

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Week 4 - Day 4: The Promise of an Everlasting King

1 Samuel 13:14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you – Samuel to King Saul

Yesterday, we read how Israel was searching for a king who would humbly walk in the commands of the Lord and represent God's rule over His kingdom people. Immediately after Saul's disobedience, God takes away the kingdom and moves through Samuel to search for the, "man after his own heart." Samuel is led by God to the house of Jesse **from the tribe of Judah** looking for who would become the next king of Israel. Here is the surprising scene that ensues:

1 Samuel 16:6-12 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."

David went from being a forgotten and "ruddy" shepherd-boy to becoming the anointed king of Israel! As opposed to Saul who was "asked for" by Israel, David was chosen by God Himself! God truly does exalt the **humble!**

Even though David was chosen as God's next anointed one, he had a long road ahead of him before he became king. In a twist that only God Himself could orchestrate, David was recruited to serve in King Saul's administration by soothing Saul with his musical skills whenever the tormenting spirit would come upon the King. Since God had taken away the kingdom from Saul and had anointed David, Saul began to recognize David for his astonishing accomplishments and started to grow jealous of him. For example, after David defeated his enemies, including the famous Goliath, the people of Israel started chanting this phrase:

1 Samuel 18:7 "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

For the remainder of King Saul's life, David would be on the run from Saul's jealous wrath, but God's plans could not be thwarted! God continued to work out His plan for David to rule Israel with righteousness, justice and mercy.

1 Samuel 18:10-16 The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul. So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

Saul's hunt for David would occur on numerous occasions and would always end up with David sparing Saul's life. These chases even inspire some of David's most influential Psalms.

Psalm 59:1-4 Deliver me from my enemies, O God; be my fortress against those who are attacking me. Deliver me from evildoers and save me from those who are after my blood. See how they lie in wait for me! Fierce men conspire against me for no offense or sin of mine, Lord. I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me. Arise to help me; look on my plight! You, Lord God Almighty, you who are the God of Israel, rouse yourself to punish all the nations; show no mercy to wicked traitors.

Eventually, David was forced to flee to the land of his enemies: the Philistines. It wasn't until David heard of Saul's death that he returned to Israel. After settling the tensions between Saul and David's family, he was officially recognized as king of Israel! As king, he continued to defeat Israel's enemies! He even set up Jerusalem as the capital city, brought back the ark of the covenant (God's throne in the dwelling space of Israel), and desired to build a more permanent tabernacle for the Lord! David's desire was that God would return back to the hearts of Israel! God was so pleased with David and his leadership, that God reaffirms His kingdom promises through his offspring:

2 Samuel 7:8-16 Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring

after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'

Do you see it? God's everlasting kingdom rule in the midst of a house at the center of God's peaceful kingdom territory over God's kingdom people! What a beautiful picture!

Looking back at 2 Samuel 7, the question is why did the Lord promise to establish all of this through David's offspring and not David himself? David is a descendant of Abraham from the tribe of Judah and is a man after God's own heart. Why is king David not the one we have been looking for?

Unfortunately, when David settles into his kingly role and receives all of these promises, we begin to see that he too succumbs to his *pride* and bows the knee to the serpent. We even read that he commits adultery and murder:

2 Samuel 11:26-27 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

From this moment forward, we begin to see how David's sin leads to his fall. His family begins to unravel most notably through his son Absalom who rebels against the rule of his own father. Even David, a man after God's own heart, could not avoid the effects of the kingdom of sin.

The two books of Samuel challenge us to imagine a king that would have the heart of David, yet carry on the will of God entirely free of sin. One moment that I personally hold dear is when King David goes out looking for King Saul's family. For most kings, they would go out searching for the families of their enemies to destroy them, but David was looking for King Saul's family to bless and restore them. In his searching, he finds the crippled nephew of King Saul hidden in a village. When he finds him, he brings the boy into his house to be a part of his family and eat at his table.

2 Samuel 9:1-13 Then David said, "Is there anyone left of the family of Saul, to whom I may show kindness because of Jonathan?" Now there was a servant in Saul's house whose name was Ziba. They called him to David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." The king said, "Is there not still someone of the family of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who cannot walk because of his feet." So the king said

to him, "Where is he?" Ziba answered the king, "See, he is in the family of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar." Then King David sent men to bring him from the family of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. Mephibosheth the son of Saul's son Jonathan came to David and fell on his face to the ground in respect. David said, "Mephibosheth." And he answered, "Here is your servant!" David said to him, "Do not be afraid. For I will be sure to show kindness to you because of your father Jonathan. I will return to you all the land of your grandfather Saul. And you will eat at my table always." Again Mephibosheth put his face to the ground and said, "Who am I? Why should you care for a dead dog like me?" Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba and said to him, "I have given to your owner's grandson all that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants will grow food on the land for him. You will bring in the food so your owner's grandson may eat. But Mephibosheth your owner's grandson will always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do all that my lord the king tells your servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons. Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house were Mephibosheth's servants. So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he always ate at the king's table. Both his feet had been hurt and he could not walk.

The outcast who is in opposition to the royal family by birth, crippled at birth, and now without a Father is welcomed by this king and **restored** to a position at the king's table! This is what the coming Christ (Greek word for "anointed one") will look like.

Ephesians 2:1-5 At one time you were dead because of your sins. You followed the sinful ways of the world and obeyed the leader of the power of darkness. He is the devil who is now working in the people who do not obey God. At one time all of us lived to please our old selves. We gave in to what our bodies and minds wanted. We were sinful from birth like all other people and would suffer from the anger of God. But God had so much loving-kindness. He loved us with such a great love. Even when we were dead because of our sins, He made us alive by what Christ did for us. You have been saved from the punishment of sin by His loving-favor.

But which one of David's offspring would this be and how long until he comes?

-Chris Rodriguez

Share the Gospel: The story of King David is one that foreshadows a king of complete humility and total obedience. This is what it means to be "after God's own heart". As representatives of Christ's Kingdom, we are called to go out and find those who are broken by sin and restore them to the table of God.

Personal Observations, Reflections, and Prayers: