

David and his Psalms

General Outline

- 1 Samuel 16, Psalm 23
- 1 Samuel 17, Psalm 9
- 1 Samuel 18-20, Psalm 59
- 1 Samuel 21, Psalm 56, Psalm 34
- 1 Samuel 22:1-5. Psalm 57
- 1 Samuel 22:6-23, Psalm 52
- 1 Samuel 24, Psalm 18
- 1 Samuel 25
- 2 Samuel 1
- 2 Samuel 2-3 (Summarize)
- 2 Samuel 4
- 2 Samuel 5:1-16 (1 Chro. 11:1-3, 12:23-40, 11:4-9, 14:1-2)
- Psalm 37
- 2 Samuel 5:6-14
- 2 Samuel 6 with 1 Chron. 13:1-4, 15:1-29, 16:1-6, Psalm 105, Psalm 24
- 2 Samuel 7/1 Chron 17:1-27, Psalm 110
- 2 Samuel 9
- 2 Samuel 11:1-27, 12:1-25, Psalm 51
- 2 Samuel 14-18, Psalm 3, Psalm 55
- 2 Samuel 24:1-25/1 Chron. 21
- 2 Samuel 23:1-7 (David's last words) 1 Kings 1/1 Kings 2:1-12

The key question that we want to answer from this study is: What qualities did David possess that made him a man after God's own heart? (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22).

A comparison of Saul and David

<u>Saul</u>	<u>David</u>
<u>Spirit removed, evil spirit given (16:14-23)</u>	<u>Anointed with the Spirit (16:1-3)</u>
<u>Jealous (Ch. 18)</u>	<u>Faithful friend and servant (Ch. 20)</u>
<u>Attempts to kill David (ch. 19)</u>	<u>Protects Saul (Ch. 24, 26)</u>
<u>Failed warrior (ch. 15, 17)</u>	<u>Mighty warrior (ch. 17)</u>
<u>Kingdom torn away (15:11, 26)</u>	<u>Kingdom promised forever (2 Sam. 7:1-17)</u>

1 SAMUEL 16 – DAVID IS ANNOINTED

In verse 1, God tells Samuel that he has rejected Saul as the king. However, Saul is still the king. Acts 15:28, God tells Saul that he is giving the kingdom to someone “better than you.”

V1 – It seems that Samuel has a complicated relationship with Saul. What insight do we have into that in these first verses?

- Samuel scolded Saul in the previous chapter, left him, did what Saul did not do in killing the Amalekite king yet saw Saul admit to his sin and saw him bow down to God in verse 30. In chapter 16, God insinuates that Samuel is upset over Saul’s rejection but is also fearful of what Saul may do to him.
- We will be trying to decipher why God chose David. For what reasons did God reject Saul?
- God makes it very clear that his selection is who he wants as king.

V3 – Who is Jesse, what is his lineage and why is it important? Descendant of Perez, the son of Judah and Tamar (Gen. 38:29), grandson of Ruth and Boaz, great grandson of Rahab. This seems to be a most unlikely lineage for a king considering the infamous actions of some ancestors (although Ruth and Boaz were admirable). Bethlehem is town in Judah, first mentioned in Genesis 35:19 as the nearest town where Rachel dies. It is where Naomi was originally from and where she and Ruth moved back to. By all accounts, Bethlehem was not an important town.

- Bethlehem seal. Found in 2012 near Gihon Spring. Parts of words can be read, “in the seventh, Bethlehem, king.” First non-Biblical reference found to the city. Dated to first temple period 1,000-600 BC.

V5 – What was the action and the purpose of being “consecrated?”

- Would have washed themselves and their clothes. Exodus 19:10 God tells Moses to consecrate the people before he appears to them at Mt. Sinai. Numbers 8:21, the Levites consecrated themselves to make an offering. In both cases, they are made clean before entering the presence of God.

V6 – What is Samuel’s initial impression? He assumes the choice is Eliab, the oldest, tallest. Samuel evidently did not learn from the selection of Saul—that outward appearance does not matter.

V7 – Why does God look at the heart/what is it?

- Mark 7:21-23: From the heart is where intent and desire comes from.
- Luke 6:45 – A good heart produces good, an evil heart produces evil.
- Genesis 6:5 – Thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually.
- Proverbs 27:19 – The heart of man reflects the man.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:4 – God tests our hearts
- Jeremiah 31:33 – Write the law on their hearts and I will be their God.
- The heart is what guides our intent and our actions. (Genesis 20, Abimelech took Sarah with the integrity of his heart...he did not mean to do anything evil). God hardened pharaoh’s heart.
- Why are outward qualities an unreliable way to judge a person? The appearance is superficial (Psalm 149:10-11). This body is temporary.

V11 – How does Jesse view David? He did not think enough of him to have him present at the sacrifice. Why do you think God has Samuel look at all the sons first? Why was David being the youngest significant?

V12 – As the youngest, David served as a Shepherd until he could do more manual labor. In what ways is David being a shepherd significant?

- As a king, he would protect, lead and care for the people. With a “staff” he would move the people where they needed to go. Other shepherds in the Bible were Abraham, Moses, Abel, Amos.
- Foreshadowing Jesus as the good shepherd (John 10:1-16)
- An example God caring for his people
- David is a shepherd of Bethlehem, and fittingly, the shepherds of Bethlehem were the first to witness the birth of Christ.

Would Samuel have known who to choose without God’s direction? No, only God knows the heart (1 Kings 8:39)

Samuel was a judge and a prophet, if even he could not understand God’s selection, what does that say about how we need to make decisions?

V12-13 – Interestingly, David was not consecrated in coming to Samuel (at least not that we know of).

- We do not know if Jesse and the brothers or even David knew why he was anointed.
- What is the significance of being anointed?
 - o Foreshadowing of the Messiah
 - o Signifies being chosen (Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:18)
 - o The priests were anointed to make atonement and serve
 - o The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus after his baptism, the start of his ministry (John 1:32)
 - o Christians are anointed and given his spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22)
 - o David anointed and given the Holy Spirit as well. The Spirit departs from Saul (v14). This shows who God is with (just as he is with Christians today by the gift of the Holy Spirit). David will later be anointed the king officially. This seems to be an anointing of God’s, giving him the spirit and choosing him for service.

V14 – God does not do evil but has used agents of evil to accomplish his purposes. Babylon destroying Jerusalem, crucifying Jesus, etc...

V18 – “The Lord is with him” is a phrase that will come up often in reading about David.

- Our first clues into why David would be a good choice for king. Characteristics: man of valor, man of war, prudent in speech, man of good presence. Compare this to Saul’s qualifications.
 - o We do not know David’s age and we do not know if he has been in battle before. Based on the next chapter, it seems unlikely that he has been to war. Possibly the servant is speaking about David’s skill rather than his experience.

God was going to make David king someday. He uses this spirit on Saul to bring David into close proximity to Saul. Much like Joseph being sold into slavery, God uses different ways to accomplish his will.

David must have been an accomplished musician (Amos 6:5 – David invented instruments/2 Sam 23 – the sweet psalmist of Israel).

PSALM 23

We do not know when David wrote this psalm exactly, but much of the imagery is from his life as a shepherd.

- Why does David depict God as a Shepherd and himself as a sheep?
 - o David is not the first to use the concept of God as a shepherd. Genesis 48:15, Jacob says “the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day...”
- In what ways is God a shepherd to us?
 - o Cares: 1 Peter 5:7 (“Casting all your anxieties on him because he cares for you.”)
 - o provides for needs: Matthew 6 (food and clothing)
 - o guides: John 16:13 (“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”)
 - o protects: 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (“But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.”) – In the NT, the verses regarding protection refer to a spiritual protection.
- I shall not want – There are a couple of ways to look at this. There is the physical like in Philippians 4 when Paul refers to their giving and that God will supply their every need. Then there is the spiritual. For example: 2 Corinthians 12, Paul is dealing with the thorn in his flesh (physical) but God says “my grace is sufficient for you” (spiritual).
- What does green pastures and still waters denote? Philippians 4:6-7, “Peace that surpasses all understanding...”
 - o In Matthew 14:18-19, Jesus has the people sit down in the grass before the feeding of the 5,000. Very similar to Psalm 23’s “makes me lie down” in green pastures and being provided with food.
 - o Why do you think David writes “makes me lie down?”
- Valley of the shadow of death: You can imagine being in a dark place, there could be wild animals or thieves lurking in the shadows, but David’s confidence in God remains. “If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8)”
- How does David view his relationship with God? God will show goodness and mercy toward him wherever he goes. It follows him.
- Dwell in the house of the Lord forever? Who could dwell in the house of the Lord? A Levite priest? David is not that, but this shows David’s eternal perspective.
- What do we learn about David’s view of God from this psalm?
- What can we learn about David’s heart from this psalm?

1 SAMUEL 17 – DAVID VS. GOLIATH

Valley of Elah – To the west of Bethlehem, between Israel and Phillistine land. Control of the valley would give Phillistines entry into the hill country to the west.

