

Week 33
2 Samuel 13-22

Key Verse: “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. 2 Samuel 22:1-3

Falling into sin is easy but the consequences of it are hard. In 2 Samuel 11, David let his eyes lead him into temptation and not only committed adultery but murder. God forgave David of his sins but the consequences of it would haunt him the rest of his life.

All the power, riches, and glory of David were given to him by God. The explanation for David's prosperity was not to be found in David's greatness, but in God's grace. God indicated to David that had he asked, He would have given him “. . . **many more things like these,**” 2 Samuel 12:8. David wanted more, but rather than obey God and ask Him for more he took Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah and then he took Uriah's life. God graciously “took away” David's sin so that he did not have to die as the law required. Nevertheless, there were certain consequences. The first was the death of David's first son by Bathsheba. (2 Samuel 12:14-23) The second was the rape of his daughter Tamar, by his own son and Tamar's half-brother, Amnon. (2 Samuel 13:1-19) Next was the death of Amnon at the hand and command of Absalom, David's son and Tamar's brother. (2 Samuel 13:20-36) As a result, David lost another son, Absalom, who had to flee from Israel and find sanctuary in Geshur. Absalom was not literally dead yet, but he was certainly lost to David, and for all intents and purposes would continue to be until the time of his physical death at the hand of Joab. (2 Samuel 18)

Day 1 - 2 Samuel 13-14 Amnon Rapes Tamar/Absalom Kills Amnon, Flees then Returns

1. What were Amnon’s feelings toward Tamar? What advice did he receive from his friend Jonadab?

2. What did Tamar ask Amnon to do? How did Amnon’s feelings change after the fact? (2 Samuel 13:12-16) What should he have done according to Deuteronomy 22:28-29?

Tamar’s protective brother, Absalom, helped to comfort her and made arrangements for her to live in his household under his protection. Absalom held his peace and said neither good nor bad concerning the incident. King David heard what Amnon had done and was furious. Scripture does not tell us if Amnon suffered any immediate consequences but revenge was on the horizon.

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3. Why did Absalom ask David, his officials and all his sons to join him? (2 Samuel 13:23-25)

4. David declined the invitation. Whom did Absalom insist on taking with him? What was Absalom’s plan?

5. Absalom had finally taken revenge for his sister’s dishonor and fled from Jerusalem. After 3 years Joab son of Zeruiah knew how the king’s heart longed for Absalom. How did Joab go about trying to fix the problem?

6. Is there a problem in your life that needs to be corrected? What do you consider your part to be? What do you consider to be God’s part in your situation?

Prayer Focus: What in your life needs to be laid at the feet of Jesus?

Day 2 - 2 Samuel 15:1-37; 2 Samuel 16:15-23; 2 Samuel 17:1-23 Absalom Makes His Move/David Flees/The Advice of Hushai and Ahithophel

Absalom was permitted to return to Jerusalem, but for five years he was not allowed to see his father. After pressure from Absalom, Joab went before David asking him to exonerate Absalom. David had learned what grace was all about and symbolically expressed his acceptance of his son by kissing him. After Absalom regained his previous status in David’s family he began taking steps to replace his father as king of Israel.

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7. What do chariots, horses and 50 men signal of Absalom’s ambitions? (1 Samuel 8:1; 2 Samuel 15:1) Why did he position himself by the side of the road leading to the city gate? Who was Absalom’s co-conspirator?

8. Why did David insist that they leave Jerusalem? Who did he leave behind to care for the palace? (2 Samuel 15:13-16)

9. The Levites had carried the Ark of the Covenant of God out of Jerusalem, why did David send it back? Who did David send back with the Ark of the Covenant? (2 Samuel 24-37)

As David reached the summit the people used to worship God, Hushai the Arkite was there to meet him. As a sign of mourning his robe was torn and dust was on his head. David asked Hushai not to continue on with him but to return to the city and be Absalom’s servant just as he had been his.

