



“Introduction To Another Samuel...With No Samuel”

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24:20

Good morning. It's good to be up here with you guys. Have another week to open up God's word together. So we are in kind of a, this is a strange week, right?

24:32

This is a strange week because last week we finished first Samuel. And this week we're going to kind of do an introduction, kind of give you a big picture of you of what's going on in second Samuel. And then we're going to jump in chapter 1, verse 1 next week.

24:48

So just to kind of give you an idea of where we're going, of what the next several months are going to look like. We're starting 2 Samuel this week. We're going to spend a few weeks in 2 Samuel then we're actually going to take a chunk of time off for Christmas and then we'll come back first to the year and kind of actually we're gonna finish up 2 Samuel by around Easter this coming year.

25:10

So we're gonna take some bigger chunks you'll notice as we go through 2 Samuel it's gonna feel a little bit different for many of us because we're kind of used to we're familiar

with the idea of focusing in on a few verses or a specific idea or whatever it is but in 2 Samuel we're actually gonna have some some periods where we cover two or three chapters at a time.

25:32

We're gonna cover some big chunks of narrative because there's some big sections where one story or one idea or one theme is what kind of shows up in those those chapters. So we're gonna cover some bigger bites look for some some major themes in the book and then we've got some really exciting things that are coming up in the rest of 2025.

25:53

My kids always get mad at me because they'll ask me whatever it is that we're doing for the day. You know, dad, where are we gonna go? And we'll tell them, just get in the car, right? But dad, where are we going?

26:01

Just get in the car. You'll find out when we get there. And it always drives them crazy. But I just, I don't like making promises. So I tell them, get in the car, right? So this is gonna be your moment where I tell you, get in the car.

26:16

I promise it's gonna be lots of fun. We've got a couple of different things on the books for 2025, but you're just gonna have to wait and see. So we've got that coming up after 2 Samuel is done, but wanted to kind of give you an overview of the book.

26:30

We're gonna kind of get an idea of where we're at in the story. I know we've got a few new faces. I look around the room. I know we've got some people that kind of jumped in in the middle of 1 Samuel or just kind of getting their bearings here as we're going into 2 Samuel.

26:43

So just wanted to kind of give you an idea of where we're at and then look at some of the main ideas that we're gonna see in 2 Samuel as we jump into the book and starting next week. So if you were with us through 1 Samuel, the book of 1 Samuel focused on the story of a man named Samuel, right?

27:01

Crazy as it is. And King Saul. Samuel was a special young boy. He was given to a woman named Hannah who wasn't able to have any children. And so as God worked miraculously to give Samuel to Hannah, Hannah had promised God, she said, if you will give me a son, I will give him back to you that he will serve the Lord all the days of his life.

27:22

And so Samuel from even before he was born was in a very special and unique position that he belonged to God. He was the man that God was going to use to do his work. And so Samuel spoke on behalf of God for many years to the nation of Israel.

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But the people rejected God and, by extension, they rejected Samuel as their leader because they insisted on, they wanted to be like everybody else. They wanted to have a king just like all the other nations around them, they looked at and they had kings.

27:52

And so Israel wanted to have a king. And so God agrees, God obliges. And so God gives them a man, King Saul, to lead the nation of Israel. So 1 Samuel, what we see in 1 Samuel, we see this story arc of Samuel showing up in the scene and then we see the reign of King Saul.

28:09

We see his rise, we see his fall. Last week we saw where King Saul dies at the end of 1 Samuel. And so now in 2 Samuel, we're going to follow not the kingship of King Saul, but we're going to now look at King David.

28:24

Now David was introduced in 1 Samuel. We had some some character development moments. We had some stuff kind of develop and going on with David. But as we come into 2 Samuel, really the kind of the break is King Saul's reign is over and King David's reign is about to begin.

28:41

So we're going to see David's kingdom kind of play out both in the good, excuse me, in the good ways and in the bad ways that we see David succeed and fail in 2 Samuel. So before I, you know, rather than me standing up here and trying to give you all the details and all the little things and paint for you the arc of where we're going to be in 2 Samuel, I decided, as we often do, we love our friends over at the Bible Project.

