



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 5

A KING WITHOUT A KINGDOM

Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

– 2 Samuel 2:10-11 ESV

- **The moment we've all been waiting for**
 - There is a major shift in the narrative
 - Saul has committed suicide
 - His three sons are dead
 - The Israelite army has been routed and demoralized
 - The Philistines have occupied Israelite territory
 - It's David's time to shine
 - But he remains in Ziklag
 - How will he respond to Saul's death?
 - Joy, satisfaction, gratitude, and relief?
 - Will he head home to Judah and claim his rightful throne?

David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. – 2 Samuel 1:11-12 ESV

- An unexpected response
 - ~ Instead of **gloating**, David **grieves**
 - ~ Rather than **celebrating**, David expresses **sorrow**
 - ~ He **reveres** Saul rather than seeking **revenge**

- **David's heart is exposed** – 2 Samuel 1

- An Amalekite breaks the news to David
 - A member of the group that ransacked Ziklag
 - He brings Saul's crown, expecting a celebration
 - He assumes David wants power, vengeance, and vindication
 - But David refuses the shortcut to the throne
 - The Kingdom is God's to give, not man's to grab
 - Instead of a **reward**, the Amalekite receives **recompense**

David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." – 2 Samuel 1:14-15 ESV

- David loved what God loved
- He honored what God honored

"But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:44-45 NLT

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." – Luke 6:27-29 NLT

- Saul was **sinful**, but the office he held was **sacred**
- David loved the Lord enough to honor even a failed King
 - Anyone can honor the honorable
 - Anyone can love the loveable
 - But do we?

- **A song of sorrow** – 2 Samuel 1

- David doesn't grieve privately
 - He writes a lament and commands all of Judah to learn it
 - He honors Saul by refusing to let him be defined by his failure

*"How beloved and gracious were Saul and Jonathan!
They were together in life and in death.
They were swifter than eagles,
stronger than lions.*

*"Oh, how the mighty heroes have fallen!
Stripped of their weapons, they lie dead." – 2 Samuel 1:23, 27 NLT*

- He exhibits the heart of God
 - **Blessing** rather than **bitterness**
 - **Commendation** than **condemnation**
 - **Praise** instead of **slander**
 - The fruit of a God-shaped heart
 - Jesus taught and lived this

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.” – Luke 6:32-33 NLT

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” – Luke 23:34 ESV

- God lifts up those who share His heart
 - God begins to raise up David as he is anointed King by Judah
- **A heart to know – 2 Samuel 2**
 - David doesn't immediately seek the throne
 - He **seeks** God's will
 - He asks for God's **input**
 - No more impulsiveness
 - No more clever schemes
 - He chooses to move at God's pace, not his own

- He **waits** for God's **direction**
 - God's will comes in stages
 - ~ He is anointed king, but only by the tribe of Judah
 - ~ The rest of Israel follows Ish-bosheth
 - ~ God's word remains true
 - ~ But His timing can stretch our patience
 - ~ Waiting reveals if we trust His timing more than our own
 - David adopts the godly posture of waiting
 - ~ He doesn't attempt to crush his adversaries
 - ~ He responds with humility and honor

“May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing.” – 2 Samuel 2:5-7 ESV

~ David waited with humility, patience, and peace

- The pressure to wait
 - ~ We struggle to believe God's promises
 - ~ We grow impatient with His timing
 - ~ Our culture worships the quick fix
 - ~ But God uses waiting to shape us
 - ~ **Waiting** exposes more about our faith than **arriving**
 - ~ God sent His Son in “the fullness of time”
 - ~ His timing is right for us as well

- **A Kingdom Delayed and Divided – 2 Samuel 2**

- David was the God-ordained replacement for Saul

*“I have raised up a young man from among the people.
I have found David my servant;
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
My hand will sustain him;
surely my arm will strengthen him.” – Psalm 89:19-21 NLT*

“But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.’” – Acts 13:22 NLT

- But his coronation was incomplete
 - Saul’s son, Ish-bosheth, is crowned King of Israel
 - The kingdom is split
 - Seven years division, war, and betrayal
 - David exhibits patience and self-control
 - Ish-bosheth is not David’s real enemy
 - Impatience and impulsiveness are
- Patience under pressure
 - The kingdom remains divided
 - David remains confident in God’s promises
 - This was active faith
 - Refusing to force God’s hand
 - He began to value God’s timing over his own
 - The **posture** of our waiting reveals our **peace** in God’s promises
 - Trusting requires patience
 - Disappointing **delays** can expose the **depth** of our faith
 - Delays can lead to **impatience** and **impulsiveness**
 - But patient waiting produces peace and fruitfulness

But those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint. – Isaiah 40:31 BSB

- “I trust God’s character more than my circumstances”
- God calls us to honor His ways, not just His outcomes
- Even when it costs us time or comfort
- Jesus waited on God’s timing
 - He refused Satan’s shortcuts in the wilderness
 - He went to the cross at the appointed hour
 - The cross reveals that God’s timing is never late

- He is always **on time** and **trustworthy**
- **God's way, not ours** – 2 Samuel 4

- God is working behind the scenes
 - Ish-bosheth is assassinated by his own men
 - They expect a **reward**
 - But they receive **retribution**

"...when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?" And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. – 2 Samuel 4:10-12 ESV

- David calls Ish-bosheth "righteous"
 - He isn't condoning Ish-bosheth's life
 - He is condemning his murder as unjust
 - God's kingdom isn't built on human ambition or sin
 - God's promises never require disobedience
 - How we pursue God's plan matters
 - ~ We have to do it His way
 - ~ Obedience trumps expedience
 - ~ Even when it seems slower, more difficult, or inefficient

- **God's will done God's way** – 2 Samuel 5

- It pays to wait on God
 - With Ish-bosheth's death, David's path to the throne is cleared
 - David becomes king over all Israel

Then all the tribes of Israel went to David at Hebron and told him, "We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the LORD told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be Israel's leader.'" – 2 Samuel 5:1-2 NLT

And David became more and more powerful, because the LORD God of Heaven's Armies was with him. – 2 Samuel 5:10 NLT

- The presence of God sustained David, not his own plans
 - ~ What we seize in our own strength, we must sustain
 - ~ What God gives, He himself sustains
- David's waiting taught him humility, dependence, and mercy
 - He had been shaped for the throne

- The throne had been prepared for him
 - God's goal for us isn't just a position or outcome
 - He is concerned with our **character**
- **A heart like God's**
 - These chapters reveal to us the character of a man after God's own heart
 - He seeks God's will
 - He trusts God's timing
 - He refuses to view **waiting** as **wasted time**
 - He avoids shortcuts, even when they look faster
 - He honors what God honors
 - He believes **the means** of fulfilling God's plan matter as much as the plan itself
 - He values character over accomplishment

- **Discussion Questions**

What stuck out to you in this lesson? How will you apply it to your daily life?

Do you feel stuck in a season of waiting? How can you trust God's timing rather than force your own?

Who in your life do you find it hardest to honor? How could you treat that person in a way that reflects God's heart?



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FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 6 HOMEWORK

WEEK 6 – David’s Exploits

This lesson will cover the early days of David’s reign as he attempts to rule his kingdom in a way that honors Yahweh. Having never served as a king before, David has a lot to learn about managing the affairs of state in keeping with Yahweh’s commands. It will be a roller coaster existence as David tries to navigate the sometimes volatile job of running a nation.

PASSAGE: 2 Samuel 5:17-10:19

DEVOTIONARY™: Pages 207-236

- This week’s Devotional™ readings are a bit lighter. You’re welcome! But while they are shorter, they cover some significant events in David’s life.
- Read 2 Samuel 5:17-25. David has been crowned king over all Israel, but according to these verses, what is the first test he faces as king?

What does David do that shows he has turned over a new leaf?

- Read 2 Samuel 6. What happens in the first 11 verses that reveal David tried to accomplish a good thing, but not according to God’s will?

According to verses 12-15, what does David do to remedy the problem?

How does Michal respond to David's behavior, and what do you think was behind her actions?

- Chapter 7, verses 1-17, records the covenant that God made with David. Write down the basic contents of the covenant. What did God promise to do for David, and what was His expectation of David?

Summarize David's response in verses 18-29.

- 2 Samuel 8:1-14 lists David's many victories. According to verses 6 and 14, what is the key to David's success, and how does this set his kingship apart from that of Saul?

According to verse 15, what made David's rule special?

- In Chapter 9, we are given a glimpse into David's relationship with the crippled grandson of King Saul. As you read the story, consider how David's treatment of Mephibosheth paints a compelling picture of the Gospel. Write down any similarities you see.
- Chapter 10 begins to paint a picture of the opposition David would face as king of Israel. Summarize what the Ammonite king did and how David responded.

David experienced significant victories over the Ammonites and Syrians. To what would you attribute his success, and why?

Why is it important that David be successful as the shepherd of Israel? What role did his victories play in the future spiritual health of the nation of Israel?