

GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

A Lament Worthy of A King

Key idea:

David's response to Saul's death is an example of how we should trust God and respond to others.

Key text:

2 Samuel 1 (2 Samuel 1:17-27)

David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, ¹⁸ and ordered that the men of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):

¹⁹“Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights. How the mighty have fallen! ²⁰ “Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice. ²¹“O mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, nor fields that yield offerings [of grain]. For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul — no longer rubbed with oil. ²² From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied. ²³ “Saul and Jonathan — in life they were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. ²⁴ “O daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold. ²⁵ “How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights. ²⁶ I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. ²⁷ “How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!” 2 Sam 1:17–27

Key points:

1. Saul had spent years trying to kill David and forced him into exile.
2. David grieved when he received news of the death of Saul and Jonathan.
3. David's actions showed that he had nothing to do with Saul's death and that he was full of grief over the loss of Israel's king.

4. David lamented the death of Saul and Jonathan and led others in doing the same as well.
5. After his death, David remembered the good that Saul had done and did not take out vengeance on Saul or his followers in word or deed.
6. David's actions and words after the death of Saul display the character of a leader ready to sit on the throne of Israel.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why is Saul's treatment of David an important background for understanding David's actions in 2 Samuel 1?
3. David does not rejoice at the death of his enemy Saul, but rather mourns this tragic end. Which would I do?
4. Why does David put the Amalekite to death? Do you think he was right in doing this? Why or why not?
5. Do David's actions and words indicate someone who is concerned for his own good or that of the nation at large? Is this character trait necessary for a good leader?
6. In his lament, does David mention Saul's sins and failings? Why or why not?
7. Why is it important to recall the good that people have done, rather than just dwelling on the wrong that they have done?
8. Bret said, "The desire for vengeance and revenge leads to heartache and ruin - especially for the one cultivating it within their own soul." Is this true? Why?
9. How do I respond to those who say and do harmful things to me?
10. Does mercy triumph over judgment in my words and actions - or does vengeance rule my thoughts and actions?
11. Why is it tempting to want to take vengeance into my own hands? What do vengeful words and actions reveal about the state of my own heart and soul? About my trust in God to rule all things well?