

# The Life and Death of King David

## The Early Days

I'm taking away with me ...  
an **Ex**ample to follow

a **P**romise to claim

an **E**rror to avoid

a **C**ommand to obey

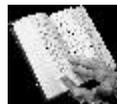
a **T**ruth to remember



church  
events

May 21 **Grief** 1 Sam.28.31-2Sam1  
May 28 **Unhelpful Helpers** 2 Sam 2.5-5  
June 4 **David & Jerusalem** 2 Sam 5-6  
Lunches for 8  
June 5 **Session**  
June 11 **Sovereign Grace** 2 Sam 7  
June 17 **Equip Training Days**

1 Samuel 28.31-2 Samuel 1



reading  
ahead

# 1 Samuel 21-31

**what can you pray for arising from this study?**

& for members of your group...

& for others linked to your group..

& for non-believing friends...

**our ministries:**

Pray for the music ministry which is serving us so well in serving God with our praises.

**partner church:**

**BLACKTOWN WEST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

David and Caron Balzer

1. For David's father, Chris, the Presbyterian minister at Gouburn, who is adjusting to the recent loss of his wife. Pray for David in his loss as well.
2. For David and Caron finding time for being together in the busyness of their life.
3. Family Prayer and Bible Time.
4. The fragile fringe people at church that they will grow in their love and commitment to God and his people.

**world mission:**

# The Big Picture

## Application

The lines are not clear cut in this section. David seems treacherous and two-faced and yet he is not judged. Rather, God saves him in very difficult circumstances several times! Saul however, whilst he searches for God is left utterly alone. He resorts to using means he himself has outlawed to gain some help. All it does is conjure Samuel's wrath yet again. David the blessed and Saul the cursed. What makes matters worse is that what David did is reported but we have no comment from the author as to its goodness or badness. Is David again falling into moral flexibility or is he an enterprising and cunning political animal? The story doesn't tell us directly. The story does have one very strong presence behind it though - that of God. What is clear is that God will not give up on David. God's salvation will occur no matter what David does even when he makes alliances with the Philistines! It is about what God is doing and not as much about what David is doing or failing to do. I find this a great encouragement. God will not give up on us. God is what this story is about and that is true in our lives as well. Our shoddy morals or our clever genius are not going to stop God doing what he will. This does not mean we slide into an attitude that simply says it doesn't matter but, rather, we understand that God works all things for his glory and not ours. We need as best we can to know that and live lives that point to that truth.

## The Big picture in the Bible - David and Jesus

David enters the enemies camp and God does not stop working but works his purposes out even in Ziklag. Jesus enters the enemies camp—the world. A world that was as hostile to him as any Philistine city would have been to an Israelite. Jesus enters the enemies camp and fulfils the purposes of God. Jesus enters the enemies camp and saves those at war with him by dying in his enemies place. If Jesus had not done this then not one of us would have had a hope. The cross, the most hostile response to God ever, does not stop God but fulfils his great saving plan for humanity. God works even in the most hostile places and it is worth thanking him every single day for that!

# General Introduction to the Book

## Background

The books 1 & 2 Samuel tell the story of God's people and their new kingdom. The Bible story so far is that God has brought his people out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses. He brought them to the land he had promised Abraham long before. Joshua leads the people into the land and they occupy it. Once that generation has died out, God's people live with little knowledge of God (Judges 1:10). During this time God raises up Judges to judge his people and to protect them as well. But the story is fairly sad leading up to the birth of Samuel. The last verse in Judges says "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit."

That is the situation Israel was in at the opening of 1 Samuel.

## The books of 1 & 2 Samuel

In 1 & 2 Samuel we see the rise of a new kingdom. God leads his people through Samuel (his birth starts the story.) Under Samuel the people ask for a king and God graciously gives them one. This king is Saul and we follow his story initially but unfortunately Saul fails to rule as God wants. Thus we look to another king, who God decides will be David. David and his son Solomon have kingships that are the high point in Israel's history. Israel was never stronger and more secure than under their rule. But here in these books we can see the seeds that will be the downfall of God's people under their kings. God warns them early in the process that they will regret having kings, but He doesn't give up on them. He uses the kings to fulfil his purposes at all times.

