

# The Life and Death of



# King David

Part 3

2 Samuel 2–1 Kings 2.12

# CONTENTS

<b>Study</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Page</b>
Study 1	Unhelpful Helpers	2 S am 2- 5.5	3
Study 2	David in Jerusalem	2 S am.5-6	5
Study 3	Sovereign Grace	2 S am. 7	7
Study 4	Victories All	2 S am.8-10	9
Study 5	Sin & Repentance	2 S am.11-12	11
Study 6	Learning Lessons	2 S am.13-21	13
Study 7	Praying a Life	2 S am. 22	15
Study 8	Pride comes before ...	2 S am. 23–1Kings 2	17
Prayer Points			18-19

# Unhelpful Helpers

2 Sam 2- 5.5

# Study 1

## Big Idea:

David had along side him 'strong men' who didn't care about the 'means' only the end. As followers of Jesus, the means must always be in line with the ends for us.

## Kicking Off:

What does the 'ends justify the means' mean?

Which group in our society seems to take seriously this saying?

## Read 2 Samuel 2.1-7

How does David's reign begin?

Have a go at summarising the essence of Saul's reign that the Lord found so offensive?

What great goal has the LORD anointed David for?

## Read 2 Samuel 2.8-4.12

David almost disappears behind the '*Men of Action*' in the story  
the politician (Abner) representing Israel and the interests of the line of Saul  
and the strong men (the sons of Zeruah - Joab, Abishai and Ashael) David's nephews seem to take over?

In all of this David is mentioned only a few times 3.2-5; 6-21;28-39;4.9-12. What is David doing?

## Futile Fighting 2.8-3.1

How would you describe the spectacle at the Pool of Gibeon 2.14-16?

The spectacle spills over into a full blooded battle - who is ahead at the end of the day 2.30-3.1?

Who was one of the 20 who was killed?

## Abner Defects 3.6-21

Ner the name of Abner's father means 'light'. Abner means father of light so Abner is both the son of light and the father of light - the shame is that Abner produces more heat than light.

Abner was Saul's cousin.

Ish-Bosheth, Saul's son and heir accuses Abner of sleeping with Saul's concubine and thus making a take over bid for the throne. How does Abner respond? 3.19-21

**Joab's Defects 3.22-29**

What possible motives does Joab have for killing Abner?

**David's response 3.30-39**

How does David respond to the murder of Abner?

Ish-Bosheth murdered 4.1-12

Baanah and Recab are both strong men and men of opportunity.

How do they think David will respond to the assassination of his rival claimant to the Israelite throne?

How does David react?

If we say that this section is about two kingdoms - the kingdom of man and the kingdom of God - can you identify what means are appropriate to what kingdom and why David was so frustrated?

**Read 2 Samuel 5.1-5**

David is made king - what does he do to those who opposed him?

How does he begin his kingship?

**Jesus**

Did Jesus have 'sons of Zeruah' to cope with?

**Application**

How can we act like 'sons of Zeruah' in relation to the kingdom of God today?

# David and Jerusalem

# Study 2

2 Samuel 5-6

## Big Idea:

Jerusalem is a place where David is mocked - by the Jerusalemites as he attempt to take the city and by Michal, as he dances before the Lord - but being mocked in his weakness and foolishness defines David as someone whose strength and delight is in the Lord.

## Kicking Off:

When did you last have a sense of being considered weak or foolish?

What did you do? How did you react?

### Read 2 Samuel 5.6-12

Where was the Jebusites' confidence?

Where was David's?

What other story in David's life does this remind you of? (A water course also figured in that story, 1 Samuel 17.40-51) What are some parallels?

### Read 2 Samuel 5.17-25

How do David's initial battles with the Philistines contrast with Saul's initial battles 1 Sam.13?

How are we meant to see David in contrast to Saul?

### Read 2 Samuel 6.1-15; 17-19

What is different about the two accounts of bringing the Ark to Jerusalem?

What was irreverent about Uzzah taking hold of the Ark of the Lord?

What is at the heart of the second and successful attempt to bring the Ark to Jerusalem?

How is David different v1 contrasting with v14?

**Read 2 Samuel 6.16; 20-23**

What is the essence of Michal's criticism?

What is the essence of David's 'defence'?

