

# Let's Worship God

6th-11th April 2026  
2 Samuel



# II SAMUEL

## **Monday - 2 Samuel 3:1-11 - What is God's Kingdom Like?**

We hear a lot these days about being on the wrong side of history. Yet you can only claim to be on the wrong side of history if you know where history's going. In fact, if you don't believe in God then you can't even talk about history going anywhere, because history isn't heading towards any particular destination, and it's all just random chance. And of those who claim to be on the right side of history today - who's to say that people in 200 years' time will agree with their assessment? It's only those who have God's Word open who can make judgements about who is on the wrong side of history.

In 2nd Samuel ch 3, we have a man who hears God's Word, who realises that he's on the wrong side of history - and who changes sides. We're going to look at Abner's about-turn. But although Abner's clearly an important character in this chapter, we're going to look at it, not asking what it tells us about Abner, but what it tells us about the Messiah's kingdom. Because as I've stressed the last two weeks, the book of 2nd Samuel isn't ultimately about King David and his kingdom, but about the King of Kings, and his Kingdom. Or to put it another way, in 2nd Samuel, David and his kingdom should never be an end in themselves, because they point us forward to Jesus and his kingdom. We don't know who the human author of 2nd Samuel was. Samuel is of course long dead before the book even starts. But we know that ultimately the author is God. So it should be no surprise that he would plan the events recorded here to point us forward to the kingdom of his Son. So what do we learn about the Messiah's kingdom in this chapter?

### **Questions**

1. What is the only way to determine the wrong side of history?
2. What should David and his kingdom point us towards?

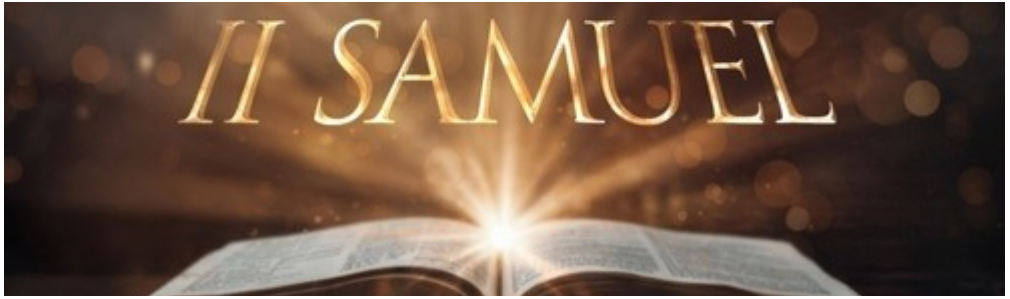
### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks for the reliability and truth of God's Word through all of history.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?" 2 Samuel 3:38

**Praise: Psalm 145B:1-2 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Tuesday - 2 Samuel 3:12-25 - Slow Growth**

The theme of this chapter is the growth of David's kingdom. Last week we saw him publicly recognised as king by one of the 12 tribes - Judah. It wasn't a particularly spectacular start - but it was a start. And in this chapter, more people bow the knee before God's anointed king. But it doesn't happen overnight. The very first verse of the chapter tells us that there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. The true king had come. But that didn't mean that everyone was going to acknowledge him at once. It's the same with the coming of the King of Kings. The Light of the World has come - but the forces of darkness are still fighting against him. On the cross the war was effectively won, but the battles are still raging. Satan knows that he's defeated. But he's not going to go down without a fight. In fact, he's going to fight to the bitter end. And this isn't a battle happening in some far away country. This is a battle that we are right in the middle of. If we don't have a long-term perspective, we'll easily get disillusioned. We'll get disillusioned at our own falls into the same old sins. We'll get disillusioned with other Christians. We'll get disillusioned when people profess faith and then fall away. We'll get disillusioned with the church. We need to remember the long-term perspective. Look at v1 again. Even though it was a long war, David grew stronger and stronger and the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.

Perhaps we look at the church here in the West in our own day and we see it getting weaker and weaker, rather than stronger and stronger. But think back to the church in the book of Acts. 120 people. Then look at the church today. Despite all the persecution, despite all the opposition, it spans the globe. In fact, the more it's been persecuted, the more it's grown. God's kingdom is a kingdom which grows slowly. And it's always been that way. Revivals are the exception.