## How the studies will work

We will be looking at chapters 1-17. This section narrates the rise of Samuel and the rise and fall of Saul. David enters the scene at the end of these chapters and helps us to look forward to his coming kingship.

To help us understand where each passage fits into the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, each week there will be a box that gives us the bigger picture.

Throughout the studies we need to keep in mind that we are learning a lot about God and the history of his people but we are also being given clues as to what God's great king, Jesus and his kingdom will look like.

To help us see this, we will also have a section in each study that looks at how the passage we have studied fits in within the whole of God's story in the Bible with an emphasis on Jesus.

### **Read 29:1-11**

How does God avert the tragedy of David fighting his own people?

Everything works against Saul but David is blessed at every turn. Even when David is conning his way through situations God remains faithful to him.

### **Read 30:1-10**

What does David return to find?

Things have gone wrong to say the least. Where does David find strength?

God is now consulted for the first time in 3 chapters. What does he tell David?

### **Read 11-31**

How successful is David's rescue?

David now has a great deal of plunder (not only his own possessions). What do the evil men and troublemakers demand David do?

Who does David rightly credit with their victory?

How does he express his friendship by the division of plunder in Judah?

What does this say about David's care of his people—the people he will one day be king over?

# Study 5

## 1 Samuel 27,29-30

### A Community of Grace

#### Introduction

David is driven to desperate measures. He leaves the territory of Israel and takes up a position in Ziklag by making an alliance with the Philistine king Achish. There are some very strange incidents in this section. At one point it seems David must fight his own people which would be politically disastrous. David is blessed in spite of his treacherous ways. Saul however is a desperate and doomed man. David's time spent in the Philistine territory may serve him well in the future but right now it is hard to see how God will work everything out.

#### Read 27:1-12

Even though Saul keeps promising to leave David alone (and then does the exact opposite) David decides it is time to go somewhere out of Saul's reach. What is David's solution?

Who does David attack?

David deceives Achish. How?

In what way does David make sure no one does him in?

Achish is happy about David's exploits (at least what David is telling him). Why?

David makes a big gamble here. He not only leaves Israel but teams up with their most passionate enemies. He makes an alliance with Achish and gives him the impression he is attacking his own people the Israelites. David is a con man and an actor in this section. His gamble pays off and Achish believes he is loyal. The question is "how will David keep the charade up?".

# Study 1

## 1 Samuel 21-22

### Church a Dangerous Place

#### Introduction

The rages of Saul demand that David flee for his life. Jonathan can no longer serve as a protector to David as Saul has even turned on him. David flees so quickly that he has absolutely nothing with him – no weapons, nor men, not even food. He heads to the sanctuary of God at Nob because there is no where else to go. He must have looked a desperate person because he startles the priest, Ahimelech. David in these chapters is not a model character; he deceives people repeatedly and his deceptions contribute to some disastrous outcomes. What we do see in these chapters is that God is still in control of David's destiny and that Saul has become overtly evil and tyrannical.

#### Read 21:1-9

David, the man on the run, startles the priest. What is Ahimelech's reaction to David's arrival? How can we see that Ahimelech is suspicious by his reaction?

What does David do to cover himself?

Who overhears this interaction between David and Ahimelech?

David comes to the sanctuary and finds rest and food and is now armed for his own protection.

#### Read 9-15

David now strangely flees to a Philistine King and to the home town of Goliath (we do not know why). Maybe he hoped he would not be recognised and, therefore, just treated like another stranger. But his plan goes wrong. How?

Again, out of the mouth of someone in the passage, the unrecognised truth is revealed. What is it?

How does David cover himself this time?

**Read 22:1-5**

Who now gathers around David? Why?

Where does David go next? He has family connections in Moab (Ruth, his great grandmother was a Moabitess). He makes arrangements to keep his family safe.

David is in a tight spot but who is clearly watching out for him?

