

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (July 10) – 1 Samuel 26

In 1 Samuel 26 David once again spares the life of King Saul, as he famously did in the cave in chapter 24. This incident of David sparing Saul's life again is yet another example of the great patience of David as he trusts in the Lord to fulfill His promises. In his parting from Saul, David makes clear where his trust remains. Though he promised not to harm Saul, David does not trust him. He trusts solely in the Lord to deliver his life out of all tribulation (v. 24). In so doing, David clearly exemplifies the Psalm, which we would do well to follow: "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation" (Psalm 146:3). No matter what earthly rulers may promise, it is the Lord alone in whom we place our trust.

Tuesday (July 11) – 1 Samuel 27, 28

In chapter 27 David embarks on a self-imposed exile. As he lives among the Philistines, David continues to seek the good of his people, as he goes on raids against the remaining Canaanite clans who were not dealt with in the conquest under Joshua. Note that the Geshurites were one of the remaining groups to be conquered in Joshua 13:2. Also, Saul's failure to deal with the Amalekites earns him reprimand in 1 Samuel 28:18. While the anointed king of Israel neglects his responsibilities according to God's command, David continues to demonstrate faithfulness, even in exile. Notice as well that no judgement is passed on David's shrewd actions in this chapter. We're simply told of the events as David seeks to be faithful in a difficult situation. Whether or not his efforts were perfectly sinless, the Lord blesses David and continues to work through him. This ought to give God's people today confidence as we seek to deal with many difficult or impossible situations. The Lord continues to be at work through the actions of men, despite human sinfulness and shortcomings.

In chapter 28 not much has changed since the challenge of Goliath in chapter 17. Saul continues to tremble before the Philistines, except this time David is not present to fight for him. In fear, Saul turns to the Lord, but the Lord refuses to answer him. Saul has repeatedly turned away from the Lord, and the Lord sees Saul's lack of true repentance. The Lord will not hear or answer the prayer of one who has committed himself to the path of unbelief. Saul's failure to truly repent is demonstrated in that he turns next to a medium who dabbles in the satanic arts. In the Second Commandment, God commands His people to call upon Him in faith during times of need. Saul lacks both faith and trust in the Lord, and so he is not heard.

Wednesday (July 12) – 1 Samuel 29, 30

In chapter 29 the Lord continues His gracious pattern of providing for David. David finds himself in a difficult situation, and the Lord provides a way for him to avoid fighting against his own people. In so doing, David is also enabled to rescue his city and wives, as we will see in the next chapter. Romans 8:28 offers a contemporary application for God's people. God never promises that all will be easy in our lives, but He does promise to work for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

In chapter 30 the Lord continues providing for David, this time through the Egyptian servant. Again, this is not a universal promise to God's people that He will always grant you what you want if you trust Him enough—that is not how God works. But it is a continual reminder of how the Lord is always at work to accomplish His purpose in this world.

Thursday (July 13) – 1 Samuel 31; 2 Samuel 1

In 1 Samuel 31 King Saul finally meets his fate. This death was a long time in coming, but David refuses to grasp for and seize the throne for himself. He waited for God to vindicate him before his enemies. And in this we see a type of our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of David, who refused to fight His enemies with force. Instead, He was vindicated by His Father as He accomplished the salvation of the world through the surrendering of His own life on the cross.

In 2 Samuel 1 we read of David's response to Saul's death. David sings: "How the mighty have fallen!" (vv. 19 & 27). Indeed, this is the great reversal of which Hannah sung in 1 Samuel 2:7: "The Lord...brings low and He exults." The Lord brought down mighty Saul, because in God's kingdom the first shall be last and the last shall be first (Matthew 20:16).

Friday (July 14) – 2 Samuel 2

After the death of Saul, we see competing kings established in 2 Samuel 2. David is established as king of the tribe of Judah, and Saul's son Ish-bosheth is king of Israel. The brutality which results from this competition is always the result when humans reject the Lord's will. From Cain to Ish-bosheth to today, violence and brutality characterizes the pagan rejection of the Lord. Only the true King, our Lord Jesus, can offer lasting peace.

Saturday (July 15) – 2 Samuel 3, 4

In chapter 3 the warfare between Saul's house and David continues—but the Lord is on David's side. However, this is not because of David's goodness. This chapter reveals David's moral failures related to women. God is with David because He chose him to be the patriarch in a line of kings leading to humanity's true King, Jesus, as we will soon hear promised.

Sunday (July 16) – 2 Samuel 5, 6

In chapter 5 the Lord finally grants David the kingdom promised to him, and David conquers Jerusalem from the Jebusites. None of these events went the way they would have been imagined when Samuel anointed David, but the Lord has a way of accomplishing His purposes in this world in unexpected manners, as we have seen repeatedly in David's life.

In chapter 6 we see the disastrous effects of borrowing our worship practices from the surrounding culture. Even though God's Word contained clear instructions for how the priests were to carry the Ark of the Covenant, the Israelites adopted the contemporary Philistine practice of transporting the ark by ox cart. This resulted in the death of Uzzah, and David laid the blame on the priests for not knowing and following God's instructions to them (see 1 Chronicles 15:13). Christians today should resist the adoption of any worship methods from alien and non-Christian sources. These are not, as David said, within "the proper order."