**WEEK 7 | 1 SAMUEL 31 – 2 SAMUEL 7 | GOD’S PROMISE & FAITHFULNESS**

HOMEWORK: Read 1 Samuel 31 – 2 Samuel 7

*(more reading this week than usual, but you can do it!)*

1 Samuel 31 and 2 Samuel 1 tell the same story, the death of Saul, but seem to have a contradiction in exactly how Saul died: Did he kill himself, or did the Amalekite kill Saul as he tells David? David seems to believe the Amalekite killed Saul. Many commentators, however, believe he did not kill Saul but merely told David this story in hopes of winning favor with the man he believed would replace Saul as king.

* Why did David have the Amalekite executed? Do you think this was justified?
* David repeatedly called Saul “the LORD’s anointed” and refused to kill him (1 Sam 24:6, 26:9). Also consider Saul’s armorbearer’s response (1 Sam 31:4-5). Does this change your answer?
* David loved and feared the Lord and therefore honored His anointed king (we’ve previously discussed how he waited his turn as king even after being anointed himself) even mourning for Saul, as well as his friend Jonathan. What does this say about David? What should we learn from this?

2 Samuel chapters 2 – 4 describe a civil war in Israel as David continues to wait to be made king over all Israel. Saul’s commander Abner and David’s commander Joab are the instigators of this war and each end up paying a dear price, Joab losing his brother and Abner losing his own life. Read Romans 12:17-21. David seemed to have this attitude regarding Saul, however his own general Joab did not.

* Why do you think this is? Was David an ineffective leader?
* What might have happened if Abner and Joab had this attitude?

The key to these chapters is that David did not take the kingdom by force but awaits God’s timing and all the people’s endorsement. David is an Old Testament representation of Jesus. When Jesus came many misunderstood that he would restore David’s kingdom by force or politically. Read John 6:15, John 18:33-36, Acts 1:6.

* Why do you think it is important that neither David nor Jesus established a kingdom politically or by force?
* Of course, we know from Revelation (and elsewhere) that Jesus will come again a second time in great power to establish His Kingdom forever!

In 2 Samuel 5 David is finally made king of all Israel, approximately 15 years after he was anointed by God (1 Sam. 16:13). The same phrase bookends David’s journey to king, “the Lord was with him” (1 Sam. 16:18b, 2 Sam. 5:10).

* How do you think David was able to wait 15 years for God’s promise to be fulfilled?
* Do you think David ever doubted it would happen?
* How can you use David’s example to wait on God to fulfill His promises in your own life?

2 Samuel 6 describes David bringing the ark into Jerusalem. “Both this passage and 1 Sam. 4:1-7:2 show that the ark was not just an arbitrary symbol of God’s presence, but God himself manifested his presence in a special way where the ark was, so the ark should not be treated lightly… This incident was a dramatic reminder to David of God’s holiness and of the necessity of approaching God only according to his revealed instruction.”\*\*

See Exodus 25:14-15, Numbers 4:15, 7:9, and Deuteronomy 10:8, 31:9 for instructions on how the ark was to be transported, and *not* touched.

* What did David learn about God’s holiness from this incident? What should we learn?

There is an interesting interaction between David and his wife Michal in 2 Samuel 6:16-23. Michal seems to think David should have acted, and dressed, more “kingly,” whereas David seems to know his place and was celebrating the true King entering Jerusalem.

* Do you worship God more like David or Michal? Are you willing to unashamedly worship God “with all your might” (like David) or are you concerned with how others would view you (like Michal)? When was the last time you couldn’t contain your joy in worship?

2 Samuel 7 is key to the history of salvation and God’s covenant promise; 2 Sam. 7:8-17 is often referred to as the “Davidic covenant.” For more on this covenant visit: https://www.gotquestions.org/Davidic-covenant.html

* What promises does God make to David? And to Israel overall?

Read 1 Kings 6:11-14 and 8:20 to see how Solomon fulfills part of this covenant.

Read Jeremiah 23:5-6, Isaiah 9:6-8, Luke 1:30-33, and Acts 13:30-39 to see how Jesus ultimately fulfills this covenant.

* How has this covenant come all the way down to us?
* How does knowing God has kept this most significant promise affect your faith?

Both Matthew 1 and Luke 3 give genealogies of Jesus to show his descent from David (and Abraham and Adam). Jesus is also frequently referred to as “Son of David.” Search that phrase on biblegateway.com or biblehub.com to review the instances.

* Why do you think this was important to Matthew and Luke?
* What do you think the people thought when Jesus was referred to as “Son of David”?

**\*Come prepared this week to discuss God’s promise, faithfulness, and David’s role in God’s covenant**

\*\*ESV Study Bible