

# Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 1:1-16

“News of the King’s Death” – September 2, 2018



## Introduction

The Kingdom of God involves God’s people, in God’s place, under God’s rule. This kingdom was established with Adam and Eve (God’s people), in God’s place (the garden of Eden), under God’s rule<sup>1</sup>, but sin destroyed things and paradise was lost. How would God restore the kingdom? Turning the pages of Scripture, we find our sovereign God showing His strength: the sin and rebellion of man will not derail His plan. Instead, He will raise up a King to rule His people with perfect peace and justice. As we see God work, we must learn how to live in light of the fact that He *is* in control.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Stop scheming like an outsider (1:1-10)
- II. Start trusting like a child of the King (1:11-16)

## Read & Discuss

### 1) Read [2 Samuel 1:1-10](#)

After David returns from rescuing his family and possessions from the Amalekites, he receives news about the battle Israel was waging against the Philistines up north (1 Samuel 31). The messenger, an Amalekite, brings news that Saul is dead, claims to be the one to have killed Saul, and hands David the crown. The discrepancy between the two accounts of Saul’s death (1 Samuel 31 and 2 Samuel 1) is the author’s way of showing us what the Amalekite is up to. He sees this as an opportunity to cash in on. He assumes David will reward him for taking out the guy that was hunting David. But as an outsider, he feels like he must scheme to get in on David’s side – that’s why he makes up the story rather than tell the truth about what happens (as our narrator has shown us in 1 Samuel 31).

Christian, do you ever feel like an outsider with God? Do you ever feel like you either need to take matters into your own hands or hope that God doesn’t see the real you – that you need to get your act together before you know His blessing? Instead of scheming, we are called to make our needs and requests known to God in prayer. Whatever your anxieties, your fears, or problems that keep you up at night might be, turn them into your prayer list. As John Onwuchekwa writes, “Let the temptation to worry serve

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Gospel and Kingdom* by Graeme Goldsworthy

as the divine alarm clock reminding you it's time to pray." As Jesus promises in Matthew 7:9-11, God knows what's good and will *always* give what is good when His children come to Him with their needs.

Additional reading: Romans 8:15-17, Psalm 115:3

2) Read [2 Samuel 1:11-16](#)

Saul failed to trust God, obey his commands and faced a tragic end. The Amalekite messenger took matters into his own hands, assuming killing the 'LORD's anointed' would earn him a reward, but it cost him his life. In contrast, David learned to trust God instead of trying to *be* god. Though we (as the reader) can see God's sovereign hand moving and bringing history to where He wants it to go, David can't see. He has to wait, in the dark, and trust that God *is* working and *will* put him on the throne as promised. In the same way, just because we can't see what God is up to, doesn't mean He's not at work. Our God is a promise-keeping God. What does it look like for you to trust God, even though you may not be able to see right now? What is the basis of our trust that God is *good*; that we can trust Him with all of who we are?

Additional reading: Romans 8:31-32, Psalm 77:19-20

***Prayer of Response***

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>