



Sermon Study Guide

The Kingmaker: A King Who Stays
2 Samuel 5:17-8:18 – Sunday, June 23, 13

**Study questions are in italics*

Introduction

- At the very heart of the Bible is a promise, a promise that God will judge all unrighteousness and save all those who call upon the name of the Lord. It's a promise of the reign of a sovereign, holy, and faithful king. In these chapters, we see one of the clearest Old Testament prophecies of the coming of Christ.
- In one sense, these chapters are about David. But David is not the hero of the story. God is. David is sincere, courageous and wise. But God alone is sovereign, holy, and faithful.
- *Take a few moments to remind yourself of what has happened beginning from the birth of Samuel in 1 Samuel 1 to the reign of David over all Israel in 2 Samuel 5.*

First, take comfort because of God's sovereignty (2 Samuel 5:17-25)

- At 37, David is king of all Israel. But now he's the target of enemy aggression. Read 2 Samuel 5:17-21. *What do you think is the main point of these verses?*
- After God grants victory once, the Philistines gather for another attack. *What is David's response?*
- To say that God is sovereign is to say that God reigns over his creation and accomplishes all his will. *How do we see God's sovereignty in these verses?*
- God's sovereignty is a difficult doctrine for many to accept. But it is a doctrine we can nonetheless take comfort in.
 - First, take comfort in a sovereign God because he can and will justly judge all evil. The world is full of horrible evil. God will not let any wickedness go unaddressed. See Nahum 1:1-3. *How has God dealt with the wickedness of his people? How will God, one day, deal with all wickedness? Does this truth comfort you? Why or why not?*
 - Second, take comfort in a sovereign God because he can save the most unlikely sinner. In other words, no one is out of God's saving reach. However, this is only true because God is sovereign! *Who are some individuals you know that, humanly speaking, it seems unlikely they will be saved? Stop right now and pray for them.*
 - Third, take comfort in a sovereign God because he is painting a picture too big for us to see. We don't always see how God uses bad events to promote his good purpose. But he does! *What is something that has happened to you that you wish didn't happen but that you can see how God used for good. How did this event change you?*

Second, be careful because of God's holiness (2 Samuel 6)

- At the beginning of chapter 6, David is eager to retrieve the ark of the covenant and transport it to Jerusalem. God gave the Hebrews specific instructions regarding how to move the ark. It was to be transported by Levites, held by poles, and it was never to be touched. *How was the ark transported out of Baale-Judah (see 2 Samuel 6:1-4)?*
- In a moment of carelessness, Uzzah touches the ark, and God kills him. Look up 1 Chronicles 15:13. Some translations say that David failed to inquire of the Lord how to move the ark, and that's why the Lord punished Uzzah. But the ESV and NASB, translating the Greek plainly, state that they failed to seek God "according to the rule." Again, God gave specific directions regarding how the ark was to be moved. In David's day, and today, God is to be sought only according to his rule.
- Application:
 - *What should you say to an unbeliever who says he wants to know God, but doesn't want to go to God through Jesus Christ?*
 - *What should you say to the believer who says he is saved, but doesn't strive for holiness?*
 - *We learn from Uzzah that when it comes to approaching God, we should only approach him "according to the rule." What are some of the implications of this truth for our times of corporate worship as a church?*
 - *How did David respond to God's decision to judge Uzzah? What can we learn from David's response?*

Third, rejoice because of God's faithfulness (2 Samuel 7-8).

- David eventually brought the ark to Jerusalem, and he was very glad. And when the ark had been placed in a tent, David decided it was time to build a more permanent home for the ark—a temple (see 2 Sam 7:1-2). God decided that David was not the king to build a temple (see 2 Sam 7:4-7). God then gives David two sets of promises.
- One: God promises to bless David's kingdom today.
 - Look at 2 Samuel 7:8-11. God promises David a great name, a great place, and a great rest. In 2 Samuel 8 we see that God fulfilled these three promises in David's own day (see also 1 Kings 5:4).
 - God, in his mercy, blesses his children, today. Though some promises we wait to receive—the promise of glorification for example, we can receive the blessings of other promises here and now.
 - Read 1 Peter 4:14-16. *What do believers do in the name of Jesus? What name have we received as followers of Jesus? Describe some of the implications of having this new name.*
 - Israel received the Promised Land. Christians are waiting for the new heavens and earth. But in the meantime, we have received the family of the local church. Read Mark 10:29-31. *What are some of the blessings of being part of the family of God? What does it mean to you to be part of a local church? How do you need to grow when it comes to being a mother or father, brother or sister to others in the body of Christ?*
 - As believers, we have great rest, now. In Hebrews 4:9 we learn that we get to share in the very rest of God, today. *What are the implications of having God's rest when it comes to our fight against sin?*

What should we do if we know, with our mind, that we have rest from sin but we don't feel this rest? What should we do?

- Two: God promises to bless David's kingdom tomorrow. Look closely at 2 Samuel 7:11-17. These promises will be fulfilled only after David dies. Of course, at one level, some of these promises are fulfilled by the birth and reign of David's son, Solomon. After all, Solomon did in fact build a house for the ark, the temple. And Solomon was disciplined by God, his father. But these promises can't be taken to refer only to Solomon. David and the prophets and the first Christians took these promises to refer to the coming of Christ. These are the promises of a forever house, a forever kingdom, and a forever king.
 - Look at Psalm 89:1-5. *What promise is David referring to here?*
 - Look at Isaiah 11:1-5. *What is the "stump of Jesse" referring to? What is the connection of this promises to the promise of 2 Samuel 7?*
 - Look at Acts 2:29-32. *According to Peter, in what sense did David prophesy the coming of Christ?*

Final Application

- The God of 2 Samuel 5-8, the God who is sovereign, holy, and faithful to fulfill his promises, is none other than Jesus Christ!
 - Rejoice in our great and sovereign God, Jesus Christ. *How has Jesus proved himself sovereign over all creation? What comfort can you get from Colossians 1:15-20?*
 - Rejoice in our great and holy God, Jesus Christ. *Why is it important that Jesus was and is holy? What practical difference should Jesus' holiness make in your life?*
 - Rejoice in our great and faithful God, Jesus Christ. *How did Jesus prove his faithfulness to you? How can you grow in your ability and willingness and desire to rejoice in the faithfulness of Jesus?*