29:08

So we've got another one of those read scripture videos that they do a wonderful job. It's a five, six minute video that's going to kind of give us an overview of what's happening in 2 Samuel. So we're going to watch that, invite you to follow along, and then we'll come back and look at a few key ideas that we're going to see throughout the book.

29:23

So why don't we turn to the screens as we watch that video.

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The book of 2 Samuel. Check out the video on 1 Samuel, where we were introduced to the book's three main characters, Samuel, Saul, and David, and then also to the book's

literary design, which first introduced Samuel and then traced the rise and fall of King Saul in contrast to the rise of King David.

29:45

2 Samuel picks up after Saul's death, and David surprises everyone by composing this long poem where he laments the death of the very man who tried to murder him. And so once again, the author, he's presenting David's humility and compassion.

30:00

He's a man who grieves the death even of his own enemies. After this, David experiences a season of success and God's blessing. All of the Israelite tribes, they come to David, and then they ask him to unify all the tribes as their king.

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And so the first thing David does, as king, is to go to the city of Jerusalem. He conquers it, and he establishes it as Israel's capital city, which he renames as Zion. And from there, David goes on, and he wins many battles and expands Israel's territory.

30:28

Now after making Jerusalem the political capital of Israel, he wants to make it their religious capital as well. And so he has the Ark of the Covenant moved into the city. And then in 2 Samuel 7, he tells God, now that Israel has a permanent home, he thinks that God's presence should also get a permanent house.

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So he asks if he can build a temple for the God of Israel. But God says to David, thank you for that thought. but actually I'm going to build you a house, a dynasty. Now, 2 Samuel 7, this is a key chapter for understanding the storyline of the whole Bible because God here makes a promise to David that from his royal line will come a future king who's going to build God's temple here on earth and set up an eternal kingdom.

31:14

And it's this messianic promise to David that gets picked up and developed more in the book of Psalms than also in the books of the prophets. And it's this king that gets connected to God's promise to Abraham.

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The future messianic kingdom will be how God brings his blessing to all of the nations. And it's right here in the midst of all this divine blessing that things go horribly wrong. David makes a fatal mistake, not fatal for him, but for a man named Uriah, one of David's prized soldiers.

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So from his rooftop, David sees Uriah's wife Bathsheba bathing. David finds her, he sleeps with her, gets her pregnant, and then he tries to cover the whole thing up by having Uriah assassinated, and then marrying her.

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It's just horrible. So when David's confronted by the prophet Nathan about all of this, he immediately owns up to what he's done. He's broken, he repents, he asks God to forgive him. And God does forgive him, but God doesn't erase the consequences of David's decisions.

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And so as a result of this horrible choice, David's family, his kingdom, it all falls apart. And it makes this section a tragic force to flee from his own home and go hide in the wilderness, except this time he is not an innocent man.

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The rebellion ends when David's son is murdered, and it breaks David's heart. And so once again, he laments over the very man who tried to kill him. David's last days find him

back on his throne, but as a broken man, he's wounded by the sad consequences of his sin.

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The book concludes with a well-crafted epilogue, with stories that are out of chronological order, but they have this really cool symmetrical literary design. Both poems conclude by looking back onto the hope of God's promise...But he exalted David when he humbled himself. And so the future hope of this book reaches far beyond David himself.

32:59

It looks to the future, to the Messianic king who will one day bring God's kingdom and blessing to all of the nations. And that's what the book of Samuel is all about.

33:09

All right, you got it? Here for us, you know, I get to stop and do a week like this in between 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel.

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But one story, one theme. So the papers that we've got out there, the printouts that look like this, it's actually the same one that we used in 1 Samuel. So if you picked one up then, you should have one already.

33:31

But if you don't have one or you want a new one or whatever, we should have some copies of those out at the hub. You can grab one of those on your way out, just kind of help you get your mind around what's going on in the book.

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But as we step back. We have the opportunity this week, the first week of kind of looking at 2 Samuel and looking at kind of the main themes. I wanted to take just a few moments and focus on some key ideas that we're gonna see in this book.

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Some key ideas and how they point us to really the bigger picture of the story of the Bible, that the meta narrative, that the whole big picture from Genesis to Revelation. What is God accomplishing in the Bible?

