
SG021004 - For Week – 6/8 – 6/14

The Whole Counsel of God –II Samuel 16-19

(Questions about this week's study?
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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 tonight we are going to look at the first few steps God went through to restore the Kingdom of Israel to David.

Overview of the Section – II Samuel 16-19

The Restoration of David's Throne (part one) – II Samuel 16-19

The defeat of Ahithophel's counsel (II Samuel 16:15-17:23)

Ahithophel at one time was one of David's closest advisors and friends. His counsel was like the oracles of God (2 Samuel 16:23). God causes Absalom to listen to Hushai (a friend loyal to David) instead of Ahithophel and when Ahithophel sees that Absalom is not listening to his counsel and therefore has no chance to overthrow David, he kills himself before David does.

The death of Absalom (II Samuel 17:24 – 18:18)

By listening to the advice of Hushai, Absalom gave time for David to amass troops and pick the location of the upcoming battle, the later became the undoing of Absalom. The thick trees and forest of Ephraim was a snare to Absalom and his men. When Absalom found himself stuck, hanging from a tree, Joab, David's general, ended Absalom's life.

The discipline of David's emotions (II Samuel 18:19-19:43)

David is devastated by the death of Absalom, probably even more than normal because he was not sure of Absalom's spiritual state. David has to get his emotions under control before he discourages the entire nation. God will use this discipline of David's emotions to restore David's Kingdom not only in dealing with Absalom's death, but also as David returns to the nation of Israel.

Overview and Comparison to I Chronicles

There is no parallel passage because Chronicles chooses not to focus on the sin of David and the years of effects of David's sin, but only on the stories that affect the Kingdom of Israel and its future temple.

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

- #1 – God saves David from Ahithophel's advice completely differently than David was expecting. What does chapter 16 teach you about trusting God?
- #2 – Absalom was actually done in because of his long hair, something that had been an issue of pride in his life. Why must we guard our strengths even more than our weaknesses?
- #3 – Do you agree that is important to be careful how we portray the character of God as we go through trials? Why or why not?

Comparison Reading for Next Week

Covering Next Wednesday Night – II Samuel 20-24
Parallel Passage in I Chronicles – I Chronicles 21

II Samuel 16-19

“The Restoration of David – Part 1”

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 as 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

- Summarize the above content
 - And tonight we have come to the restoration of David’s throne – after 10 sad years of consequences, some of which we will still see tonight – God is going to restore the throne of David (eventually David himself) – tonight I want us to consider the first 3 steps in that process

The Restoration of David's Throne - II Samuel 16-19

#1 – The Defeat of Ahithophel's Counsel

– II Samuel 16:15-17:23

#2 – The Death of Absalom – II Samuel 17:24-18:18

#3 – The Discipline of David's Emotions

– II Samuel 18:19-19:43

- So we are going to go over these one at a time – before we get into chapter 16, please remember where we have been
 - After David's great fall in chapter 11, David experiences 10 years of consequences because of his sin
 - The death of the baby, the total loss of control of his kids and the loss of his Kingdom were all directly connected to David's sin with Bathsheba as well a few more things tonight
- So as chapter 15 ends and chapter 16 opens up – David is fleeing Jerusalem
 - On the way he is met by Ziba who maybe you remember was suppose to be taking care of Methibosheth's land while he ate at David's table, and David asks where is Methibosheth and Ziba lies – he is siding with Absalom because he thinks the Kingdom will be restored to him, a descendant of Saul
 - Now that is crazy when you think about it – why would Absalom give Methibosheth the kingdom? But David is under a lot of stress and doesn't really think this one through, but instead gives the land Ziba has been caring for to him

Then as we saw on Sunday, the next person in David's going away part is Shimei

- this lowlife is yelling insults and throwing dirt, basically saying – I wish God would send you to hell
 - but David doesn't react in the flesh
 - as we saw on Sunday – he realizes God may be trying to teach him something – I did something to make him act this way – help me to learn
 - then he also realizes, what this guy is accusing me of, I am innocent of, but I have been guilty of a whole lot more – so its okay
 - and finally David realizes, maybe God will see how wrong this guy is and as a Father, God will be kind to me because of it
- And what David does in the first 14 verses of chapter 16 is a great way for us to deal with criticism – hope you were here last weekend, if not – we record them and they are free online or in the courtyard for purchase
 - So David is on the run and we will pick it up in verse 15 of chapter 16

