

God's Message to Us in 2 Samuel 1-24

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Introduction

Last week in our sermon series in which we are looking at God's message to us in every book of the Bible, we looked at the book of First Samuel.

- It covers about a century, from 1152-1055 BC—the ending date being the death of Saul.
- Second Samuel, which we are looking at today, picks up at 1055 and runs until 1015 when David was at the end of his life and ready to transfer the kingdom to Solomon, a circumstance that takes up the opening chapters of the book of First Kings.

Last week in First Samuel, we saw that there were three key figures—Samuel, Saul, and David, and we saw rich lessons from the lives of each of them.

I. Samuel the last judge—a rich picture of Jesus Christ our Judge (Shaphat).

- He was miraculously brought forth to barren Israel (as Jesus was),
- And he replaced a failed priesthood, brought the people to repentance, and delivered them from the enemies, as Jesus did.

II. Saul, the king—a picture of the antichrist (a false substitute for Christ).

- The people demanded a king like the nations and that is what God gave them.
- This was the last thing they needed. They needed a king that would *not* be like the nations, but would see himself rather as God's servant.
- Over time, Saul showed that he was in competition with God, using the authority God gave him as king to serve his own interests—such as in trying to kill David whom God had chosen to be the next king.

➤ And then we looked at David...

III. David the chosen king—a picture of Christ, the king that God wants.

- God described David as a man after His own heart.
- David showed that his great concern was that God would be honoured and glorified.
- Unlike Saul, he refused to take matters into his own hands and would not lift a hand against Saul even when Saul was trying to kill him. He waited until God took Saul out.
 - What a delightful picture of Jesus who was so committed to doing the Father's will and bringing glory to Him that He went to the cross when called to do so.

Today, with Second Samuel, we have an account of the entire reign of King David.

- David is, of course, a type of Christ—
 - David was God's Christ in his day.
 - *Christ* means *Anointed One* (so does *Messiah*).
 - Jesus is constantly referred to in the New Testament as *the Son of David*, the One who took David's throne as *the Christ* forever.
- So when we look at the Bible's revelation to us about David's reign in Second Samuel, we need to see David as occupying the place that Christ later takes in a much fuller and more glorious way.
 - Just as Jesus was represented by the priests who offered sacrifices and even by the sacrifices themselves as the One who was offered for our sins,
 - so He is represented by David as God's anointed king.

- That means that when we see how God interacts with David and his kingdom, we can learn about how God interacts with Christ and His kingdom now!
 - When God makes promises to David about his kingdom, we can read those promises with reference to Jesus Christ, the ultimate king.
 - It is the same kingdom, the difference is that now Christ, the one for whom the kingdom was prepared, has come and taken His place as king forever and ever.
- So I want you to understand something as we look at three lessons from Second Samuel this afternoon.
 - When I refer to “God’s anointed king” I am talking about both David and Jesus Christ.
 - David as the shadow revealing Christ, as a forerunner of Him...
 - And Christ as the Christ, the anointed One, to whom the kingdom rightly belongs.

With that in mind, let me show you the first great lesson about God’s anointed king that we find in Second Samuel.

I. See how ready and willing God is to bless His anointed king and his kingdom when His anointed king is loyal.

- A. The loyalty of David continues to be evident from the opening of Second Samuel.
1. He continues to show that he is a man after God’s own heart who does not want to use his kingly authority for anything except the glory of God.
 - He reigns not for himself—and not even for the people—but for the Lord.
 - What a difference it makes when those in authority as parents, governors, kings, presidents, or even managers recognise this!
 2. How is David’s loyalty shown to us?
 - a. First, we see it in the way that David handles the death of Saul and Jonathan.
 - He laments that Saul, God’s anointed king before him, has died.
 - Even though David could not be king until Saul was taken off the throne, and even though Saul had been trying to kill David to keep him from becoming king, David still laments that Saul has died.
 - His sorrow can be seen in chapter 1:11 where David tears his clothes upon hearing the news (a way of expressing grief) and writes a lamentation in 1:17-27.
 - When an Amalekite opportunist, supposing that David would be pleased with him if he had a part in slaying Saul, tries to take credit for Saul’s death, David has the Amalekite executed:
 - 2 Sam 1:14-16: **So David said to him, “How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD’s anointed?”** ¹⁵ **Then David called one of the young men and said, “Go near, *and* execute him!” And he struck him so that he died.** ¹⁶ **So David said to him, “Your blood *is* on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, ‘I have killed the LORD’S anointed.’”**
 - b. And this is no superficial matter either.
 - Everyone in all of Israel knows that David has been chosen to be king,
 - But when Ishbosheth, Saul’s son, sets himself up as king over all the tribes of Israel except Judah, David again leaves it to the Lord.

- When Ishbosheth ends up being killed by two of his own servants, who rush to tell David what they have done with the expectation that he will reward them,
 - David rewards them with death...for slaying an innocent man.
- After Ishbosheth dies, and David is anointed as king over all Israel,
 - And unlike a pagan king who promptly kills off all that remain of Saul's house for fear that they will rise up against him,
 - David looks for descendants of Saul so he can show kindness to them.
 - Chapter 9 opens with these words:
 - **Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"**
 - And he is told of Mephibosheth, a son of Jonathan, who is lame in his feet.
 - David takes him and shows free mercy to him, just the way the Lord Jesus does to us—calling him to come and live in his house and to eat at his table

c. Throughout his reign, David's loyalty is seen in his refusal to ever raise a hand against God's covenant people.

- We saw that with Saul and his household,
 - but we see it also with others who arise from the covenant people to attack David... he never uses his power and authority to strike back at them—he is loath to use his position for anything that even smells of personal vengeance.
- He is a fierce warrior when it comes to fighting with the enemies of God's people, but he is as gentle as a lamb with the heritage of the Lord...
 - just the way Jesus is with us.

B. But now then, what does God do when He sees His loyal king?

- He responds to Him by greatly blessing him!
 - As soon as He sees the loyal heart of our king—He blesses him and all who are in his kingdom.
 - You can see this in three ways in 2 Samuel.

1. First of all, we see how God gathers His people to the king that He has anointed.

- David shows his loyalty to the Lord, and the Lord brings the people to him.
 - We are told repeatedly how the hearts of the people are turned to faithful King David...
 - first, all the men of Judah,
 - and then all the people of the other tribes.
- We see this all the more with Jesus.
 - Not only does God gather Israel to Him, but people from all the nations upon the earth.
 - It is the Father's delight to give them His faithful Son!
 - And the day is coming when we will be with Him in glory.
 - Just think of it!

2. Secondly, we see how God gives His faithful anointed king victory over all his enemies.
 - a. In chapter 5, we are told how David is able to conquer the city of Jerusalem where the Jebusites lived.
 - Judah had not been able to drive out the Jebusites—Jerusalem is a tough city to conquer because of the way it is situated.
 - The Jebusites boasted that even the blind and the lame among them could repel David and his men.
 - But they do not figure God into the equation—He rewards His loyal king by giving Jerusalem to him.
 - b. At the end of chapter 5, we are told of the defeat of the Philistines.
 - And in chapter 8 of victories over Moab, Zobah, Syria, Ammon, and Edom.
 - Do you see?
 - It is God’s way to give victory to His anointed king when His king is faithful—He delights in doing so.
 - c. But how much more do we see this in His faithful King Jesus Christ!
 - Jesus will reign until He has brought all His enemies under His feet.
 - Satan and all who are united with him in rebellion will be destroyed and cast into the Lake of Fire.
 - Even death itself will be destroyed—it already has been—so that it cannot hold us...
 - We are raised to reign with Jesus forever—because Jesus was faithful.
 - Victory is God’s reward for His faithful king.
3. Thirdly, we see the marvellous covenant promise that God makes to His anointed king when he is faithful.
 - You can see this in 2 Samuel 7—one of the greatest chapters about God’s covenant promises to be found in the Bible.
 - a. In the first 11 verses (2 Sam 7:1-11), we see that David wants to build a house for God—a temple for the ark of the covenant.
 - But God says, “Not yet.”
 - He had said that when He had given His people rest in the land, He would let them build a house for His name,
 - but David has been the one who has been a warrior to drive out the enemies...
 - Therefore, the task of building a house for God will fall on David’s Son.
 - b. But the Lord goes far beyond that in His response to David...
 - He promises that David will have a Son who will reign forever—with a throne and a kingdom that will never ever end.
 - And of course that is the promise of Jesus Christ and His everlasting kingdom—
 - **2 Sam 7:12-17: “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will 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. ¹⁴ I will be his**

Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷ According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

TRANS> Do you see the gracious heart of our heavenly Father?

- In all these ways He shows how delighted He is to bless our king, Jesus, and us as His people.
 - He gathers us to our anointed king because He delights in Him...
 - He is pleased to destroy all the enemies of our anointed king...
 - And He promises Him a kingdom that will never end.
- How the Father loves to bless His faithful king along with His people!
 - That is the first thing I want you to see from 2 Samuel.
- Second... I want you to...

II. See how God chastens, yet preserves His anointed king and his kingdom when they need it.

A. That was part of the covenant promise we just read about in 2 Samuel 7.

1. Did you notice that part—in verse 14-15... 2 Sam 7:14-15 we have this second point summarised for us where God says to David of David’s royal sons:
 - **¹⁴ “I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you.”**
2. Do you see the important contrast here with Saul?
 - God cut Saul off for his wickedness, but with David’s sons, God promises to chasten them so as to restore them.
 - That is how the LORD deals with His people—He chastens them with a view to correcting them—for the purpose of preserving them as His people.
 - And that is how the Lord chastens His anointed king.
 - He chastens us for our own good.

B. We see this very thing with David.

1. Overall, David was a man after God’s own heart, but he was not perfect.
 - a. We see him doing something foolish that God had forbidden his kings to do—he multiplies wives.
 - This sets him up for much sorrow with factions in his own home.
 - b. But David’s great downfall comes in chapter 11.
 - David is almost fifty years old at this time, and he does not go out with his men to fight.
 - He sees his neighbour Uriah’s beautiful wife Bathsheba on her roof bathing—
 - Her husband is out fighting with God’s armies.
 - David, even though he knows that Bathsheba is married, sends for her and ends up making her pregnant.

- That was bad enough—but then David adds to offense by trying to cover up his sin.
 - He calls her husband Uriah to come off the field in hopes that he will sleep with Bathsheba and think he is the father, but Uriah refuses to enjoy such pleasures when his fellow soldiers are on the battlefield.
 - David tries making Uriah drunk, but he still does not approach his wife.
 - So then David sends Uriah back to the battlefield with a note to the commander to put Uriah in the place of danger so that he will be struck down.
 - Here is David doing the thing that he had refused to do before—using his royal authority as God’s king for his own selfish purposes!
 - What a wretched thing to do!
2. From this point on, we see David bearing the consequences of his sin.
- a. God sent Nathan the prophet to rebuke David in chapter 12.
 - 1) Nathan tells David a parable about a rich man, who wanting to feed his guests, takes his neighbour’s one sheep that was a household pet...
 - David’s anger burns and he declares that the man should be executed for such wickedness and should restore fourfold.
 - Then Nathan says to David, “You are the man!”
 - 2) Hear the punishment that the Lord puts upon David as recorded in verses 9-12... chapter 12, verse 9-12:
 - **2 Sam 12:9-12: “Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife *to be* your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. ¹⁰ Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.” ¹¹ Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹² For you did *it* secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.”**
 - b. And in the rest of Second Samuel, we see this played out.
 - 1) When David confesses his sin, Nathan tells him that God has forgiven him and that he will not die in his sin...
 - But the awful punishment that I just read about still falls upon David.
 - 2) In fact, the fourfold penalty that David said the man taking the sheep should have falls upon David with his sons.
 - He had to bury four of them...
 - a) First, there is the son that came of David’s adultery—that son dies soon after he is born... you can see that in chapter 12, v. 15-23.
 - b) Next, there is the sad account in chapter 13 of David’s son Amnon who becomes full of lust for his half-sister Tamar—and ends up raping her.
 - David does not punish Amnon, so Tamar’s full brother Absalom kills Amnon.

- c) Then Absalom, disgusted still with his father David, raises up a wicked rebellion against him.
 - I don't have time to go into the details (the account runs from chapter 14 to chapter 20), but he gets many of the tribes of Israel to rise up against David, and actually forces David to flee from Jerusalem.
 - Absalom moves into the palace and sets up a tent on the roof to sleep with David's concubines, showing that he has taken David's place and to fulfill the prophecy about David's wives.
 - War ensues and Absalom is killed by Joab, in disregard of David's orders not to kill his son.
 - David weeps bitterly for this his third son to die.
 - d) We learn of the death of a fourth son of David when we get to 1 Kings—His son Adonijah who sets himself up as king instead of Solomon.
3. But notice something wonderfully gracious in all of this.
- The LORD chastens David, but He also continues to show mercy to him.
 - Yes, the baby of his adultery with Bathsheba dies. but then God gives Bathsheba another son by David, even Solomon whom God loves and appoints to be David's successor.
 - And yes, Absalom raises up this great rebellion against his father, but Absalom does not prevail.
 - He is defeated and the kingdom is restored to David.
 - And with Adonijah, although he tries to usurp the place of Solomon as the next king, he does not succeed.
 - All through his chastisement, David is growing and David is learning of the Lord and trusting Him.
 - Though his sorrows are great, he sees that the mercy of God is not taken away. God is still with him.

C. We should be so thankful that God chastens us!

1. If He did not, the church would have been wiped out long ago.
 - Understand that it was not just David who suffered when he was chastened.
 - All of the people in God's kingdom had to deal with the division and the civil war, all because of what their anointed king did.
 - God's people are closely tied together with their anointed king—so that when the king is loyal, they are blessed with their king.
 - When he is not, they are chastened with him.
2. There is nothing unfair about this.
 - The people are sinners and they needed to be chastened too.
 - In fact, at the end of the book, it goes the other way where the people have sinned and God wants to chasten them, so He stirs up David to number Israel—an offensive thing—to give Him a reason to chasten them.
 - When we have rulers doing wicked sinful things that bring God's judgment, we should not complain—God is visiting us for our own sins.

3. But my brothers and sisters, be very glad that it works this way if Jesus is your king.
 - Be thankful that Jesus is NEVER unfaithful.
 - That is why He was rewarded with an everlasting kingdom in glory for Him and for all His people—including David His forerunner.
 - Christ and His righteousness trumps everything—
 - He is elevated above all others as our supreme representative, and if we are in Him, we can be sure of blessing.
 - Be thankful that He is so closely tied to us that the chastisement of our sins fell upon Him as our king.
 - He went to the cross to bear our sins—to purify His kingdom—all of us—so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life.

TRANS> And now let's turn to our last observation from Second Samuel...

III. See how God's anointed king properly responds to God.

A. In 2 Samuel 22 & 23 you can see how he praises God for delivering him.

1. As it says in the first verse, **Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.**
 - a. Then you have this wonderful song of praise in which David speaks of how he was completely overwhelmed by his enemies and **surrounded by the waves of death,**
 - but then cried out to the LORD and how the LORD came forth in a way that shook the whole earth—a father coming to rescue his son:
 - **2 Sam 22: 8-10: “Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, because He was angry. 9 Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; coals were kindled by it. 10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet.”**
 - And then David tells of his rescue in verse 17-20:
 - **2 Sam 22:17-20: “He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. 18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me; for they were too strong for me. 19 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support. 20 He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.”**
 - And the reason God rescued him was because of his righteousness:
 - **2 Sam 22:21-25: “The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. 22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. 23 For all His judgments were before me; and as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. 24 I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. 25 Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His eyes.”**

