

Theme: God blessed David for the sake of His people, that he might lead them into justice and righteousness, and to serve as a pointer to Christ, the True King.

## I. Intro - Tested By Adversity - and Power!

- A. Nearly All Men Can Stand Adversity, But If You Want To Test a Man's Character, Give Him Power
- B. Often attributed to Lincoln - actually was said by others about him
- C. Saul was humble - until he came to power. He quickly crumbled under the weight of power
- D. David did pretty well under adversity. How will he handle the test of having power?

## II. A Powerful Kingdom

- A. God powerfully established David and Israel
  - 1. David established Jerusalem as his capital  
David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the supporting terraces inward.<sup>10</sup> And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him. 2 Sam 5:9–10
    - a. David defeated the Jebusites & took Jerusalem
    - b. No one else had ever been able to dislodge them
    - c. David now occupies the fortress & expanded it
    - d. He is more and more powerful
  - 2. David routed the Philistine invaders  
The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off...<sup>25</sup> So David did as the Lord commanded him, and he struck

down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer. 2 Samuel 5:21, 25

- a. Two times the Philistines came and “spread out”
  - b. A mighty force that Saul never could push back
  - c. David routs them and they abandon their gods - 1 Samuel 4-5 is reversed!
    - 1. David took and burned the idols (1 Chron 14:12)
  - d. David pushes them back so far they eventually cease to be a threat to Israel
3. David defeats & subjugates all neighboring enemies  
In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Metheg Ammah from the control of the Philistines.<sup>2</sup> David also defeated the Moabites... 2 Samuel 8:1–2
- a. Chapter 8 gives a list of all the defeated enemies
  - b. Philistines, Moabites, Zobahites, Arameans, Edomites, Ammonites, Amalekites
4. Summary: David victorious everywhere  
The Lord gave David victory wherever he went...<sup>14</sup>The Lord gave David victory wherever he went. 2 Samuel 8:6, 14
- a. Repeated two times in the summary chapter
  - b. Emphasizes the main point - Yahweh made David victorious, delivering him from every enemy
  - c. This pictures a complete reversal of what David has experienced ever since Saul began to persecute him. The fleeing fugitive is now the powerful king!

## B. The reasons for David's growing success

### 1. God is the One Who brought the victories

And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him. 2 Sam 5:10

The Lord gave David victory wherever he went...

<sup>14</sup>The Lord gave David victory wherever he went. 2 Samuel 8:6, 14

- a. David victorious BECAUSE the LORD was with him
- b. LORD God Almighty - יהוה אלהי צבאות - Lord God of Armies!
- c. Yahweh gave David the victories
- d. David was victorious, not because of his own gifts, wisdom or strength, but because of God's work in his behalf.
- e. Any victories won by the people of God are due to His wisdom and strength, not our own.

### 2. God blessed David for the sake of His people

And David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. 2 Samuel 5:12

- a. God blessed David for His own purposes, not because David had earned it
- b. David was blessed and established for the sake of others - he was blessed to be a channel of blessing for others
- c. God never blesses us so that we might consume it on ourselves, but rather so that we might be a channel of blessing to others.

### 3. God blessed David as he continued to seek God and His will

So David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?"

The Lord answered him, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you."... <sup>23</sup> so David inquired of the Lord, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. 2 Samuel 5:19, 23

- a. When facing the Philistine invader, David sought God for guidance
- b. This phrase only occurs 3 times in 2 Samuel - and two of them are right here!
- c. David was successful because he did not rely on his own experience or strength, but rather on God's wisdom and might
- d. Even in areas where we feel strong, wise, and up to the task, we must always have a posture of seeking God and submitting to His wisdom and will.

## III. The King of Justice and Righteousness

### A. David did what was just and right for his people

David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people. 2 Samuel 8:15

1. This is a summary of 1 Samuel 5-8
2. This is what a king should do - provide for justice and righteousness for all his people
3. This is why David is the standard by which all later kings are judged throughout Kings and Chronicles
4. David was not perfect - and some of his sins are already evident

- a. David began collecting wives and concubines - which was forbidden

After he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him. 2 Samuel 5:13

1. This was explicitly forbidden by God  
He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. Deuteronomy 17:17
2. Leaders were not to accumulate the trappings of wealth and power, exalting themselves above others.
3. Whenever a leader begins to accumulate wealth, power, and privilege, thinking the rules do not apply to them, sin is lurking at the door.
4. A church leader who accumulates wealth, power, and privilege is following the ways of the world rather than the call of Christ.

- b. David could be brutal to foreign nations - see 2 Samuel 8. This was how other kings acted, but David was not to be like other kings.

5. On the whole, however, David was doing well at this stage, walking in personal righteousness and showing mercy, even to the descendants of Saul.

## B. The King of Justice and Righteousness

1. At his best, David was ruling as God would  
Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. <sup>2</sup> He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. Psalms 72:1–2
  - a. The king was supposed to rule for God
  - b. He needed to be endowed with God's justice and righteousness and pass it on to the people
  - c. This is the picture of the ideal king of Israel

## 2. The failure of David and his sons

- a. Even at his best, David fell short of this standard
- b. His sons failed miserably at following this standard
- c. This led to the Messianic hope - the Son of David who would come, and establish true justice and righteousness forever!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. **He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.** The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6–7

1. The Messiah would rule on David's throne
  2. The Messiah would rule with perfect justice and righteousness
  3. The Messiah's rule would never end - because He is not only David's Son but the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father!
3. David is a pointer to Christ, both in His ability to generally establish justice and righteousness, but also in his failures, as these showed One greater than David was needed.
  4. This is why we never set our sights or our hope on any human leader, for all will fail. Only Christ will never fail us!

## IV. Applying the Word

### A. How not to apply the Word - modern holy (culture) war

1. Christians have used texts like this wrongly
2. We do not engage in physical warfare - our warfare is spiritual (Ephesians 6:12)
3. This is also not a call for Christian political power
  - a. Israel was a theocracy - we are not
  - b. Christians can and should take part in the political process, pray for our leaders, let our voice be heard - but politics can NOT bring about the kingdom of God, nor can it put down the kingdom of darkness.
  - c. We can no more establish God's rule by political power than Popes could establish the kingdom via the Crusades. Both are a total misapplication of the biblical text.

### B. Am I trusting in God or myself?

1. David was victorious because he trusted God for wisdom and power, and sought God in his battles.
2. When conflict arises, where do I find my strength and resources - in God or in myself?
  - a. Do I turn to the Word and prayer - or elsewhere?
  - b. Do I trust God to work all things to my good, or do I connive to work them to my advantage on my own?
3. Do I view myself as a channel or the terminus of God's blessings?
  - a. God blessed David with great victories - for the sake of others!

b. Do I long for God to bless me to consume it myself, or to be a source of blessing to others?

4. God delights to bless those who trust Him and seek to be a channel of His blessing to others.

### C. Response: A Mighty Fortress

#### A Powerful Kingdom

2 Samuel 5-10 (2 Samuel 5:9-13; 8:14-15)

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A Mighty Fortress

Psalm 20:1-4

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; leadership; typology; kingdom of God; spiritual warfare

May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. <sup>2</sup> May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion. <sup>3</sup> May he remember all your sacrifices for His kingdom and bless you. <sup>4</sup> May he give you the desire of your heart and make your plans succeed for His glory and the good of others. Psalms 20:1-4

David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the supporting terraces inward. <sup>10</sup> And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him. <sup>11</sup> Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David. <sup>12</sup> And David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. 2 Samuel 5:9-12

The Lord gave David victory wherever he went. <sup>15</sup> David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people. 2 Samuel 8:14-15