



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 6

DAVID'S EXPLOITS

"What more can I say to you? You know what your servant is really like, Sovereign LORD. Because of your promise and according to your will, you have done all these great things and have made them known to your servant."

– 2 Samuel 7:20-21 NLT

And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went. – 2 Samuel 8:14

- **Once David became king...**

...he defeated the Philistines twice (Ch. 5)

And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer. – 2 Samuel 5:25 ESV

...he defeated the Moabites (Ch. 8)

...he defeated Moab...the Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute. – 2 Samuel 8:2 ESV

...he defeated the Zobahites (Ch. 8)

David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah... – 2 Samuel 8:3 ESV

...he defeated the Syrians (Ch. 8)

David struck down 22,000 men of the Syrians...and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. – 2 Samuel 8:5, 6 ESV

...he defeated the Edomites (Ch. 8)

And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. – 2 Samuel 8:15 ESV

- But what's the secret to his success?

1. God was with him

David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him. – 2 Samuel 5:10 ESV

2. David maintained his humility

David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. – 2 Samuel 5:12 ESV

3. David sought and obeyed God's will

David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" – 2 Samuel 5:19 ESV

And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines... – 2 Samuel 5:25 ESV

- **The right thing done the wrong way**

- David's heart was in the right place

- But he could still be impulsive
- His head could outpace his heart
- His zeal could substitute for obedience

And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. – 2 Samuel 6:2 ESV

- A case of déjà vu

- This passage is meant to ring a bell
 - David was making a grave mistake
 - Because he failed to inquire of God
 - His zealousness became dangerous

*...they carried the ark of God on **a new cart** and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, **were driving the new cart, with the ark of God...** – 2 Samuel 6:3-4 ESV*

"You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them." – Exodus 25:13 ESV

...the sons of Kohath...were charged with the service of the holy things that had to be carried on the shoulder. – Numbers 7:9 ESV

...the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. – Numbers 4:15 ESV

- Mistake #1
 - David used the wrong **methodology**
 - ~ He used a cart instead of priests
- Mistake #2
 - David had the wrong **motivation**
 - ~ David treated the ark like a **talisman**
 - It would guarantee God's **presence**
 - It would ensure God's **power**
 - It would solidify David's **new kingdom**
 - ~ But David already had all he needed

David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him. - 2 Samuel 5:10 ESV

- ~ David thought something was missing
- ~ He wanted **proof** of God's presence
- ~ The Ark was like a good luck charm
- ~ David should have known better
- ~ The Israelites had tried this before

*Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? **Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.**" – 1 Samuel 4:1-3 ESV*

- The Israelites put their hope in the Ark

As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout... – 1 Samuel 4:4 ESV
- David and the people did the same thing

And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. – 2 Samuel 6:5 ESV

*So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. **And the ark of God was captured...** – 1 Samuel 4:10-11 ESV*

Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. – 2 Samuel 6:6-7 ESV

- **Disobedience brought death**

- Uzzah died doing a good thing
- Because David did a bad thing
- And David responded the wrong way

And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. – 2 Samuel 6:8 ESV

And David was afraid of the LORD that day... – 2 Samuel 6:9 ESV

- He disapproves of God's killing of Uzzah
- He mourns his loss of the Ark

How can the ark of the LORD come to me? – 2 Samuel 6:9 ESV

- David **distanced** rather than **danced**

So David was not willing to take the ark of the LORD into the city of David. – 2 Samuel 6:10 ESV

- David displayed **fear** rather than **faith**

- The Ark was not the problem
 - David was!
 - Presuming on God's power
 - Trying to guarantee God's presence
 - Attempting to self-secure his reign

- **What David didn't know – 2 Samuel 7**

- David was obsessed with the future
 - But he couldn't see it
- So he tried to influence it
 - By bringing the Ark to Jerusalem
 - By destroying the Israel's enemies
 - By ruling justly and righteously
 - By building a house for God
- God had plans for David

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

- Late in David's life
 - Chapter 7 is out of chronological order

*Now when the king lived in his house and **the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies...** – 2 Samuel 7:1 ESV*