- Then he speaks about how the Lord gave him victory over his enemies so that he was able to subdue them all.
 - In 2 Sam 22:44-46, he says: **“You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people; You have kept me as the head of the nations. A people I have not known shall serve me. ⁴⁵ The foreigners submit to me; as soon as they hear, they obey me. ⁴⁶ The foreigners fade away, and come frightened from their hideouts.”**
 - And in verse 50-51, he concludes the psalm with these words:
 - 2 Sam 22:50-51: **“Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name. ⁵¹ He is the tower of salvation to His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, to David and his descendants forevermore.”**
- b. So you can see in all of this that he is praising God for what we saw before...
 - That when God found his heart loyal to Him as the anointed king of His people, He was most eager to bless him...
 - He gave him victory and dominion over all his enemies.
 - Of course David’s righteousness is only a shadow of the righteousness of Christ.
 - Ultimately, this psalm is the psalm of Jesus who was overwhelmed when He bore our sins on the cross, but was heard because of His righteousness and made the head of all the nations.
- c. And now King Jesus calls us together as our king to join Him in praising God for delivering Him.
 - We have much reason to do so, because as our king, His deliverance is our deliverance.
 - By accepting His righteousness as our king, the Father has accepted all of those who trust in Him for salvation.
 - Jesus has appointed that each Lord’s Day, we come together and join Him to sing praises to God for our salvation in Him as our king.
 - Jesus is our liturgist—our worship leader—according to Hebrews 8:2 where *liturgist* is translated “a *minister* of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected and not man.”
 - And in Hebrews 2:12, He says that He will declare God’s name to us and sing praises in the assembly with us.
 - So when we sing Psalms of deliverance, we should not think of them merely as David’s songs, but as they are more fully,
 - the songs of our anointed king, Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church today.

2. In chapter 23, David himself confirms that ultimately, it is Christ who secures our salvation as well as his (David’s).

 - Look at verse 23:3 where David declares the standard required of God’s anointed king:
 - 2 Sam 23:3: **“The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me: ‘He who rules over men *must be just*, ruling in the fear of God.’ ”**

- David knows that this is about Jesus Christ, for he says in verse 5:
 - **2 Sam 23:5-6: “Although my house is not so with God, yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire; will He not make it increase?”**
 - Here, you see, David’s hope is not in himself, but in the promise of God concerning his house—
 - He knows that his salvation is in the Christ who is to come.
 - That is where David’s hope is.

TRANS> Our anointed king leads us in these praises to God!

- We are to join Him with our whole heart.

B. And then in chapter 24, we see that our anointed king also trusts in the blood of covenant that God has appointed to atone for the sins of His whole kingdom.

1. The chapter opens with the report that God is angry with Israel for their sins and stirs up David to number Israel.

- **Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.”**
 - David should not have done this, but Israel needed to be judged and God left David to Satan in order to make this an occasion for his chastening hand to fall on them.

2. After he numbers them, David realises that he has sinned and repents, and the Lord tells him of three punishments that he can choose from.

- David chooses a plague that God will send, preferring not to have any human agency involved, knowing that the LORD is merciful.
- Look at what happens from verse 15:

- **2 Sam 24:15-19: So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died. 16 And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, “It is enough; now restrain your hand.” And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 17 Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, “Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father’s house.” 18 And Gad came that day to David and said to him, “Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” 19 So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.**

- This site of the threshing floor is the place where the temple is later built.
 - David offers sacrifice here and the plague is stopped and the people are delivered. Verse 25, the last verse of 2 Samuel, says: **And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.**

3. So the book ends with God’s anointed king trusting in the blood of the covenant that God has appointed to atone for the sins of the people.

- How much more did King Jesus do this?
 - He trusted in His own blood which He poured out in obedience to the Father on the cross to atone for the sins of His people.
- If His eyes are turned to this sacrifice to atone for our sins, then how much more must all of us turn our eyes to it?
 - There is no other way to be saved except by the blood of Jesus Christ, shed for the remission of sins.
 - God has accepted this sacrifice and here we find full forgiveness.
 - Join with Jesus, trusting in the blood of the covenant, shed for the remission of our sins.
 - What a tremendous ending for this book of Second Samuel.
 - It begins with a picture of our loyal king, and it ends with a picture of Him accepted as a sacrifice for our sins.