A champion: Goliath of Gath

- Gath is now identified as Tel es-Safi. Gath means winepress. One of five main Phillistine cities along with Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon and Ekron. A people called the Anakim were left there in the conquest of the land (Joshua 11:21-22). The Phillistines had long been trouble for the Israelites during the time of the judges and Samuel, and had captured the ark of the covenant for a time.
- Goliath inscription: [Scientists find 'Goliath' inscribed on pottery \(nbcnews.com\)](http://www.nbcnews.com)
- Goliath height ranging from 6-9 (Septuagint) to 9-9. The point is, he was very tall, especially considering the likely average height at that time was between 5-3 and 5-6.

Why do you think there is this in-depth description of the size of Goliath and the weight of his armor and spear? – Defeating Goliath feels like an insurmountable task.

- V10 – In defying Israel, who is Goliath ultimately defying?
- What had the Israelites forgotten in regard to battle? Deuteronomy 20:1-4. Do not fear.
- V11 – Why was Saul chosen as king in the first place? What does this say about Saul's leadership?

Verses 24-27

- What is the difference in the way that David views this battle and in how the other men in the army view it? David knows that defiance toward Israel is defiance toward God. The other men have a worldly perspective. David recognizes it as a primarily spiritual battle.
 - o Ephesians 6:12: 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
- How might challenges we face seem different if we look at them with first as a spiritual challenge before considering the physical?

Verse 28-30

- How does Eliab view David's visit? He had seen David anointed as he was passed over. Do you think there is some jealousy here?
- Why does Eliab discount David?
- What is important about David's reply in 29-30? It shows leadership even at a young age. The ability to stand up against a crowd and do what is right.

V31-37

- Why does David have such confidence in his ability to fight even at such a young age?
- "The Lord delivered me..." He knows that if God would deliver him from a bear and a lion, God would be with him against an enemy defying God.
- What does this say about Saul that he is willing to let a young boy go out to battle while he stands behind the lines? Saul is supposed to be the champion of Israel. David must have exuded much confidence.

Verse 40

- David's weapons of choice. Remember, Saul was much larger than every other man in Israel, so his armor certainly would not have fit the young David. David also would not have had practice fighting in armor. What did David choose to fight with? The weapons he was familiar with. Look at Ephesians 6:10-18 and the armor of God. To defend ourselves in spiritual battle, we have to use what we are familiar with. If we do not have strong faith, and understanding of the gospel, lacking in prayer and the word, our weapons are worthless.
- Sling use: https://youtu.be/0a_IHHcw6do?t=160 (106 mph), even Romans soldiers into the second century AD used slings. Judges 20:15-16 says the tribe of Benjamin had 700 men in the army who could sling at a hairs breadth and not miss. Average size a billiard ball/tennis ball.

Verses 41-47

- David is not fazed by Goliath's trash talk. He calls David a dog and says he will kill him. How does David's reply trump Goliath? David doesn't need impressive weapons because he comes in the name of the Lord.
- What is David's motivation for fighting this battle? To show the world that there is a God in Israel. How does this compare to the motivations of the men who coward to Goliath?

Eventually, we will read about how David's victory here has an impact on Saul. What was Saul's mistake in this account? What stands out about David that we can utilize in facing spiritual battles?

- Victory has already been won by Jesus: 1 Corinthians 15:57
- As God fought battles for the Israelites, so does he for his followers: 1 Corinthians 10:13 (temptation beyond your ability, a way of escape).

PSALM 9

- This is not written specifically for this part of David's life but some of David's message to Goliath can be seen in this psalm. It is a psalm of praise for the defeat of enemies and God's righteous judgement.
- Muth Labben means Death of a Son

Praise with whole heart. What does whole heart mean? Can you praise God with part of your heart? Sometimes I think we forget the importance of recounting God's wonderful works. There are a lot of prayers asking God, but how often do we praise him when prayers are answered?

The purpose of singing? Acts 16 (Paul and Silas singing in jail), strengthens us, James 5:13, a way to show praise, Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18-19, commanded to us as a way to be close to God, lifting up one another.

According to this Psalm, why is God fighting on David's behalf? It is a just cause.

What does this psalm teach us about who God protects: oppressed, afflicted, those who put their trust in God (v10).

Verses 14-16, why does David ask God to save him from death? To tell others about how great God is. Isn't that the outlook that we should have as well? That our purpose is to tell others about the great things God has done for us?

What does the psalm teach us about how we should react toward fear or unjust treatment?

How is this psalm an encouragement?

What can we learn about David's heart from Psalm 9 and 1 Samuel 17? He foremost has a spiritual outlook. He views God as a protector and fighter for his people and a righteous judge. David's battles are not his own but God's. David is always ready to tell others about the great works of God.

SAMUEL 18-20 AND PSALM 5

What did Jonathan do in reaction to his friendship with David and what is symbolic about it? His robe, his armor and sword given to David shows that David replaces Jonathan as next in line to be king. What does this say about Jonathan?

Why does success follow David wherever he goes? God is with him. That is what we learned in Ch. 16 and in verse 14.

What is the reason for Saul's jealousy? It shows how far Saul had fallen away. When David wins a battle, it is for the purpose of glorifying and serving God. Saul is only interested in the praise of the people.

Why do you think Saul is afraid of David? Maybe he knows the Lord is with him. He also sees the popular opinion shift against him.

Verses 17-29 – Saul concocts a plan that actually is eerily similar to one that David will use later in his life. What is the plan? Let David go into battle and be killed by the Philistines. Saul underestimates how God is with David, though.

David was supposed to receive a daughter for a wife after killing Goliath. You can see the evil in Saul's heart now (verses 21-22), because instead of embracing David for what he has done and that he is a godly man, Saul is using his own daughter to try to get David killed.

What godly traits do we see in David's refusal of the marriage proposal? Humility. He does not esteem himself worthy of that worldly status.

CHAPTER 19 – SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID

V1-7 – How does Jonathan reason with Saul? He points out that Saul would be sinning by killing an innocent man and showed all the good that David had done for Saul.

V17 – Michal lies about what happens. Why do you think she does this?

V18 – One note in my reading says Naioth may mean shepherd’s camp.

Why do you think that David went to Samuel when he fled?

Verses 18-24 – We don’t know what they prophesied, God’s word, praise... but we see God use the Spirit to take their hostile intentions. Verse 24 – “Is Saul also among the prophets” is also referred to in 1 Samuel 10 after Saul is anointed as king and he prophesied.

- Why do you think it is that God strips him of his clothes? Saul prophesied when he was anointed as king, and now, he is trying to kill God’s anointed. God is stripping him of his king status, his robe and humbling him.

CHAPTER 20 – JONATHAN WARNS DAVID

Verses 1-11 – There is a new moon (Numbers 10:10) festival – David believes that if he shows up to the dinner Saul will kill him.

What does Jonathan insinuate may happen if Saul finds out about this plan? Jonathan will be killed.

From verses 12-17, what can we learn about Jonathan as a person, where his loyalties are and his understanding of who David was to become?

Verse 15 – Jonathan is going to help David escape and asks David to show love on his family forever. We will learn eventually that David keeps his oath.

Verse 22 – It is interesting how Jonathan words this statement. “The Lord has sent you away...” Why do you think he says it this way? God has a hand in everything that is happening. It is clear that David is fearing for his life and it seems that there is evil at hand, but Jonathan believes that God is in control of the situation.

Verse 23 – We see here why Jonathan and David’s relationship was so close. It was centered on God. We can have friendships built on interests and activities, but those interests often change and the friendship with it. The ideal relationship is built with God at the center.

Verses 26-34 – Jonathan is told that his throne will not be established, but that does not faze him. He still stands up for David. Jonathan shows great humility and understanding in God’s plan for David.

- In reflection of these chapters, what stands out about Jonathan and David’s friendship?
- This story shows that there is sometimes a cost associated with a relationship. What did it cost relationship?
- In what ways can we build relationships to be strong like theirs?

PSALM 59

- A lament, seeking God’s protection as someone innocent from enemies.
- Notice how the enemies are described: Lie in wait, work evil, bloodthirsty, fierce, stir up strife, howling like dogs, prowling, swords in their lips. -What are the sins of the enemies?

- What are the ways that David refers to God: God of hosts, God of Israel, my Strength, my fortress, our shield, a refuge.
- What does David seek from God?
- The treatment from the enemies is unjust because David has done nothing against them.
- V10 – The God of my mercy referred to in Isaiah 55:3 “even the sure mercies of David.”
- Why does David ask God to spare the lives of his enemies? (v 11)
- V12 – How did Saul show pride?
- Despite the evil and threats to his life, how does David view God?
- V14-17 – How are David’s actions different from those of his enemies?
- How is David handling his persecution? He is letting God handle it. He is not taking matters into his own hands. He seeks deliverances through God.

What are the characteristics of David’s heart that we see in these readings? Loyalty to his friend and loyalty to God even in the face of death. The willingness to seek God’s protection rather than take justice into his own hands.

CHAPTER 21-22/P SALMS 56 and 34: DAVID ON THE RUN AND DEATH OF THE PRIESTS

Chapter 21 begins with David on the run after the events of chapter 20 and he seeks the help of Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech gives David the showbread to eat and also the sword of Goliath, and Saul’s chief herdsman, Doeg, oversees this. Pick up in verse 10 and cover verses 10-15 followed by Psalm 56.

