



Bible Readers Club

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Week

16

2 Samuel 1-24

Dear Friends,

The rise and fall of King David is the story told in the Book of 2 Samuel. In 1 Samuel we saw David at his best in the midst of life-threatening adversity. In 2 Samuel we will see what happens to him when he realizes unprecedented power as Israel's king, and it is not all good.

David's rise to kingship will feature his conquest over Israel's arch nemeses the Philistines and his establishing of Jerusalem as his capital and God's holy city where His Ark is brought with much pomp and ceremony. The high point of the narrative, and indeed one of the most important chapters in all of Scripture, is chapter 7 which tells of God's special promise to David and His descendants, called the "Davidic Covenant." Yahweh God promises that David's house and kingdom will last forever in His sight. Sadly, God's people will tend to presume upon this promise in the future, seeing it as a guarantee of military and political success in a worldly sense, but a thousand years after David, when the political kingdom of Israel has been gone for some 600 years, a different kind of king will appear—Jesus Christ the "Son of David" and the "Son of God"—and the Davidic Promise will be remembered and understood in a new, deeper and eternal way.

After this, the story of David will take a dramatic downward turn. The powerful king will prove impotent against his own worst enemy, himself. He will fall into horrendous sin—committing adultery and then murdering one of his own military leaders in order to take his wife and cover up his sin—corrupted by the power and privilege God has blessed him with. But despite his terrible weakness against temptation, David does not turn away from God as Saul had done. In what I believe was the key moment of his life, when the prophet Nathan confronts David with his sin (chapter 12), David agrees with God against himself and repents. And so David continues his reign as king and, more importantly as "a man after God's own heart" (see Acts 13:22). So David will be held up as the positive model for kingship in Israel that king after king will fail to live up to in the future.

For David, though, the seeds that he has sown by his sin will have devastating results. Even as his kingdom prospers and increases, his

family will become a tragic mess. Rape, murder, treachery, and rebellion will tear the royal family apart and will lead to division in the kingdom itself which will eventually result in two rival nations in the north and the south after the time of David's son Solomon.

As you read this epic tale of one of history's truly great men, notice the brutal honesty God's Word brings to David's portrayal. There is no triumphalistic editing for these "annals of the king" like the ancient world was used to seeing. David is a man of great courage and strength as well as despicable weakness. His is a story of tremendous faith and unique success by the power of God as well as common frailty and horrible failure. And through it all, God Almighty is working. His plan is unfolding. And it will be thwarted neither by the prevalent wickedness of His enemies nor the betraying weakness of His friends.

May David's God, The Father, the Spirit and the One called the Son of David, bless you as you enjoy the ride and enrich you through the truths He reveals as you read about David, the "man after God's own heart," this week.

- Pastor Jay

Notes