
SG021005 - For Week – 6/15 – 6/21

The Whole Counsel of God–II Samuel 20-24

(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 how God used conflict to continue to grow David and restore David to the King and the man God was calling him to be.

Overview of the Section – II Samuel 20-24

The Restoration of David's Throne (part two) – II Samuel 20-24

Growing through Conflict...

#1 – Tribal Conflict (II Samuel 19:40-20:26)

The tribes start off fighting over who gets to bring David back, but with hurt feelings and emotions running hot, all it takes is one man with a heart for rebellion and David has problems on his hands. David deals with the rebellion as we should all with rebellion – cut it off at the head.

#2 – Ethnic Conflict (II Samuel 21:1-14)

After 3 years of famine, David asks the Lord if something is wrong. The Lord lets David know that a wrong King Saul had done to the Gibeonites has never been dealt with. The Gibeonites want to put to death 7 descendants of Saul as restitution. It appears from a causal reading these men were picked randomly, but the Talmud and indications in the text show us that these descendants of Saul were complicit in the offenses done to the Gibeonites.

#3 – National Conflict (II Samuel 21:15-22)

In the aftermath of Absalom's rebellion, the Philistines try and test Israel again. David is almost killed by a son of Goliath, but David's mighty men now take over the role of being Giant killers. They may have started off in debt and depressed, but now they are mighty men because of David.

#4 – Personal Conflict (II Samuel 24:1-25)

David has one last sin God wants to weed out of his heart and it is pride. David's pride is manifested in that he does the census the wrong way (Ex 30:12) and with the wrong motive. He saw his strength coming from how many people he was leading, not in who the Lord was. So God judges David's sin by plaguing the people. (Most scholars believe the 70,000 were involved in some other unrelated rebellion and God was killing 2 birds with one stone.) The plague is stopped as David purchases the threshing floor of Araunah, the same exact spot the temple would someday be build and not far from where Jesus would offer the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

In the conflict David was a worshipper and a leader (II Samuel 22-23)

While all of this conflict was going on, David was still a worshiper (chapter 23) and a leader of men. (Chapter 23)

Overview and Comparison to I Chronicles

I Chronicles 21 also tells the story of David's great sin in II Samuel 24. The author of Chronicles (Ezra) skipped all of David's previous sin and consequences because it shows the other side of God's heart toward sin – It is forgiven and forgotten. Ezra includes this sin because it is important to the story of why the temple is located where it is. This would have been a very important truth to the generation that was rebuilding the temple after the Babylonian Captivity.

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

#1 –How have you been dealing with rebellion in your own heart? Are you seeking to put it to death or are you tolerating and making excuses for your sin?

#2 –Why do you think modeling a relationship with God is the best way to transfer that relationship with God to the next generation?

#3 – As we study difficult to understand passages of scripture as in II Samuel 21:1-14 and II Samuel 24, what are you learning about the character of God and the importance of digging deeper when it seems like God is acting out of character?

Comparison Reading for Next Week

Covering Next Wednesday Night – I Chronicles 22-29

Parallel Passage in II Samuel – none

II Samuel 20-24

“The Restoration of David – part 2

David – Growing through conflict”

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 continue the story of the restoration of David’s throne – After 10 years of consequences, God is restoring not only the throne of David, but David Himself – but as God so often does, He uses conflict in order to teach Him and

grow him and wants us to see 4 different types of conflict that David has to go through

David – Growing through Conflict – II Samuel 20-24

#1 – Tribal Conflict – II Samuel 19:40-20:26

#2 – Ethnic Conflict – II Samuel 21:1-14

#3 – National Conflict – II Samuel 21:15-22

#4 – Personal Conflict – II Samuel 24:1-25

- and we will look at these one at a time
 - before we read, again remember the context – David is coming back to Jerusalem
 - He has just shown grace to Shemi and the relationship with Methobsheth has just been restored as pastor Rob taught us last weekend
- And as he is entering back into the territory of Israel we pick it up in verse 40 of chapter 19 for context

David – Growing through Conflict – II Samuel 20-24

#1 – Tribal Conflict – II Samuel 19:40-20:26

- As you finish reading chapter 19 – point out that at first Israel and Judah are fighting over who gets to bring the King back into Jerusalem – an into this very touchy situation, enters a man by the name of Sheba – chapter 20... Then talk about the concubines that were left behind, David takes care of them, but did not go into them anymore – David is changing generals in the new administration, but Joab will have nothing to do with that, fakes dropping his sword and kills Amasa and then pursues Sheba to the city of Able – Joab like this woman, she is a woman after his own heart, throws the head over – you can stop reading after verse 22

The first thing David faces is tribal conflict

- there had always been this “us verses them” when it came to Judah, the tribe God said would have the King and the other tribes, known as Israel together
 - now after Solomon, the nation will break into two nations and we will see that story this fall as we go through I and II Kings

But David puts down this rebellion of Sheba by sending out the army and putting him to death

- and many times this is the best way to deal with civil war going on, especially the civil war that happens in each of our hearts
 - part of us realizes that Jesus is King and we want to follow Him, and serve Him and obey Him
 - but there are these factions with in us – that want to do our own thing and go our own way

And the way to deal with them?

