

In 2 Samuel 7, we read one of the most important passages in the Old Testament, for it was a key link to understanding God's plan for bringing forth the Messiah. Scripture first makes a general reference to His coming in Genesis 3:15. Genesis 12 and 17 then contain a more specific reference through Abraham's descendents. The coming Messiah is then more narrowly defined through David's offspring, and that He would be heir to David's throne.

This was all the result of the burden David had on his heart to build a temple for the Lord. However, God's answer to David was a resounding "No!" God didn't say no to break David's heart, but because He had a much better plan for David. God was building him a house, culminating in none other than the Messiah. God has an eternal, significant plan for us too. From this we learned that when God says no to our desires or dreams it is because His dreams and desires for us are so much more than we can ever ask or think. Sometimes God answers with a negative because He has a bigger purpose that we can't understand at the time. With this in mind, David turned to God in humble prayer and worship and accepted God's "no" and gladly embraced His "yes."

DAY 1

Subduing the Enemy 2 SAMUEL 8:1-8

Please Read 2 Samuel 8:1-8 and answer the following questions.

[1] What enemy on the western border of Israel had to be dealt with first (v. 1)?

Note: "Metheg Ammah" means the bridle or bit of the metropolis. It was another name for their chief city, Gath (NLT and NASB).¹

[2] David next turned to the east. What enemy did he vanquish, and what resulted for the survivors (v. 2)?

[3] In verses 3-8, David fought with Hadadezer, king of Zobah, to their north. What were some of the circumstances that Scripture recorded about this battle and those who joined in the fight? What resulted from this, and what is especially important to realize in verse 6b?

Note: Please try to find a Bible map of this time period to help you clearly picture these locations in your mind. This conquest makes it clear that all the enemy nations were subdued before David and that lost ground was reestablished in the north, west, and east. David previously defeated the Amalekites to the south in 1 Samuel 30.²

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] In describing the victory over the Philistines, the author used the word *subdued*, meaning "to humiliate, bring down, and vanquish them."³ God preserved David, helping him to be victorious over all these enemies. Interestingly, the word *preserved* means "to free someone so they have plenty of room to move around", and is the opposite of the word meaning "to cramp up."⁴ Jesus did the same for us, gaining a complete victory over the enemy in order to free us so that we can move about and serve Him freely!

Read the following passages and record some thoughts about what they teach us about the victory He won for us.

Romans 5:6–10; 8:1–4

Ephesians 2:1–7; Colossians 2:13–15

Hebrews 2:14–18

Daily Life Point: As Warren Wiersbe pointed out, David's actions helped fulfill God's promise of Israel's territory extending from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates; "A man of faith, David believed God's promises and acted upon them for the blessing of his people."⁵ As these passages made clear, victory over sin was impossible for us to achieve. Only through Christ can we obtain victory, giving us the freedom to follow and serve Him, claiming His promise of victory over sin and the enemies of our lives. David's victory over the Philistines in particular was significant, because they didn't really pose a serious threat to Israel after that point.⁶

Have you been failing in some particular area of your life? Is there still an enemy that seems to be plaguing you? How have the above passages spoken to you concerning this enemy that Jesus' death vanquished? Please share some thoughts about how this applies in your own life.

MEMORY PASSAGE

This week we will memorize 2 Samuel 8:14b–15. Review the passage several times throughout each day. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized.

And the Lord preserved David wherever he went. So David reigned over all

Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people. (2

Samuel 8:14b–15 NKJV)

DAY 2

Despoiling the Enemy **2 SAMUEL 8:9–13**

Please Read 2 Samuel 8:9–13 and answer the following questions

[1] Toi Hamath, another king plagued by Hadadezer, heard about David's victory. What did he do in view of this (v. 10)?

[2] What did David do with the spoils that he obtained from these enemies (vv. 11–12)?

[3] What further victory was won in verse 13?

Note: The context of this chapter implies that the people identified here as "Syrians" were probably "Edomites."⁷

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] As human beings, we have a bent toward envy and jealousy. We usually sulk or burn with envy when others are exalted or successful, especially in something we have wanted for years—like Toi and his kingdom did! As believers, we need to follow their example of rejoicing in the victory, success, and blessings of others.

What did Paul say about this in Romans 12:15 and 1 Corinthians 12:26? How was he able to do this (Philippians 4:11–13)?