**Read 22:6-10**

The action now shifts back to Saul. Notice Saul always seems to be carrying a spear but David had to look for a weapon. Saul is a nervous and tyrannical man. He is talking to his own people (his own tribe Benjamin). What are his accusations against them?

How do they respond? Fear may be causing them to be slow of tongue.

Who does stand up and speak? Is he from the tribe of Benjamin? What does he tell Saul?

Doeg is truly an opportunist. He is an outsider but in these chapters he happily sides and becomes the muscle for a King even his own people have started to lose confidence in.

**Read 11-23**

What does Saul accuse Ahimelech of?

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church events

May 21 **Grief** 1 Sam 28.31- 2 Sam 1

May 28 **Unhelpful Helpers** 2 Sam 2.5-5

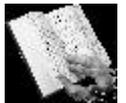
June 4 **David & Jerusalem** 2 Sam 5-6  
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1 Samuel 27,29-30



reading ahead

## The Big picture in the Bible - David and Jesus

Sometimes the gulf between David and Jesus is enormous. In v21 David complains about Nabal, 'He has paid me back evil for good.' This is the justification for strapping on a sword and going after Nabal. But for the followers of Jesus we are called to copy the one who 'repaid evil with good'. David is a fine model for many things and a model even for the Lord Jesus at times but not in every thing and not in this—his heart was bigger than David's.

### what can you pray for arising from this study?

& for members of your group... & for others linked to your group.. & for non-believing friends...

#### our ministries:

Pray for Sunday School—for Jill, Chris, Kath and Helene and the kids. We will be needing some new teachers soon to help with the aim of leading in the future. Please pray that God will lay this ministry on some of our member's hearts.

#### partner church:

##### **DUBBO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Allan & Kathryn**

1. Kathryn Blanch is due in six weeks pray for a safe birth.
2. Pray that they will adjust to three children.
3. Kathryn has a couple of friends (new Christians) with life issues—pray for Kathryn's wisdom in these situations.
4. For Allan that he will think creatively and pastorally in regards to Youth Group.

#### world mission:

What is Ahimelech's defence? Is it true?

Saul has stepped over the line in asking for the priests to be put to death. They are God's servants and here they are clearly innocent. How can we see this?

Who takes up Saul's command?

It is clear this is a massacre. 85 unarmed men were killed. But it is worse than that. Doeg goes further than even Saul requests. What does he do?

David now sees the result of leaving Ahimelech in the dark about his escape. Saul's rage has ended their lives. What does he say to Abiathar?

# The Big Picture

## Application

As we reflect on these chapters, we can see that being Godly does not always lead to peace and security. It can often be hard and painful. David is in such a tight spot that he flees with absolutely nothing. He now has to rely on God utterly. But instead of evidence of trust we see deception. However God has not given up and when David settles down a bit in Moab God guides him through the prophet, Gad.

In these chapters we need to take David (as with many of God's people) as a negative example. He fails to maintain his integrity and compromises his character.

When it gets tough for us how will we respond?

When difficulties strike we have an opportunity show our trust in God and weather the storm by not compromising our principles.

It is so central that we have gospel principles as central in our lives. So often we can simply make poor decisions because we have not thought through how the gospel applies in a certain situation. Sometimes living out the gospel will mean difficulty for us but going for an outcome that forsakes who we are in Christ is something we must avoid.

## The Big picture in the Bible - David and Jesus

David under pressure and Jesus under pressure are two different people. They both have authority, we can see this in the issue of the consecrated bread in both their lives. But David's authority is not only questioned but utterly rejected at this point in the story. David is forced to flee and is under severe pressure. He survives by deception. Jesus, when his authority was questioned, responded by trusting in God and pointing people to him. At his temptation by Satan in the desert he maintains his integrity by relying on God's word. When the Jewish leaders question his authority he answers by speaking God's word to them. When bearing the sin of the world lies before him he will not give up living out his father's purpose. Jesus, under pressure, shows himself to be God's son. David shows himself to be, like us, in desperate need of forgiveness.

### what can you pray for arising from this study?

& for members of your group... & for others linked to your group.. & for non-believing friends...