34:12

And 2 Samuel plays a key part in that. So the first thing that we're gonna see is the promise of the Messiah in this Davidic covenant. You remember as we were looking at that picture that they just drew and had on the screens, there was that big block right at the top really focusing on this chapter in 2 Samuel chapter 7.

34:31

This this big idea that God makes this covenant with David. And it's a key moment in biblical history because at this moment, what we see is that we're reminded that salvation history, the whole story of the Bible can be outlined through the different covenants that God makes with his people, makes with humanity throughout the story of the Bible.

34:58

I just want to take a minute or two and focus on, more than a couple minutes, but focus on kind of the story of what the covenants communicate to us, how these threads are running throughout the entire story of Scripture.

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And so, as we get started, these two main covenants, there's two main ideas, two main covenants that we see that kind of run simultaneously throughout the Scriptures, and that is the covenant of works and the covenant of grace.

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The other covenants that we're going to look at kind of fit underneath of those two, but the covenant of works is really the basic rules that God set up at the beginning of mankind. It reveals that humanity falls short of God's perfect standard.

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God has said, act this way, be perfect because I'm perfect. And then, whenever humanity falls short of that, that means that punishment is due if the covenant is broken. And so, we fully deserve punishment.

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We fully deserve the wrath of God because that's how, you know, that's how it works. You follow the rules, you get blessings. If you disobey the rules, you deserve punishment. So, that's the covenant of works that's kind of undergirding all of what's going on in Scripture.

36:07

Meanwhile, there's also this covenant of grace that kind of simultaneously runs alongside of the rest of the story. And the covenant of grace is the agreement where God planned to save humanity from the consequences of their sin, the fair consequences, the just consequences of their sin.

36:26

It's how God reveals salvation as a gift that he makes available to us. And that grace is fully unmerited. That salvation is fully undeserved on our part, but it's only due to the fact that God is good and God has chosen to save undeserving people like me and like you.

36:45

So we've got these two main covenants that God is working saying there's the covenant of works if you want to do things your own way God will judge you according to your works or we have this covenant of grace where God is saving a people for himself throughout the story of the Bible the big picture.

37:02

Now there as those things are kind of the big picture of what's going on in Scripture I love this image that I found on Google. So not anything that I created myself but something that I found I think it does a good job of showing us how the the covenant of works and the covenant of grace are constantly at work in the entire story of the Bible.

37:21

But what we have here is now, as we follow the storyline as we start in the Garden of Eden and we make our way all the way through as Israel becomes a country as as God begins to make these promises like he does in 2 Samuel, we make our way all the way to Jesus. What we see is more and more of the same thing becoming clear to us.

37:42

That God continues to reveal these different covenants that we see are kind of expansions of the same covenant of grace that God is making available to his people. So let me walk through just briefly each of those covenants that we see that the main covenants of which one of them is the covenant that God makes with David and 2 Samuel while we're looking at this.

38:03

But the first covenant that we see God make with his people is called the Adamic covenant. The covenant that God made with Adam all the way back in Genesis chapters 1, 2, and 3. So as God created humanity to rule the world on God's behalf, there was a promise that God made.

38:21

He promised blessing. He promised life. He promised righteousness if they would obey his commands. But there was also a promise of death. There was a promise of curse if they disobeyed. And so he kind of lays out these two paths for Adam and Eve.

38:38

And so he makes this agreement with Adam all the way back in the beginning. Now as we fast forward a few years to Genesis chapter 8, what we see is the covenant that God made with Noah, the Noahic covenant.

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Now you may remember that in the story of the arc that God destroyed all of the earth and the plants and the animals and all of humanity except for Noah's family that was saved in the arc along with two of every kind, those pairs of animals that we remember hearing those stories as kids.

39:08

When that story, at the end of that story, it tells us that God makes a covenant with Noah. He promises that the human race will not be annihilated again. It will not be destroyed again until the plan of redemption through the the offspring of the woman.

39:24

That phrase where God promises all the way back to Adam, all the way back in the beginning. He says that even though they sinned, even though they deserved punishment, even though they were being kicked out of the garden, Adam and Eve were, that there was there was a promise that a seed of the woman was going to come and was going to crush the serpent.

39:42

All the way back with Adam, now the covenant that he makes with Noah, he promises that that offspring of the woman will come. He promises that the world will not be

destroyed again, that the plan of redemption is going to come and it will take place before things are destroyed again.