- What does it say about David’s situation that he is fleeing to the Philistines?
- What is David’s reputation among the servants of Achish? Remember that he killed the champion of Gath.
 - o It is possible that calling him king they are mocking him, that he is not in good favor with the king of Israel. Or, they believe that by reputation he should be the king.
- Because of his military success against the Philistines, surely David would have received some form of retribution in the hands of Achish. God’s protection of David comes in a strange form here.

PSALM 56

- The note for this Psalm says, “When the Philistines seized him in Gath.”
- Who are the enemies in David’s life at this moment?
- While David is oppressed and has enemies, what is his response when in danger?
 - o Imagine signing this Psalm as it was meant to be sung. How do the words in verse 4 inspire you?
 - For me, it is a reminder of what to do in that situation, and there is an air of confident defiance...What shall flesh do to me? What is the worst thing that can happen? Sure, man can take away our things (do not store up treasures on earth) and can take away life (set your mind on things above, not on earthly things, Colossians 3:1-2).
- How does David describe his enemies?

- Relentless (all day long)
- Stir up strife, meaning, they create problems
- They lurk...sneak, looking for opportunities when you are weak; they are not looking for a fair fight
 - Christians certainly have enemies that come in many forms today. Can you think of any and how they are similar to David's enemies?
 - The Tampa Bay Rays players and the negative response, looking to use their own words, take scripture out of context, paint them as hateful, altering the idea of what love is.
 - A friend who struggled with depression and lived a troubled life. Tried hard to escape his past but when he was at his worst, bad influences nearly killed him.
- What does David say about how God takes care of his faithful? (verses 8-9)
 - Counting the tossing/tears of someone shows true love. You intimately know how much someone is hurting.
 - In this psalm we see David call to God to bring his wrath on the enemy, and then we see God as a loving father truly paying attention to and knowing the pain of his faithful. So often, those outside the church view God as either the vengeful God or the all-loving God with no judgement. There are many sides to God, and we see that here. The bottom line, though, is that he cares for and protects those who are faithful and righteously punishes the unjust.
- Is David's relationship with God one-sided? Is he asking for something and offering nothing in return? No, he says he must perform his vows. He must remain faithful. David is holding up his side of the relationship.

PSALM 34

Recap 1 Samuel 21. David flees to his enemy and feigns insanity in order to escape. This psalm was written after those events, so we can see David's reaction.

- How would you categorize this psalm? Praise and thanksgiving
- Compare David's attitude in Psalm 56 to what we read here.
- What does it mean to "bless the Lord?" To speak good words about him.
- In verse 3, David is encouraging others to join in. You can feel his excitement and his joy.
- In the present social climate, when Christians are often made fun of for the stances we take, it is good to remember that we are never to be ashamed (Romans 5:5. We can be certain of the hope we have. It will not fail).
- What does David mean in verse 8, to "taste?" Reminds me of Philip telling Nathanael that they had found the Christ in John 1:46. Come experience it for yourself. You won't be disappointed. 1 Peter 2:3 uses this language as well.
- 1 Peter 3:10-12 uses verses 12-16 to summarize the ideal behavior of a Christian.
- Verses 15-18: Can you sum up David's message in these four verses? There is a difference in the way God deals with the righteous and the evil.
- Verse 19-22: Here appears a Messianic prophesy. How does this passage relate to the rest of the psalm? Verse 20 is also comparable to Exodus 12 in the description of the Passover lamb

and how it was not to have its bones broken. Jesus is our Passover and the means to redemption.

PSALM 139

Consider David enduring the attempts on his life and having to flee his home. What are some of the ways that David views God and what he takes comfort in that we can learn from this psalm? Four sections that cover different aspects of who God is.

- What can we know from verses 1-6? This section is about God's omniscience. We are intimately known. We read in Psalm 56 God depicted as counting David's tossings in sleeps and bottling every tear. This picture of God goes beyond that. He not only knows of us, he knows everything about us, more than we know of ourselves because we are his creation. Matthew 10:30 tells us that God has numbered the hairs on our head. Being intimately known means we are not hidden, and we cannot hide our guilt. If we cannot hide it, what is the only thing we can do and should do? Confess it. Think about Jonah and how he tried to flee from the mission of going to Nineveh. He underestimated the power of God.
 - o How should our understanding that we are so intimately known help us in prayer and praise?
 - o David is a man in need of protection. How does he describe God as a protector? God has surrounded him. David has seen the proof of it in his battles and in his escaping of Saul. Remember that Jonathan told him that "God has sent you away."
 - o Verse 6: We cannot begin to image the knowledge of God. We saw that in the OT prophets who struggled to understand their visions and what it meant. But God had the road paved before them. "
- How would you summarize verses 7-12?
 - o There is no place that we can be that God is not present. While the first six were that God knows all, this section is about his omnipresence. He is everywhere. That should be a great comfort to us...or scary depending on our point of view. Think of David in this moment. He flees from Saul to Philistia, beyond the borders of Saul's authority. Earthly kings have sovereignty only where they reign. Because God is the creator of all, God's authority is not limited by location.
 - o When reading this section, I thought of how this verse would have been encouraging to people reading it or singing it in the future. Like Paul and Silas in prison, Daniel in the lions den, Jeremiah in the cistern.
- Verse 13-16: What does tell us about God in this section?
 - o Purposefully made. What was David's purpose in all that he did? Glorify God. So what is our purpose? Glorify God. And because God made us for this purpose, everything we have within us and who we are is the way we are meant to be. That can be hard for us to believe at times, knowing our failings and weaknesses. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: "My power is made perfect in weakness." Paul says..."For when I am weak, then I am strong." Romans 8:26, "the Spirit helps us in our weakness," regarding prayer. "It is the those weakness that we can draw closest to God, calling on him to help us overcome.

We also all have strengths given to use by God that we can use. My strengths are not the same as yours. Some are great leaders, some are great followers. We need differences in our strengths.

- How does having a purpose make a difference? Even in the business world, companies trying to give employees purpose is critical. Companies now all have mission statements—a purpose. It's about engaging people, retaining people, keeping them motivated and keeping the company on the right track. As Christians, it is vital that we remember that we have a purpose.
- David did not have the 3D ultrasounds or really any of the knowledge that we do today. He didn't know about nerves, cells, chromosomes, DNA, but yet he still knew that God was intimately involved and how a baby was formed in a mother. It's incredible to think that a heartbeat can be detected in as little as five weeks, in just nine weeks the heart is fully formed. The heart starts beating just 18 days after conception and has its own blood. This is when the baby is the size of a sesame seed. The speed at which that happens is mind boggling to me. In the 3,000 years since David wrote this we've learned about DNA and how it contains all the information for creating our bodies. And God is responsible for that. It's interesting that David uses "Knitted together knowing what we know about how DNA works. Think of all the muscles, bones and arteries and nerves that work together inside a human body and how God made it possible. It is not accidental. This passage tells us that from conception, this is a new and different person.
- Verse 15: Not literally the ground, but a mysterious, unseen place.
- If God is this involved with your creation and that you are made "wonderfully," what does that say about God's feelings toward us?
- Verses 17-18: NET Bible reads "How difficult it is for me to fathom your thoughts about me, O God!" What is David stating here?
- Verses 19-24: While all of us have been fearfully and wonderfully made, what does this section say about our decisions to do with what God has given us? God gives us our purpose and the talents to glorify him, but we can deny that purpose. Here, we see David, and we see his enemies who speak against God with malicious contempt and who take God's name in vain.
 - What do these verses teach us about God and his judgement? God examines each of us. David invites it and desires to be led down the righteous path.

CHAPTER 22

Read verses 1-5. David hides in a cave and his family as well as all the downtrodden of society come to join him, and he forms a band of 400 men. The prophet Gad tells David to return to Judah.

PSALM 57

David is a man with no country and no home. He has been rejected by Saul and rejected by the Philistines. He had found a cave and was joined by a band of misfits.

- What is the picture that David paints of his situation? It is dire. Trampled, storms of destruction, lions, fiery beasts...

- What is David's request of God in this psalm?
 - o For God to have mercy on him. To give him shelter, to help him wait out the storm (I think this is important. David knows that it will pass. Storms do not last forever. That is an important mindset to have in the midst of troubles, that we may not know how long the storm will last, but it will end and there will be better times ahead.
 - o David knows he has a purpose and God will fulfill that purpose in him. How does having a purpose help us through trying times. And what is our purpose?
- In the previous psalm, David depicted God as caring and with intimate knowledge of his own as well as a God able to bring wrath on enemies. How does David depict God while he is hiding in his cave?
 - o A protector, a deliverer, steadfast and faithful.
 - Can you think of examples in which God has been these four things?
 - He's preserved the church over 2,000 years in the face of many persecutions. As a deliverer, he has freed us from the bondage of sin. Steadfast in that his Word does not change, his promises are kept.
- Verse 5 and verse 9: Again, David's desire is not selfish. It is for God to be glorified.
- Verse 7: David calls God steadfast. How is David steadfast?

1 SAMUEL 22:6-23

- How does Saul react to the news that David has gained a following? He believes it to be a conspiracy against him. He becomes paranoid that everyone is against him. "None of you is sorry for me," shows that he is pitying himself.
- Verses 11-14: Saul accuses Ahimelech of conspiracy. What is Ahimelech's response to the accusation?
- Saul's reaction to the truth is to kill the priests...the Lord's anointed. Certainly, there is irony here considering that David will refuse to kill Saul, yet Saul is about to kill the priests and wants to kill David. It is almost unbelievable that Saul has reached this point. How could lead a person to commit such a sin? His conscience has been seared (1 Timothy 4, discussing the false teachers who have departed and have now fully devoted themselves evil).
- Verse 17 – Good for the servants for taking a stand for what is right. Unfortunately, Doeg saw an opportunity for personal gain in committing this sin.
- How does David take the news that the priests had been killed? (verse 22)
 - o Abiathar remains with David as the priest until David's death, helping him against Absalom, but he will eventually be banished by Solomon.

PSALM 52

We know from the text that David felt responsible for the massacre of the priests and took it upon himself to protect Abiathar. Psalm 52 is a reaction to the actions of Doeg.

- How is David able to still sing about the steadfast love of God when this evil has just been done?
- Can you summarize how David views Doeg?
- What does David believe will be the result of Doeg's sin?

- While David has mentioned numerous times about finding refuge in God, where does he say the evil seeks their refuge? Their own destruction. There is no safe place for them from God's judgement.
- Even in the wake of what Doeg and Saul have done, what is David's view of God? He will trust in God forever. David knows that God is unchanging and that this evil is man's doing, not God's.
- David has talked about God as a protector and a refuge for the faithful. How do we explain what happened to Ahimelech and the other priests?

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 23

In chapter 23, David is in the wilderness, and Jonathan finds David, and encourages him, saying "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul, my father, knows this." The Ziphites tell Saul where David is hiding, and this is the first of two times (also in 1 Samuel 26) that the Ziphites act as spies on Saul's behalf. There is a companion psalm to these occasions, Psalm 54. It is similar to some of the psalms we have already covered, so in the interest of time we move on. As Saul is closing in on David, his attention is diverted by the Philistines. The name of the place is called the Rock of Escape and David stays in En Gedi. En Gedi means "spring of the kid (goat), and is a place of oasis along the Dead Sea. It is now a national park and nature reserve. There are wild ibex goats that live there, and we will read in chapter 24 that there are craggy rocks, which would be a great place to hide and a tough place to find someone. There would have been food to eat because of the freshwater, goats and palms, but a place that would be challenging to penetrate for enemies (Show photos of caves and David's falls). Psalm 31 refers to the "rock of refuge." Psalm 61 says "lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against my enemy." Psalm 62 says "He alone is my rock and my salvation in verse 1 and verse 6, David writes, "He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress, I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory, my mighty rock, my refuge is God."

Keep these pictures in mind as we continue into chapter 24 and read Psalm 18

1 SAMUEL 24

- Verse 4: What does David's men try to get David to do, and what does it say about David that he is not influenced by something that must have been tempting.
- The Spirit has left Saul. Why is David so insistent on not harming Saul as "the Lord's anointed?" Exodus 22:28 says you shall not curse the ruler of your people, and Saul still holds that position. David will say in chapter 26 that you cannot strike the Lord's anointed and be guiltless.
- David finally has an opportunity to speak to Saul. How does he use that opportunity?
- What is David's plan for dealing with Saul moving forward? He will let the Lord judge between them and he will not kill Saul.
- Saul had been tracking David to kill him, and has devised multiple schemes already to have David killed. What happens to Saul when David is finally able to say his peace?
- Saul makes a stunning admission in verse 20. Why do you think he came to this realization?
- Verse 21, Saul asks of David the same thing that Jonathan had asked of him.

- Despite what seems to be a halting of hostilities on Saul's part, David does not return home. Why? He knows how fickle Saul can be and does not trust him.

Read Psalm 18 – This psalm also appears in 2 Samuel 22, which is much later in David's life, but it certainly feels like it could have been written following the events of Chapter 24

- Imagine David sitting in his cave and being thankful that he had found this oasis in the desert. Why might he compare where he is hiding to God?
- In what ways is God a rock for us?
- Verse 6 reminds me of what Gerald says, "a God who sits high and looks low." There is no physical temple at this point, so David must be referring to the heavenly places.
- In verses 7-19, what is David depicting? God's response to David's cries.
- Why does David say that God rescued him? Verses 19-24. He has been righteous. If this was written late in David's life, we know he had sinned and was not always righteous. Why then can he make this claim?
- David had already proven himself an accomplished warrior and leader at this point. What does David say about how he's earned the victories?
- David refers to himself as king in verse 50, so that gives us a clue that it was written later in life.

1 SAMUEL 25

We see David nearly pushed over the edge in this chapter, and it is far less than anything that Saul ever did to him. David sends 10 of his young men to Nabal, who is a very rich man, and David is looking for food for his men. Nabal does not just deny David's request, he answers by saying "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters." Nabal, as a wealthy man, is looking down on the "son of Jesse," as if he is a nobody. He belittles David as a servant who has run away from his master (Saul). David responds by telling his men to strap on their swords and is ready to go kill Nabal in vengeance. Nabal's wife, Abigail, here's about this from a servant, and that David and his men had actually protected Nabal's shepherds in the fields, so she prepares to send him a large portion of food.

Read verses 21-35

Why is David so offended by Nabal's response?

David nearly kills Nabal in his anger to the offense. How was this avoided? Verse 26, the Lord restrained him through the words of Abigail.

Beyond offering a gift, what does Abigail say that persuades David? She humbles herself, she asks for forgiveness on behalf of Nabal, she recognizes that David is fighting the battles of the Lord, asks for protection for David from his enemies.

What qualities does David exhibit in relenting from his anger?

David made a vow in verse 22 but he breaks that vow. Why? Because the vow would have led him to sin. However, a rash oath is still a sin according to Leviticus 5:4-6

In the preceding chapter and the following chapter, David has opportunities to kill Saul. How is this situation similar to David's relationship with Saul?

Verse 38 tells us that the Lord "struck Nabal," and in verse 39, David says, "The Lord has returned the evil of Nabal on his own head." David then took Abigail as a wife. What can we learn from this story about the concept of "getting even?" Romans 12:19-21 "do not take revenge...but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "it is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord..."If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink."

David is learning lessons from Saul and from this situation with Nabal in relenting from killing. How is this time of his life preparing him for the kingship?

2 SAMUEL 1

We are skipping six chapters because the primary focus of this study is David's character and his heart—not a blow-for-blow account of his life. To quickly summarize, in chapter 26, the Ziphites again told Saul where David was with his men, and it is a very similar story to what we read in chapter 24. Saul was in his camp sleeping, David sneaks in, takes Saul's spear, calls out to Saul with a similar speech, and Saul again admits his guilt and recognizes David as blessed. David returns to the land of the Philistines where he ends up living with King Achish and is later given the city of Ziklag to live in and oversee. He lived there for 16 months, and he continued fighting battles against the neighboring tribes, although he lied to Achish and said he was fighting against Judah. Achish then believes that David is hated in Judah. In chapter 28, we see Saul go to a medium to bring the spirit of Samuel back so that he could speak to him. Samuel tells Saul that because of his disobedience in not carrying out God's wrath on Amalek, God will give them into the hands of the Philistines the next day. As the Philistines go up to battle, David is rejected by the leaders, and while Achish trusted David, he was not permitted to fight in the battle. While David is away, the Amalekites raid Ziklag and kidnap all the wives and children, so David went out and struck down the Amalekites and returned everything. Finally, in chapter 31, we see the death of Saul and three sons, including Jonathan. Saul was badly wounded. He asked his armor-bearer to kill him, but the armor-bearer would not. So Saul fell on his own sword. That brings us to 2 Samuel and David's reaction to the deaths of his best friend and also his greatest foe.

- Who is the messenger, what is his story and what were his intentions? He was an Amalekite, recently defeated by David, within days of Saul's death. 1 Samuel 31 tells us that Saul fell on his own sword, so this man is lying with hopes of winning favor from David. He believes David to be a rebel against Saul. For an outsider, that's a reasonable thought. He believes that David will be happy to hear this so he can be the king.
 - o The man even took Saul's crown and armlet to present to David.
- First, what does David do in response to hearing the news? What does this response say about David's feelings toward Saul, Jonathan and the nation of Israel?
 - o As the first king Israel, Saul very well could have been a hero to the young David in the way that we make great ballplayers are heroes as kids. Saul certainly would have

seemed larger than life to David as a young man. I also believe that because David was such a faithful man, he knew God anointed Saul for a reason and held out hope that Saul would return to God. This is a great example of love. There should be no delight in seeing someone fail. For David, it would have been especially hard knowing that God had chosen Saul. Through the hand of God, it was Saul that elevated David from Shepherd to the king's inner circle and commander of forces. His experience under Saul would have been valuable to his reign as king (learning both how to and how to not do things).

- After mourning and fasting, David speaks with the man again. Is this a fair sentence or is David acting in anger?
 - o Leviticus 24:21-22 says that the "eye for an eye" law applies both to the native and the sojourner, so David is abiding by the law of God. He does not view Saul being killed as mercy, but rather murder. The man, while lying, said he killed Saul.
 - o Many kings ascend to the throne through violence and bloodshed. How did David ascend to the throne? By doing what was right in God's eyes. David had refrained from killing Saul twice. He allowed God to execute the judgement. David had said in Ch. 24 that he would let God judge between them. Saul's death was God's judgement.
 - o David is clear that the man's testimony makes him guilty and "the blood on your own head," shows that the man is responsible for his own death. This is a reminder to us that we are responsible for our actions and guilty for our own sin.

- Verse 17-27 is a lament. We've seen David use song in many situations, and now in mourning.
 - o The Book of Jashar means book of the upright. It is not in existence and is thought to be a collection of poems and songs.
- Verse 19 – How does David view Saul and his sons? As Israel's glory—mighty.
- Verse 20 – We know that David has been helped by the Philistines, but how does he view this Philistine victory? There is no doubt as to where David's allegiances lie and his true feelings toward the Philistines.
- Verse 22 – What is the significance of the blood and fat? This sounds like a sacrifice
 - o What is the significance of the bow of Jonathan? 1 Samuel 20 – it was Jonathan's bow and arrow that signaled that David should flee.
- Verse 23 – After all that David has been through, how does he view Saul? Why do you think that is that he can still view him in this way?
 - o David mentions that Jonathan and Saul were not divided. Was this really the case? I think that even after Jonathan helped David, he remained loyal to his father. He never deserted him. He continued to fight alongside him.
- Verses 26 – These are heartfelt words from David regarding Jonathan. In what ways did Jonathan show his love for David during his life? He was loyal, put his life on the line in helping David flee. He encouraged David when David was in the wilderness. They shared a common bond in a strong faith in God.
- Based on the reaction that we see from David in this chapter, what can we learn that we can put to use in our life?

2 SAMUEL 2-3

Summarize and people follow along. This section offers little in character study, but are important events in the history of Israel and in David's life).

Following the death of Saul and the immediate heir to the throne in Jonathan, there was now a power vacuum. We know that David had already been anointed by God, but the people of Israel had not yet made him king. We do not know for certain how long David has been on the run from Saul. We can make some guesses, such as, if David was of fighting age when he joined Saul's service—that was 20 years old—we learn in 2 Samuel 5 that he is 30 when he becomes the king, so that would mean he was on the run for 10 years, but that is hardly for certain. It was definitely more than a few years, as he spent 16 months living in Philistia with Achish. With Saul no longer chasing him and Ziklag burned, David is once again without a home, so he inquires of God if he should go to Judah, which is his home. God tells him to go to Hebron, and when he gets there, they anoint him as king of Judah. While we generally refer to the time after Solomon as the Divided Kingdom era, it is actually divided here as David is king of just one tribe.

Chapters 2-3 introduce us to some key figures in David's reign. This is a time of tremendous political upheaval and violence in Israel. Abner, who was the commander of Saul's army, made Ish-bosheth the king of Israel. He had no authority to do it. And he's going to hold that status for two years. It is very possible that Ish-bosheth was a puppet ruler for Abner. In the meantime, there is civil war. While Abner leads Ish-bosheth's army, Joab is the commander David's army in Judah. Joab, Abishai and Asahel are all leaders for David, and they are brothers, the sons of Zeruiah, who is identified in 1 Chronicles 2:16 and 2 Samuel 17:25 as David's sister Zeruiah, which makes them David's nephews. Abner and Joab have the first battle of this civil war starting in 2:13, in the course of this battle, Asahel is pursuing Abner to kill him, and Abner kills Asahel. Joab and Abishai continue after Abner, but Abner warns that this brother vs. brother fighting is going to end bitterly, so they stop pursuit. 2 Samuel 3 says that there was a long war between the house of Saul and David, and David continue to grow stronger, while Saul's house grew weaker. Ish-bosheth and Abner have a falling out, and in verse 9, it is interesting that Abner says "God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the Lord has sworn to him..." So all this time, Abner knew God's plan for David but he fought against it! So Abner sets out to align himself with David and make him king over all of Israel. Here, David requires that his wife, Michael, be returned to him, although she was already remarried to another man. David agrees to work with Abner to be made the king, but when Joab shows up and finds out David's been speaking with Abner, he believes that Abner was there to deceive David, and without David's knowledge, Joab stabs Abner and kills him. This was likely as much revenge for Asahel as it was loyalty to David. In verse 28, David says "I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before the Lord for the blood of Abner...May it fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house." This curse is important as we will see at the end of David's life.

Read 3:31-39

- Abner had spent years fighting against David and preventing David from becoming king of Israel. Why then does David react in this way to the news of Abner's death?
- Why isn't Joab punished as Amalekite was after Saul's death?

- What did David's reaction to the death do for the people of Israel? It unified them, and showed that David was not responsible. It's an example of great leadership in that David did not celebrate victory over an enemy, but mourned as the people mourned. It is evident that David did not enjoy the war, but understood that it had to be fought to make him the king.

CHAPTER 4

Two men from Ish-bosheth's army sneak into the house while he is sleeping and kill him. It is mentioned in verse 4 about Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. It is probable that he is mentioned here because there is no direct heir of Saul's to the throne after Ish-bosheth is murdered. Mephibosheth was not only a child, but he was also crippled.

Read verse 8-12

- How do Rechab and Baanah believe David will react? How does David respond to the news?
- How did David view Ish-bosheth? Why do you think David was so respectful to Ish-bosheth?
 - o 1 Samuel 24 – Saul said “swear to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family.” David gave an oath to not do this. He is not responsible for this death, and in upholding the punishment and given Ish-bosheth a proper burial, David is keeping his oath as best he can.
- The way David deals with Rechab and Baanah may seem harsh, but what is David doing in having them executed? He is upholding God's law.
- In these gruesome series of events, what can we know about David? He keeps his oaths, upholds God's law.

2 SAMUEL 5

Read verse 1-5

- Based on Chapter 2:11, that Ish-bosheth reigned only two years while David was king of Judah for 7 ½, it seems that Israel did not come to David for five years. David knew that he was to be king of Israel, but he did not push the people, he did not take it by force. In an age where I can cook my food in seconds with no preparation, can find out any information in seconds on my phone, how can we develop this kind of patience, especially as it relates to spiritual things?
 - o The word “wait” appears in the psalms 21 times in referring to waiting on the Lord.

PSALM 37:1-26

This Psalm was most certainly written in David's old age, as he mentions being old in the text, but as we discuss patience being an attribute of David, this psalm shares wisdom for how we can stay patient and wait on the Lord. As we read, try to identify some of the ways David has been able to remain faithful and patient in waiting for God's promise.

Verses 1-11

- Two-part question. What are the key messages/advice that David is giving? Can you think of an example that we've read where he has used that himself?
 - o Do not be envious or worry about the people who are doing wrong.

- In part, this may be a message of David learning from his own experience as we saw in previous psalms how distraught he was when his enemies were coming after him. He's learned through the years that those enemies will fade.
 - David had a legitimate claim to be the king, but he endured persecution from Saul. He never showed jealousy toward what Saul had, even when David was living in a cave.
 - Trust in the Lord
 - When he stood up to Goliath
 - Do good
 - He took in Ahimelech the priest and cared for him after Saul killed the priests.
 - Befriend faithfulness. What does this mean? What does a friend do? Let faithfulness support you in times of trouble. It should be constantly a part of your life.
 - David never gave up. He didn't walk away from pursuit of being king.
 - Delight in the Lord
 - Does "the desires of your heart" mean that God will give you whatever you want if you are faithful?
 - No, but those who trust and delight in the Lord will have a heart that desires the right things.
 - Psalm 27:4 - One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.
 - Commit your way to the Lord
 - Sparing the Lord's anointed
 - Upholding God's law (justice as the noonday)
 - Be still and wait patiently
 - David time and again did not take matters into his own hands. He said he would let God judge between him and Saul, and God did.
 - Refrain from anger
 - Not killing Nabal because of the insult. God provided judgement on Nabal.
 - Verse 11 – Jesus quotes this verse in Matthew 5:5 as part of the beatitudes. Is there a difference in the way that David and Jesus use the phrase?
 - David, can say this because he physically inherited the land as the king. Jesus uses it in regards to eternal reward.
- Verses 12-20
 - This passage discusses the plans of the wicked being foiled by God. According to David, how do the righteous remain content knowing there are enemies planning evil?
 - Put the focus on heavenly things – verse 18. God knows the righteous and the wicked, and those who are righteous will have an inheritance forever.
- Verses 21-26

- According to these verses, what can the righteous do that the wicked cannot and why?
 - The righteous can be generous and give because his focus is not on wealth and things of the earth. There is contentment, and with contentment comes patience.
 - Matthew 5:42 – Give to the one who begs from you and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.
- Verses 23-24 – Because God is looking after the righteous, does that mean there will never be trouble? No, you may have troubles but God will pick you up.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:9 – Persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed.

2 SAMUEL 5:6-14

At this point in history, Jerusalem was held by the Jebusites. In Joshua and Judges, it mentions that the Jebusites were not driven out. The city at the time of David is far different than what we would think of as Jerusalem later. Most estimates I've seen say that the city likely had only 500-2,000 residents and was very small. There is much significance to the city, dating all the way back to Genesis 14 when Melchizedek was the king of Salem.