**Read 1 Corinthians 1.18-2.5 (also 2 Corinthians 11)**

What parallels are there with the ministry of Jesus and Paul to that of David?

**Application:**

1. When do you feel weak and foolish as a Christian?

2. Are you passionate for the LORD - are you prepared to look a fool? Explain.

3. When do you 'dance' before the LORD to express your pleasure and give him pleasure?

# Sovereign Grace

2 Sam 7

# Study 3

## Big Idea:

David learns that God doesn't need David to do anything for Him but he will do something for David that will shape the future of Israel and the world.

## Kicking Off:

What is the difference between giving God a 'helping hand' and serving him?

### Read 2 Samuel 7.1-4

List and prioritise David's motives for wanting to build God a house.

Building a Temple for a god, was the way that kings in the Ancient Near East legitimised their rule. Could this be behind David's request if so - what is it saying about grace?

What was Nathan's response and assumption?

The job of a prophet in Israel was to keep the nation, and therefore the king, on the straight and narrow. Nathan has let David's past go to his head.

### Read 2 Samuel 7.4-7

What is the LORD saying about David's idea?

### Read 2 Samuel 7.8-11a

What is being emphasised here? David's brilliance or the Lord's - How?

Digging deeper - Compare this section with Gen.12.1-3

### Read 2 Samuel 7.11b-16

This all turns on a pun - house can mean both a building and a dynasty. So what is the Lord saying to David first up? 11b-12

Who will build the house for the LORD and how will the LORD treat him?

What sort of kingdom does God plan to establish through David?

**Read 2 Samuel 7.18-29**

How does David respond to this Good News?

How is Psalm 2 a reflection of the content of this chapter?

How does the son of David theology shape Jesus' ministry?

**Application:**

1. What is the danger of doing things for God?

2. How can we avoid those mistakes?

3. Why is it difficult to live by grace?



# Victories All

# Study 4

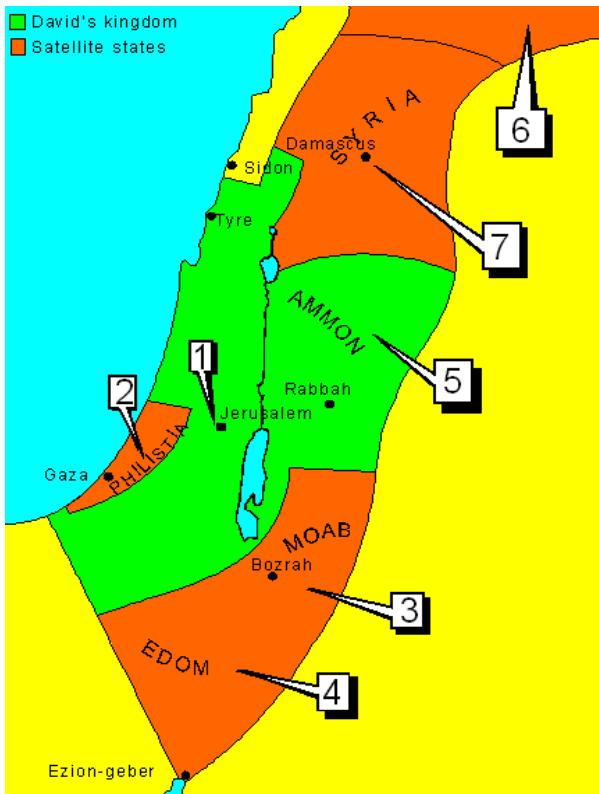
2 Sam 8-10

## Big Idea:

Greater than all the victories against foreign enemies David's victory over fear - that Saul and Jonathan's offspring pose a threat to his kingdom is the most extraordinary. His treatment of Mephibosheth is a victory of grace.

## Kicking Off:

When did you last express deep grace to someone and when did you last experience it?



The map shows the geographical extent of David's kingdom and its satellite states. A legend indicates that green areas represent 'David's kingdom' and orange areas represent 'Satellite states'. The map includes labels for various regions and cities: PHILISTIA (Gaza), SYRIA (Damascus, Sidon, Tyre), AMMON (Rabbah, Jerusalem), MOAB (Bozrah), and EDOM (Ezion-geber). Numbered callouts 1 through 7 point to specific locations: 1 (Jerusalem), 2 (Gaza), 3 (Bozrah), 4 (Edom), 5 (Ammon), 6 (Damascus), and 7 (Tyre).

### David Subdues his Enemies

- 1 Captures Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:6-10).
- 2 Philistine power decisively crushed (2 Samuel 5:17-25; 8:1).
- 3 Moabites are made David's subjects, paying taxes (2 Samuel 8:2).
- 4 Edom defeated, controlled by troops and taxed (2 Samuel 8:13-14).
- 5 Ammon's power destroyed. Ammonite people used for forced labour (2 Samuel 12:26-31).
- 6 Defeat of King Hadadezer the Aramean. His vassal states (as far as the Euphrates) became David's (2 Samuel 10:15-19).
- 7 Damascus conquered, controlled by troops and taxed (2 Samuel 8:5-8).

## Read 2 Samuel 8,10

What impression do you get from the list of David's conquests?

## Digging deeper:

Look up Genesis 12:1-3 and then Gen. 15:18; Deut. 1:7; 11:24; Jos. 1:4

Where do you think we're up to in the story of the LORD fulfilling his promises to Israel through David?

List the promises and tick them off:  
Genesis 12.1-3

1. Land
2. People
3. Name
4. Protection
5. Blessing to nations

### **Read 2 Samuel 9.1-13**

When a male lion defeats the old alpha male all of the young lions disappear very soon afterwards - the new male destroys the old males offspring the females come into heat - he mates and the pride becomes his pride. It is a ruthless way of destroying your opposition utterly and ensuring the survival of your own genetic structure.

The behaviour of kings is little different. Normally the whole family line of the previous king is wiped out to ensure that there is no focus for rebellion.

We need to see how counter cultural, how contrary to 'best kingly practice' what David does is.

Why does David want to do good for Jonathan's sake?

Why does David tell Mephibosheth not to be afraid in v7?

What is the significance of eating at David's table?

How is David's action like the LORD's? Give examples?

What made David stand out from other kings was grace to his enemies. How does he anticipate Jesus?

### **Application:**

1. Grace is never a 'random act', think about an act of grace you can perform.
2. Write a letter/poem expressing your thankfulness to God for his grace to you in Jesus.

# Sin & Repentance

# Study 5

2 Sam 11-12

## Big Idea:

At the point when we think the kingdom of David is all gold we are brought down with a thump - Sin continues to undermine the kingdom of God - but the LORD meets it with grace - nevertheless sin will have its effects.

## Kicking Off:

When are you most likely to sin?

### Read 2 Samuel 11.1-5

How is the scene set for us in v1?

How might David's staying at home from war work away at him?

In the original language David looks/sees, something good/beautiful, and takes. These verbs parallel the sin in the garden - what are we meant to understand from this significant parallel?

David might have got away with it but what happens?

### Read 2 Samuel 11.6-13

How does David try and cover his 'tracks'?

What should he have done?

What does Uriah - a Hittite do?

### Read 2 Samuel 11.14-27

We have noticed one parallel with an early Genesis story - what is similar to the story of Cain and Abel?

Where did David learn to act like this 1 Sam.18.17-27?

### Read 2 Samuel 12

If David thought he had got away with it he was sorely mistaken. The Lord was displeased.

How does Nathan's approach secure the best chance of David understanding what he has done?

In v7-25 the LORD shows not only the great privilege David has abused but also the great grace he will receive and yet there will be great punishment. List the details:

*Great Privilege*

*Great Punishment*

*Great Grace*

What do you think Joab is telling David in v26-31

What are our hopes for the Kingdom of God now?

How did David's true Son fare when he was tested Luke 4.1-13?

Application:

1. How can you take seriously your vulnerability to sin?

2. Why did Jesus not give into temptation? (Think about the nature of his relationship with God the Father - how can you cultivate that sort of trust?)

3. Meditate on Psalm 51 this week.

# Learning Lessons

2 Samuel 13-21

# Study 6

## Big Idea:

Grace and forgiveness doesn't remove the consequences of sin. David's family life - the house the LORD builds for him is white anted by sin. David's own behaviour is patterned in the lives of his sons. And yet David who has received grace and forgiveness begins to be forgiving and gracious.

## Kicking Off:

In what ways does our culture try and break the connection between sin and its consequences? Give examples.

