

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

2 SAMUEL 5-10

The life of David can be divided into three sections... In *1 Samuel 16-31* David is **running**. He rises to prominence - then flees from Saul. In *2 Samuel 1-10* David is **reigning**. He consolidates and expands his kingdom. Then in *2 Samuel 11-24* David is **reeling** from his sins and failures. He's running – reigning – reeling...

We've looked at the **trials of David**. Next week we tackle the **troubles of David**. But tonight we study the **triumphs of David**... We're in 2 Samuel 5.

With the death of Ishbosheth, Saul's son and David's rival in the north, all Israel rallies to David at Hebron... "Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh.

Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.' " Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel." This is the third time David is anointed king. Samuel anointed him as a boy. The tribe of Judah anointed him after Saul's death. Now the elders of Israel anoint him king over all the nation.

Each time his sphere of influence gets expanded he receives a new anointing.

“David was 30 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 40 years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah 7 years and 6 months, and in Jerusalem he reigned 33 years over all Israel and Judah.” David was king over 40 years.

Let's say David was 15 when Samuel anointed him. He served in Saul's court approximately 3 years - and was on the run for another 12, or so. That means David spent a dozen years of preparation to sit 40 years on the throne.

Often we bemoan the time of preparation – we think it'll never end. But David's prep time was a small price to pay for the privilege of reigning four decades.

There's a new king in Israel - and a new king needs a new capitol city. Hebron was too far south to serve as a capitol for a United Kingdom. David needed a city more centrally located... Jerusalem is 2500 feet ASL. Its climate is pleasant. It's easily defendable. And it sits in right in the middle of the Promise Land.

And since Jerusalem had been in Jebusite hands for 400 years it was not tied to any one Israeli tribe. It would make the perfect capitol for David's kingdom.

“And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here.”

The Jebusites thought their city was unconquerable. Jerusalem set on a steep hill called “Zion”. On top of the hill a high wall surrounded the city. Its men boasted, that even the

blind and lame could defend it because of its natural fortifications.

“Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).”

Here’s how he conquered it, “Now David said on that day, “Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul), he shall be chief and captain. Therefore they say, “The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.” Notice, the author inserts a venomous comment. He doesn’t like the Jebusites’ insult of David, so he says, “the real lame and blind are the Jebusites who occupy the city of Jerusalem.”

According to the author, David hated the Jebusites. Apparently, he did too.

David was smart. The city drew its water from a spring outside its walls. He sent a man up the water shaft. 1 Chronicles 11:6 tells us the daring dude was Joab! Once inside, Joab unlock the gates. This allowed David’s army to sneak in and destroy the Jebusites. It also solidified Joab’s position as general.

“Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo (the citadel) and inward.” The Jebusite stronghold – the wedge - that separated Judah in the south from the other tribes of Israel in the north had been eliminated. It made way for the unifying of the kingdom...

And it also made David! The conquering of Jerusalem was a turning point. **“So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.”**

Once David solidified his control of the kingdom, Hiram, king of Tyre, wants to make peace. He sends enough cedar wood to build David an elaborate palace...

Verse 11 tells us, **“Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house.**

So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.” David’s years in the wilderness - his flight from Saul – had humbled him. It helped him realize that this sudden rise to power was not of his own doings – but was a work of the Lord.

“And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron.” In Jerusalem David’s harem begins to grow.

This could’ve been the result of peace treaties signed with neighboring nations. Often a treaty was solidified with a marriage. The idea being, it’s more difficult to attack your in-laws. *Which may or may not be true - depending on your in-laws!*

I hope you’ve never declare war on your mother-in-law.

“Also more sons and daughters were born to David.” Evidently, palace life was more conducive to having babies than being on the run and held up in caves.

Verse 14 “Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, I Bhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.” Eleven sons were born in Jerusalem.

“Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold.” David and his men ready themselves for battle.

