

The Story of 2 Samuel

A 40-Day Guided Journey through 2 Samuel



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church
Week 8: August 22-28

Day 1

August 24



Pray / Ask God for understanding of his Word, the Bible.

Today's reading is David giving direct praise, credit, and glory to God. Second Samuel 22 could very well have been placed into the book of Psalms. Psalm 18 is often cited as a parallel to this chapter.¹

David's praise is derived from God's deliverance of him out of the hands of his enemies. Notice how many of these verses give praise to God.

As you are reading through this chapter, take note of the different ways that David explains visions of God and the different ways and wording he uses to describe how he trusts his safety and security to God.



Read / 2 Samuel 22

¹. Dale Ralph Davis, *Second Samuel: Out of Every Adversity* (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 1999), 283.



Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection

Read Psalm 18. Explain at least three points of similarity between Psalm 18 and 2 Samuel 22.

David describes a physical manifestation of God in 2 Samuel 22:8–16. Read Exodus 19:16–19, Numbers 12:5; and Isaiah 6:1–5. Why do you think smoke, fire, quakes, and thunder are commonly attributed to God’s presence?

Notice all of the “my” statements David uses throughout this chapter. What does this say about what type of relationship David had with God? Describe your relationship with God.

Day 2

August 25



*Pray / Thank God for his promise of redemption through
Jesus Christ.*

This chapter contains David's last words, and then it goes on to list several of his soldiers and some of the highlights and accomplishments they achieved under David.

The first seven verses are only two short paragraphs, but they tell us very completely and concisely who David is and how confident David is with how he and his descendants stand with God.

The rest of the chapter covers much of David's life as a warrior and king by listing a timeline of the accomplishments of those who served under him.



Read / 2 Samuel 23



Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection

Read verse 1 and break it down phrase by phrase. What are some of the words that identify and characterize David? Why do you think David's last words are introduced this way?

What would your last words be, who would you address, and what would you say to God?

Notice that the last person listed in verses 8–39 is Uriah the Hittite. Read 2 Samuel 11, if you are not familiar with his story. There could be certain ways to interpret why Uriah is listed last. This could be pure coincidence, or it could be that God has a specific message for us. Perhaps God is showing that even through the greatness of men like David, there still remain issues of human depravity and sin, but that God still delivers on his promises. Romans 3:23 states, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Despite your sins, what are some of the ways God might be delivering on his promises in your life?

Day 3

August 26



Pray / Praise God for His redemptive ways.

The content of this chapter is difficult and can be confusing. Verse 1 starts without any pretense: “Again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them saying, ‘Go, number the people of Israel and Judah.’ ” A parallel passage, 1 Chronicles 21:1, states, “Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.” While these passages seem to contradict one another in who caused David to take the census, it is most important to note that in both passages, God allowed it to happen.

Verses 18–25 record a huge turning point for the future of Israel. The altar that David builds on the threshing floor is his response to his sin of taking the census. Read 1 Chronicles 22 for more insight into why the location of this altar is significant. It is an example of God’s using sin for the good of all his people.



Read / 2 Samuel 24



Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection

What do you think God was angry with Israel about, and why do you think He allowed David to take a census?

Verses 10–14 contain David’s response to his sin. David’s response is very humble. He does not blame God, and he takes full responsibility. If you have ever perceived that another person or an outside influence has influenced your choice to sin, how have you responded?

It can be very frustrating when God’s will and reasons are not clear. Have you ever had questions about God’s will in your life that have gone unanswered? How have you responded?

Day 4

May 14



*Pray / Ask God for clarity and understanding of his Word,
the Bible.*

A life of privilege and being raised with parents that do not impose discipline can lead to a sense of entitlement. Adonijah is no exception. Verse 6 indicates that his father, David, has not questioned or disciplined him. David's story is full of his heroics as king and warrior, but his parenting skills seem to be lacking.

It is no wonder why Adonijah thought he was entitled to be the next king. Some of his reasoning may have been understandable; he was David's oldest living son, and he had the support of priest Abiathar and Joab. So, he probably figured being the next king was the natural progression, and David was near death and had never said no to him before about anything. However, God's will was to make Solomon the next king of Israel.



Read / 1 Kings 1



Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection

Have you ever assumed something to be yours before it had been made official (a promotion, an inheritance, a gift)? Why did you feel that way, and how did God work through you to confirm whether or not it was truly to be yours?

Why do you think God chose Solomon to become the next king?

Take into consideration that Solomon's mother was Bathsheba, who married David after their scandal in 2 Samuel 11–12. What does this tell you about the depths of God's grace?

Day 5

August 28



Pray / Thank God that he loves you unconditionally.

Before David dies, he gives instructions to Solomon. David tells Solomon that if he follows God and follows the Law of Moses, David's offspring forever will remain on Israel's throne. Read 2 Samuel 7:14–15 to review part of God's covenant with David.

Solomon had a lot of difficult work ahead of him before being able to be truly comfortable on the throne. He would choose to kill his half-brother Adonijah and others close to him.

While Solomon's measures are extreme, there is still a message in it to us from God. Solomon chose to kill those around him whom he perceived were a threat to the kingdom. Everyone has obstacles they must overcome. The important part to remember is how those obstacles are overcome and whether your means and intentions glorify God.



Read / 1 Kings 2



Reflect / Choose one of the following questions for reflection

Why do you think Solomon had people like Adonijah and Joab killed instead of imprisoning them or exiling them?

Everyone has obstacles and problems in their lives. Ways to deal with them vary from person to person. Some may try to escape problems with sinful behaviors. Others may try to distract themselves from problems with hobbies or activities. Part of the nature of human life is there always will be problems. If one obstacle is removed, there is another one right behind it. If you wish to dig deeper into Solomon's story, read through 1 Kings 11:43. You will see that Solomon's problems only get worse and his solutions get worse. Who or what do you turn to deal with your problems? Why?

Turning to Jesus Christ will secure a place for you in God's everlasting kingdom. Explain a time when you have entrusted a difficulty into the hands of Jesus. If you have never before put your trust in Jesus, you could ask him into your life. Your obstacles and problems might still be there, but they are only temporary. Jesus Christ is eternal.

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