The Restoration of David's Throne - II Samuel 16-19

#1 – The Defeat of Ahithophel's Counsel

– II Samuel 16:15-17:23

- Read all the text

The first thing God does to restore David's throne back to him is defeat the counsel of Ahithophel – now remember who this guy was

- at one time he was a great friend and trusted counselor of David's
 - but when David sinned with Bathsheba it wasn't just embarrassing or disappointing for Ahithophel – and the reason was he was Bathsheba's grandpa
 - two scriptures give us this insight

“Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam,” – II Samuel 11:3

“Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,” – II Samuel 23:34

So you can image – he was bitter, he was upset and he was just waiting for an opportunity to come against David

- now even though we can understand why Ahithophel was bitter, it still didn't work out good for him in the end as we read
 - because bitterness never does
 - we need to take it to the Lord, even if the person doesn't repent – you don't have to be their buddy, but you need to forgive – or you will be affected
- I may have told you before, I had a guy come to the church here when I was the youth pastor and he wanted to serve kids and so I said show up and check it out
 - And he came one Sunday to youth ministry and then I didn't see him again for a long time
 - Almost a year later, he shows up and he looked horrible – I said to him, how are you – he said, I have been bitter at you for a year because when I visited youth ministry you looked at me like I wasn't worthy to serve – so I haven't slept, or eaten real good and I have just been angry for a year
 - I told him – I have no idea what I did, but I felt so bad for him – because he did look awful – and I felt great
 - But that is bitterness and what it will do

Ahithophel was in David's court as a counselor

- His counsel was brilliant, as the very oracles of God (16:23)

This was the reason David prays in 15:31, "Lord turn His counsel into foolishness"

- David knew that whatever this man shared, though it might not be righteous, it would be wise and the best thing for Absalom to do to end David's Kingdom

And we see an example of this in chapter 17

- The first thing he has Absalom do is go to bed with all of David concubines – why???
 - Well really I think two things are happening – one in the people's mind they would see this as Absalom totally cutting off any chance of reconciliation with his dad
 - Without this – you will forgive your Dad, he will forgive you and then we will look dumb – but after the act – the people flocked to Absalom knowing reconciliation between the two would never happen, it was such an insult in that culture and really any culture – someone sleeping with your wife

But the other reason I really believe Ahithophel recommends this to Absalom is he wants David to be hurt by someone sleeping with someone he loves

- it was the old bitterness coming out

The second thing Ahithophel suggests is to for Absalom to send him with 12,000 men right away to strike at David

- he says I will just kill David and bring back the people to you
 - so once again you can see what is really on Ahithophel's mind – David's death
 - and if Absalom would have listened, this probably would have been the end of David

And everyone says great idea

- But for some reason Absalom wants to hear what Hushai has to say

We are told that reason in chapter 17, verse 14 – the Lord was defeating the counsel of Ahithophel

- maybe you wonder why some of our leaders do the things they do, or listen to advice they should not
 - we need to remember God is on the throne and a greater purpose, like the coming of Christ is on the horizon and God is at work

Hushai says, let's not do what Ahithophel says to do, David and his men are like Momma bears just losing their cubs, crazy and able to do anything, 12,000 men might not do it – let's bring all of Israel here and bring the whole national army against David

- Hushai is doing this because number one it would give David time to amass some more troops – we will see that next chapter, all of sudden David has thousands of soldiers, instead of the 600 he leaves Jerusalem with
 - So Hushai is buying time
 - And it would allow David to pick the terrain in which to fight, which we will see in chapter 18 is a huge deciding factor in all of this
- So Hushai is secretly trying to help David and it works

Now I bring this up because again David prayed as we stared reading in 15:31 – “Lord turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness”

- And I want to ask you did God answer David’s prayer
 - did God turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness, did He???
 - how many say yes, how many say no
 - **how many have no idea about what we are talking about or where you are – just checking**
- Ahithophel’s counsel was excellent
 - It would have taken David out
 - It was as the scripture said, as the oracles of God

But what the Lord did do, was send in Hushai to give some alternative plan that the people took over Ahithophel’s plan