40:01

We fast forward a little bit more to the covenant that God made with Abraham, the Abrahamic covenant in Genesis 12 through 15 or so, and what we see in the covenant that God makes with Abraham is that God promised Abraham a few different things.

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God promises Abraham that he's going to make him into a mighty nation. He's going to redeem a people for himself. He promises Abraham land, offspring, and a blessing that was going to extend to the ends of the earth.

40:33

We know that God was going to keep that promise, but he was going to do it through an offspring of Abraham, through whom he tells Abraham, all the nations of the earth will be blessed through Abraham and through Abraham's family.

40:47

He continues on as Israel grows up, Abraham's family grows up, there's many of them at this point, their kids have kids and more kids and more kids, and they turn into a mighty nation, a mighty group of people while they're stuck in Egypt.

41:03

And so as God saves his people, the Israelites from Egypt with the plagues, you remember that story, and so as the Israelites flee from Egypt, they escape from the hand of Pharaoh, they're out wandering around in the wilderness, and they they reach Mount Sinai.

41:19

Moses goes up the mountain and interacts with God on Mount Sinai, and God at Mount Sinai gives Moses two big tablets. I'm sure you've seen the movies or you've heard of these before, right? God gives Moses the Ten Commandments.

41:33

God reveals his law to Moses and says, Moses, this is what is expected of you. God made stipulations with his people, Israel. God gave Israel his law in those Ten Commandments, and God tells Israel that there would be blessings if they obeyed God's laws and commands, that there would be consequences if they chose to disobey his commands.

41:56

That sounds familiar, doesn't it? God's revealing a little bit more, a little bit more, a little bit more of this entire plan throughout the covenants. Now we make our way to the next covenant, which is the covenant that God makes with David here in 2 Samuel chapter 7.

42:11

It's an expansion of the covenant, the same one that God made with Abraham. You remember God told Abraham that there was going to be a promise of victory through this child of Abraham, through the family of Abraham, but God tells David now, no, no, David, the promise is going to come through a king.

42:29

The promise is going to come through a king whose kingdom will never end. And what initially appears to refer to David's sons, maybe it's Jonathan, maybe it's Absalom, maybe it's Amnon, these different men that David has in his family.

42:46

Maybe it refers to an earthly kingdom. We see through the remainder of Samuel. We see through the fighting and the backstabbing and all the things that we see in 2 Samuel.

And in fact, through the remainder of Scripture, we see that this speaks of someone greater than just Jonathan, just Solomon, just Absalom, just these men.

43:10

What am I talking about, Jonathan? That was Saul's son, right? Nobody raised their hand and caught me on that. Jonathan doesn't fit with David. He was a friend, not a ... Anyways, Solomon, Absalom, Amnon.

43:26

What we see here in this promise that God makes with David is that someone greater than David is going to come, that a kingdom greater than David's kingdom is going to come, that this kingdom will never end, that the promise that the seed of David will come and will bring an eternal kingdom, that should sound familiar to us because those are the promises that we remember hearing over and over again around Christmas time, right?

43:50

That a seed of David will come and will be the promised one will be the Messiah who will save us all.

43:57

Finally, the last covenant that God makes with His people that God reveals to us is referred to as the new covenant. We see it in some of the prophecies in Jeremiah and Ezekiel, but then we see it in Jesus' own words in the book of Luke and these other accounts of the Gospels where you may remember right before Jesus went to the cross, right before Jesus dies, He's having communion with His disciples, the Last Supper.

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And they're gathered there in the upper room and it tells us that Jesus takes the cup and He looks at them and He says, this blood, this cup is a symbol of the new covenant that my blood is establishing in this moment, that as He went and died, He was pointing to the fact that all the previous covenants were a fulfillment that was going to come in

Jesus, that He was the fulfillment of all the previous covenants that God had made with Israel.

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The promise of forgiveness that He promised all the way back at the beginning, the promise that we see carried through all these different covenants, we find it in Jesus in His death and we see it in Acts chapter 2 as God pours out His Holy Spirit on His people.

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The new covenant is the conclusion, it's the summary, it's the capstone on what we have seen and some people refer to the Old Testament as types and shadows. We see little glimmers, we see little ideas show up of, wait a minute, they're promising that there's going to be a King who comes whose kingdom will never end.