David knew Absalom had been influenced by Ahithophel and asked Hushai to confuse any advice that Ahithophel might give.

10. What advice did Ahithophel give to Absalom in 2 Samuel 16:21? (Ahithophel was Bathsheba grand-father, Absalom’s great grand-father, 2 Samuel 23:34.) Who prophesied this would happen? (2 Samuel 12:7-12)

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11. Absalom did not take his grand-father’s advice in 2 Samuel 17. Whose advice did Absalom take and what was that advice? What happened to Ahithophel when Absalom did not take his advice?

Prayer Focus: David sought God’s counsel in a crisis. Hushai was placed in the palace to thwart Ahithophel’s plan to kill David. Do you seek God’s counsel during a time of crisis or advice from someone else? Proverbs 3:5, reminds us: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight.”

Day 3 - 2 Samuel 18-19 Battle for Kingship

As soon as the bait had been set Hushai told Zadok and Abiathar the priests to inform David not to spend the night at the fords. David went to Mahanian and Absalom crossed the Jordan.

12. How did David benefit from the delay of Absalom’s attack?

13. With all the betrayal and spying going on, what made David think he could trust these three generals Joab, Abishai (2 Samuel 10:7-10), and Ittai (2 Samuel 15:19-22)? What was David’s command to these three generals as they left for battle? (2 Samuel 18:2-6)

After the death of Absalom, David’s heart was broken and he openly mourned his son’s passing. Joab however, reminded David that he was dishonoring his men who had laid their lives on the line for him. David then went and took his seat in the gateway and encouraged his men.

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14. The Israelites who had supported Absalom in the revolt asked David to return to Jerusalem as their king after some disagreement. Whom did David insist upon crossing the Jordan with him? Why was it significant for David to cross with both of these? (2 Samuel 19:9-18)

Day 4 - 2 Samuel 20-21 Sheba Rebels/Joab Re-instated/The Gibeonites Avenged

15. In what ways do events of the previous chapter fuel Sheba’s revolt? (2 Samuel 19:41-43) (2 Samuel 20:1-2)

16. Who made sure Sheba was no longer a threat to David and then became commander over Israel’s entire army?

Joab had gone against David’s wish to spare Absalom, and had been replaced by Amasa as commander over David’s army. Here it seems he had been re-instated as a commander because of his willingness to pursue Amasa and protect David.

17. Why was there a famine for three successive years during David’s reign? (2 Samuel 21:1-2; Joshua 9:14-20)

18. In his zeal, Saul had tried to destroy all the Gibeonites, but David made a promise to them before the Lord. (2 Samuel 21:2-9) What does this say about the basic differences between the two men and about the seriousness of oaths? God’s judgment?

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19. David did spare the son of Jonathan, Mephibosheth, but not Saul’s other relatives. Why? (2 Samuel 9:1-13; 1 Samuel 20:14-17)

20. Having heard of Razpah’s persistence to protecting the bones of those who were killed, what did David do to show respect for Saul, Jonathan and the fallen in Saul’s house? What happened next? (2 Samuel 21:13-14)

20. Once again the Israelites were battling the Philistines. Who threatened to kill David?

21. Who stepped in to help David? What was the proclamation David’s men made to him from that point on and why?

Day 5 - 2 Samuel 22 - Song of Praise

David was by no means a perfect man. He fell into temptation and will again in chapter 24 of 2 Samuel, but time and time again you see how he honors God. He never spoke evil against Saul or Absalom in their pursuit to kill him. David left the destiny of the kingdom in God’s hands. He ruled with integrity and honored God by keeping oaths that not only he made but that others made.

Today you’re encouraged to read David’s Song of Praise. This praise was pinned after the Lord had delivered him from all his enemies. Let it be your prayer to the Lord. As you face the giants in your life remember the God who saw David through those difficult times is the God that will do the same for you.