[2] We too need to learn how to turn the attacks of the enemy around on him for the glory of God, therefore dedicating ourselves to the Lord. To dedicate something means to consecrate or set it apart for a divine and sacred purpose.⁸ How are we to dedicate ourselves to the Lord to see this happen in our lives?

Psalm 51:16–17

Romans 6:13–14; 12:1–2

Daily Life Point: Selfish attitudes keep us from being able to serve and live for God; rather than seeing the enemy defeated, we will end up divided from others whom we need to link shields with for the glory of God. David used the spoils he obtained to go toward the building of the temple, rather than for other purposes, helping to indirectly fulfill his dream of the temple's construction. As a result, it is no wonder God magnified David's name (his name is mentioned 21 times in this chapter). After all, David humbled himself and God exalted him.⁹

Have you recently voiced your dedication to the Lord of your life—heart, soul, mind, and strength—to see Him glorified? Why not do this right now and confess to Him any sins of jealousy, envy, or division between you and another in the body of Christ. Please share this with your group and pray for one another to be victorious over this, and be able to see God glorified as you dedicate your life to Him.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

**And the Lord _____ David wherever he went. So David
_____ over all Israel; and David administered judgment and
_____ to all his people. (2 Samuel 8:14b-15 NKJV)**

DAY 3

Reigning Over All Israel
2 SAMUEL 8:14-18

Please Read 2 Samuel 8:14-18 and answer the following questions

[1] What similar pattern did David follow in dealing with the Edomites (v. 14)?

[2] What is mentioned again about David in verse 14b, and how did he reign over his people, Israel (v. 15)?

[3] What were some of the offices that David established in his "cabinet" (vv. 16-18)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] What a reassurance it is to know that God will preserve us through all that we face and experience as we follow Him! Read Psalm 121:1-8 and write out some of the things you glean about how He will preserve you throughout your days.

[2] David led his people in an appropriate, righteous judgment, another reason why God exalted him. Again we see a picture of Christ in this, as David's righteous rule is symbolic of the future Messianic rule.¹⁰ What do the following passages tell us about His coming reign of righteousness?

Isaiah 9:6-7

Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15

Revelation 19:5; 22:11

Daily Life Point: What a blessing it is to know that God will be with us and preserve us through all that we face. He promises to be with us all day, every day, until the entire consummation of eternity—that's a lot of help for a long time (Matthew 28:20)! But experientially it happens a day at a time. David set the example of daily seeking first God's kingdom (Matthew 6:33). In response, God guided and prospered him.¹¹

How has today's study encouraged you to trust God to keep His promise of meeting all of your needs according to His riches and glory in Christ (Philippians 4:19)? How about in remembering that God is just and will do all things righteously? Please share some thoughts about how this will help you to more effectively entrust yourself to His care and service today?

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

**And the Lord _____ David wherever he went. So David
_____ over all _____; and David administered
_____ and _____ to all his people.
(2 Samuel 8:14b–15 NKJV)**

DAY 4

Defining God's Kingdom

Please answer the following questions about God's Kingdom. There will be no separate Expanded Questions.

David's kingdom continued to be solidified. In many ways, David is a picture of Christ as well as His ancestor. It is appropriate for us to spend some time considering the kingdom of God, since David's promised kingdom and the kingdom of God "were so inseparably linked together that in the future their destiny was identical."¹² The Kingdom of God is mentioned about 70 times in the New Testament, but should be viewed separately from the "Kingdom of Heaven" as used by Matthew:

"The kingdom of heaven ... may be regarded as the rule of heaven over the earth by Christ when He establishes His kingdom on earth, while the kingdom of God is His sovereign rule in the universe and in the heart of His people."¹³

Believers don't challenge the existence of God's kingdom. However, there are three interpretations when it comes to the millennial kingdom, as described in Revelation:

Premillennialism states that the second coming of Christ is before the millennial kingdom; amillennialism doesn't consider a millennial kingdom as a literal event, as either the present experience of the church on earth or in heaven; and postmillennialism believes that the millennial kingdom will be a golden age of a Christianized world at the end of which Christ will return.¹⁴

In light of these views, the Bible overwhelmingly points out that it anticipates the return of Christ before the millennial kingdom, and also the early church fathers overwhelmingly support a premillennial view.¹⁵ There is therefore no reason to doubt a literal interpretation of what the Bible says. After all, the multitude of prophecies fulfilled about the first coming of Christ should give us the faith to accept the same when it comes to prophecies of a literal kingdom coming upon the earth. Let's get to know more about God's kingdom both now and yet to come.