45:32

Well that sounds kind of like Jesus, doesn't it? We hear about one who is going to come from humanity, he was going to crush the serpent's head all the way back in the Garden of Eden.

45:42

Well, that sounds kind of like the snake crusher. That's the person that comes and defeats Satan and defeats death. That's what Jesus does. We see these little glimmers of what's going on back in the Old Testament, but now the New Testament, the New Covenant reveals to us the promise of forgiveness and kind of fills in all the gaps.

46:02

It takes the shadowy pictures, the stencils and the outlines, and it helps us color in the rest of what's going on in these Old Testament covenants. It's a continued expansion that we see a little more.

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We see a little more. We see a little more as the covenants go along. And so I wanted to take a minute and focus on all of these things because the reason that this is so significant is that in 2 Samuel we see another one of these covenants show up.

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And when we see in God promising David, David, there is going to come one who is greater than you. There is going to be one who comes from your family who, who establishes an eternal kingdom. Well, that's allowing us to take a step back.

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I think it would be good for us in these moments as we come across these things to take a step back and to realize that as we study the Bible, as we study as a church, we come in and we work line by line, verse by verse.

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We read, we start in chapter 1, verse 1, and we work our way all the way through. That's how we study, and it's important for us to make sure we get all the details when we're studying God's word.

47:09

We want to focus on the little things. But sometimes, when we get so focused in on the minutia, we get into a forest and we look at this little thing and this little thing, and you focus on the trees that you never take a moment to take a step back and see the entirety of what's going on in the forest.

47:29

Well, what we have here is an opportunity to encourage us to take a step back and to look at the big picture of what's going on in the Bible. That from Genesis to Revelation, there is one story that God is, he's redeeming a people for himself.

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That there is a people group that just like Adam and Eve, we sinned, humanity's sinned, and every person since then is going to continue to sin. I sin, you sin, David sins, Saul sins, everybody else that we look at in the book and around us.

48:01

People sitting around you, they're sinners too. Right, and the reality is that all of us, if we look at our lives and if we stand before God based on the covenant of works, God, this is what I've done.

48:13

I have worked hard, I have accomplished, I have done these things, that any of us, when we stand before God based on our works, we get ourselves in trouble, don't we? We come up short of God's perfect standard.

48:26

God said perfection and we miss, all of us miss. And so the reality of the covenant of works is that we are all hopeless and destined for punishment on our own, but the covenant of grace that we see God revealing throughout Scripture.

48:44

Kind of a kind of a big idea, but this this picture that God is saving people for himself, that God is coming in and revealing a little more of himself, and a little more of himself, and a little more of himself.

48:55

And he tells Adam, someone's going to come and crush the snake. And he tells Abraham, the entire world is going to be blessed by you, that through your seed, through your family, the nations of the earth will be blessed.

49:07

He tells David, there is going to be an eternal kingdom that is established by one of the sons that comes from your line, King David. We step back and we look at that from where we're at in the story.

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We have the privilege of being closer to the end of the story than the beginning of the story, so we can kind of look back and have perspective on all these things that God has revealed a little at a time, a little at a time, and a little at a time.

49:32

Now we look back and we go, oh hey, I'll that points to Jesus, doesn't it? All of these things are pointing to Jesus and so what we see in the covenants is this beautiful picture of how God is saving people like me and people like you.

49:45

God is redeeming a people for himself so that sinners can be forgiven. Sinners can have hope and God is working in the lives of the Old Testament. He's saving a family, a nation, a people that come from Abraham and from Abraham's seed as Abraham's sons and daughters have more children, have more children, have more children.

50:10

They become the nation of Israel that we see God interacting with leading in 1st and 2nd Samuel, leading his people, giving them land, giving them promises, giving them all these things. But as we come to the New Testament what we see is Jesus says, no, no, no, I'm establishing something much bigger than just people group, just a family, just a bloodline because Jesus came and Jesus shows up on the scene and Jesus says,

50:37

I've come that the world might be saved. I've come that all people from all nations might have hope, might have an opportunity to know God and it's the reason why in the book of Acts God looks at Paul and Peter, he looks at them, he says, no, no, no, the message isn't just for the Jews, it's for everybody.