## Read 2 Samuel 13-21

List the disasters that are visited on David's house (use the NIV headings)

What relationship do they bear to 2 Samuel 12.9-12

*<sup>9</sup> Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' <sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup> You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"*

Can you see any recurring patterns of relationships?

What is David's failure in the Amon/Tamar disaster? 13.1-22

What is wrong with what Absalom does to Amon? 13.23-38

Given David's failure to act in the Amon affair and the grace and forgiveness how otherwise might David have treated Absalom? 2 Samuel 14

Absalom makes a good fist at disposing of his father as king (2 Samuel 15) how does David deal with the betrayal of Absalom, the apparent desertion of Mephibosheth, and the cursing of Shimei as he removes himself from Jerusalem?

What parallels are there with Jesus? Look at Ahithophel as well 16.15-17.29

How does Joab once again display a ruthless political acumen that is bereft of humanity 2 Samuel 18.1-18?

David reacts as a father over the news of Absalom's death and so humanizes kingship 2 Samuel 18.19-19.8

As David returns to Jerusalem and to kingship his attitude to those who have wronged him is surprisingly open handed 2 Samuel 19.21-22. What do we see of Jesus' attitude after the resurrection?

Application:

1. What are some continuing effects of sin in your own life? Can you learn anything by it?

## Big Idea:

David teaches us to process all of our life through considered prayer. In one chapter he sees the strange events of his life in the light of God's cosmic purposes.

## Kicking Off:

How do you pray about what happens to you?

### Read 2 Samuel 22

#### V 1-7

When David reflects back on his life he sings about the Lord.

What images does David employ to speak about God? Try coming up with some modern day metaphors.

2 Samuel 22

Today

#### v8-20

David is using the Exodus story and personalising it in song. The God of Israel's exodus has orchestrated his own personal exodus. What are the elements of the Exodus story that David uses?

#### v21-28

What do we find most surprising about these verses?

#### V29-46

David reflects in song how it is the LORD that has enabled him to do his king work. What has the Lord equipped him to do and how does this relate to his role as the king of Israel?

**V47-51**

David understands his kingship in the light and purposes of God's kingdom. What is the big aim of God's king?

**Application:**

1. Write a Psalm about a time when the LORD saved you.



# Pride Goes Before a...

2 Samuel 23-24

# Study 8

## Big Idea:

Before David dies he locates his strength in numbers (a census) rather than the Lord, but is forgiven. In death David becomes an object, important only for what he can secure after his death.

## Kicking Off:

When was the last time you felt used? Describe what it feels like?

## Read 2 Samuel 23.8-24.25

The Lord is angry against Israel and he uses David against the nation.

David wants a census taken - an accounting of his strength. Where did David's strength used to be focused?

When David realises what he has done he asks for forgiveness. The Lord gives him three options 3 years of famine, 3 month of fleeing from enemies, 3 days of plague.

The plague at last is halted how?

## Read 1 Kings 1-2.12

How is David depersonalised? Make a list.

How is Abishag's physical warmth the only human warmth in a cold impersonal death?

What is positive in David's last words to Solomon?

How do you feel about David's insistence on Solomon settling his old scores when he is gone?

Our last picture of David is a little disappointing and yet it is all too human. An old man unable to regulate his own bodily functions, wanting old scores settled and his final wishes carried out. He is not the anointed - he is not the Christ - he was only a sign post - a grand one but in the end an all too human one. He dies and rests with his fathers in Jerusalem. We need one whose restless life will overcome death - never to die. We need a better king, a better Saviour and so next week we turn from The Life and Death of King David to The Life and Death of King Jesus.

**Application:**

1. Do you know someone who is dying? Can you think of ways to bring dignity and comfort to their dying?

# A Life Lived in God      Study 9

A Review of David's Life

## **Big Idea:**

The Scriptures gives us the life of David not as an ideal life but as a real life. A life of grace and sin—a life that is God-attentive and responsive even in sin.

## **Kicking Off:**

Describe how you feel about David's life.

What is most attractive and what is most shocking in the life of David?

## **Reflection**

Which David story moved you most and why? Spend time in the group telling the story and the reason why this story spoke to you. (write notes)

How is the 'David story' like your story?

How is the David story like Jesus' story?





# Prayer Points

Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

# Prayer Points

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

Week 8