



The Story of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

Week 8

David's Last Days

2 Samuel 22:1 – 2 Kings 2:10

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David's song, last words, and mighty men

- ❖ Chapter 22 is David's song of thanksgiving. It is duplicated as Psalm 18.
 - The psalm teaches us about God's willingness to work in, through, and even in spite of our humanness. We are all part of a "divine-human" enterprise.
 - Jesus coming from the house of David shows that God not only worked in and through his incarnate Son, but also through David.
- ❖ David's last words are spoken as a prophet. This song focuses on the reality of God's future, despite David's failings; i.e., despite our weaknesses, God's purposes move forward. God won't fail because we are weak.
- ❖ The listing of David's warriors is a way to honor and remember them. David was not the only hero of Israel!

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David's census

- ❖ Like the story of the Gibeonites in chapter 21, this story is part of the larger appendix (21-24).
- ❖ What a puzzling and troubling story! God incites David to sin!
 - This story troubled the Jews too. When it is retold by the Chronicler, it is the *satan*, the adversary, who causes David to take the census. See I Chronicles 21.
 - We see a dangerous God, much like the God of the Exodus, who feared that his “anger” would consume his people when they sinned.
- ❖ The census shows a lack of faith because David has to count his men rather than simply trusting God to bring them victory. It is upsetting to the people because it is a prelude to a draft – back to the business of “taking.”
 - Notice that Joab and the commanders don't want to do it. But it is a royal order. Note also that David never invokes God's command.
- ❖ In the end, David prays for mercy and God responds. Which is just how the book of Samuel began.

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What the OT stories are not! (Fee & Stuart)

- ❖ These are not just stories about people who live in ancient times!
 - They are about what God did to and thru those people
- ❖ These are not stories filled with all sorts of hidden meanings – be careful what you read into them!
- ❖ The stories rarely teach directly!
 - The bible is the spiritual journal of the people of God.
 - The teaching is implicit and by illustration.
- ❖ Every story and episode DOES NOT have a moral of its own.

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A Few More Keys

- ❖ The narratives record what happened – *not what should have or ought to have happened.*
 - Often, we aren't even told whether the story is a good example or a bad one!
 - There are lots of Old Testament characters we would not want to emulate.
- ❖ **ALL** the stories are incomplete and selectively told. The authors are not journalists. There is intended meaning in all these writings, even if it seems impossible to find.
- ❖ Still . . . the narratives are not written to answer all our theological questions. Trust that God gave us the book he intended us to have!

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Not again!! – I Kings I

- ❖ David is now very old. The story of the young woman Abishag is told to emphasize David's royal impotence.
- ❖ Adonijah, one of David's sons, takes advantage of his father's weakness to try to seize the throne rather than let it go to Solomon. He gets Joab(!) and the priest Abiathar to come to his side.
- ❖ Bathsheba intervenes, with Nathan's aid, and gets David to crown Solomon as his successor before Adonijah can declare himself to be king.
 - Adonijah takes refuge in the tabernacle (the sanctuary). Solomon agrees to let Adonijah live but only if he foregoes evil.

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Wrapping up loose ends – 1 Kings 2

- ❖ Before David dies, he tells Solomon to stay true to God and God will not fail him or his successors. He warns about Joab and tells Solomon to make sure that Joab does not go to *sheol* in peace.
- ❖ After his father's death, Solomon consolidates his reign.
 - Adonijah makes one last try at taking the throne by trying to take Abishag. He fails and is put to death.
 - Solomon banishes the traitorous priest, Abiathar.
 - Joab sees what is coming and flees to the sanctuary, but he is killed there. Note that neither David nor Solomon seem to know that Joab also killed Absalom.
 - Shimei is ordered to never leave Jerusalem. But he does and is executed.

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Who are these people? Where do they fit in the story?

Saul	Nathan
Jonathan	Joab
Jesse	Ishbaal/Ish-bosheth
Goliath	Uzzah
Mychal	Mephibosheth & Ziba
Abner	Abiathar
Absalom	Bathsheba
Amnon & Tamar	Solomon
Abigail & Nabal	Uriah
Samuel	Rizpah
Ahimilech	Ahithophel & Hushai
Adonijah	Sheba

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