[1] Please read the following passages and record some things that they teach us about the kingdom of God.

Psalm 47:7–9; 103:19; 145:1, 11–13

Daniel 4:2–3, 17

Hebrews 1:8

[2] What are some things that the following passages add about our relationship to the kingdom of God?

John 3:3, 5

2 Thessalonians 1:4–5

[3] When the Messiah does return to reign in His kingdom:

How wide of a control will He have (Psalm 2:8; Zechariah 14:9)?

What will be the centerpiece of His reign (Zechariah 8:20–23; Luke 21:24)?

Who will be the special focus of His kingdom (Isaiah 11:11–12; Ezekiel 37:21–25)?

"In many respects, the millennial kingdom will be the golden age, the climax of earth's history, and the fulfillment of God's purpose to establish His Son as the supreme ruler over the universe."¹⁶

Daily Life Point: The Kingdom of God is fascinating to study but difficult to fully grasp. Matthew 13:11 refers to these things as a mystery. We have a hard time grasping the infinite and absolute power of God. As Stephen Charnock well said, "The throne of God outlives the dissolution of the world."¹⁷ What are some things that struck you personally about the kingdom of God today? How does it help you to see the importance of all that David experienced in light of the kingdom that his rule was symbolic of, and how does it help you to consider how important it is for you to carry out the calling you have as a subject in that kingdom? We'll look more at that in tomorrow's study.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

And the Lord _____ David wherever he went. So David

_____ over all _____; and David

_____ and _____ to

all his people. (2 Samuel 8:14b-15 NKJV)

DAY 5

Expanding God's Kingdom

Please answer the following questions about God's Kingdom. Again, there will be no separate Expanded Questions.

We would think that as David was expanding his own kingdom, we too can expand God's kingdom. In fact,

there are frequently movements of believers who seem to think they are to establish the kingdom here on earth to help usher it in. Well, sorry to disappoint you, but as William Evans pointed out, while believers are privileged to be a subject in God's kingdom, it is God alone who controls it: "It is never identified with the church in Scripture, nor are men anywhere told to build the kingdom."¹⁸ So what is our purpose then in the Kingdom of God? There are two responsibilities we as believers have: To align ourselves with the Kingdom of God and to point others toward the Kingdom of God.

[1] How does one become a part of God's kingdom (John 3:3, 5; 2 Corinthians 5:17)?

[2] What are some of the important things we need to be doing to better align ourselves to the Kingdom of God and His kingship in our lives?

Matthew 6:9–10

Luke 9:23

Hebrews 12:1–3

Hebrews 11:6, 13–16

[3] In this world, what is our role in helping others see their need to become a part of the Kingdom of God and to walk in it themselves?

Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8

2 Corinthians 5:20

2 Timothy 2:1–2; 4:2, 5

Daily Life Point: Warren Wiersbe well summed up our responsibility in aligning ourselves to God's kingdom: What does it mean to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? It means that God is first in our lives. First thing in the morning, we talk to God in prayer and worship. We turn to Him in the Word. The first day of every week we are in church. The first thing in our lives—the most important thing—is to please Him. When God is first and we are worshipping Him and not things, then people and things will fall into their proper place.¹⁹ What spoke to your heart most significantly about your place in the kingdom? Was it the topic of aligning yourself with what He desires of you as a member of the kingdom? If so, what do you need to do about it? Perhaps it was the issue of becoming a better ambassador for God's kingdom, proclaiming the gospel and making disciples of others. What specifically do you feel He would have you do so you can represent Him to the world around you? Please share your thoughts here.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

2 Samuel 8:14b-15 NKJV:

DAY 6

Pursuing God's Heart

[1] Christ won the victory for us in His death, resurrection, and ascension to glory. We have all of His resources and help in fighting against the enemies in our lives. Answer the following question posed by Alan Redpath, and then write out some thoughts about what you will do to help put this into practice:

Have you discovered the joy of handing over your battle to the Lord and allowing Him to take command on your behalf? Are you launching into the attack, as it were, with your Lord and Saviour, and letting Him deal

with the enemy? To do that is to discover there is nothing that God will not do for the obedient heart. I tell you, the cause of the devil is absolutely hopeless when the Lord takes up the fight. I believe that even the weakest of us can laugh our enemy to scorn, taking the bridle out of his hand and using it for the glory of God.²⁰

[2] David was not only able to be victorious over the enemies around him, but he took the spoils and dedicated them all to the glory of God, for the construction of the temple in the future. What are some situations in your life that you have seen turned around for God's glory? Maybe you are still seeking how this will happen in the things you are currently going through? How can your group pray for and encourage you in this? Please share some thoughts here.

[3] As has often been said, to have God's kingdom come, our kingdom must go! Please share on at least one thing from below that spoke to you personally:

Understanding more about what God's kingdom is:

More effectively aligning yourself to God's kingdom:

Fulfilling your role in His kingdom as His ambassador:

MEMORY PASSAGE

From memory, write out this week's passage below. Then review the passage throughout the day. Be prepared to share the verse with your group.

2 Samuel 8:14b–15 NKJV:

PARTING THOUGHTS

F. B. Meyer states that during these war years, David probably penned Psalms 2; 20; 21; 60; and 110—among others.²¹ Let's close our study by meditating on Psalm 60 and 110. These are two psalms that clearly discuss the many things that we have emphasized this week.

Psalm 60

To the Chief Musician. Set to "Lily of the Testimony." A Michtam of David. For teaching. When he fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah, and Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

O God, You have cast us off;
You have broken us down;
You have been displeased;
Oh, restore us again!
You have made the earth tremble;
You have broken it;
Heal its breaches, for it is shaking.
You have shown Your people hard things;
You have made us drink the wine of confusion.

You have given a banner to those who fear You,
That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah
That Your beloved may be delivered,
Save with Your right hand, and hear me.

God has spoken in His holiness:
"I will rejoice;
I will divide Shechem
And measure out the Valley of Succoth.

Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine;
Ephraim also is the helmet for My head;
Judah is My lawgiver.
Moab is My washpot;
Over Edom I will cast My shoe;
Philistia, shout in triumph because of Me."

Who will bring me to the strong city?
Who will lead me to Edom?
Is it not You, O God, who cast us off?
And You, O God, who did not go out with our armies?
Give us help from trouble,
For the help of man is useless.
Through God we will do valiantly,
For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.

Psalm 110
A Psalm of David.

The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."
The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

Your people shall be volunteers
In the day of Your power;
In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning,
You have the dew of Your youth.
The Lord has sworn
And will not relent,
"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek."

The Lord is at Your right hand;
He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.
He shall judge among the nations,
He shall fill the places with dead bodies,
He shall execute the heads of many countries.
He shall drink of the brook by the wayside;
Therefore He shall lift up the head.

NOTES

- 1 James Strong, "A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible with Their Renderings in the Authorized English Version", in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1890 Reprint), p. 74.
- 2 John MacArthur, ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Word, 1997), pp. 437-438.
- 3 Strong, "A Concise Dictionary", p. 56.
- 4 Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, Tenn.: AMG, 1994), p. 2324.
- 5 Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Restored* (Colorado Springs: Victor, 2002), p. 53.
- 6 Robert D. Bergen, "1, 2 Samuel," *The New American Commentary*, vol. 7 (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996), p. 347.
- 7 *The New Scofield Study Bible*, NKJV (Nashville: Nelson, 1989), p. 378.
- 8 Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study*, p. 2360.
- 9 Warren W. Wiersbe, *With the Word Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Nelson, 1993), pp. 392-393.
- 10 MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 438.
- 11 Ivor Powell, *David, His Life and Times* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel, 1990), p. 216.
- 12 Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., *Toward an Old Testament Theology* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1978), p. 152.
- 13 William Evans, *The Great Doctrines of the Bible* (Chicago: Moody, 1939), p. 303.
- 14 Lewis Sperry Chafer and John F. Walvoord, *Major Bible Themes* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1974), pp. 352-353.
- 15 Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 4 (Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, 1948), p. 275.
- 16 Chafer and Walvoord, *Major Bible Themes*, p. 358.
- 17 John Blanchard, *Sifted Silver* (Darlington, England: Evangelical Press, 1995), p. 178.
- 18 Evans, *The Great Doctrines*, p. 302.
- 19 James R. Adair, ed, *Be Quoted: From A to Z with Warren W. Wiersbe* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2000), p. 93.
- 20 Alan Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God* (Old Tappan, N.J.: Fleming H. Revell, 1962), p. 180.
- 21 F. B Meyer, *The Life of David* (Lynwood, Wash.: Emerald, 1995), p. 160.