### **Question**

1. What is the long war we are in?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that ultimately the forces of darkness are and will be defeated.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?" 2 Samuel 3:38

**Praise: Psalm 145B:3-5 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# II SAMUEL

## Wednesday - 2 Samuel 3:26-39 - Weakness

One of the themes of this chapter is David's weakness. The chapter is marred by Joab's murder of Abner, partly in revenge for Abner's killing of his brother, perhaps also partly Joab taking out a rival. There's no doubt about it, it's murder. The end of chapter 2 makes clear that Abner had only killed Joab's brother Abishai out of self-defence. On top of that, it was a killing on the battlefield. As David will remind his son Solomon years later - when Joab killed Abner he was avenging in a time of peace blood that had been shed in war. David tells Solomon to punish Joab for it. But why didn't he do that himself at the time? He makes clear in this chapter that he doesn't approve of Joab's actions. But why not punish him himself? Well David's answer, in his own words, is that he's too weak. David isn't in a strong enough position to be able to get rid of Joab. Joab is a liability. But for now, he's also a necessity. So the kingdom is growing slowly - and the king is weak. Of course, as Christians our king isn't weak. But in the eyes of the world he seems weak.

Very sadly there's often also infighting and jockeying for power. Joab's jealousy of Abner is seen in v24. He sees a rival, and he tries to turn David against him. Just as he would do later on when David decided to give his job to Amasa. Joab responded by murdering Amasa as well. Joab was loyal to David. But he was also no stranger to using David's kingdom to further his own objectives. Sadly that still describes people in Christ's church today.

Yet, despite all the evidence to the contrary, we know that God's promises to David do come to pass. It sure doesn't look like they will from the evidence here, but they do. Just as it looks so unlikely that the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. Yet that's exactly how the book of Revelation tells us that the story will end. All of history is heading towards the moment when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. And neither the apparent weakness of kingdom, the slow rate of growth, or even the infighting in the kingdom can stop it.

### Question

1. How is David weak in this chapter?

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?" 2 Samuel 3:38

**Praise: Psalm 1 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# II SAMUEL

## Thursday - 2 Samuel 3:1-5 - Covenant Children

The kingdom may grow slowly. But it still grows. It still advances, and the forces of darkness retreat. So how does it grow? Well growth in David's kingdom comes about in two main ways. And the first is one that we can pass over without even noticing. Why are David's wives listed in verses 2 through 5? Whether it's outrightly condemned or not, polygamy is always viewed negatively in the Bible. It's always a departure from God's pattern of one man and one woman for life. It never goes well. But I don't actually think that's what these verses are here for. Because what's the context? It's the growth of David's kingdom. And in these verses, David's kingdom grows through the birth of children -6 children in all listed here. For God's kingdom to grow in the world, two things need to happen. Children need to be raised in the faith, and adults must be converted from the world.

The Bible has lots to say about reaching those outside the covenant community. But it also has lots to say about raising children who are already in the covenant community. If a church reaches those outside, but loses its own children, it would be like expending lots of energy bailing water out of a boat, but not doing anything about the gaping hole that's letting most of that water in in the first place.

So the kingdom grows - perhaps not 'naturally'. Because for anyone to be converted - even those brought up in a Christian household - there must be a **supernatural** work of God. But certainly it grows organically. But of course the kingdom also grows by people coming in from outside the covenant community. We pray for both. We have examples of both in our congregations. And we rejoice in both. We have an example of the second way people enter the kingdom here in Abner, and we'll look at that more tomorrow.

## Question

1. What are the two ways that God's Kingdom grows?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray for the covenant children and their parents in our congregation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?" 2 Samuel 3:38

**Praise: Psalm 2 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# II SAMUEL

## Friday - 2 Samuel 3:6-21 - Abner

Abner gets a tough time from a lot of commentators. Certainly, in the last chapter, he's an example of the stubbornness and perverseness of sin. He knows that David is God's promised king. And yet he keeps on serving the house of Saul. He keeps on serving the king he knows God has rejected. But in this chapter, he changes sides. Admittedly, what sparks the change isn't good. Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, accuses him of sleeping with his father's concubine which would likely have been seen as a move towards claiming the throne for himself. Abner doesn't admit or deny it, but reacts angrily, and vows to change sides and help David accomplish what he knows the LORD has sworn to him. Many see it as purely a political move. Abner sees that he's not going to achieve what he wants in Saul's kingdom, so he joins David's kingdom instead. But David's assessment of him is very different from many of the commentators. You've probably heard verse 38 quoted before: 'Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?' It's often applied to beloved ministers, or others who God has greatly used. And yet that's David's assessment of Abner. 'A prince and a great man'.

When David asks in v33: 'Should Abner die as a fool dies?' The answer is obviously, not! Abner was no fool. Fool in the Bible not being a description of someone's intellect, but their morality. In fact, the word for 'fool' there is literally 'Nabal'. A man called Nabal had been struck down by God because he refused to acknowledge that David was the Lord's anointed. But Abner had acknowledged it - and so he shouldn't have died. Yes, he'd only acknowledged it belatedly. But he'd come in through the door before it was closed.

More than three decades later, David will tell his son Solomon to execute justice on Joab, because he attacked and killed two men more righteous and better than himself. One of whom was Abner. Again, many commentators will say that Joab and Abner are the same. That they're both just schemers, opportunists, that they're only in it for themselves. But David says they're not the same! He says that Abner is righteous. More righteous and better than Joab.

### Question

1. What is David's assessment of Abner?

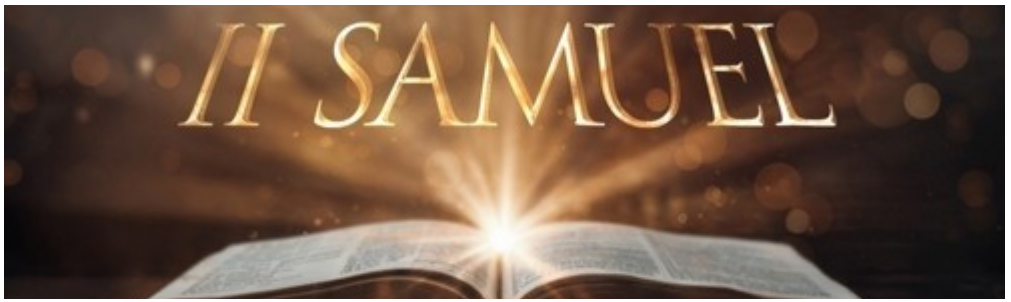
### Prayer Points

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

### Memory Verse

And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?" 2 Samuel 3:38

**Praise: Psalm 3 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



### **Saturday - 2 Samuel 3:20-39 - A Kingly Welcome**

Look at how David welcomes Abner into the fold. Is it not a great picture of salvation? He makes clear that he's at peace with him. v21: 'In peace'. v22: 'In peace'. v23: 'In peace'. He also welcomes him to his table in v20. They eat a covenant meal together.

And that's what it is to be a Christian. To be at peace with God's king and to eat at his table - ultimately the marriage supper of the Lamb, though we have a foretaste of it in the Lord's Supper.

Many commentators want to hold things that Abner said or did against him. But I think what we have in this chapter is a gracious invitation from the king to one of his enemies, saying 'Everything will be washed and forgiven'. David opened the door and left the light on for Abner. And by God's grace he came. Because it's all of grace, whether people are brought up in the church - or whether they're a million miles away. And the Messiah's kingdom includes both.

So what is Messiah's kingdom like? It's a kingdom that grows slowly and looks weak to the human eye. But which will one day be seen to be the greatest kingdom of all. And it's also a kingdom that welcomes all. And if you're not yet in the kingdom - the door is open.

### **Questions**

1. How does David welcome Abner?
2. What does Christ offer to His enemies?

### **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 king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?" 2 Samuel 3:38

**Praise: Psalm 127 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://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!**

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