

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 2:1-32

“Two kings, one kingdom” – September 16, 2018



Introduction

Life in a fallen world, this side of heaven, is often chaotic, painful, and messy. We sin. We are sinned against. Even apart from sin, we live in a world that's subjected to futility because of sin ([Rom. 8:20](#)) which means there are often frustrations that leave us asking if, how, or when this world (and our lives) will ever be put together again...how can be made right again. As David makes his way to the throne, that's the question he's faced with. After Saul died, Israel is licking her wounds from a major defeat from the Philistines, and not everyone is ready to recognize David as their king – even though he is God's chosen man ([1 Sam. 16:13](#)). What do we do in the midst of the chaos? What David learns about God and how to follow him, is what we too must learn...

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. Listen and obey (2:1-11)
- II. Wait and trust God (2:12-32)

Read & Discuss

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

When we start chapter 2, David is in Philistine territory in the city of Ziklag. What's the first thing he does? He inquires of God, listens to His word, and obeys. When life turns upside down, when you're faced with pain, confusion, or frustration, what is your knee-jerk reaction? David is an example to us here – instead of wallowing, complaining, or falling into self-pity we are to turn to God's word (the Bible), pray for God to help us to understand what we're reading ([Ps. 119:18](#)), and then do what He says ([James 1:22](#)). Are you?

Also, notice how God instructs David in the next step: go to Hebron (v1). God doesn't provide the next 5 or 10 steps, but the next step so that David learns to trust God for his daily bread. This is often the way of God – providing the grace and mercy we need, not a week or hour in advance, but in our time of need ([Heb. 4:16](#)). As you wait upon God, what has He made clear that you need to be faithful in that's right in front of you in your present circumstances?



Abner, the cousin and commander of Saul's army, refuses to recognize David as *his* king, even though God has clearly chosen him and said Saul's family is out. Take some time to review [1 Samuel 26:6-16](#). Why do you think Abner had a tough time submitting to David as king (and setting up Ish-boseth as an alternative)? Are there ways that you can identify with Abner in the challenges of humbling yourself and submitting to Jesus as king?

Additional reading: Matthew 6:19-24

2) Read [2 Samuel 2:12-32](#)

With David ruling the one tribe of Judah in the south (see map) and Ish-boseth ruling the eleven tribes in the north (referred to as 'Israel'), the nation is divided between two kings. God's promise to put David on the throne still stands. But while David is busy listening and obeying the *next* thing God has for him, Abner and Joab take matters into their own hands. In their own wisdom and own strength, they attempt to bring a divided nation *together*, only to see their plan backfire. The only thing that happens *together* that day was 24 men dying *together* (v16).

At the heart of conflict, quarrels, and fighting is a kingship issue. The reason these two groups were fighting was because they served different kings. We may not live in a political monarchy today, but we still follow a king...and when different people serve different kings, conflict is just around the corner. Are you in a quarrel or conflict? Ask yourself: what is ruling as king of your heart? Is it Jesus and what *He* commands? Or something you *desire* and what it commands?

Additional reading: James 4:1-5

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.

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