#### our ministries:

##### Sunday Afternoon Youth Group

Pray for the new Youth Group starting up for Junior High Schoolers on Sunday Afternoons from 4.30-6.00 pm. We begin on the 14th of May. Pray for kids to come and that Gwyn and Rachel Morgan and Dave will be used by God in helping the kids know God.

#### partner church:

##### KOGARAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Tim and Sue Ravenhall

1. To be godly in their marriage despite the business of study and work.
2. Next year Tim and Sue will be taking up a parish appointment so prayer that they will be willing to embrace where God sends them.
3. Praise for how God is working in the lives and hearts of the people of Kogarah PC.

#### world mission:

##### LESLEY PIDGEON

This Saturday is the Central Tablelands Christian Women's Conference, Elizabeth Foord is our speaker and we are looking at what God says about freedom in Colossians . It is held in Orange. I'm on the organizing committee. Please pay for the final preparation as I am leading one of the sessions and am on the registration desk. We have over 170 women attending for around our region. Term 2 for uni starts next week. Grant Thorp is giving the first talk on the gospel and evangelism. This is a lead into the second week when we have our Christianity Awareness Week, 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May (two weeks time). This year the theme is Christianity – What do you think? On the lawn we will have a cross to which people can attach comments.

David's request is based on more than just his status as the true king. What generous service has he provided to Nabal without his knowledge? V. 21

How does David's resolution in v22 impact you? What do we learn of David in this statement?

What does Abigail want to do through her journey to David? v24-31

Abigail's plan works. How does David praise her? vs. 32-35

What is Nabal's response to hearing the news (with a hangover)?

God judges Nabal directly. Abigail becomes David's wife and seems a suitable companion for him. David has shown himself to be reasonable and humble in this section - good traits for God's leader.

Write Nabal's response in modern Australian?

David the king now goes into action. How?

**Read 14-44**

One of Nabal's wise servants goes to the more intelligent member of the marriage and tells her what?

What is surprising about the way he describes his master? Does Abigail contradict him?

What plan does Abigail devise?

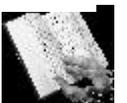
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church events

- May 7 ***Beauty and the Fool*** 1 Sam.24
- May 14 ***A Community of Grace*** 1 Sam.27,29-30
- May 15 *Committee of Management*
- May 21 ***Grief*** 1 Sam.28.31-2Sam1
- May 28 ***Unhelpful Helpers*** 2 Sam 2.5-5
- June 4 *Lunches for 8*

1 Samuel 23-24;26



reading ahead

# Study 2

## 1 Samuel 23-24;26

### Wilderness

#### **Introduction**

David is still on the run. But now Saul is personally chasing him. David, in these chapters, shows himself both protected by God and in tune with God's will. David refuses to kill Saul even when he has the chance. He holds the anointing Saul received as King as too important to disregard. Possibly because he, himself, has been anointed and thus knows the significance of this act. Saul remains unstable and his actions continue to contradict his words. God is clearly present in David's troubles and David acknowledges that regularly here.

#### **Read 1-14**

Saul is bent on his own paranoid political agendas but David is playing the role of the true king. How can we see this in his dealings with Keilah?

David is relying on God's will. How can we see that here? Vs. 2-4

What is the significance of Abiathar and the presence of the ephod in David's force?

Saul has spies (as David does). What does Saul decide to do?

When David hears of this plot, how does he react? Discuss the contrast of this with last week's chapters.

# Study 3

## 1 Samuel 25

### Beauty and the Fool

#### **Introduction**

David is still on the run but Saul is no where in sight. This time he is hard pressed by foolishness and ingratitude. The preciousness with which he weighed Saul's life is strangely absent when, in his anger, he threatens to kill all the males in Nabal's household. It is only the intervention of Abigail and her wisdom on David's behalf that saves him from becoming just another thug calling himself a king.

#### **Read 1-13**

We must remember that David is God's true king throughout this whole episode. What significance could the death of Samuel have for David? V1

How are Abigail and Nabal described? V.3

What does telling you about Nabal before revealing his name shape the way you assess his character?