- this is important because David’s prayer was not answered in the exact way David asked
 - because God had a better idea
 - and I bring this up because we need to be careful not to dictate to God what He must do

God does not need our advice, He doesn’t need us to figure out the situation and then demand in Jesus name this is what needs to take place

- I mean who is God, is it you???
- No way – God is God
- God heard David’s prayer and thought good idea David, but I am going to do things my way if you don’t mind
 - I am learning to come to the Lord and simply do what 1 Peter 5:7 says to do – I cast my cares upon Him, knowing He cares for me –
 - I just cast them on Him, I don’t try to give Him two options of how He is going to fix the problem, I don’t bother giving Him the benefit of my insight – I just cast my care upon Him and know He is going to work it out His way
- But some would say - isn’t that a lack of faith to not just stand for what you want – Friends I believe it takes greater faith to trust that God knows what is best instead of me

When I first moved my family to Paris Texas, the big issue for me was what are we going to do for money. I had been in full time ministry for years, now I needed a job. When the former worship leader was leaving for a government job, I applied for his job of going into schools and teaching kids not to do drugs, it was perfect - I got the job and thought amazing - but a week before I was suppose to start that guy had to stay on, I didn’t have a job - Now I told the Lord he had two options

I was going to call Pastor Rob and maybe he would extend my paycheck for a month or even two weeks

- Or the Lord was going to have give me a good job in less than seven days
 - And I gave the Lord the two ways He was going to work that out
 - And yet one at a time, He knocked those options out
- I called Pastor Rob, he said I will ask the board – I thought, those guys whose kids I poured into, they would give me two weeks that is not unreasonable
 - They called and said no

- So I hit the pavement – I had six days now, and I needed something that would pay our bills, I had a house and family
- And door after door closed
- At the same time the people at Ci Ci's Pizza gave me a card for free pizza, and I will tell you it was a great comfort
 - We may have to live in our car, but at least my family can eat pizza and won't starve
 - But I was bummed that God didn't see the wisdom of my two options

But for those of you who know the story, God had something totally different and better

- The guy who did our finances, said our offering had increased by 2,000 dollars this month, isn't that what Vista was paying you
 - Yes it is – can we give it to you, all the bills are paid, they are
 - And I went on staff and never had to work outside of the ministry and I learned

God heard my prayer, He knew my concern

- But my options???? – oh you are going to eat every meal at Ci Ci's – good plan Jason

God knew all along how He was going to meet my concern – by not trusting I was the one who had a horrible week of worry

We need to learn this lesson of David and Ahithophel

- God knows our concerns, He loves us so much
 - But we need not figure out how we are going to take care of those concerns
 - And we certainly don't need to give God two options
- Can I tell you tonight I am so glad God didn't give me one of my two options I wanted in that week of my life
 - Because what He had was so much better
 - And precious believers I hope you hear that tonight
 - God knows what he is doing
- God is restoring David to His throne
 - But he is not doing it David's way

The Restoration of David's Throne - II Samuel 16-19

#1 – The Defeat of Ahithophel's Counsel

– II Samuel 16:15-17:23

#2 – The Death of Absalom – II Samuel 17:24-18:18

- Read chapter 18:1-18

You can still visit Absalom's monument today in the city of Jerusalem

- the Orthodox Jews will take their kids each year on a field trip and they retell the story and let the kids know what happens if you rebel against your parents – that would be a good teaching tool
 - but I guess the story in the Word is good enough, my son read it the other day in the one year bible and I let him know – think that through son, think it through

But how did Absalom die

- well remember Ahithophel advised Absalom to strike quickly
 - and if he had gone that route, Absalom would have done David in – for David was not ready to fight any kind of significant force
 - but Absalom went with Hushai's advice and that gave David time to recruit men who were loyal to God and the King – thousands of men
 - and now the fight is on

And again probably like God defeated the counsel of Ahithophel, David asked for God to make it foolish and instead God just made Absalom like the counsel of Hushai more, but just like that, God answers David's request here much different than David

prayed for or imagined, God used the terrain to defeat Absalom's men, more than his own soldiers

- They were fighting in the woods of Ephraim, a very heavily forested area of Israel with pits in the ground and heavy trees where one could get caught up

And Absalom literally does just that

- He got caught by his head, or most likely even his hair, and then the mule kept going, and he was hanging from the tree – it was literally a hair raising experience

Remember Absalom's hair was a point of pride

- The Bible makes special mention of how handsome this guy was
 - And the highlight of the old testament Fabio here was his thick heavy hair
 - He would get it cut once a year and the weight was 4 pounds of hair – just like when I get a haircut – ha,ha

Anyway, he had these long flowing locks and he was riding away from David's men, it looked just like a "I can't believe its not butter" commercial with Fabio riding a horse, hair flopping in the wind, but then it ended like an old Southwest Airlines, "you want to get away" commercial, something embarrassing - anyway

- His hair was the thing that got him in trouble
 - And I find that so interesting

We need to be careful about our areas of pride

- Because they often become our weakness
 - In those things that we know we are weak in, we are on guard for the enemy to take us down
 - But in those areas where we are confident, I don't need prayer about this, I don't need to seek the Lord on that issue – that is where I am strong – oh be careful
- I think of Peter – what was Peter's strength???, boldness – I mean we give Peter a hard time but it was Peter who took out his sword and took on a group of soldiers – I don't read about John doing that – bold!
 - And yet when faced with a servant girl, I don't know him, Peter's strength became a weakness

We need to be on guard in those areas we feel strong

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." – I Corinthians 10:12

- we need to take heed if we think we stand, oh I got this, I don't need help – You're headed for a fall – and Absalom was sure of himself and the victory, and he fell

Now a man came to Joab and said I saw Absalom hanging

- and I love what Joab said, you just saw him, you should have killed him and I would have given you 10 shekels of silver and a belt - oh a belt – I wasn't going to kill him, now you say you would have thrown in accessories

Absalom is killed and ends up in the pit

- and the picture is important for us to see
 - if you are going to rebel and come against the Kingdom of God, you will find yourself in the pits
 - It always works out that way sooner or later
- Please see this
 - Sin never works out – it never works out for anyone in the Bible
 - It has never worked out in my life
 - And everyone I have ever counseled, and said, this will destroy you, it always happens
- Those are good odds
 - But there is something in our flesh that says, no, I will be different

- No you will not – do you hear me? – you too will end up in a pit of despair and depression, no way around it

- God is at work restoring David's throne

The Restoration of David's Throne - II Samuel 16-19

#1 – The Defeat of Ahithophel's Counsel

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#3 – The Discipline of David's Emotions

– II Samuel 18:19-19:43

- read 18:19-19:18

David is obviously grieved at the lost of his son – any of us would be

- it was probably even more devastating to David because I don't think he had the assurance that Absalom knew God and walked with Him
 - so where as he had confidence that his infant son was waiting for him in the presence of the Lord – I'm not sure he had that confidence about Absalom - So David is devastated

But although you can understand – David is going to be restored to His Kingdom by learning to deal with His emotions, to disciple them and keep them under control

- And that is something that we need to consider, especially those of you who consider yourself leaders - in this day and age where we are constantly encouraged to explore our feelings, to ones own self be true – I think biblically that is off

The reason is you and I don't live this Christian life in a vacuum – this is a Kingdom, and who we are affects others in that Kingdom

- And in this Kingdom, we have a King – right?
 - And you as a servant in this Kingdom, represent your king to others in the kingdom and outside the Kingdom – right?
- You represent Jesus Christ
 - You believe that Jesus is good all the time correct???
 - You believe that He has your absolute best all the time correct???
- Well the people who don't know the Lord like you do, know that about you too
 - And when trials and troubles come they are going to watch what you do
 - They are going to watch how you respond to this God that always has your ultimate good in mind
 - And we need to be careful how our emotions portray that truth

Something that has challenged me greatly was back in Leviticus 10 – Nadab and Abihu, Aaron the High Priest's sons are killed as they offer false fire

- And Moses tells Aaron you must not accuse God of wrong in this

The people are looking to you Aaron

- they are learning from you, they relate to God through you, you are not to accuse God of wrong in this
 - and this is a such a challenge, because our human emotions are real
 - but we, especially you leaders, can't let our emotions put a wrong idea of God and His character in people's minds

I will never forget when I was first serving here, my job was to assist Scott in the High School ministry and Charlie Campbell in the College minister

- and I was not married yet at that time in my life and that poses unique challenges for young guys
 - because when it came to the college girls, I was their age, I was 19, 20 – and it was natural to be interested in those girls who were part of our college group, that I was suppose to be ministering to, and representing God to

- well – I started dating one of the girls in the group that I had met while doing a bible study at Palomar college and I thought things were going well and then all of sudden things just ran cold, the conversations were awkward and you just know this isn't going well
 - so I went to the beach with one of best friends at the time and I just started to pour out my heart – I don't know what happened, we didn't introduce any kind of sin, I am trying to lead spiritually, things have just become awkward, and my friend listened for a few minutes and then he said, I think I know why – you do, speak to me
- well her and I have started dating – oh, well that would explain it – I was so mad – that was a Friday and the next Sunday I'm coming to church

And as I am showing up to minister I am still upset and hurt and then I saw him walk in and I just walked away – well then I saw Charlie in the parking lot and he noticed something was wrong right away, I don't hide my emotions very well, and so he asked and I explained the situation

- and I will never forget what he told me – you need to let it go right now – do you believe God has your best interest in mind, is that what you tell other college kids – yes – do you believe as you are seeking the Lord, you are going miss what He has for you, is that what you tell the kids – no – then you can not act that way in front of the other college kids – if you want to go home this afternoon and cry your eyes out you do that, but this morning I want you to tell that guy and that girl that if that is the Lord, you are all for it
 - you don't have to do that – but you also don't have to serve here – but if you want to lead, you cannot have these kids question the character and promises of God because you are hurt
 - decide this morning if you are pastor or not
- it was heavy, it was hard, and I needed to hear it before I let my emotions drag down the group

David had every right to grieve, but he was bringing down the whole congregation of Israel with him

- and so Joab spoke truth into David's life, just like pastor Charlie spoke truth into my life that morning
 - and we need to hear this friends
 - Discouragement spreads like wildfire, through a church, through your family
- A defeatist doubtful down attitude is contagious – and the enemy wants to use your own emotions to wreak those around you as well as you

And if you are a leader you need to learn to deal with your emotions, to be disciplined in your emotions

- To not be so quick to blame God and accuse Him of wrong
 - To not make people think that somehow by your response to a situation that God has failed, because listen to me church He has not
 - Even if you don't see how that is possible – He has not failed you, He has not let everyone down

Now someone might say, if I act like that isn't that just a façade, that is fakeness and that is not how a Christian or a pastor should be

- We should be real, and vent our emotions
 - Well doesn't the Bible say to give thanks in all things
 - Doesn't it say "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute sin"
 - Doesn't it say we are headed for heaven
 - Doesn't it state that God is good and He loves us
- Well if that be true, we need to act like it's true, even when that is difficult

And David not only had to do that with the death of his son, but he would have to do that over and over again as he comes back into his kingdom

- lets read the rest of chapter 19 and see how that is true and then we will be done
 - the tribe of Judah was the greatest traitor of them all – his own tribe abandoned him – but David doesn't let emotions get out of control
- Shemi comes out to greet him with a lot of Lord and king in that greeting, but David still doesn't let his emotions take hold, what a strain that would have been on that day

Then he is met by Methibosheth and Pastor Rob is going to talk about this next weekend – but just to keep the flow for tonight

- Ziba, Methoshelth's servant, lied about him as David was leaving Jerusalem, back in the first few verse of chapter 16 and David being down and not really praying it through, the proverbs says..

“The first one to plead his case seems right until his neighbor comes and examines him.” – Proverbs 18:17

- we need to learn that lesson when people come to us
 - but David was having a hard day, we can give him a break, but he had given all the land to Ziba
- but David still doesn't know who is right in this
 - but instead of siding emotionally with Methibosheth or getting angry at lying Ziba, David controls his emotions and has them divide the land which produces a response from Methibosheth which is one of the most beautiful statements in all of the scripture – and I think that is Pastor's Rob's topic for this weekend, so I'm too smart to step on that

Finally David also keeps the emotions in check with Barzilla, (brother of God Zilla or he just owned a very large watering hole) – no he helped feed David and his men while in exile

- David wants to bless Barzilla, but Barzilla asks permission to not come with David, saying he is too old to enjoy life at his court
 - And David grants his request

He is learning – the best response is not an emotional outburst – those things had been getting him in trouble for years – being ruled by emotions and desires was no way to be a king – that is true for us as well