 - A period of God-ordained peace
 - ~ David is no longer fighting battles
 - ~ His kingdom has been established
 - ~ Israel is feared and revered

~ David determines to repay God

"See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." – 2 Samuel 7:2 ESV

- David had a limited view of God
 - Yahweh "needed" a house
 - And David was going to build it
 - But God had other plans

*"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: **Would you build me a house to dwell in?** I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.'" – 2 Samuel 7:5-6 ESV*

*"...the LORD declares to you that **the LORD will make you a house.**" – 2 Samuel 7:11 ESV*

- **An eternal focus**

- David had a short-term perspective
- God is in it for the long haul
- He always has **the end in mind**

*⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, **I took you from the pasture**, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And **I have been with you wherever you went** and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And **I will make for you a great name**, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And **I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them**, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. **And I will give you rest from all your enemies.** Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, **I will raise up your offspring after you**, who shall come from your body, and **I will establish his kingdom....** ¹⁶ **And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.**'" ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. – 2 Samuel 7:8-12, 16-17 ESV*

- **The Davidic Covenant**

- God had something greater in mind
 - An eternal kingdom...
...where no one will ever sin
 - Ruled by a righteous King...
...whose reign will know no end

“What did God mean when He told David, ‘And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever?’ There is no throne in Jerusalem, and even if there was, there is no king to sit on that throne. **But there is.** There is the King of kings and Lord of lords, who will one day return and reclaim the throne of David. Centuries later, an angel would deliver a shocking message to a young Jewish girl named Mary.

‘You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end (Luke 1:31-33).’ – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Life of David*

- **Lulled by the lie of low expectations**

- David was fixated on the here and now...
...God’s focus was on the hereafter
- David obsessed over a little plot of land...
...God had the universe in mind
- David was about prolonging his legacy...
...God was out to restore righteousness

And now, O LORD God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. – 2 Samuel 7:28-29

- **Embracing God’s bigger vision**

- David’s ambitions were too small
- His vision was too limited
- His timeline was too short
- But His God was all too faithful

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, **to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.** Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21 NLT*

- **Discussion Questions**

What are some ways we get lulled by the lies of low expectations? When we make it all about our kingdom, what gets lost?

How can we prevent the blessings and successes in this life from distracting us from the bigger plan God is orchestrating?

How should Revelation 21:2-4 give us hope in the here and now while we await His plan for the hereafter?



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FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 7 HOMEWORK

WEEK 7 – David, the X-Rated King

Next to David's defeat of Goliath, the story found in this passage is one of the well-known aspects of his life. Far from a flattering portrayal of his life, the story of Bathsheba casts a dark shadow over his kingship and character. It raises many questions about God's designation of him as a man after His own heart.

PASSAGE: 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

DEVOTIONARY™: Pages 237-256

Psalm 51

- We're back to a more lengthy Devotionary™ reading for this week. But, hopefully, you are able to take advantage of the audio file we sent. Try it out. It's a great way to listen to the readings as you drive in your car.
- Read 2 Samuel 11 in one sitting, but take note of what you see that you never saw before. What about this whole scenario sends up red warning signals about David's spiritual state of mind?

Read James 1:13-15. What do you see in this passage that sheds light on what might be taking place in David's heart and mind during the events in 2 Samuel 11?

How do David's actions escalate in intensity, and how do they reflect the old adage, "One sin leads to another"?

In what ways does Uriah serve as a foil or contrast to David? What do you see in his actions that sets him apart from David, "the man after God's own heart?"

What do you make of David's response to Joab when he hears the news of Uriah's death? What do his words reveal about the condition of his heart?

The final line of verse 27 is rather matter-of-fact in tone, but packed with significance. Make a list of all that David has done that God is displeased with.

- Read 2 Samuel 12:1-16. What is it about the story that Nathan tells that strikes a chord with David and gets a response?

Why do you think David is incapable of seeing through Nathan's little ploy? What does his seeming ignorance reveal about the condition of his heart?

According to verses 7-12, what are the ramifications for David's sin?

What do you think it means when it says David has "utterly scorned the LORD"?

What do verses 16-25 reveal about the justice and judgment of God as well as His grace and mercy?