- What is the significance in David taking this particular city and establishing it as his capitol? Psalm 110, Hebrews 7. "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." Also, Mount Moriah was where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac and was where the temple was eventually built.
- Hiram of Tyre is also mentioned as a friend of Solomon who helped build the temple with cedars. Josephus wrote that Hiram did not begin his reign until near the end of David's, so it could be Hiram's heir referred to in relation to Solomon.

2 SAMUEL 6 (1 CHRONICLES 13)

- We see two different emotions from David surrounding the death of Uzzah. First, with whom was David angry? Some translations say that David was displeased rather than angry. He could have been displeased with Uzzah, as it was a sin to touch the ark. They had already made a mistake because the proper way to carry the ark was on poles, not on a cart. He may have been angry with himself. In 1 Chronicles 15:15, David admits to this sin. As they transport the ark to Jerusalem, he tells the Levites: "Because you did not carry it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule." 14So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel. 15And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.
 - What do these events tell us? We must follow God's word as it is and not think there room for alteration. We must also expect consequences for not following the law, and who are we to question God's judgement?
- David's anger turns to fear. What in a person's character can turn anger to fear? Humility and also wisdom. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." What does it mean to be afraid of the Lord? Deuteronomy 8:6 says "keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him." Deuteronomy 10:12 – "...What does the

Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” 1 Samuel 12:14 says “If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord.” Acts 9:31 says “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.” It seems to be there is obedience, reverence and a recognition of God’s authority. It is more than respect. I respect co-workers who are good at their jobs, people who have admirable qualities but I do not fear them. There is deference in fear. God’s will over mine. Much of our fear comes from the unpredictable and the unknown. We can know God, and God does not change. God is the most predictable. The fear then is ceding our will in recognition of his power. (C.S. Lewis description of Aslan. Not safe, but good).

- David seems to have realized his errors and does not consider himself worthy of bringing the ark into Jerusalem.
- Verses 12-23 – What is David’s attitude toward bringing the ark to Jerusalem? This was a celebration. His dancing and music wasn’t just for show. This was worship.
 - How is Michal identified here and what does it tell us about her? She is married to David but is identified as the daughter of Saul. Her heart was not toward God. Had it been, she would have been celebrating as well. Instead, her focus was on David.
 - That David uncovered himself was that he took off his royal robe to wear the plain linen ephod. She is certainly insinuating that he did not act in a royal or kingly manner in his actions.
 - How does David view this criticism and his actions? David is a king only because God made him a king. It does not give him the right to act more noble. Worship to God is the same for all men. David was also not putting on a show for the people. His audience was God.
 - What do you think David means by “I will make myself more contemptible than this?” – He will worship God all the more and not be embarrassed about doing it. He would make himself a fool to men if it meant glorifying God.
 - Michal would have seen her father as the king, and we know that one of Saul’s great downfalls was his pride. Saul was often impressionable and followed the suggestions of others, even when it wasn’t right. His pride made him an ineffectual leader. David, here, shows that pride means nothing in leadership, and he shows that he will do what is right in God’s eyes, no matter what his detractors say.

If you read the account in 1 Chronicles 16, David appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the Lord by Asaph and his brothers. Portions of this song also appears in part in psalm 105, Psalm 96 and Psalm 106. In verse 4-7 we see David appoint ministers to the ark to praise God.

- This is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving. From what we read about David in chapter six and and in this song, what was David’s attitude toward bringing the ark to Jerusalem?
- What are the commands of worship that David gives in the first six passages of the song?

- Give thanks – This command is repeated by Isaiah in 12:4. How do we give thanks to God? 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says give thanks in all circumstances, for it is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. So in any situation, we should thank God. Give thanks also appears in verses 34 and 35.
 - Call on his name – What does this mean? Abraham in 12:8, as he journeyed toward the promised land, “called on the name of the Lord.” Judges 16:28, Samson called to the Lord, requesting strength to destroy the Phillistines. 1 Kings 20, Isaiah called to the Lord and performed a miracle for King Hezekiah. 1 Chronicles 20, David builds an altar to end the plague on the people, and he called on the Lord, and the Lord answered with fire from heaven. Psalm 116 and 118, David calls on the name of the Lord to deliver him. Romans 10:13, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Calling on the Lord is a request, and that can be worship.
 - Sometimes we need to ask someone a favor or we need something, and we don’t do it because we don’t want to bother them. That’s not how God is. We are never told in the Bible that God is too busy, or God does not care.
 - How does calling on the name of the Lord go with verse 10 and the line “let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice” as well as verse 11.
 - Psalm 34:10 – “those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.”
 - Isaiah 55:6 – those who seek the Lord... “he may have compassion on him and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”
 - Lamentations 3:25 – “The Lord is good those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.”
 - ANSWER: Calling on God and seeking God is worship because it shows that we love him and rely on him. He loves us and wants good things for us.
 - Make known his deeds among the people/Remember what he has done: Matthew 5:13-16, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Our sharing of what God has done for us glorifies him.
 - Sing praises: 400-plus references to singing in the scripture, many of which are commands, especially in the psalms. We see Jesus sing with the apostles following the last supper. Psalm 135: “Sing to his name, for it is pleasant.” God enjoys the singing. Colossians 3:16, “singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” A way to show thankfulness.
 - Glory in his holy name – In the Hebrew similar to praise
- What is the primary focus of David’s song in verses 14-22? God keeping his covenant with Israel. Why is it important to remember God’s promise?

PSALM 24

- What about this psalm tells us that it might have been written for the occasion of the ark entering Jerusalem? Verses 7 and 9 mention the ancient doors and the gates opening for the King of Glory to come in.
- What is the significance of the ark and the importance of it being in the city?

- On it dwelt the presence of God and represented the covenant of God with the people.
- Exodus 25:22 – “from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.”
- It was a reminder of all that God had done for them and a reminder of being obedient to God as it continued manna, the staff (miracles) and the 10 commandments (the law).
- How does this psalm identify God? The creator of all things (yet his presence is entering the city. That is something remarkable. We “roll out the red carpet” for VIPs and throw parades for championship teams. Bringing the presence of the creator into your city should be cause of the biggest celebration of all!)
- What does the psalm tell us about who can enter the presence of God? What significance does this have for us today?
 - Not everyone can receive blessing from the Lord. Only those with clean hands and a pure heart (innocent).
 - According to the beatitudes, Jesus what does Jesus say of the pure in heart? “For they shall see God.”
- Verses 8 and 10 have a question and an answer. Think of going to the gates of the city and you say open, and the guard says “who goes there?” Basically asking you to identify yourself. How does David identify the entering Lord? Strong and mighty, mighty in battle, the Lord of hosts.

2 SAMUEL 7 (1 Chronicles 17)

The ark is now in Jerusalem and David has established his throne there by building a house of cedar. He now intends to build a temple for the ark. David certainly would have seen the temples of the Philistine gods and other temples built for worship, but yet the one true God is dwelling in a tent.

- Was David wrong to want to build a temple? Why does God tell him no?
 - David’s heart was in the right but it was presumptive of him. God had not commanded it. This is similar to building the cart for the ark. Intentions don’t matter. Do what the Lord says, nothing more, nothing less.
- Was there anything wrong with Nathan’s advice?
 - Nathan was correct in that God is with David, but that does not make David perfect or able to do whatever he wants. David had succeeded because he inquired of God before he acted and obeyed God’s word.
- It isn’t revealed here, but why does God not permit David to build a temple? 1 Chronicles 22:8 says it is because David shed much blood. Solomon would have rest around him.
- What does God promise David instead?
 - In addition to giving the people a place, and giving them peace, he will make a house for David and establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
 - What is significant about this promise from God?
 - Isaiah 11:1 (from Jesse); Jeremiah 23:5-6 (raise up for David a righteous Branch); Micah 5:2 (born from the tribe of Judah in Bethlehem, the home of David); Revelation 5:5 (Lion of the tribe of

Judah, the Root of David, has conquered); Matthew 12, 15, 20 (called the Son of David by people)

- David tells us in 145:11-13 and 103:19 that the kingdom is God's kingdom. This is now a connecting of David and God's kingdom forever. One in the same moving forward.
 - Last week, we studied David taking Jerusalem and the significance of that—a priest in the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:6), who was once priest and king in Jerusalem as Jesus would be. Now, we have a promise of the temple and David's throne established forever.
- Verse 13: What is different about David's son building the temple? It is out of obedience to God's command.
- Verse 14: Turn to Hebrews 1:5-13. What is the significance of Paul quoting verse 14? Jesus is fulfilling the promise given to David and David's son. When the promise was made to David, it was really a promise of Jesus. There are no kings after Jesus (Luke 1:32-33).
- God makes a promise to never depart from David as he did from Saul. It begs the question, why did God crown Saul king in the first place. What makes David's reign different than Saul's?
 - It seems that God is establishing his throne with David as a reward for David's righteousness, obedience.
- What does this promise say to us about the way God views David?
 - Faithful (Hebrews 11, commended for). Why did God choose Noah, Abraham, Moses?
- Verses 18-29: If ever there was a moment to feel proud, it would be in this moment, where God establishes David's kingdom forever. What is David's reaction to God's message?
 - "Who am I?" He is humbled. – "God oppose the proud but gives grace to the humble."
 - Recognizes the importance of the promise as having an impact on all mankind (verse 19)
 - Recognizes it as God fulfilling a promise the nation way back when he brought them out of Egypt—all part of God's plan that David understood.
 - Verse 25-26: That when the Kingdom of David is mentioned, David wants the glory to be God's.

PSALM 110

- Verse 1: Read Matthew 22:41-45.
 - Also quoted in Acts 2:34 by Peter on the day of Pentecost
 - Who is this psalm about?
 - Identifying Jesus, seated at the right hand referenced in Matthew 26:64 by Jesus before the high priest. Seated at the right in Ephesians 1:20, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 8:1, 10:12, 12:2, 1 Peter 3:22; Footstool referenced in Hebrews 10:13, Ephesians 1:22.
 - 1 Kings 5:3 "until the Lord put them under the soles of (David's) feet.
 - The first Lord in the verse is Yahweh and the second is ladoni (master).

- In Matthew 22, they all understood the Messiah to be the son of David. Jesus replies that if David wrote Lord, the Messiah would be one greater than David.
- You are a priest forever. Hebrews 5 and Hebrews 7:17 - Only one can make the claim of being both priest and king, and that is Jesus. David prophecies a merging of the two offices.
- Verse 5-6: What is the responsibility of this king and priest? Execute judgement on the nations (Revelation 19:17-18)

Summarize the relationship between David and Jesus, why was David chosen by God for this role, what traits did David exhibit in his receiving of the promise?

2 SAMUEL 9

In chapter 9, David asks if there is “anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” He finds that there is Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth.

- Remember back to previous studies, why does David seek out descendants of the house of Saul? David made a promise to Jonathan in 1 Samuel 20:14-17 and to Saul in 24:21-22 that he would not cut off their descendants. David restores lands to Mephibosheth and allows him to eat at his table always.
- It is mentioned in verse 3 and verse 13. Why do you think the writer makes such a point to tell us that Mephibosheth is crippled? What does this show in David’s character? He keeps promises, seeks opportunity to do good, shows kindness to enemies. Shows generosity in returning land—land that was forfeited by Mephibosheth in rebellion to David.
 - The name Mephibosheth also means “son.” Lo-Debar, where Mephibosheth lives, means “nothing.” Mephibosheth calls himself a “dead dog.” How were dogs viewed by the Jews?
 - Here is David, taking a “son” who would not normally be in the presence of the king and letting him eat at his table. I haven’t fully developed this idea. We’ve talked about David as a type of Messiah and this story may also paint the picture of the Messiah for us. In the parable of Luke 14:12-14. “When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind and you will be blessed because they cannot repay you.” Matthew 21:14, Jesus heals the blind and the lame in the temple. Here, the people call Jesus the son of David.” Does this story of David and Mephibosheth relate to Jesus?
 - Jesus redeeming sinners, inviting them his presence. You could make a case that Mephibosheth, as part of Saul’s house, was an enemy of David, yet David showed considerable favor to him, just as Jesus shows considerable love to us, bringing the “lame” out of rebellion into his favor. Mephibosheth shows great humility in the presence of David, and so we must do in the presence of Jesus.

CHAPTER 11

Verses 1-2: This reveals to us that generally kings go out to battle, but we see David staying in Jerusalem, living in leisure. Proverbs 16:27 comes to mind here—“Idle hands are the devil’s workshop.”

Read Verses 2-5 – David begins to compound his sins. What was his first sin that led him down this path?

- He lusted after Bathsheba. “Matthew 5:28 – If you look at a woman with lust in your heart, you have already committed adultery.” David cannot be blamed for seeing Bathsheba, but it was that he did not turn away.
- Is Bathsheba also culpable in this? Modesty, she did not obey God rather than man.
- Are his messengers culpable?
- What can we do to first keep sin from “creeping in,” and what can we do to keep it from snowballing as it did for David here? Recognize the first, confess it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that we are not tempted beyond our ability and a way of escape is there. David did not want to escape it.

Verses 6-27 (Summarize) – Instead of repenting, David continues to allow the sin to snowball. In verse 6, he sends for Bathsheba’s wife, Uriah, who was one of David’s mighty warriors. David tries to get Uriah to go to his own house, but Uriah instead sleeps at the door of David’s house with the servants. Uriah’s reasoning is in verse 11, “The ark of Israel and Judah dwell in booths and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are campaign in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife?” Next David brings in Uriah to a meal and gets him drunk in hopes that he will go lie with Bathsheba. When David’s plan A and plan B of cover up do not work, he has Joab send Uriah to the front line and then withdraw from his so that he is killed.

- What do David’s actions teach us about the nature of sin?
- Why do you think David is motivated to cover up his sin? Possibly that he has a reputation to uphold. He has become powerful, and that power has led him to believe that he is not subject to law.
- What do we learn about Uriah from these passages? Uriah was more honorable than David.
- Can you think of any passages about what God feels about hiding sin? Proverbs 28:13 “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper.” Jeremiah 16:17 “Our iniquities are not concealed from God.”
- Even if David had succeeded in his plans to cover up his sin it would not have fixed anything. Why? Because he and Bathsheba would have to live a lie and live with guilt.
- In David’s arrangement of the battle plan, what sinful attitude is he exhibiting? Selfishness.
- Who all suffered because of David’s actions? What does this tell us about the consequences of sin?
- What do you think David means when he says in verse 25 “the sword devours now one and now another.” He’s justifying his action by saying that Uriah may have been killed anyway.
- We’ve seen now Bathsheba, David’s messengers and Joab not stand up to David to prevent the sin. Why not?
- David’s plan of cover-up has worked. But what does verse 27 tell us about David’s plan?
- How do we avoid the same mistakes?

2 SAMUEL 12

Read verses 1-6: David thinks he is judging a judicial matter but God is using Nathan to show David his sin.

- There are three characters in the parable of Nathan: Rich man (David), poor man (Uriah) and Bathsheba (the lamb). Can you explain the parable knowing what we read in chapter 11?
- Do you think God deliberately used a lamb, knowing David's history as a shepherd?
- What has happened to David that he needs this means of correction? Why not just have Nathan tell David he had sinned?
- David's concern for justice is not blinded by his own passions. This is similar to the offense of Nabal, and Abigail preventing David's sin by her reasoning.
- What does David declare as the sentence for the rich man's crime?

Read 7-14

- Now that David is listening, what is God's message to him? God delivered him from Saul, gave him a house, wives, made him king and would do much more, but David has despised the word of the Lord.
- When we sin, how are we showing contempt for God and his word?
- What is the consequence for David's sins?
- What can we learn about David's reaction in verse 13? David fully confesses and God forgives. Confessing is making it known whereas David had previously kept his sin hidden. It is also good that David listens to Nathan and doesn't act as Saul and future kings did by killing the prophet when they are giving word they do not want to hear.
- While God forgives, it does not prevent consequences from the sin, and the child is going to die. What about God's justice and mercy are revealed to us here?

PSALM 51

- How would you describe this psalm? Seeking repentance. There is also a focus on the heart. In the law, there was much outward ceremony, such as washing and sacrificing, but David's focus is on the washing of the heart and the condition of the heart in sacrifice.
- What are some of the attributes of God described by David? Mercy, steadfast love, blameless in judgement.
 - o Why is mercy and how does it relate to judgement? God is the judge and it is his power to show forgiveness toward someone.
- What is a concept that continues to be mentioned in this psalm? Being cleaned/washed. Why do you think David uses this concept/what is the importance of being clean?
- Verse 4 – There were so many others impacted by David's sin. Why does he say against you, you only, have I sinned?
- Verse 11 – What does David reveal is a consequence of sin? Being cast from God's presence.
- Verse 13-15 – As a result of being forgiven, what does David promise to do? Teach for sinners to return, sing aloud, declare praise, sacrifice.
- In verses 16-17, why does God not delight in sacrifice but in verse 19? Condition of the heart. Romans 12:1 – "Be a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

2 SAMUEL 12:15-23

- While David knows what God has declared about the child, why does he fast and pray for the child?
- What can we learn from David's actions following the death of the child? He takes responsibility for his actions while not blaming God. He goes to worship. He holds hope of a reunion with the child (verse 23).
 - o Read Hebrews 12:5-12: We must accept the discipline because it is a sign of God's love. God treats us as his children. Discipline is painful in the moment but is good for us.

2 SAMUEL 13-18 – ABSALOM

In chapter 13, we read the story of David's daughter, Tamar, and two of his sons, Amnon and Absalom. Amnon is in love with Tamar and violates her then sends her away in hatred toward her. Absalom finds out and plots revenge. Two years later, Absalom has his servants murder Amnon. Absalom then flees his maternal grandfather, who is the king of Geshur. In verse 37, we see David's reaction to this: "David mourned for his son day after day," and in verse 39, "The spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, because he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead."

- Verse 39 can be translated a couple of ways. One, that he wants to see Absalom or that he no longer wanted to take vengeance on him. I tend to think it is the latter as we see in chapter 14 that David is hesitant to allow Amnon to return.
- David's children are a mess, but what can we gather about David's reaction to Absalom?

In Chapter 14:1, it says that the king's heart went out to Absalom. Again, I don't think David had positive thoughts toward Absalom, but Absalom in exile certainly weighed on David. Here, Joab, the leader of David's army, brings in a woman and uses a page out of Nathan's book, in telling a story that has a greater meaning. Joab wants this woman to convince David to bring Joab back to Jerusalem. (Read verses 24).

- Why does David place a condition on Absalom's return? What do these conditions tell us about David's heart toward Absalom? He has not forgiven him fully, but yet he is not willing to punish Absalom.

After two years, Absalom wants an audience with David. He sets Joab's field on fire to get his attention, and Joab takes him to David. (Read 32-33).

- It seems that David has now restored Absalom.

In Chapter 15, we see Absalom return to prominence in David's house. Amnon was the oldest of the sons. He has died, and we do not know what happened to the second son, Kileab. It seems that Absalom has risen to the status of heir to the throne—at least in his own eyes. (Read 1-6)

- What is Absalom doing here? He is plotting a coup, playing politics and convincing the people of Israel that he would be a far better king. He is also lying, as the woman in the previous chapter received an audience before David.

- Considering all that David has done, uniting them for the first time, expanding the kingdom to its largest it had ever been, brought them peace, what does it say about the people that they turn against David in preference for Absalom?

Read 7-12

- What is the significance of Hebron? Was the chief city of Judah and where David first reigned as king.
- Absalom's sacrifices are likely similar to what we saw in 1 Samuel 11 when Saul was made king, sort of a coronation ceremony.
- Where have we seen Ahithophel and what was his role? He was the priest that escaped Saul's massacre of the priests who was taken in and protected by David.

In verses 13-23, David receives word of the conspiracy, and that Absalom has turned Israel to him, and so David and his servants and the people loyal to him flee Jerusalem. (Read 23)

- Kidron lies between the East wall of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. What significance is there of this brook looking forward?
 - o It is where the kings Asa, Hezekiah, Josiah destroyed idols in their reforms. 2 Kings 23:6 also tells us that this was a location for graves of the common people.
 - o Jeremiah 31:40 prophesies that it "will be holy to the Lord, the city will never again be uprooted or demolished." This is in reference to chapter 30 where Jeremiah says "They will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them." When we reference David in the prophets, who are we talking about?
 - o John 18:1 – Where Jesus was arrested.
 - What other similarity is there between Jesus's arrest and David leaving Jerusalem. Both went without a fight. David did not mount a resistance.
 - Looking forward, we see another commonality. While both David and Jesus both departed Jerusalem as deposed kings, both ultimately return and re-establish their thrones.

Read 24-31

- Why do you think David does not take the ark with him?
 - o It is not to be used as a good luck charm or wielded for his own power. He may believe that this is punishment for his own sin (and in fact it is, remember God's declaration in Ch. 12)
 - o He can also use the priests as spies
- What is the significance of David ascending the Mount of Olives, and what can we gather about how David was feeling in this moment?
 - o His head covered shows that he is mourning. He could be mourning for many reasons: his own plight, the actions of Absalom, the future of the nation, his separation

PSALM 3

How does David depict his situation in verses 1-3?

- He uses the word “many” three times in describing those against him. The nation of Israel was against him at this point and those loyal to him were far fewer in number (2 Samuel 15:12-13 mentions how Absalom’s followers continued to increase.”
- There is no salvation in him – similar to what Ziba says to David in 16:8. They are taunting David.

Verses 3-6

- While Ziba says that David’s evil is upon him, what must David believe about God?
 - o How does David describe God?
- David has been deposed of the throne and driven out. How then has God been a shield and how has God answered him?
- How does the “many” referred to in the first three verses contrast with God?
 - o God is one. God is greater than the many.
 - o Think of the many times that God reduced the number of the army to defeat a larger force—Joshua at Jericho, Gideon.
- Verse 5 – How is David able to rest in the midst of this upheaval in his life?

Verse 8

- How does verse 8 differ from the declaration of the people in verse 2? Salvation is up to God, not the people.

PSALM 55

How does David feel about his present situation and what is he asking of God?

- He is distressed. He feels that God is distant from Him. The worst for Christ on the cross is when the father turned from him. “My God, why have you forsaken me?”

We laud David for his great faith in Psalm 3. Is it a lack of faith to show fear?

What does the Bible tell us about where fear comes from? I don’t know anyone who doesn’t have fear from time to time. You would have to be unfeeling/naïve to not fear.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:27

Verses 4-6

It is moving to see someone as strong in faith and someone who loves God as David be shaken so much in this passage. David tells us there is no escape from his present circumstances, so how can he manage his circumstances? He cannot do it on his own so he looks to God in 16-19.

Verse 17 – What does David do in response to his situation? He prays constantly. Is prayer the best answer to combatting fear?

What does God provide in contrast to fear? “For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7

Jump back to verse 12-15: David is referring to Ahithophel the priest who had betrayed him.

What does David tell us to do when we are facing troubling times? What does it mean to cast your burden on the Lord?

What do we learn about David as a human? Is there a way that you can relate to David in this psalm?

2 SAMUEL 18-20

Verse 5 – David tells Joab and the men to “deal gently” with Absalom. Why does David make this request?

- Absalom is still his son. He may also have guilt regarding how their relationship has gone.

Verses 9-15 – We learn that Joab goes against the wishes of the David and kills Joab.

Read 31-33 – Why does David react with such grief? – David is also beginning to see the punishment for his sin with Bathsheba coming to pass. The sword would never depart from his house.

Read 19:1-8 – What is Joab’s thoughts on the way that David is acting toward Absalom?

- What challenges does David now face?

In verses 16-41 we see David meet several people including Shimei, Ziba and Mephibosheth. Ziba was the servant of Mephibosheth and had showed loyalty to David. Read verses 17-23 Shimei was also of the house of Saul and had thrown stones and cursed David in chapter 16. David showed restraint then in not punishing Shimei. What does David show here and why?

2 SAMUEL 23:1-7

These are listed as David’s last words although there is more about David’s life after this is written. It might possible be out of order or it could be this was his final song.

What can we know about David based on this final psalm?

- He was anointed by God. What does “anointed” mean? Chosen
- The Spirit was with him. He received the spirit upon his anointing by Samuel.
- He ruled in the fear of God. We talked about the fear of God before. Fearing God means deference to him and to his will. David says that his service as a ruler was service to God.
- A just ruler – light, sun, rain, things that bring life. A just ruler is good for Israel, but as we’ve learned, David is as good as it got and he still had failures. God is the only truly good king.

How does David view God?

- God is the Rock of Israel. Remember David in the wilderness of En Gedi and the rocks surrounding him. The rock provided protection, a shield and provision.
- God helped David prosper (verse 7).

Verse 5 tells us that God made a covenant with David. What was this covenant?

- 2 Samuel 7:16

2 SAMUEL 24/1 CHRONICLES 21

The opening verse in 2 Samuel says that the Lord incited David against them whereas 1 Chronicles says that it was Satan. We know that God does not tempt or cause people to sin. Similar to Job where God allowed Satan to test. This account feels a little out of place in 2 Samuel, but in 1 Chronicles, it is prior to David's preparations for the building of the temple.

David orders Joab to take a census of Israel. Joab warns him: But Joab said, "May the Lord add to his people a hundred times as many as they are! Are they not, my lord the king, all of them my lord's servants? Why then should my lord require this? Why should it be a cause of guilt for Israel?"

Why is this census a sin? Fighting battles was never about numbers to God. In Deuteronomy 20 – the Lord will fight the battle for you when you are outnumbered, do not be afraid. Israelites frequently undermanned in battles. David and Goliath. The census shows a trust in military strength rather than in God's promise. It also shows that David was possibly building plans for expansion or campaigns outside of God's plans for Israel.

Read 10-25

- God gives David choices for the punishment of his sin. Why does David choose what he chooses?
- What is David's request to God and what does this tell us about the character of David?
 - o David views the people as innocent and that he is responsible for their suffering.

1 KINGS 1-2

David is old and near death so his son, Adonijah, installs himself as king but David is unaware of it until it is brought to his attention by Nathan through Bathsheba. David appoints Solomon king and Nathan, Zadok the priest and Benaiah lead him to Adonijah's party that he has thrown for himself. Solomon is anointed and is made king.

Read 2:1-12

- What are the key things that David shared with Solomon?
 - o Be strong, show yourself a man (conduct yourself with bravery, faithfulness)
 - o Keep God's charge – keep his laws, his Word, the law of Moses
 - o If you do you will prosper
- How would you evaluate the advice of David?
- Why does David insist that Joab is killed? Clear David's house of blood guilt. Why is that important? David was prevented from building the temple because he was a man of blood. God has promised that Solomon would build the temple.

REVIEW

- What stands out to you as the most important attributes of David – Why was he a man after God's own heart?

- In what ways did David rightly deal with the challenges that he faced in his life?
- In what ways can we be men/women after God's own heart?
- Is there a moment in David's life that you particularly relate to?
- In what ways was David a foreshadowing of Jesus?
- Psalm 15