50:58

He looks at Peter and he says, no, no, no, no, what you said is unclean, I'm telling you all people should have an opportunity to hear. All people should have an opportunity to be a part of the people of God that God is redeeming for himself and so it's where the nation of Israel in the Old Testament becomes the church in the New Testament.

51:17

It's the good news for us as most of us in the room, I think, I look around, most of us aren't Jews that are sitting here today, right? We're not national Jews and so for us the good news is that God said, no, no, the picture keeps expanding, the graph keeps going out and out and out and we got to be included in this incredible story, this incredible picture of how God is saving a people for Himself.

51:42

All of that big picture, all of that story makes its way through 2 Samuel where we see this covenant that God takes, a man named David, an imperfect man named David.

51:58

He says, David, through you and through your family, the nations of the earth will be blessed. It's not because David was good enough. In fact, within just a couple of chapters, within just a few years after that moment happens where God blesses David and gives this covenant, this promise to David, David immediately turns around and blows it, doesn't he?

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We remember Bathsheba and Uriah and the rest of the family falling apart. That happens not long after God makes these promises, showing us that we don't have to perfect people, to be people that are used by God, to be people that...

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that God is going to work in and work through. There's the promise of the Messiah and the Davidic covenant in 2 Samuel. Just a couple other things that we're gonna see that I wanna touch on today so that as we see them show up in the book of 2 Samuel, we recognize them and we're ready for them.

52:52

One of those is the significance of repentance. And you may remember this, we talked about this a little bit in 1 Samuel. As we come into 2 Samuel, we're going to see this even more clearly. King Saul and his failures, they were such significant failures, not just because he failed, not primarily because he failed, but primarily because when he failed, he didn't recover, he didn't get back up, he didn't repent, he didn't turn and come back to God.

53:22

But as we see in David's story, David is going to have massive failures as well. But in David's story, after David's massive failures, we see it with Bathsheba and Uriah specifically, David's response to his sin is, it's key.

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What we see in David is the significance of repentance because for us, when we fall in love with our sin, when we hide from our sin, or maybe we hide with our sin, we find something that we like, or maybe we're just ashamed and we can't ask for forgiveness for one reason or another, we hide with our sin and we only make things worse.

54:02

But what we see in David is a beautiful example of repentance. It's a beautiful example of how we should respond when we see sin pop up in our own lives because David owned up to his sin. David was brokenhearted about his sin as he realized what he had done, as he had rebelled against God and ultimately he does what he can to remedy the situation.

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The word repentance, it means that to realize that I'm moving in a direction I don't wanna be going, it means to stop in your tracks, to turn around, to change your mind and to move in an opposite direction.

54:38

What David is doing, he realizes that the path he's on isn't where he wants to be and we see him have a change of heart and he changes directions. We see the significance of repentance in 2 Samuel and finally we're gonna see the long-lasting effects of sin.

54:55

The long-lasting effects of sin because what we see in 2 Samuel is that God does forgive sin. We know that in our own lives, right? That God forgives sin, that the punishment, the ultimate cosmic punishment for sin, the wrath of God that we all deserve, that was laid on Jesus at the cross.

55:14

That was laid on Jesus, that Jesus paid our penalty so that we wouldn't have to stand before a holy God and somehow pay our own penalty. God does forgive sin. As David is repentant, God forgives him, God restores David, but God does not erase the effects of sin.

55:38

Because while God forgives and certainly removes our guilt, He placed that on Jesus at the cross. The earthly ramifications of sin are not so quickly erased. The second half of 2 Samuel, the second half of this book shows a family in disarray.

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So it shows us a family that is falling apart due to David's sin. The ugly that we see in 2 Samuel, we see family rivalry, we see murders and rape and incest and political backbiting and coups that are staged by a son against a father, we see manipulation, we see all these terrible ugly things in 2 Samuel.

56:19

But what we see in all these fascinating stories, all this drama that pops up here and there as David's family is falling apart, many of those things come as a result of the sin that David committed earlier in the book.

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Many of those political rivalries, many of the manipulations and the rivalries and the murders and all these different things, they stem from the sinfulness of David's own heart, of David's decisions, of David's deciding, no, no, one woman's not enough for me.

56:52

I need a woman over here and a woman over here and a woman over there. And now we've got these different factions in the family that Bathsheba's children over here and this one's children over here and they don't like each other, they start fighting and posturing for the throne.

57:05

We see all kinds of terrible things that happen as a result of the sinfulness that we see pop up in David. It's going to be a fun study. It's going to be a faster study than 1 Samuel was. We're going to keep moving next week.

57:21

We'll start with chapter 1, verse 1 next Sunday. There's all kinds of interesting things in here. I'm excited to see what God brings to light. I'm excited to see how God uses these themes of covenants and repentance and significance of how sin can have reach in our own lives as well.

57:41

God uses these to convict us and to challenge us and to push us forward. But as we finish up this morning, I kind of want to just take a few minutes and just pray for us as a church.

57:52

Pray for you as as people of this church as we dive into a new study, as we dive into 2 Samuel. I'm gonna invite the worship team to go ahead and come up here and get ready, but I just want to take a few minutes and just just pray that God would use this series to accomplish what God wants to in my life, in your life, not just in the big picture but in the little details as well.

58:16

So church I want to invite you just to pray with me as we prepare to set off in this series of 2 Samuel. Would you pray with me? God as we look at the big picture of this book this morning. God as we look at all of the things that you're communicating as you're teaching David, as you see David succeed so beautifully and fail so miserably.

58:43

God, as we look at these things, we simply stop to acknowledge at the beginning of all of this that God, we need you. We need you. We are flawed people. We are coming here today as tired and broken and incapable on our own, people in need of a savior.

59:02

God, the challenges of life have a way of just beating us down at times. And I think there's many in this room that have a desire to obey you, have a desire to grow in their relationship with you, but it can be hard sometimes.

59:16

Things get in the way. God, we pray that you would open our eyes to the wealth of wisdom that is made available to us in 2 Samuel. God, we pray that you would prepare us to receive what you would have for us in this book over the next four or five months that we're gonna spend studying it.

59:33

We pray that you would help us to study Samuel, that we would view 2 Samuel, not just as an interesting collection of stories, but as your inspired and perfect and holy word that you have given to us.

59:48

We know there's things that are a bit out of the ordinary in these Old Testament books, but God, we pray that you would give us ears to hear and soft hearts to receive what you have for us in this book.

59:59

God, we pray that you would help us to live out with faith and with perseverance the things that we see so clearly communicated in 2 Samuel. God, it's so easy for us, for me, to fall prey to the temptations, the same temptations that were there for David and for his family back thousands of years ago.

01:00:16

God, many of them are the same temptations that we wrestle with, that we fall into today. God, we pray that you would help us to grow through these stories, to learn from

the mistakes of those that have gone before us, that we would be able to avoid the temptations of apathy.

01:00:35

Of rivalry and selfishness that we see in 2 Samuel, that we would be able to have victory over sexual sin like we see in David's life. And God, we pray that you would give us freedom from from hatred, from seeking revenge like we see so many of David's sons do in the story of 2 Samuel.

01:00:57

God, we pray that you would help us to live in a manner that we might, just like David was, be described as men and women after your own hearts, that we would be people who confess sin, that we would be people who repent from our sinfulness, that we would pursue righteousness like we see from David and his example in this book.

01:01:16

We pray that you would show us that you are our rock, that you are our fortress, that you are our deliverer and our shield and our our Savior like David prays at the end of this book. God, we pray that you would use this study to accomplish your work in our lives, that you would use 2 Samuel to teach us what obedience looks like.

01:01:39

To teach us that you are building a people for yourself starting with Adam, starting with Abraham, starting with David, starting with these men that have gone before us, but God you are building a family.

01:01:52

You are building a people and we are we are blessed to have an opportunity to be a part of the people of God. God, we thank you for the offer of salvation that you have made available to us, that there was a king whose kingdom shall never end, that David's promise was fulfilled in Jesus, and that we can sit here this morning knowing that you

receive us, not because of our righteousness, but because of the righteousness of Christ.

01:02:20

God, we pray that you would use this series to convict us, to challenge us, to push us forward, and God, give us ears to hear what you have to say. God, we thank you. We love you. We pray all this in Jesus' beautiful name. Amen.