“The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.” Israel’s ancient enemy, the Philistines, see that David has unified a once divided foe. They realize they need to attack before David’s army grows even stronger.

So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand."

So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim." A name that means “Lord of the breakthroughs.” Hey, are you beating your head against a wall? Are you going round in circles? Stuck in a rut? Spinning your wheels?

Do you need a breakthrough? *Our God specializes in breakthroughs.* What Satan dams up, God can break through. Our God is a divine battering ram.

No fortification of the flesh can withstand the power of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 21 “And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away.” Ancient armies carried their idols into battle. When the Philistines fought David, they must’ve dropped their idols. *What kind of god gets captured?*

But the Philistines were not about to give up. Seldom does our enemy quit after one attack. “Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.” Understand this is the same enemy - the same strategy - the same theater of conflict - the same circumstances and time frame...

Hey, if faced with this situation, what would you have done? To me, this looks like a no-brainer. I’ve already prayed about this – why would God’s answer be any different this time than it was last time? I would’ve assumed that God would give me the same marching orders... *but I would’ve been wrong.*

Thankfully, David did not assume. He again inquired of the Lord. “Therefore David inquired of the LORD, He said, “You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines.” And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.” God won a great victory.

Here’s a tendency among humans. We look for patterns to mimic – formulas to follow – programs to adopt. We want a

blueprint - a template we can lay over a given situation - and know exactly what steps to take to solve our problem.

And Christians are particularly prone to this thinking. We want the six steps to overcoming temptation – or the three keys to being an effective witness.

Even pastors do this... They travel to a church that's growing, and study its behavior, assuming they can learn the secret formula. There's only one problem! There is no secret formula. David was given two different strategies for the same circumstances. Rather than lead by formula, God told David to wait on the wind.

David was told to circle behind the enemy and wait for the sound of marching in the treetops – *literally, the wind rustling the branches of the mulberries.*

The answer was in the wind – which is a biblical symbol of the Holy Spirit.

If you want to walk in victory - and be an effective witness - and win battles for Jesus don't look to buy into a program, or plan, or pattern... *follow a person.*

God doesn't come in an elixir. He isn't doled out in a pill. God isn't wrapped in package – or condensed in a can – and He certainly doesn't come in a box.

God is a Spirit, and following the Holy Spirit is like listening to the wind. No one commands the wind - or the Spirit. We adjust, and bend, and adapt to His course.

Chapter 6 “Again David gathered all the choice men of

Israel, 30,000.

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, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, (Jehovah, or in the Hebrew, Yahweh, was the sacred name.) **who dwells between the cherubim.**” In heaven God’s throne is surrounded by two mighty angels. The Ark of the Covenant was a model of God’s heavenly throne.

David’s desire is to move the Ark from its temporary home in Kirjath-Jerim - at the house of Abinidab - to Jerusalem. Remember what had happened to the Ark...

In the battle of Shiloh the Philistines took it and placed it in the temple of their god, Dagon. But the statue of Dagon kept falling over and bowing to the Ark of Israel. The Ark became a Philistine hot-potato. They shuffled it between cities, and everywhere it went, Philistines broke out with tumors - or hemorrhoids.

Proving undeniably that disobedience to God is a pain in the caboose.

When the Philistines finally sent the Ark home to Israel it was mishandled by the Hebrews. The men of Beth Shemesh let their curiosity get the best of them.

They opened the Ark to see its contents. According to the Law of God only the priests were allowed to handle the Ark. The violators were struck dead.

The Ark was placed in Kirjath Jearim where it stayed for 70 years.

Now David has a heart for God, and he knows God's presence accompanies the Ark. He wants live close to God so he brings the Ark to Jerusalem.

But David repeats the mistakes of those before him – Philistines and Hebrews - though his motive is pure he mishandles the Ark and the results prove deadly.

Verse 3 “**So they set the ark of God on a new cart...**” This was not God's method for moving the Ark. These were not the procedures laid out in the Law. Moses said the Ark was to be carried on poles by the priests – not on a cart.

The Philistines placed the Ark on a cart. This was a pagan method.

Here's the point of chapter 6, it's not just our **motive** that matters - but also our **methods**. The church gets into trouble – *spiritual death ensues* – when we mimic the world's methods and techniques. Just because a strategy is successful in the business or corporate world doesn't mean it should be employed in the church.

It's just as important that our *methods* are guided by God, as our *motives*.

Well, they put the Ark on a cart, “**and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.**”

Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on

cymbals.” It was a worship-fest!

“And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.” With no regard to God’s Law, David places the Ark on a cart. It starts to slip, and Uzzah reaches to steady it - and drops dead!

David is responsible for the disaster – *but Uzzah ends up the lose-ah.*

Here’s a story with a powerful and pertinent message to the church today.

Both *motive AND method* are important to God. The church today has the same job as Uzzah – we’re moving the message, transporting the presence. And the way we do it is as vital to God as the motive behind our actions.

You don’t move the message of the Gospel like you sell used cars. You don’t slap the hood, and use crass marketing, or put the precious Gospel on a cart.

I’ve seen people do stupid things in the name of God – terribly misrepresent God - then excuse their carnal methods by appealing to their motive. “**We meant well! Our heart was in the right place!**” Uzzah could’ve made the same claim. His heart was in the right place, but God was concerned about where he put his hand.

Our methods need to be free from manipulation and self-promotion. Not just our motive, but our methods also need to

be led by the Spirit - not the flesh.

“David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.” or “outburst against Uzzah”.

“David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.”

Initially, David was *in the dark about the Ark*. He even blamed God for the outbreak against Uzzah - but over the next few weeks his attitude shifted. He realized he was the one to blame - not God. He had treated God tritely.

God's will should always to be done God's way.

David tries it again. This time though, he's researched his methods.

Verse 12 “Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.”

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.”

This time priests are bearing the Ark on poles. And every six paces - just to be safe - they stop and offer sacrifices.

There're being meticulous in their methods.

Verse 14 “Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.”

David got into it! He's not *dancing with the stars!* He's dancing with God!

The king got caught up in the emotion of the moment. His love for God, and his desire to see God praised engulfed him. As the Ark came into Jerusalem David was praising God with all his might - whirling and twirling before the Lord.

“Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.”

Verse 16 tells us Michal was Saul's daughter – but in more ways than one.

It's been said, “Don't marry a girl whose daddy calls her princess if you don't want to have to treat her like one.” Michal was spoiled rotten. Like her dad, she thought only of herself – and what would promote her own image. Her whole approach to life was to look royal, and regal, and dignified, and kingly.

David was a man *after God's own heart*. He cared less if he looked dignified – as long as God was praised! David forgot about his image in his desire to praise the Lord. Hey, when it came to this kind of worship, Michal didn't have a clue.

“So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place

in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.” This was not *THE* Tabernacle. It was damaged years earlier at the battle of Shiloh. This was a tent David erected to hold the Ark.

“And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins.

So all the people departed, everyone to his house.”
Including David...

“Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said (sarcastically), "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

Michal was ashamed of David’s uninhibited worship. He wore a priestly ephod, not his royal robes. In her opinion, the king was an embarrassment to the throne.

“So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house (how’s that for a little dig at the in-laws), to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel.” Don’t think of what your dad would’ve done. If God had been pleased with Saul, He would’ve appointed me.

“Therefore I will play music before the LORD. And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.”

It’s sad when a person seeks to deepen their experience with God, and expand their worship of God, without the support of their spouse. Like a bird with a broken wing – trying to get airborne – it’s much easier with the help of the other wing.

Wife, be careful you don’t become a *wedge* between your husband and God.

Husband, don’t be a *hindrance* in your wife’s attempts to draw near to God.

When a wife becomes a wedge look what happens... Verse 23, “Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.”

Because of her disdain of David’s love for God, Michal was sentenced to a lifetime of barrenness. If you don’t want to experience a spiritual and emotional barrenness, then stop resisting your spouse’s efforts to worship God - become a worshipper yourself. Together, as a couple, seek the Lord with all your heart.

Chapter 7, “Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.” David shows the kind of concern typical of David.

He's thinking of the Lord, not himself. He's in his palace looking out the window at the tent which holds the Ark of God, and he ponders... "Why do I live in a new palace, while the Ark sits in a tent? The Ark should have a permanent home..."

"Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle." *"For 400 years I've been fine in a tent!"*

Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"" Nathan spoke to soon. It was not God's will for David to build Him a house.

Here's God's word to David, "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the

time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies.” God is far more concerned about a dwelling place for His people – than a resting place for the Ark of the Covenant.

“Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.” David wanted to build God a house, but God intends to build David a house. David’s desire was for a temple, but God has in mind a dynasty - a house of kings that will rule Israel.

“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.” David won’t build God’s Temple. The job will fall to his son, Solomon.

But verse 16 goes beyond the scope of Solomon, “And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” The Davidic dynasty ended in 586 BC when the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem. The Davidic ruler, King Zedekiah, died a prisoner in Babylon.

But the rabbis saw in verse 16, the prophecy a future king – a king who would rise from the lineage of David - who would reign forever over all the earth.

They called this eternal ruler the “*Anointed One*”. The

Hebrew translation is “*Messiah*” - in Greek it’s “*Christ*”. Whenever we call Jesus of Nazareth, “*Christ*”, we’re expressing our belief that He’s the heir of God’s promise to David.

This is why the genealogies in Matthew and Luke are vital. They trace Jesus’ family tree back to David, and demonstrate how He qualifies as a Davidic heir.

We’ve discussed several covenants in Scripture... God made covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses - now David - later with Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

A covenant is the terms by which God forms relationships with His people.

The Davidic Covenant is perhaps the most strategic. God’s covenant with David tells us where to look for the fulfillment of all other covenants. Everything God does ends up under the rule of an eternal King, David’s descendent, Jesus.

“According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.” 2 Samuel 7 is one of the most important chapters in the whole Bible.

David wants to build God a house, but God promises to build David a house... and I love David’s reaction to God’s blessing in verse 18... “Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?” He’s stunned by God’s grace!

“And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come.” David understood the eternal implications of

the prophecy. A forever throne... *forever is a long time!*

“Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?” In other words, no one else loves like this. *“I try to do God a small favor, but instead He blesses me forever!”*

“Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant.” David ends up speechless. He’s blown away! Israel’s psalmist – the great wordsmith and lyricist of the psalms - is speechless at the grace of God...

If you’ve ever tasted of God’s grace you know *it’s a common reaction.*

In the rest of chapter 7 David recounts God’s mercies on Israel, and sings a song of praise. “For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name - and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land - before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? Israel is a unique nation. No other nation plays such a pivotal role in God’s program.

“For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God. Now, O LORD God, the word which You have spoken

concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said. So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel.'

And let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You. And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant.

Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You; for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever."

In chapter 8 the military triumphs of King David are listed.

“After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines (to the west) and subdued them. And David took Metheg Ammah from the hand of the Philistines.

Then he defeated Moab (to the south). Forcing them down to the ground, he measured them off with a line. With two lines he measured off those to be put to death, and with one full line those to be kept alive.” David drew a line in the sand.

“So the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute.”

“David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his territory at the River

Euphrates.” This was a victory in the north.

“David took from him 1000 chariots, 700 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers. Also David hamstrung all the chariot horses...” He didn’t want to fight this battle again. “except that he spared enough of them for 100 chariots.”

When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed 22,000 of the Syrians.” The Syrians jumped in to support the losing side. And they’re making the same mistake today with their support of Hezbollah.

Verse 6 “Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute.

