



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 10

DAVID'S FINAL DAYS

*But after he had taken the census, David's conscience began to bother him.
And he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly by taking this census.
Please forgive my guilt, LORD, for doing this foolish thing."
– 2 Samuel 24:10 ESV*

- **The end in sight**

- David is near the end of his life
- His life is one of victory, failure, and forgiveness
- Today, we will see both types of David
 - The faithful king who trusted God
 - The foolish man who trusted himself

"Now these are the last words of David, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel." – 2 Samuel 23:1 ESV

- **David's final words – 2 Samuel 23:1-7**

- He comes across as conceited
- But he's not bragging; he's praising God
 - He's lived long enough to see his own contradictions
 - He's crediting Yahweh for his accomplishments

"The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; His word is on my tongue." – 2 Samuel 23:2 ESV

- These words summarize David's life
- He was never the source, only the one God used
- When he listened, everything went as God intended
- When he ignored God, everything unraveled
 - ~ We've seen this in David's life many times: Nabal, Uriah, Bathsheba, Absalom

*“For He has made with me **an everlasting covenant**, ordered in all things and secure.” – 2 Samuel 23:5 ESV*

- David knows this is NOT what he deserves from God
 - ~ He has lied, lusted, and murdered
 - ~ He’s watched his family crumble
 - ~ Yet, God never said, “I am done with you!”
- The same God who **confronts** David is the same God who **comforts** David
 - God’s grace **exposes** as well as **embraces** us
 - ~ It brings sin into the light, and covers you with mercy
 - This covenant didn’t **survive** David’s sin; it **conquered** it
 - ~ This is what Jesus’ death on the cross did for us
 - David had broken every vow he could
 - ~ But God kept his promises every step of the way
 - David was filled with amazement, not pride, at God’s grace
 - ~ Proven by his mention of God’s covenant promise
 - ~ David knows he is secure in God’s eyes
 - David’s life demonstrated two ways to live: with God or without Him
 - ~ He had lived both

For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? – 2 Samuel 23:5 ESV

But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be taken with the hand... – 2 Samuel 23:6 NLT

~ One road leads to life, and the other to destruction

- God can redeem any man who finally stops running
 - ~ It’s not how badly you’ve sinned, but how quickly you surrender
 - God’s grace isn’t looking for perfection
 - It’s waiting for honesty and repentance
 - ~ But God’s work in David didn’t end with David
- **Godly reinforcements** – 2 Samuel 23:8-39
 - God knew David couldn’t do it alone
 - So He prepared an army of “mighty men” to surround him
 - God took the **troubled** and **transformed** them
 - “And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them.” – 1 Samuel 22:2 ESV*
 - These are men the world tends to overlook
 - ~ But God specializes in **reclamation projects**
 - ~ He uses broken men to build His kingdom

...few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. – 1 Corinthians 1:26-28 NLT

- God used these men to do incredible things
Josheb-basshebeth: Courage that defies the odds
[Josheb] raised his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time. (vs 8)
Eleazar: Endurance that refuses to quit
His hand clung to the sword, and the Lord brought about a great victory that day. (vs 10)
Shammah: Faithfulness when everyone else fled
He took his stand in the midst of the field and defended it. (vs 12)
The Three: Devotion that risks everything
They broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water for David. (vs 16)
- Every one of their story ends the same:
*"And **the LORD** brought about a great victory that day."*
- ~ The LORD is always the hero of the story
- ~ They fought, but God provided the victory

- **Faithfulness on display**

- These men weren't born mighty – God **made them that way**
 - It all began in the Cave of Adullam
 - These men were down and out
 - God took their **desperation** and turned it into **devotion**
 - This is how God works
 - He uses what the world overlooks
 - He does what the world can't explain
 - But these men weren't drawn by David's power or position
 - They were attracted to his faith
 - They watched him cry out to God, not blame Him
 - They saw humility in God's anointed
The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. – Psalm 34:18 ESV
 - God meets broken people in broken places
 - God taught them to depend on Him
 - ~ Strength doesn't come from numbers or weapons
 - ~ It comes from trusting the God who fights for you
 - God uses their cares, the cave, and their shared conflict to shape them

- Don't waste the cave
 - ~ God is doing more in you than you realize
 - ~ God is stripping away the things you rely on more than him
 - ~ So your faith can grow
- **The Legacy of David's faith**
 - These stories close out David's life for a reason
 - God is giving us a look at the **fruitfulness** of His **faithfulness**
 - A reminder of what God can do through a life that depends on Him
 - These men carried David's influence long after he was gone
 - ~ It wasn't David's doing
 - "And the Lord brought about a great victory that day."* (23:10)
 - ~ God was the strength behind every story
 - This passage reminds us of God's divine faithfulness
 - God doesn't just redeem a man; He works through that man to build others
 - The legacy of faith isn't about your **accomplishments**
 - It's about your faithful **obedience**
 - And the life it produces
- **A Sudden Shift – 2 Samuel 24**
 - These chapters are not in chronological order
 - They are a summation of his reign
 - This chapter most likely occurred early in his reign
 - We see David doing things his own way
 - Again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and **He incited David** against them, saying, 'God, number Israel and Judah. – 2 Samuel 24:1 ESV*
 - David orders a census to count the strength of his army
 - Joab warns him not to do this, but David pushes ahead
 - What follows is judgment, conviction, and finally mercy
 - God Incited David?
 - Did God cause David to sin?
 - Is God contradicting himself?
 - The key is to use context and cross-references
 - Then **Satan** stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel. – 1 Chronicles 21:1 ESV*
 - Both verses are true, but emphasize different sides of the same event
 - ~ 2 Samuel highlights **God's sovereignty**
 - Nothing happens outside His control
 - ~ 1 Chronicles highlights **Satan's activity**
 - He was the tempter

- God **allowed** the temptation as part of His judgment on David's pride
 - ~ Satan **provoked** David to act out his pride
 - David chose to follow his pride rather than the LORD
 - ~ Job: Satan afflicted, but only within God's limits
 - ~ The Cross shows how human sin and God's redemptive plan can coexist
 - God wasn't **causing** sin – He was **exposing** it
 - ~ Israel had grown self-satisfied under the success of David
 - God allowed David's pride to rise to the surface so He could deal with it
 - ~ The census revealed more about David's heart than Israel's numbers
 - God sometimes lets pride surface to save us from it
 - ~ It's not **punishment**; it's **protection**
 - ~ If you're being exposed, it's because God still cares enough to correct
- **Joab's warning**

"May the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king still see it, but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?" – 2 Samuel 24:3 ESV

 - Joab knew something was wrong
 - But David doesn't listen
 1. Pride had dulled his discernment
 2. Our flesh can make **reason** sound like **resistance**
 - It takes nine months to finish the census
 - But the end of the census brings unrest instead of confidence

"But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people." – 2 Samuel 24:10 ESV

 - David realizes he has fallen victim to his own pride
 - ~ He was blind to what God wanted
 - ~ He had the numbers, but no peace

And David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of Your servant." – 2 Samuel 24:10 ESV

 - David genuinely repents
 - ~ But sin still carries consequences
 - ~ The prophet Gad comes with three options: 3 years of famine
3 months of fleeing from enemies
3 days of plague

Then David said to God, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man." – 2 Samuel 24:14 ESV

- David chooses the plagues
 - ~ This isn't about fear, it's about trust
 - ~ He chooses God's judgment rather than man's
 1. Human judgment is harsh
 2. God's justice is merciful

It's better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. – Psalm 118:8 ESV

And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said, "It is enough; now stay your hand." – 2 Samuel 24:16 EV

- God relents
 - Not because He changed His mind
 - His mercy completed what his judgment started
 - Judgment **exposes** sin; mercy **restores** the relationship
 - The same place that saw wrath becomes the stage for redemption
 - ~ The future site of Solomon's Temple
 - ~ This place of mercy becomes the center of worship for generations
- **The Altar of Mercy**

And David built there an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel. – 2 Samuel 24:25

 - The final story in 2 Samuel shows David building an altar
 - A place where pride dies
 - This story isn't just about David's **failure**
 - It's about God's **faithfulness**
 - The altar reminds us that repentance is not the **end** of faith
 - It's **evidence** of it
 - Every man will have an "altar moment"
 - The question is: what will you bring?
 - God doesn't want perfection; He wants surrender
 - He wants you to fully trust Him

Discussion Questions

- Where are you still measuring your worth by success, strength, or results instead of trusting in God?
- What is God trying to remove or change in you right now? Where might He be humbling you so that your trust in Him can grow?
- What is one area where obedience to God would cost you something? What would it look like to give God your best instead of what's easy?



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FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 11 HOMEWORK

WEEK 10 – DAVID’S FINAL DAYS

David is old and his days on earth are numbered. He is a shadow of the man he used to be, having long since lost his vitality, but he remains firmly dedicated to Yahweh and committed to handing over the kingdom to his son Solomon. But there will be one last test for David to face before he leaves this life behind. He faces yet another coup attempt when another of his sons decides to crown himself king instead of Solomon. David has been down this path before and, in both instances, he did not handle the conflict well. In this case, Bathsheba is compelled to intervene, with support from the prophet Nathan. She recognizes that Adonijah is trying to thwart the will of Yahweh, and she pleads with David to do the right thing and use his authority as king to put an end to this madness.

PASSAGE: 1 Kings 1:1-2:12

DEVOTIONARY™: Pages 367-393

- This is it, your last Devotionary™ reading for the semester, and it happens to be one of the shorter ones. So, set aside some time to read or glance over its content. It will go a long way in helping you understand what is going on in these two chapters of 1 Kings.
- Read 1 Kings 1:1-4. What jumps out at you in this passage? Any red flags or cause for concern when it comes to what David is doing?

If you recall how David had multiplied wives for himself and had at least 10 concubines, why does this passage seem out of place or improper?

- After reading 1 Kings 1:5-10, go back and read 2 Samuel 15:1-12. What similarities do you see between Absalom and Adonijah?

Now look at 2 Samuel 3:2-5. Why is it significant that Adonijah is on this list? What sets he and his brothers apart? Here's a hint, three of his older brothers are now dead, making him the eldest son and the logical heir to David's kingdom.

David is at the end of his life, and he faces yet another coup attempt by one of his own sons. Who chooses to align themselves with Adonijah, and why is it important?

- According to verses 11-27, what do Bathsheba and Nathan the prophet do to protect the interests of Solomon?

What is Bathsheba counting on according to verse 14?

What is she expecting David to do?

How does he respond?

- Read 1 Kings 1:28-53. How do David's actions in these verses impact the life and plans of Adonijah?
- Read 1 Kings 2:1-9. Summarize the final instructions David gave to Solomon. What do you find wrong with these last words to his son?
- Read 1 Kings 2:10-46. What are some of the first official tasks that Solomon takes on as king and how do they reflect poorly on his father David?