What does David ask and how? Vs. 4-8

What is the reason for David's success in avoiding Saul? V. 14

**Read 15-29**

Who again comes to help David? Now the plans of God are revealed plainly. What does Jonathan tell David?

The Ziphites betray David. How?

What language does Saul use that seems utterly in contrast to his plans? What does it reveal about Saul's character?

How does God keep David and his men from harm? Vs. 26-29

**Read 24:1-22**

Saul refuses to give up.

What amusing incident occurs in the cave?

How does David react to what he has done? V. 5 Why? Vs. 6-7

How do David's actions before the King and his words reveal his character?

David is honest and humble before Saul but he also rebukes him. How?

Again, who is the focus for David? V. 15

How does Saul summarise the actions of David?

What fact can Saul no longer avoid? Vs. 20-21

You would think that was the end of the matter but Saul is so unstable that it is only a matter of time before he returns.

I'm taking away with me ...

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church events

May 14 **A Community of Grace** 1 Sam.27,29-30

May 15 *Committee of Management*

May 21 **Grief** 1 Sam.28.31-2Sam1

May 28 **Unhelpful Helpers** 2 Sam 2.5-5

June 4 **David & Jerusalem** 2 Sam 5-6  
*Lunches for 8*

1 Samuel 25



reading ahead

## Read 26: 1-12

Saul is back on the scene. We are not given a reason for his change of heart but, given his behaviour in the last few chapters, one thing seems constant – Saul's inconsistency!

How does God 'give Saul into David's hands' this time?

Again, David demands that Saul not be harmed. Why? V. 9-11

Who is really responsible for David's success? V. 12

## Read 26:13-25

David now gives Abner a hard time. What does he accuse him of? Vs. 15-16

Saul, again, calls out and asks if it is David he can hear.

David pleads his case patiently and humbly before this ruthless and unstable man. Saul makes yet another promise. What is it?

Again, Saul blesses David and acknowledges his place in God's plans.

## Application

David has begun to trust God in difficult circumstances. He has refused to harm God's chosen king even though he seems to have full rights to do so, given Saul's treatment of him. David does not know how God will take care of Saul for him (see 26:10-11) but he knows God is in charge. David has seen God at work. He now puts his faith in God for his own protection. David is concerned about remaining faithful even though he cannot figure everything out just yet. We often feel that we need to have it all worked out before we can trust God. We figure that we need to know exactly how God is going to do something before we trust him. David knows some faithful truths about God and his sovereignty and trusts that he will work things out. We need to learn this too. We need to maintain our focus on God and his clear teaching for our life. Things like believing in Jesus and following him, being faithful in reading God's word and prayer, in loving our brothers and sisters in Christ, and in reaching out to the world with the message of Jesus. Things will often come along that we do not understand but we know God is at work and we can trust him.

# The Big Picture

## The Big picture in the Bible - David and Jesus

The theme continues – a faithful leader replacing an unfaithful one. Jesus also comes to replace the faithless leadership of Israel. Here in 1 Samuel Saul has to acknowledge the superiority of David as God's king. Over and over again in their interactions Israel's leaders had to acknowledge Jesus' superiority over them. Whether by their silence, their open admission, or their fall into evil to remove Jesus from his rightful place they show they are unqualified to lead and Jesus is more than qualified. Jesus knows who he is and remains faithful to God's plan in spite of his enemies. Jesus shows himself to be the true King of God's people in contrast to the Jewish leaders around him.

## what can you pray for arising from this study?

& for members of your group... & for others linked to your group.. & for non-believing friends...

## our ministries:

Pray for the Marriage Course meeting on Tuesday that Peter and Cass Morpheu will lead well and that the couples will be honest, strong and loving. We want good marriages at Central Sydney!

## partner church:

**MACLEAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Mark and Lyndal Mitchell**

Metro Worker Ange Pateman that she will continue to minister effectively to the teenage group. Currently rethinking youth Group strategies.

That the building programme won't distract from the important job of living lives worthy of the gospel and telling others about Jesus

Mark is doing PY camp in June. Pray for his preparation.

## world mission: