
SG021002

For Week – 5/25 - 5/31

The Whole Counsel of God –II Samuel 5-10

(Questions about this week's study?
Email Pastor Jason at Jasonduff@calvaryvista.com)

Introduction

II Samuel is really about the Rise, (II Samuel 1-10), Reduction (II Samuel 11-15) and Restoration of David's throne. (II Samuel 16-24). In our study last time we considered the events of the 7.5 years that David was King over only the tribe of Judah, ruling in Hebron, an important city in Judah. But as we now come to chapter 5, David will be made King over all of Israel. Chapters 5-10 cover a time frame of about 13 to 15 years and those years really are the highlight of the Davidic Kingdom. It's the events of that time period that are our focus for this evening's study.

Overview of the Section – II Samuel 5-10

David King over Israel – II Samuel 5-10

David is made King (II Samuel 5)

After 7 and half years of waiting, David is finally made King over all of Israel. It is not a coincidence that the first thing David does is bring victory over generational problems in Israel. After generations of struggles, Jerusalem is finally conquered and in Jewish hands and the Philistines are put down and will never trouble the nation of Israel again. All of this of course is a great picture of what can happen in our lives when the Son of David is finally enthroned.

David brings back the Ark (II Samuel 6)

The next thing David does is he decides to bring the Ark of God back to Israel. The first time he attempts by doing it man's way and the world's way and that ends in failure. 3 months later David does it God's way and the presence of God returns to the nation.

David wants to build God a house – (II Samuel 7)

David lives in a house of Cedar, built for him by Hiram king of Tyre, but David then looks at the tabernacle and wants to build God a house. God will not allow it because David was a man of war, but God tells David He will build him a house through his son and eventually Jesus.

David goes on the offensive – (II Samuel 8)

Chapter 8 is a summary of David's many military campaigns during this time period. There is a hint in the text that one of the motives is to store up materials for the temple one day.

David shows kindness to sons of friends – (II Samuel 9-10)

Chapters 9 and 10 both tell the story of David attempting to show kindness to the sons of friends that had passed away. In chapter 9 David seeks to bless Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan. Mephibosheth who is lame receives David's kindness and eats at his table. Hanun son of Nahash is offended by David's kindness and suffers because of it.

Overview of I Chronicles – I Chronicles 11-19

I Chronicles 11:1-9 - David is made King and conquers Jerusalem

I Chronicles 11:10-12:40 – A Description of David's Mighty Men

I Chronicles 13, 15-16 – David brings the Ark back to Jerusalem

I Chronicles 14:1-2 – Hiram king of Tyre builds David a house of Cedar

I Chronicles 14:3-17 – David defeats the Philistines

I Chronicles 17 – David wants to build God a house

I Chronicles 18-19 – Details of David's wars against foreign powers

Comparison to I Chronicles – I Chronicles 11-19

Chronicles adds to the II Samuel narrative that it was Joab who took David up on his offer to climb the water shaft in Jerusalem and because of that even though Joab had many issues he became David's general for all of David's reign (chap. 11) Secondly Chronicles adds that David sought the counsel from all the leaders of Israel in order to bring the ark back to Jerusalem. (chap 13) Thirdly it is made clear that David eventually understood why God has judged his first attempt to move the ark. (chap. 15) Chronicles also adds the reason that God did not let David build the temple, "he was a man of war." The Talmud states that God's reason for this was as a warrior there would have been a temptation for David to turn the tabernacle of God into a trophy case for his battles which it was obviously never intended to be. (chap. 28)

Going Deeper (think it over or discuss with your family or Home group)

#1 – Once David is made king over not just a part of Israel, but over the whole nation, generational problems for the country start to fade away. What can this teach us about enthroning the Son of David, Jesus Christ, not just over parts of our lives, but over everything? Could the generational problems in your life still be an issue for this reason?

#2 – David's first attempt to bring back the ark of God to Israel fails because he does it man's way and the world's way, but not God's way. Is there anything you are attempting in your life where you need to think through, not "what is my way to get this done", not "what is the world's way", but "what is God's way to deal with this issue?"

#3 – In chapters 9 and 10 the kindness of David to Mephibosheth is received and he eats at David's table whereas the kindness of David is rejected by Hanun and he is actually offended by it. What parallels can you draw between these chapters and the way the gospel of Jesus Christ is received by people in the world today? Do you view the good news that Jesus died for you as powerful truth or foolish nonsense? (Consider I Corinthians 1:18)

Comparison Reading for Next Week

Covering Next Wednesday Night – II Samuel 11-15
Parallel Passage in I Chronicles – I Chronicles 20

II Samuel 5-10

“David - King Over Israel”

Introduction

- Tonight we are going to continue our study in II Samuel
 - And yet remember at the same time we are looking at I Chronicles as well, these two books side by side
- And the reason we are tackling these books in this way is they basically cover the same time period and material
 - The only difference is the perspective

II Samuel was written by prophets

- **Samuel, Nathan and Gad**
- **Written from the perspective of the trenches**
- **Written near the time of the events**

I and II Chronicles was written by priests

- **Ezra during the time of Nehemiah**
- **Written from the perspective of history**
- **Does not include the major failings**

II Samuel is written by prophets

- Written by those who were there and lived it, written from the trenches so to speak and again from a prophets perspective - so all the gory details are included – David’s sin, Solomon’s sin (I Kings) all the details are there and the prophets want us to see the effects of sin in people’s lives and turn from it ourselves

I and II Chronicles is written by priests

- Written not in the trenches but in a library years later with the perspective of history
 - And with the priests we also have the other side of God’s heart toward our sin
 - Like the prophets God wants us to know sin will cost you and make your life hard
- But like the priests He also wants you to consider that although there are consequences from sin there is no condemnation to those of us who are in a relationship with God, and from the view of history, from the view of eternity, your sin will be gone

So same story, different emphasis and different perspectives and as we go through II Samuel chapter by chapter I will point out what details Chronicles adds to the story

- But here in our Wednesday Night Bible study and in your study guide, which hopefully you have
 - It compares the two books and also gives you the section we are going to cover next week and the corresponding section in I Chronicles
- But we are looking primary at II Samuel so as we do, please remember II Samuel divides into 3 parts

II Samuel

The Rise of David’s Throne – II Samuel 1-10

The Reduction of David’s Throne – II Samuel 11-15

The Restoration of David’s Throne – II Samuel 16-24

- I Chronicles 22-29

The first 10 chapters are about the rise of David’s throne

- the first 7 and half years David is just king over Judah, not the whole nation, covered in chapters 1-4
 - then in chapter 5 he becomes King over the whole nation and chapters 5-10 cover about 13-15 years of David’s life, the golden age of David’s Kingdom

Then in chapter 11 – we get to David’s great sin with Bathsheba and Uriah

- and we see the effects of that sin rattle through his entire family and kingdom and the reduction to His Kingdom that sin brings

But then starting in chapter 16 after years of painful effects of his sin, we start to see the process of the restoration of David’s throne as he finishes well

- And we will look at those chapters and a good chunk out of I Chronicles that talks about how David prepared for his son Solomon to build the temple
 - But for tonight we are looking at II Samuel 5-10 and David as King over all of Israel
 - And as we do, this will be the outline we will follow tonight for you note takers

David King over Israel – II Samuel 5-10

#1 – David made King – II Samuel 5

#2 – David brings back the Ark – II Samuel 6

#3 – David wants to build God a house – II Samuel 7

#4 – David goes on the offensive – II Samuel 8

#5 – David shows kindness to sons of friends – II Samuel 9-10

- and we will consider these one at a time, start with

David King over Israel – II Samuel 5-10

#1 – David made King – II Samuel 5

- [read all of chapter 5](#)
- This is David’s third anointing

He was anointed as a 15 year old boy to be the future King as he sat around with his family

- 15 years later at age 30 he was anointed as king over his tribe
 - and not at 37 and half – He is anointed to be King over Israel

And as I was considering that, I thought how that should parallel each of our lives

So often we want to skip to our destiny, what God has for us in the totality of our lives

- but God often, in fact almost always, starts at home
 - Men if your wife doesn’t feel loved and ministered to by you, oh I’m not saying that if you don’t have occasionally moments, we all do – but if your wife is not being ministered to, then don’t look for ministry anywhere else
 - The anointing starts at home
- If your kids are not being disciplined, please don’t sign up to disciple others – disciple your kids
 - The anointing starts at home and listen to me, if it doesn’t work at home – it will not work anywhere else - It starts at home

And then it moves on to our tribe

- those we work with, go to school with – how does your walk with God affect those in your tribe
 - are you able to bring the gospel on your campus, at the job? – no
 - well then you see how silly it is to think, oh but if was on the mission field – then I would be really effective
 - if they would just put me on staff and let me have a Wednesday night or two, then I would be really effective at communicating God’s Word
- Probably not – not if you are not being effective in your anointing in your tribe
 - Do you hear what I’m saying precious church?
 - The great minister Zechariah says,

“don’t despise the days of small things” – Zechariah 4:10

- Those “small” things – your ministry at home, your ministry to your tribe, they are not really small things at all – but what prepares you and shows that you can handle your destiny

David has had to wait a long time

- but he was faithful at home, he was faithful in his tribe
 - and now 22 plus years after his first anointing, Israel finally gets around to making him King

And please notice with me, what happens when they finally do, verse 6 – He goes to Jerusalem and defeats that city and makes it forever part of the nation of Israel

- You see when you consider Israel's history up to this point, Joshua that great military commander led the nation into the promise land and had victory over many people who lived there
 - but one group he could not conquer were the Jebusites that lived in Jerusalem
- and as the age of judges came and went
 - Israel had great military leaders, men like Gideon and Barak and Samson
 - But still during the lives of all those men, Jerusalem stayed in enemy hands
- And when Saul was King, he had some military advances, but Jerusalem stayed in Jebusite hands
 - And when the Kingdom was divided – though David had many military victories, Jerusalem remained a stronghold for the enemy in the middle of the nation of Israel

Part of the practical reason for that was the location

- Jerusalem sits atop a hill on 3 sides
 - And in those days of walled cities, it was very easy to defend
 - In fact in verse 6 of chapter five, the Jebusites were mocking David saying we could have the lame and the blind defend the city and you couldn't take it – it was that well naturally defended

And for that reason, generation after generation, Israel had a stronghold of the enemy right in their midst

- That was until David became King not just over a part of the nation, but over all of the nation of Israel
 - And I camp out here for a minute or two because I feel this is such an important spiritual principal for our lives

Many of us even as believers have strongholds of the enemy in the midst of our lives

- and those strongholds can of course be many, many things
 - but they are areas you wish were not there, they are areas that are a drag to your relationship with God and maybe others
 - And for some of us those strongholds have been there for a long, long time, many for some of us, it has actually been generations

And we try everything to be free from these strongholds, we go to classes, we listen to teaching packs, we read self help books, but for many of us, this doesn't do it

- And we get frustrated
 - I know in my life personally I feel sometimes like the enemy is laughing at me like they were laughing at David
 - Jason all I need is the blind and lame demons to deal with you on this issue, you are so weak, it is such a stronghold
- And if you have ever felt that way you understand what I am saying
 - But I see in this text a principal that has transformed my life personally when it was first pointed out to me years ago

This stronghold in the middle of Israel finally falls when David, the rightful King was finally crowned King of all, not just a part of the nation, but King of all

- And the strongholds in my life and yours will continue to be there as long as our hearts and our lives are divided between two Kings
 - And that certainly applies if there are areas of our lives in which we are in open sin or in other words openly serving Satan our Kings adversary

But it also applies when our hearts and lives are divided between God and ourselves

- when we are on the throne doing what we want to do
 - the Bible talks so much after dying to self, and having self control
 - and the reason is, self is such a deterrent to your Christian walk, because the Kingdom of your life is divided
- And the reality and the problem is self will not dethrone self
 - You are not going to better your walk with Christ, you are not going to do away with that stronghold by your efforts – I don't care how disciplined you are, it won't happen
 - So what do I do?

Like Israel you enthrone the rightful King, the son of David, Jesus Christ – and you don't just give him a corner, Sunday Morning – but you surrender all

- And for some of us that is a moment by moment thing and what happens when Christ is enthroned
 - Self has to leave the throne
 - Christ will not share the throne of you heart with anyone, especially not you
 - Enthroned Christ
- And the strongholds begin to fall

And not only strongholds, but verse 17, long time enemies and problems start to be defeated as well

- the philistines have been a generational problem for the Jews and when they hear David has been made King, they came for him
 - not to congratulate him, but to destroy him

And this section as I shared a little bit on Sunday has been challenging me so greatly, notice with me 17-21

- David asks the Lord a question
 - Shall I go up against them?
 - Now I point this out because in my flesh, this would normally be categorized as something I don't need to ask the Lord about – I mean think it through with me
- David is King – it is his job to protect the nation, the Philistines are coming for war – Shall I go out – of course David you shall – but David asks the Lord what he thinks about what should have been obvious
 - And God says – doubtless, I love that, I will be with you and defeat them – and David does a full frontal assault and defeats them but then notice verse 22

The Philistines come back to the same exact spot, same place, and same thing

- and even if I did ask the Lord the first time if I should go to battle with the Philistines, why this is challenging me so much is, when I saw them come back to the exact same spot, now I know I wouldn't pray – I have seen this movie before and it worked out good for me – let's go
 - but that is not what David does
 - He asks the Lord

And God says no – whoa – but go around and attack from the back

- and I look at that and I think – how amazing

I mean maybe the Philistines figured out how to defend David's frontal assault and they were ready for him

- maybe there was something vulnerable about attacking from behind that day?
 - we don't know – but that is exactly my point – we don't know – we think we know what is best for our lives, what is best for our families and then if you are like me, we sit down in prayer to inform the Lord of the wisdom of my insight
- and can I just say, and I'm preaching to myself tonight – how stupid are we? – Does the Lord need to benefit from my insight – “oh I never thought of that Jason, wow, I'm so glad you pointed that out before I made a mistake” – no way

- like we talked about last week – either we believe Jesus is telling the truth in John 15 when He says...

“apart from Me, you can do nothing.” – John 15:5

- or we don't believe it
 - and to not believe shows an incredible pride on our part
 - incredibly prideful and incredibly stupid
- Because we don't know what the world, the philistines are plotting for us today, we don't know what the enemy is going to use in our lives to rip us off
 - But Jesus does

And so wise is the man or women that does far more in prayer than to share with God how we feel, we need to ask Him how He feels about our lives, decisions, marriages, choices

- as I shared on Sunday, some of you are bothered by the fact David is called a man after God's own heart and a friend of God because he is such a sinner

But could it be that David and Abraham and men like that are called friends by God because they were the very few men who ever asked God how He felt?

- we have all had those friends that give us their opinion about everything, and I remind myself of those people when I pray
 - and the Lord has been challenging me, Jason I already have your intelligence report – you have submitted it 100 times, but would you ask me? How I feel, what I want to do, how I want to take care of this?
 - there is something more than seeking His hand, we are to seek His face

David did, the nation enthroned the rightful King

- and then the stronghold of Jerusalem fell and the arch enemy of the nation was really never heard from again after II Samuel 5
 - all because the nation wasn't divided and David sought the Lord heart, not just blessing
 - and I believe as you and I enthrone Jesus in our hearts and seek His face, not just His hand – you are going to see strong holds and long standing problems just begin to fall
- enthrone Jesus fully, Seek His Heart – such an important lesson

Now before we leave this chapter, while all this was going on, David, verse 13 is taking on more wives and concubines and this is kind of confusing to most of us

- we see David do that and last week, he pulls Michal out of her marriage and takes her back even though he has a house full of wives and there will be example after example of sinful things David does
 - and you can say, well – Okay so he is called a man after God's own heart not because he is perfect, but because he asks the Lord for His heart, and trusts God (Goliath)

And I get that, but it looks like God records these things that David does and it seems like God doesn't care

- but friends here is what you need to consider
 - David obviously has a problem with the ladies
- And this problem keeps building until the great fall in David's life in chapter 11 and following
 - And what that teaches me is God is not approving of what David is doing – God had already said in His Word – a King of Israel was not to multiply wives – Deuteronomy 17:17 – you are not suppose to multiple horses, or money or wives as King over Israel
- And David ignores it
 - Please understand it was a culturally accepted sin

- Every middle eastern monarch had multiple wives, in fact David was conservative, his son Solomon was more normal for the time – so David with 9 wives and handful of concubines – that was showing some discipline on David's part

But it was still breaking God's law – and David's loose living was overlooked by God, it will come home to roost next week

- but God was giving Him room to repent and He wouldn't see it until it destroyed his family and his kingdom
 - and I mention it to you because you don't have to be a middle eastern king to struggle with this

Every one of us have some compromises in our lives and usually if you are refined, well it's a culturally accepted compromise

- I remember years ago in my life, I had to take a real hard look at what I was watching

Oh it wasn't pornography or HBO late at night, but I remember thinking last time I taught this book, these shows I watch, they can be a little racy, but they don't show anything and every body does it

- and the Lord impressed on my heart – so it's culturally acceptable to watch that – totally – no body would bat an eye
 - okay – But how does what you are putting before your eyes stand up to what my Word says should be put before your eyes
- well all of sudden I realize how much like David I really am
 - I'm doing what every body else is doing – I'm way better than him or her or that family
 - But there are still compromises, that if left unchecked like they were for David, will eventually lead to something devastating
 - I just mention that and want the Holy Spirit to make application to your heart
- But please don't think that God didn't care about David's compromise – He did, I bet He convicted him in private and David ignored, and ignored it and ignored it until it devastated his family and Kingdom
 - Let's learn from King David tonight – from the good things and the bad

David King over Israel – II Samuel 5-10

#1 – David made King – II Samuel 5

#2 – David brings back the Ark – II Samuel 6

- We are not going to cover this chapter because we covered it in its entirety last Sunday
 - David has everything he could ever want but he realizes something is missing and he ties that to the Ark of God

The Ark of God was not in the Jewish national life at this time because years earlier the Jews had brought it out to battle against the Philistines and they lost the ark

- the Philistines took it to their cities but their god Dagon was toppled and boils or some translations says hemorrhoids broke out on the people
 - so they made a cart and had some oxen lead the ark of God back to Israel where it sat in the home of Abinadab
- Well David equates the missing presence of God with the missing ark and so he is determined to bring back the presence of God to Jerusalem - The first time he does it, he does it the wrong way
 - He asks all the leaders, but not the Lord – and they come up with a plan – a big crowd, a few strong men, one named strong and one name friendly to lead this ordeal and then the latest tech, a cart, an idea that they got from the Philistines, and bunch a music and you can't miss
- And so does the church culture today – we have everything but we are missing something – so we meet together with everyone smart and we think – a big crowd, a strong personality to lead it, someone friendly out front, the latest tech, and worship band to set the mood and we can't miss

- And I believe God will and can use all of those things
- But we can't use them as a substitute for what the Word says brings revival

When David does it the right way, he seeks the Lord and the Lord already had a way to bring back the presence of God

- the ark was to be carried by priests, not on a cart and they were to stop every six steps and worship

And David doing things God's way brought back the presence of God

- and for our lives
 - listen God can use the latest and greatest book, the latest and great program
 - but God lays out in His Word – you feel distant – start with repentance – draw near to me through the Word, prayer and worship
- And knowing that we have a choice – to just keep rolling in the show like Michal wanted David to do
 - Or we can strip off our royal robes and do things God's way
 - Important message, if you weren't here, you can listen to it for free online or our podcasts but we move on to the third event when David was King

David King over Israel – II Samuel 5-10

#1 – David made King – II Samuel 5

#2 – David brings back the Ark – II Samuel 6

#3 – David wants to build God a house – II Samuel 7

- After David brings back the ark he starts to make a comparison to where he lives (chapter 5), a house of Cedar and where God lives (a tent)
 - And if you remember from our studies in the first five books of the Bible, that tent was kind of ugly too, with badger skins covering it – from the outside it was really a creepy tent and David thinks God deserves way more than that

So David wants to build God a house, and he goes to the prophet Nathan, Nathan and Gad really took over for Samuel and Nathan says yes

- and it makes sense – why wouldn't God want that – that is an amazing thing to want to do, plus I wonder if Nathan thought about the prophets quarters, better than living in a ten – so go for it David

But that Night, God says – Nathan – you need to go tell David no

- and the book of Chronicles adds, because David is a man of war and the Talmud speculates that God did that because there was going to be a temptation of David to bring back the spoils of war and display them in the temple, which is not at all what the temple was suppose to be – a picture of Jesus and the heavenly scene, not a trophy case
 - we don't know that for sure but that is what the original commentators said

For some reason, God said no, but then please notice verse 11 – you can't build me a house David, but I will build you a house

- God tells David no, but as the Lord so often does, when He tells us no it is because He has something better for us
 - God tells David – not only is his throne going to endure through his sons, but that someday the King of kings – Messiah is coming from his family - And David is just blown away at God's faithfulness

When God says no – it is usually because he has something better for you and me

- I think of that story in the New Testament where Jesus heals the demonic man from Gadera
 - In the story – the demons that come out of him ask to go into the pigs and Jesus says 'yes'
 - The towns people who don't know God, say, can you leave town Jesus, you are costing us money and Jesus says – Yes
- But then the man he heals says, can I be your disciple and Jesus says – no
 - He says yes to demons and the unsaved, but no to the one he touched

It doesn't make sense until you keep reading and Jesus sends him back to his country and this formerly demon possessed man becomes the first missionary – amazing

- not just one of 12, he becomes the first missionary
 - and that is what Jesus does for us
 - when He says no – it is always because He has something better
- And like David – wise will you and I be, if we don't fight against that – but embrace it and believe God has our best interest in mind

And more than just accept it, I love it, David doesn't mope around – well if I can't build you a temple, I guess that is best for me, but I'm not going to do anything then

- no, notice what David does in chapter 8...

David King over Israel – II Samuel 5-10

#1 – David made King – II Samuel 5

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#4 – David goes on the offensive – II Samuel 8

- We are not going to read it, but I want you to look at it, for it is an overview of the wars of David in this time period
 - Couple of things I find really interesting

In verse 4 as David defeats Hadadezer, David takes 1,000 chariots but hamstringing the horses

- not you animal lovers are thinking – why would he do that, that is awful
 - well – one reason is it didn't kill the horses, but they could never again be used in warfare
 - so in reality what David is doing is obeying Deuteronomy chapter 17 – a King is not to multiply horses or wives or wealth

The reason God did not want His kings multiplying horses was because you would trust in them and not the Lord

- And so David didn't kill the animals, but made it so they could not be used in warfare so his heart wouldn't trust in them
 - I love the humanity of it all

David knows the Word, knows that a King of Israel is not to multiply horses, wives or riches

- and David says, I will not multiply horses and riches
 - it's partial obedience
 - and let's not be so hard on David – I bet if our lives were examined closer we would see something similar
- So you are passionate about getting up early and getting in the Word and you can't understand why others would not – but what about tithing – don't get legalistic on me
 - Some of you love to give – you don't see why others wouldn't – but fasting – that is for Old Testament people
- You see what I mean – all of us are strong in some areas and need lots of grace in others

But some of you are thinking, well he only obeyed 1 out of 3 because look at verse 7 and 8

- he is amassing gold and bronze and silver as well
 - but here is what you need to understand
 - Chronicles lets us know the motive of David in this – He is amassing supplies for the temple
 - This gold and silver was not going to be used to strengthen David's war chest, but it was going to be used to someday build the temple
- And I love this – David instead of moping around and thinking – well if God says I can't build Him a house then I am not going to build Him anything

No – instead David says – I'll do whatever I can

- Chronicles tells us David drew up plans, David financed the project, amassed materials – so all Solomon had to do was put it together

And by the way, that is why I believe in heaven this temple will be called David's temple

- because even though he wasn't allowed to build it, this was still David's passion and David's heart and David did all he could and in heaven – He gets the credit
 - I mention that to you because again sometime we think if I can't do what I want, I'm doing nothing

If I can't sing up front, I am not going to sing at all

- If I can't be a missionary, I won't do anything at all
 - But David didn't pout, he didn't feel sorry for himself – okay I can't build the temple but I will get it all ready for Solomon
 - And God blessed what David was doing behind the scenes
- And he will for you and I as well
 - You can't be a missionary – but you can support missionaries
 - You can't teach the Bible, but you can pray for those who are
 - And God will honor that, and bless that and reward that – well, onto our last event...

David King over Israel – II Samuel 5-10

#1 – David made King – II Samuel 5

#2 – David brings back the Ark – II Samuel 6

#3 – David wants to build God a house – II Samuel 7

#4 – David goes on the offensive – II Samuel 8

#5 – David shows kindness to sons of friends – II Samuel 9-10

- [Read II Samuel 9:1-10:5, summarize the rest](#)

Now that God has blessed David on every front, he wants to show kindness to sons of friends

- remember he had made a promise to Jonathan, that he would not harm his children but care for them
 - So David searches for a descendant of Jonathan's and finds out about Mephibosheth
- Mephibosheth was lame in his feet because as a child he was dropped and in those days they didn't have the medical treatment to properly reset an ankle and it never healed properly
 - Now the reason his maid was running with him is it was when David has just become King and so normally you would put to death any of your rivals
 - So the maid is carrying this five year old boy, back when it happened and she dropped him
 - Now why is she carrying him – most five year olds I know are way faster than an old maid

Mephibosheth means “shameful breath”

- And this sheds some insight
 - Maybe as the maid was carrying him, he said, “thank you” and she just went out on the spot
 - Maybe
- But probably not – his name probably refers to the fact he had severe asthma and that seems to make sense
 - They had to get out quickly they thought, so this maid picks up this five year old boy because he has shameful breath – no bad breath, but he just can't breathe

Well years later, Mephibosheth is now a Father himself and David calls him and says I want you to eat at my table, not because of anything you have done, but whom you are related to

- And Mephibosheth humbly accepts David kindness

Now you contrast that with chapter 10 and Hanun

- his father Nahash had been kind to David and so David just wanted to bless Hanun
 - but instead of receiving the kindness of David, Hanun is offended by David and shames his messengers that David sends to him
 - and David responds the way all of us do when someone offends us – He destroys their entire nation

But as we close I was just thinking about what a picture these two chapters are of the gospel and how it is received

- We like Mephibosheth and Hanun, we have done nothing to deserve the grace of God
 - We are a bunch of dead dogs and shameful breaths
 - And yet the Lord sets His love upon us – that is all His work
- But that does not mean you don't have a part to play
 - You need to receive the gift of salvation Jesus offers you
 - That isn't a work – it isn't work for me to receive a Christmas present – well in my house it is because my kids bought my present with my money, but anyway, most of the time – it isn't work – you just receive the gift

But like Hanun, if we won't, instead of favor and mercy and grace, we will receive judgment

- how you respond to the gospel is so important – Paul says

“the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” – I Corinthians 1:18

- it is either foolishness, offensive – or we realize it is the power of God, that we so desperately need.