The LORD preserved David wherever he went.

And David took the shields of gold that had belonged to the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. Also from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a large amount of bronze.

When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer, then Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi); and Joram brought with him articles of silver, articles of gold, and articles of bronze.” Toi allies himself with David lest he be his next victim.

“King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued - from Syria, from Moab, from the

people of Ammon, from the Philistines, from Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

And David made himself a name when he returned from killing 18,000 Syrians in the Valley of Salt.” Or near the Dead Sea... “He also put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went.” Twice now, we’ve read those words. God’s blessing and protection was upon David.

Verses 15-18 list the key members of David’s administration. His cabinet...

“So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people. Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder” or literally “rememberer” - the official state historian.

“Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests (there were co-High Priests); Seraiah was the scribe (secretary of state); Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites (who made up David’s secret service); and David's sons were chief ministers.”

In 1 Samuel 20 when David left Saul’s court for good he promised Jonathan he would be kind to his descendants. In 2 Samuel 9 David keeps his word...

“Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose

name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!"

Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet." So the king said to him, "Where is he?"

Remember 4:4 we were told about him, "He was 5 years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth." The nurse dropped the baby, and crippled him.

And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar." Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself." Mephibosheth was afraid of David. He was Saul's heir. Mephibosheth feared that David viewed him as a rival to the throne and would eliminate him.

Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." What a turn of events - from *elimination* to *exaltation*. Exactly what God has done for us!

You've been God's rival your whole life. How often have you

sat on the throne of your heart – instead of yielding to God? You should be eliminated, instead God has shown you kindness – given you an inheritance – invited you to His table.

We're all Mephibosheths! We're lame spiritually. We've also experienced a fall. When Adam sinned we fell from God's ideal – we're now crippled in our walk.

Think too, Mephibosheth was blessed on account of someone else. David blessed him because of Jonathan. Now God shows favor on us on account of His Son, Jesus. God even invites us to His table. He treats us as His own. We've been adopted into God's family, just as Mephibosheth was adopted into David's family.

And oh, how our response needs to be like Mephibosheth's... "Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?" You get the impression he felt unworthy. This is how you and I should feel in light of the riches of God's grace. **Dead dog humility is the only response!**

Verse 9 "And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.

You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always."

Now Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants. Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do."

“As for Mephibosheth,” said the king, “he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons.” Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.” *And you remain lame... yet God chooses to bless you as one of his sons.*

Chapter 10, “It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. Then David said, “I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me.”

So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the people of Ammon.” All King David is trying to do is send his condolences. His servants were on a mission of mercy.

“And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, “Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you?

Has David not rather sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?” This is bad advice. Always be careful to whom you listen.

“Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away.” We're not told this, but it's my hunch that all this took place at the *Feast of the New Moon*.
(Ha!)

Hanun insults David's delegation, and sends them home disgraced. He cuts the seat out of their pants. They streak home to Israel. It's a declaration of war...

“When they told David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return." When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, the people of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zoba, 20,000 foot soldiers; and from the king of Maacah 1000 men, and from Ish-Tob 12,000 men.” They hire 43,000 mercenaries to fight.

“Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array at the entrance of the gate. And the Syrians of Zoba, Beth Rehob, Ish-Tob, and Maacah were by themselves in the field.” Ammonites and mercenaries created two fronts.

When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best and put them in battle array against the Syrians.

And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, that he might set them in battle array against the people of Ammon.

Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you.”

Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and

for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai, and entered the city.

So Joab returned from the people of Ammon and went to Jerusalem.

When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered together. Then Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the River, and they came to Helam. And Shobach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them." Syria called for reinforcements east of the Jordan.

"When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in battle array against David and fought with him." This was strategic battle. The Syrians have drawn in allies from the east. Win this victory and Israel will be established as a world superpower.

"Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed 700 charioteers and 40,000 horsemen of the Syrians, and struck Shobach the commander of their army, who died there. And when all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore."