalm 2:4-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 2:18-32 - Fighting Against God's King

History is only moving in one direction. Those who are on the wrong side of history are those who fight against God's chosen king. Yet so many do it. If we're not fighting against God's king, it's only by God's grace.

But even now that we are Christians, there's still the danger that we could know God's will, and yet choose to fly in the face of it. That's a very dangerous place to be. It's a place that there's often no coming back from.

If I'm speaking to anyone who's running from God's chosen king, either running from trusting in him in the first place or running from obeying him, it will only end in disaster. To use Abner's words from v26: 'Do you not know that the end will be bitter?'

But it doesn't have to be that way. God's once unspectacular - but now glorified - king is calling to you. He's calling to you graciously and winsomely. Stop fighting against the true king, but acknowledge him, as Abner himself will do in the next chapter.

We know how the story ends. The message of the final book of the Bible is summed up in 3 words: 'The Lamb wins'. And on that day - will you be found on the winning side? In order for that to happen, you must hear the gracious call of the true King - and respond in repentance and faith.

Questions

1. What will happen to those who fight against God's King?
2. How can you be on the winning side?

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

"Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing." 2 Samuel 2:6

Praise: Psalm 2:7-8 - 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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