

2 SAMUEL

IN SEARCH OF A KING PART II



Sermon 1 – 2 Samuel 5 “King at Last”

Introduction

- a. If you can, play the Bible project video which introduces and given and overview of 2 Samuel and discuss any questions which arise. <https://goo.gl/bGybs8>
 - b. We are a modern, intelligent, sophisticated people, with the benefit of both hindsight and modern technology from which to draw. Why can't we end war, stop oppression, feed the hungry, end religious squabbling or bring peace and harmony in our homes and lives?
 - c. Where does our ultimate hope for peace and justice and an end to evil lie?
1. **The King of the Kingdom** – read vv1-4
 - a. What David is *imperfectly*, Jesus is *perfectly*. He is our
 1. King, we are his body;
 2. he is our Saviour; and
 3. Shepherd!Explore what each of these terms mean to you – and mean for us as his people.
 - b. Someone says to you – “I just don't get why we read the Old Testament.” How would what we have seen in this passage alone, help shape your answer?
 2. **The City of the Kingdom** – read vv6-16
 - a. What was the taunt the Jebusites declared to David, thinking that their city was safe against his attacks? What does David's victory tell us about God and his work?
 - b. The text makes it clear that David only became 'more and more powerful' because the Lord was with him (v10) and that David had been set as King over Israel only for the sake of Israel. What clue is there in this text, that David didn't altogether get that? What are the dangers of God-given power, turned to one's own advantage?
 - c. It is clear from Scriptures, that God's purposes for humankind are no longer focused on that city we still call 'Jerusalem' in Israel. What practical steps can we take in our life, to ensure that we are people of hope and confidence and joy because of the heavenly Jerusalem to be revealed and all that it will mean for us?
 3. **The victory of the Kingdom** – read vv17-25
 - a. We see in the defeat of the Philistines, a reminder that God's kingdom and purposes are unstoppable. What hope does this give us – especially in the light of Jesus' ultimate victory at the cross? What difference ought this make to the way we understand and live with the evil in today's world?? (See Romans 8:31ff)
 - b. Someone shares with you that they are finding it increasingly difficult to stand up for their trust in Jesus in the world in which we live – and that sometimes they wonder whether God really is in control. How would you encourage them from this passage (or related passages)?

What is the take home for you from this passage or study?

Pray for one another that we will have an ever-deepening trust in Jesus as King, Saviour and Shepherd and a wonderful hope in joy in the coming of the heavenly Jerusalem and in Jesus' final victory over evil!

Date: 05 August 2018
Services: 730, 930, Tewantin, Peregrin (via Chris)
Series: In search of a King II
Passage: 2 Samuel 5
Title: King at last

INTRODUCTION

- Run Bible Project video on 2 Samuel (6 minutes) <https://goo.gl/bGybs8>

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- Why is it, do you think, that as a global people, we are not able to order our existence so that it is peaceful and happy?
 - Why is it that last century, the “war to end all wars” didn’t (end all wars)?
 - Why can’t we work out how to stop oppression; the injustice of the inequitable distribution of the world’s resources; persecution of religious minorities....
 - Why even in our own homes and families can we not achieve the peace and harmony we long for?
 - Or even in the church – the unity – the depth of love – and purpose of mission of which the Bible speaks?
 - If Jesus’ birth was heralded by the angels as bringing ‘peace on earth’, why don’t we see it?
 - If Jesus conquered the evil one at the cross and the resurrection, why do we still see evil all around us – including in our own hearts?
 - If there will be no end the justice Jesus brings – where is it?
 - If Jesus’ healing of people promised healing and restoration to all – why do we still suffer from disease – and indeed death? ///
 - ...because the promised Kingdom has yet to come in all its fullness //
 - This morning, we head back into the Old Testament, as we usually do in Term 3, and this year to the book of 2 Samuel... and as we do, we will be helped to see the nature of the Kingdom of God... and what it means for us.
 - So this morning from 2 Samuel 5, I want us to see:
 1. The **King** of the Kingdom
 2. The **City** of the Kingdom
 3. The **victory** of the Kingdom
 - First, an extremely quick recap of the storyline of the Bible to this point:
 - Creation
 - Rebellion and the flood
 - God’s promises to Abraham that he’ll do a new thing – and bless all humans through the nation Israel of which Abraham will be the Father
 - That nation grows, but is enslaved by the Egyptians
 - Moses is used by God to rescue his people from Egypt and lead them to the promised land
 - In response to God’s rescue, God’s people were to live God’s way as he revealed his law...
 - Joshua led his people into the promised land, but because they failed to comprehensively banish the people already living there, the people of God failed to be God’s distinctive people...
 - They were overcome by their enemies... they would repent for a time and God raised up Judges to rescue them... and that cycle repeated itself...

- And eventually they asked for a king...
- King Saul was the first, but was something of a failed experiment, and David as secretly anointed in his place.
- David and Saul – massive rivalry – and it is a long time until David eventually takes his place as King – but this is what we see happening in 2 Sam 5
- So

1. The King of the Kingdom

- David was clearly God's choice – described as a man after God's own heart...
- After the death of Saul – David was recognised as King over the **southern** tribes, but the **northern** tribes got behind an alternate King... until such times as they realised better...
- So look with me at v1 - ***All** the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. 2 In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'"*
- There are three important things to notice here.
- The tribes recognised something **different** about David. When they say 'we are you own flesh and blood', it's more accurately translated 'bone and flesh'.
- they are saying – we're connected... like – we are your **body**...
- They came to him as a **brother**, not a **stranger** or **foreigner**.
- They are indicating to him a remarkable submission... we will obey you like are we your body... and we will trust you to care for us as someone nourishes their own body!
- Then note too... they identify David as their **Saviour**!
- v2 - *In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns*
- He had fought their battles for them! David had led them out against their enemies and brought them back safe and victorious! While **Saul** had been their **king**, **David** had been their **Saviour**! //
- And then will you notice, the **third** reason they want David to be their King – v2b - *And the Lord said to you, 'You will **shepherd** my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'*
- The one who was once a shepherd boy when first chosen and anointed, had been chosen by the Lord, not now to shepherd **sheep** but to shepherd **people** on God's behalf... to lead those God was making his own people...
- The elders recognised God's calling on David's life and the promises which had been made to him!...
- Moses himself had seen such a need: in Numbers 27 we read: *"May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community 17 to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like **sheep without a shepherd**."*
- **David** will be **that shepherd**!! Provided by **God** in answer to Moses' prayers... and to care for his people.

- Now friends, what do you notice here...?
- David called on to be head over Israel as if it was his **body**?
- ... David recognised as **Saviour**?
- ...David recognised as **Shepherd**!!?

- Of course – you see the connection – the connection with Jesus **himself**!
- Because David points us **forward** to Jesus...
- And Jesus is **perfectly** // what David only managed to be **imperfectly**!
- Jesus is our **King**... And he is the head of the church – his **body**... and we look to him for **protection** and **nourishment**... we are his **body** – **that's who we are!** //
- And Jesus is also our **Saviour** – he has **fought** – and **won** – our battles for us...! He has **defeated** our **enemies** and made us **safe**! He won **victory** over them at the **cross**, where the record of our sin and **failing** was **obliterated**!
- As our **Saviour**, he gave **himself up** for us! //
- And Jesus is **profoundly** our **Shepherd**...
- God was recognised as Israel's shepherd... Jacob spoke of the God who "has been my shepherd all my life long to this day..." and David himself said "the Lord is my shepherd"
- Then Jesus comes on the scene... and he has **compassion** on the crowds because they were like **sheep** without a **shepherd**... (Moses' own phrase!)... and Jesus is **beautifully** and **movingly** described in John 10 as the **Good Shepherd** who **knows** his **sheep** by name and lays down his **life** for the **sheep**! //
- **Jesus: the King of the Kingdom** – we his **body**, he is our **Saviour** and **Shepherd**...
- And that brings us to:

2. THE CITY OF THE KINGDOM

- Have a look with me at vv6-7 - *The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, "You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off." They thought, "David cannot get in here."* 7 Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion – which is the City of David.
- At the end of **Genesis 15**, the Jebusites were among those listed whose lands would become part of the promised land promised in covenant to Abraham!
- But in taking over the land, the Israelites had failed in previous battles to totally take over the city...
- So David was now doing what Israel had **failed** to do... and at the same time – God was fulfilling his promises to Abraham!
- Notice that the Jebusites are not impressed by David... and they torment him as it were by claiming that their blind and lame would be sufficient to repel him... wouldn't get away with using that taunt now!!
- Nonetheless, David did conquer the city... have a look with me at vv 9 and 10 - *David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the terraces inward. 10 And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him.*
- Why **powerful**?? Because God was with him!!
- **Why** was he **reigning**? Not for **his** sake... for **his** glory – for **his** fame – but for the sake of **God's people** Israel... v12 *Then David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel* //
- Was he **perfect**? //
- No – and we're introduced to a glimpse of his imperfections here in that (if you glance at v13) – against God's clearly revealed will – he took **wives** and **concubines** in **Jerusalem**! //
- Now – what on earth has all this got to do with **us**?
- **Jerusalem** was the city of **David's** kingdom... the city of **God** – the city of **God's Kingdom**...

- But if our hopes are focused on hope coming from **there** now – as if that city was still the focus and centre of God’s kingdom – we’ll be **very disappointed...**!
- “Peace on earth” will not emanate from the city we still know and call “**Jerusalem**”!
- It is not the centre of God’s rule on earth **now...**! not since **Jesus’ death and resurrection** and the **destruction of the city and temple in AD 70!**
- No brothers and sisters – our hope is in the **new kingdom** – the **new heavens and earth** – and the **new Jerusalem** – the **heavenly Jerusalem** – Rev 21 - *Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.... 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*
- **This** is where God’s promises to Abraham will find their final and **complete** and **glorious fulfillment...**!
- On **that** new city – we **fix** our **hope** – we **gaze** our **eyes...**
- For **that** new city we wait... // even as we pray ‘**your kingdom come**’... for it will be **there** we will be perfected in every way – **spiritually, mentally, physically...** and there we shall see God’s **face – face to face...** !
- So – we **trust** – and we **obey** – and we **wait!!** ///
- **Thirdly** and **finally** and **very briefly:** /

3. The victory of the Kingdom

- In the final section of this chapter – vv17-25 – we won’t go into the detail – but we do see that the Philistines were not too happy that David had been made King over all Israel... the memory of the boy David killing the giant Philistine Goliath would still be very clear... as would the many victories of David over the Philistines in the time of Saul.
- But we see clearly that the Lord will defend his **king**, // his **city** and // his **kingdom...** and both by the way he **guides** David in strategic battle and also by his **mighty power**, we see that he **enables** David’s victory **over** the Philistines! //
- So in the same vein as Psalm 2, we see that the nations and people plot in **vain** against **God** and his **anointed**, but they will **never win...**! //
- Do people **oppose** you today – **ridicule** you – **marginalise** you – **sideline** you – **threaten** you?
- I’m sure they **do...**!
- But they will **never win!**
- Are Christians killed today for their faith? Oh **yes** – all over the world – in **Nigeria**, in **Pakistan**, in **China...**
- ...but they will **never win** against God...
- Because there is reminder here in this passage which is reinforced through **all** the Scriptures – and especially in **Revelation** – that God will **triumph** over his enemies! He **rules...**! //
- Hostility towards God’s people is nothing **new...**!
- There are people today plotting against **God** and against **Christ...** and working to **shut** Christians **down** in the **public square...**
- But **we** are those who remember the **victory** of the **Kingdom** of old in **Jerusalem...** and that **great** victory over **all** the powers of **evil** which Jesus won at the cross... and we say with **Paul** – if **God** is **for** us; who can be **against** us!!
- ----- - let’s close.... ///
- The **King** of the **Kingdom** – **David...** who points us **forward** to **Jesus** – **ultimate King** of **God’s Kingdom**

- The City of the Kingdom – **Jerusalem** – which points us forward to that **great heavenly city Jerusalem** – where all our future hope is centred...
- And the victory of the **Kingdom**... - points us to **Jesus'** great and powerful **victory** over all evil at the **cross**... to that **great** day when every **knee** shall **bow** and **every tongue** confess that **Jesus Christ** is Lord...!