

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (July 24) – 2 Samuel 16, 17

David as king is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ who is the true saving King of His people. David is also a sinner, however, and sees the cursing of Shimei as a just consequence of his sins. In a humble display of faith, the king receives this treatment as coming from the Lord Himself. David also remembers that God would raise up evil against him from his own house (12:11). Although it is God's judgment upon the house of David, Absalom's sin is his own, and he is personally responsible for it. The historical record before us is one of human failure and yet divine intervention. In spite of human sinfulness, God's redemptive plan will be carried out. It is truly the Lord, not man, who is the Savior of His covenant people.

Tuesday (July 25) – 2 Samuel 18

Absalom, who is contending for David's throne, is killed. One who is hanged on a tree is cursed of God (Deuteronomy 21:23). David is overcome by grief at the death of his son. Absalom, who had pridefully set up for himself a monument, is cast down from his throne (v. 18). The throne belongs to God alone. He is the true King of His people, reigning over us all in His saving grace.

Wednesday (July 26) – 2 Samuel 19

David's mourning over his son's death must give way to his service as king once more. After Joab speaks directly to David, the victory then leads to reconciliation between him and the people. Even though Joab acted wickedly by killing Absalom, he now gives David wise counsel, which David receives. In a display of mercy, David grants pardon to Absalom's traitorous army. Our King Jesus Christ, in His victory over sin and death, provides pardon and reconciliation for us as His repentant people. The fruit of His righteousness is sown in peace as we share that peace as His people (James 3:18).

Thursday (July 27) – 2 Samuel 20

There is another rebellion against king David in the north. Yet the Lord restores David to his throne. Christ, the Son of David, is the true King who will reign forever. His kingdom will have no end (Luke 1:33). Joab's jealousy of Amasa leads to murder. This is the third time that Joab has murdered (also Abner, commander of Saul's army, and Absalom). The Lord will one day bring back the deeds of Joab upon him (1 Kings 2:32). A woman who is peaceable and faithful gives a word of guidance to Joab. A peaceful answer turns away wrath (Proverbs 15:1). The Lord grants His peace in Christ preserving the heritage of the Lord for His glory!

Friday (July 28) – 2 Samuel 21

God responds to David's prayerful plea for the land and the Lord's justice prevails. Seven men are hanged for the blood guilt of Saul. God's word reminds us that the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation (Exodus 20:5–6). We witness the care of Rizpah for her slain children. Although justice has been done, she does not go

unnoticed by the mercy of the king. David brings forth the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan that all may be buried together in one family grave.

Saturday (July 29) – 2 Samuel 22

David records a song of salvation to his God. Although death and destruction surround him as king, David gives praise to God as the true King of His people. David's service as the anointed point toward the coming of another, the Anointed One—our Savior, Jesus Christ. God's people today sing songs of salvation to the Lord. Christian hymnody is filled with words extolling God's greatness and His grace. For Christ our Lord came in the power of the Spirit to save His people from their sins!

Sunday (July 30) – 2 Samuel 23, 24

The Spirit of the Lord speaks through David in these last words of testimony (v. 2), for the Lord has made an everlasting covenant with him (v. 5). David then speaks of the mighty men through which the Lord brought a great victory. The Lord works salvation through His people upon whom He has placed His Spirit still this day!

In chapter 24 David enacts a sinful census. His motivation is wrong before God, because he is placing his confidence in the strength and numbers of his men of war. This is a First Commandment issue—we are to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. Also, there is some sin of the people not here mentioned. The Lord is angry toward Israel and as a punishment brings about the census, showing forth David's sin for what it is. In this way the Lord provides an opportunity to reveal what is already going wrong in David's heart and bring punishment upon the people.

The Holy Spirit records this same event in 1 Chronicles 21:1, revealing that this was accomplished through the instrumentality of Satan, whose name means adversary. Under divine authority this enemy of God's people moved David to act. It is a mystery how the Lord might at times punish sins through sinners. David admits that all this was the consequence of his own sin: "Was it not I who gave command to number the people? It is I who have sinned and done great evil" (1 Chronicles 21:17). Having repented of his sin, David then makes a wise and faithful choice regarding his punishment, knowing that it is better to fall into the hands of the Lord than into the hand of man. David builds an altar, makes offerings, and the Lord responds to his plea for the land.