

Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Three: David's God-Given Kingdom - 2 Samuel 1-10, 1 Chronicles 11-19, selected Psalms

Read 2 Samuel 1-4.

- 1) Describe David's response to the news of Saul's death. **David grieved the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. He tore his clothes, wept and fasted. He ordered the killing of the Amalekite who claimed he personally slew Saul. He also wrote a lament in honor of Saul and Jonathan and ordered the men of Judah to learn it. Finally, David commended the men of Jabesh Gilead for retrieving and burying Saul's body. David was loyal to Saul and his family, even in their deaths.**
- 2) Re-read 2 Samuel 2:8, 12-13, 17; 3:1, 6, 12, 17-19, 27. Who were Abner son of Ner and Joab son of Zeruiah (see also 1 Samuel 14:50-51, 1 Chronicles 2:13-16, 11:6)? **Abner was either Saul's cousin (their fathers [Kish and Ner] were brothers, sons of Abiel) or Saul's uncle (see 1 Chronicles 8:33, which lists Ner as the father of Kish, not the brother). Abner was also the commander of Saul's army. Joab was the son of David's sister Zeruiah and the commander of David's army. Joab had two brothers, Asahel and Abishai. Some time after Saul's death, Abner put Saul's son Ish-Boseth on the throne and then became disgruntled with him and shifted his loyalty to David. Abner negotiated with the people of Israel to make David king but was murdered by Joab before the coronation occurred.**
- 3) 2 Samuel 1, 3 and 4 record David's responses to the deaths of Saul, Abner, and Saul's son Ish-Boseth, men he could have considered his enemies (see also David's instructions to his son Solomon concerning Joab in 1 Kings 2:5-6).
 - a) What do David's responses to the deaths of his enemies tell you about him? **David could certainly have justified a feeling of satisfaction over the deaths of his enemies. Rather, he showed the utmost respect for their positions of authority, demonstrating that he feared God, loved justice, and was a man of integrity and humility. All Israel noted his response and was pleased by it (2 Samuel 3:36).**
 - b) 2 Samuel 3:36 tells us the eyes of all Israel were on David. Name several individuals who are watching your life the kind of an example they need to see in you right now. **Personal sharing**

Read 2 Samuel 5-6 and 1 Chronicles 11-16.

- 4) 2 Samuel 5 and 1 Chronicles 11, 12, and 14 describe David's receiving and securing of the kingdom of Israel.
 - a) List the main events described in these chapters, events that would have brought stability and security to Israel and to David's monarchy (skim section titles, if your Bible has them, and consider the commentaries in 1 Chronicles 12:22, 40b and 14:17). **2 Samuel 5: David made a covenant with all Israel. He conquered Jerusalem and in so doing, rid Israel of Canaanite rebels who, prior to that time, represented a threat within their borders. He also defeated the Philistines, another of Israel's enemies. 1 Chronicles 12:22ff: A large army of good fighters (thousands from all twelve tribes) chose to align with David. 1 Chronicles 12:38-40: David's coronation was a unifying national event that brought much joy to all Israel. 1 Chronicles 14:17: The Lord Himself ensured stability and security by causing all the nations to fear David.**
 - b) According to 2 Samuel 5:12, for whose benefit did the Lord raise up David as king, and what principle (truth) does this verse teach about God's choice of any individual leader? **2 Samuel 5:12 says, "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." David was not chosen and exalted by God for his own benefit but for the benefit of the people he led, the Israelites. God does not choose individuals for leadership because of their own worthiness but because it is His pleasure to do so and because He intends to use them for the benefit of others.**

- 5) 2 Samuel 6 and 1 Chronicles 13, 15, 16 tell how David brought the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem.
- a) What was the Ark and why was it important (see God's words to Moses in Exodus 25:8, 10, 16, and 22)? **The Ark was the most important furnishing in the Tabernacle because God's presence symbolically dwelt between the wings of the cherubim over the atonement cover (seat). It symbolized the presence of God among His people and foreshadowed Christ's work of atonement. During Samuel's lifetime, Israel misused the Ark. Seeing it as a talisman, they assumed that carrying it into warfare would assure victory, but much to their surprise, the Philistines captured it (1 Samuel 4-5). Later, it was returned (1 Samuel 6) and it remained at the house of Abinadab in Kiriath Jearim until David finally placed it in a tent in Jerusalem. Other Tabernacle furnishings remained in the care of priests in Gibeon (1 Chronicles 16:39-43 and 21:29), under Zadok's oversight (Zadok was the Aaronic descendant of Eleazar). Meanwhile, the Aaronic descendant of Ithamar, Abiathar, oversaw the new tent in Jerusalem, with the assistance of the chief worship leader, Asaph (1 Chronicles 16:37).**
 - b) What additional information do the Chronicles chapters give about why David's first attempt to bring the Ark to Jerusalem was unsuccessful, information that is not found in 2 Samuel (consider 1 Chronicles 13:7 with Numbers 4:15-16 [the "tent of meeting" is another name for the Tabernacle and the Ark was one of the "holy things"/furnishings within the Tabernacle] and 1 Chronicles 15:2, 13-15)? **The Chronicles passages reveal that, after consulting the Torah, David discovered he should not have attempted to carry the Ark on a new cart, as he had attempted. The Ark was only to be carried by the priests.**
 - c) Who was blessed, directly or indirectly, because David brought the Ark to Jerusalem (see all four chapters)?
 - Obed-Edom and his entire household, in whose possession the Ark had previously been, were blessed (2 Samuel 6:11).
 - David directly blessed the Israelites in the Lord's name and gave them gifts (2 Samuel 6:18).
 - David spoke of slave girls who were blessed by his joyful celebration as he danced before the Lord (2 Samuel 6:22).
 - David consulted all his officers and commanders before bringing the Ark back (1 Chronicles 13:1).
 - The priests and Levites of the land were summoned (1 Chronicles 13:2).
 - On the second occasion, all Israel assembled in Jerusalem to witness and celebrate the Ark's arrival (1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 28).
 - The leaders of the Levites, whom David had instructed about properly carrying the ark, were highly privileged (1 Chronicles 15:11-15).
 - Those appointed to sing and play instruments for the occasion (1 Chronicles 15:16, 27)
 - The doorkeepers for the Ark in Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:23)
 - Asaph and Obed-Edom were blessed with special roles in ministering before the Ark and certain Levites were appointed to make petitions, give thanks, and praise the Lord (1 Chronicles 16:4, 37-38).
 - David's own family, whom he returned home to bless at the conclusion of the festivities (1 Chronicles 16:43)
 - d) Who was not blessed?
 - Uzzah died when he touched the Ark (2 Samuel 6:7, 1 Chronicles 13:10).
 - David's wife Michal despised him for dancing before the Lord, and as a result, never bore children (2 Samuel 6:20-23, 1 Chronicles 15:29).

- 6) 1 Chronicles 16:7-36 (portions of which are also found in Psalm 96, 105, and 106) records David's song of thanks to the Lord for the Ark's arrival in Jerusalem, an event for which David wanted the Lord to be glorified. Like many of David's other psalms, the one found in 1 Chronicles 16 calls on its readers to "make known...what God has done" (verse 8) and to "tell of all his wonderful acts" (verse 9). What has God done for you recently that you need to share for the sake of His glory? **Personal sharing**

Read 2 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 17.

- 7) Summarize 2 Samuel 7 (you will find additional information about this in 1 Chronicles 28:2-3). **2 Samuel 7 records the covenant God made with David, who desired to build a house for the Lord. The Lord spoke to David through the prophet Nathan, saying that He would build a "house," a dynasty of descendants who would sit on Israel's throne into eternity, and that David was not his chosen instrument to build the Temple; that task was for David's son. The passage is full of Messianic implication. It is an example of a prophecy that was fulfilled in the near-term through David's son Solomon but more completely through Christ Jesus. David thanked and praised the Lord in response.**
- 8) In 2 Samuel 7:11b-16, God promised David He would establish his house and kingdom.
- What "house" is God speaking of in 2 Samuel 11b? **David's dynasty**
 - What "house" is God speaking of in verse 13? **The literal house of the Lord, the Temple.**
 - Who is the son of whom God speaks in 2 Samuel 7:13 (see 1 Chronicles 28:5-7)? **Solomon**
 - What ancient promise of God is also implied in these verses concerning another son of David (see Genesis 12:2-3; 17:6, 16; 35:11, and 49:10, together with Matthew 1:22-25, 2:1-2; Mark 15:2; Luke 1:31-33; and Revelation 1:5; 19:16. This promise can actually be traced all the way back to the Garden of Eden [Genesis 3:15])? **From the time of the Fall, God promised a Deliverer (a Messiah). Later, He indicated the Messiah would descend through Abraham, more specifically, through the lineage of Judah, and even more specifically, through David (a descendant of Judah). Jesus is the descendant of David whose kingdom will never end and whom God "raised up" (verse 12) from the dead.**
- 9) Enjoy God's promises to you in Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:6-10; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 John 3:2; and Revelation 21:3-4; 22:1-5. Then re-read the words of David in 2 Samuel 7:18-19. What will this change about the way you live your life today? **Personal sharing**

Read 2 Samuel 8-10 and 1 Chronicles 18-19.

- 10) From 2 Samuel 8-10, list all the nations that David subjected. If you have access to a Bible atlas, indicate their location in relationship to Israel (southeast, southwest, east, etc.) alongside their names. **Philistines (southwest); Moabites (southeast); Arameans (Hadadezar was just one, Arameans of Damascus were another [northeast]); Tob, who made a treaty with David (east); Edomites (far southeast – beyond Moab); Ammonites (east); and Amalekites (south)**
- 11) David was more than just a great military leader. What else does 2 Samuel 8-10 tell you about him? **David was operating under God's blessing (8:6b, 14b). He was not controlled by wealth but gave plunder to the Lord (8:11). He cared for the people he ruled and treated them well (8:15). He kept promises (such as the one he made to Jonathan, [9:1]). He was kind and tenderhearted (9:1, 3, 7; 10:2, 5) and generous (9:7, 10, 13).**
- 12) What part of your life or personality needs to be developed so you can be characterized as a well-balanced person? **Personal sharing**

Read the Psalms noted below.

- 13)** David became king of Judah first and then king of all Israel. Some Psalms refer directly or indirectly to a future Messianic king. Read Psalm 45 and 110 and cite specific verses that seem to speak of a king living in the period of Israel’s monarchy and other phrases and verses that seem to refer to a Messianic king. **The following verses speak of kings living in the period of the Hebrew monarchy: “Daughters of kings are among your honored women” (45:9) and the king’s bride and her sons (45:1-16). The following refer to a Messianic King: “Your throne, O God, will last forever” (45:6); “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’” (Yahweh [God] is speaking to Adonai [the Lord Jesus, not David], 110:1); “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek” (110:4).**
- 14)** A number of the Psalms are imprecatory, meaning they call for a curse or judgment on someone or something. David was certainly a man who had enemies. 2 Samuel 8-10 record many that he subdued. Read Psalm 58 as an example of an imprecatory psalm.
- a) How do imprecatory psalms apply to a believer’s ultimate enemies today (see Romans 8:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, and Revelation 12:9)? **God hates the believer’s ultimate enemies: sin, death, and Satan. Believers can sing and pray the imprecatory Psalms with these enemies in mind. Concerning these Psalms, R. Ellsworth writes, “The answer is not in looking at them as the individual child of God seeking personal vengeance against his enemies but rather as him yearning for the only true God to triumph over His enemies. These imprecations are the prayers of those who have a consuming passion to see the cause of God triumph over all.”ⁱ**
 - b) Referring to Psalm 58:6, what would you like to see God “break” or “tear out” of your life?
Personal sharing
- 15)** In the chapters covered in this lesson, we read several times that David “inquired of the Lord.” He had been unsuccessful in his first attempt to bring the Ark to Jerusalem because he failed to consult God’s word. Skim Psalm 119 and list meaningful phrases that express the value of the written word of God. **Among the phrases that express the value of God’s word are: “wonderful things in your law” (verse 18); “preserves my life” (verses 40, 50); “put my hope in your laws” (verses 43, 81, 114, 147); “I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought your precepts” (verse 45); “I find comfort in them” (verse 52); “I delight in your law” (verses 70, 77, 174); “your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens” (verse 89); “I meditate on it all day long” (and night) (verses 97, 148); “your commands make me wiser” (verse 98); “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (verse 105); “Your statues are wonderful; therefore I obey them” (verse 129); “Your laws are right...trustworthy” (verses 137-8); “you established them to last forever” (verse 152); “all your words are true” (verse 160); and “Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble” (verse 165).**

ⁱ Ellsworth, R. (2006). *Opening Up Psalms* (p. 156). Leominster: Day One Publications.