- well normally we tolerate our sin, and take care of it and makes excuses for it
 - but as Jesus taught on the sermon on the mount, the best way to deal with rebellion in our own hearts is to deal severely with it
 - to cut it off at the head

And we have talked about this before – when Jesus says, if you right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out or if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off

- I don't believe Jesus is teaching that we are to actually mutilate our bodies and one reason I believe that is so, is because you can still lust with the other eye, or the other hand, or even with no eyes and no hands
 - No – Jesus was simply teaching us that instead of what we normally do, tolerate, make excuses, we need to cut off the sin at the head

Wise is the Christian man or woman that does some soul searching of what it really is that is causing you to sin on a regular basis

- maybe the source is the internet or a particular relationship or a show you watch or an activity you participate in
 - and if you are honest and ask, the Lord will show you – then deal with it

Shut the internet off, turn off the TV, cut off that relationship, choose a new activity

- I can't live without internet – do you know people did for years
 - I can't live without my show – yes you can
 - I can't live without that person, they don't just push me to gossip or bitterness, they help me in other ways

Listen – are we serious about walking with Jesus or not – if not, don't listen to me – I love what Solomon says in the first proverb

“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?” – Proverbs 1:22

- If you are tired of the civil war in your heart, you need to do something radical about it
 - Be wise like this woman of the city of Able, cut it off at the head, at the source
 - That is how David deals with tribal conflict, now notice next, kind of a hard to understand story, so listen close...

David – Growing through Conflict – II Samuel 20-24

#1 – Tribal Conflict – II Samuel 19:40-20:26

#2 – Ethnic Conflict – II Samuel 21:1-14

- The first verse of chapter 21 lets us know there was a severe famine in the land of Israel for three years
 - Now they did not have the ability of food storage that we have today, and so famine was a normal thing if you didn't get very good rains or had crops for some other reason
- So I'm sure after the first year, they thought this is not good, but normal, after year two, wow what is happening, after three years – David decides to pray about this – why is this happening God

And it is shocking for some of us to hear the Lord say, my favor has been held back from the land because of a sin Saul committed against the Gibeonites and there has been no restitution made for this sin

- since the cross where all of our sins, past, present and future have been paid for, we don't really understand a time where sin needed to be reconciled for it to be forgiven and its just another reason to say, thank you Jesus
 - but what happened was King Saul in his zeal decided to wipe out the Gibeonites who were not Jews, but living in the land of Israel

Now Saul is often an enigma to me

- God tells him to wipe out all of the Amalikes and he does not obey
 - But he takes it upon himself to wipe out another people group who were protected by a covenant?
 - A covenant?

Yes if you remember from when we studied the book of Joshua, the nation of Israel was conquering the land of Israel and God told them to wipe out everyone

- well the Gibeonites said, that is not going to work for us, so they pretended to be from far away and they came to Joshua and the elders of Israel and said, make a covenant with us that you will not kill us and we will be your servants
 - and Joshua didn't pray, didn't seek the Lord, but he looked at their moldy bread and their worn out wineskins and thought they must be from outside the land – lets make a covenant

Then they found out – these people live just right up the road, they were part of the people God had said, wipe out. But now the reputation of God as a covenant keeper was on the line and so God wanted them to honor their covenant

- and they became a protected group in Israel, until hundreds of years later, Saul decides to wipe them out
 - and God says – this wrong has never been made right which is why my hand of favor is being withheld from the nation

So David goes to the Gibeonites and says, what can I do to make this wrong right?

- and the Gibeonites don't want money or land or be let out of their service to the nation of Israel, all they want is for seven descendants of Saul to die
 - and then to make this story even more confusing to our hearts – David says – okay
- And he honors his commitment to Mephibosheth, doesn't hand him over, but he takes two sons of Rizpah, Saul's concubine and 5 sons of, well verse 8 says Michael
 - But there is a problem with this – Michael was whose wife? – David's
 - And she had how many kids with David – zero
 - Nor was she ever married to Adriel, she was married for a time to Patiel, that guy who went behind her crying when Abner took Michael back to David – but not Adriel

Adriel was married to Michael's sister, Merab

- now if you remember when David was a young man and killed Goliath, Saul promised to marry David to his daughter

The oldest daughter was Merab, but right before the wedding, Saul reneged on his promise and married Merab to Adriel – if you want a reference for all of this, it took place in I Samuel chapter 18

- So David was later married to Michael instead
 - So these five kids were Merab kids as some Bible translations have it
 - Or it could be, something happened to Merab and because Michael her sister didn't have children, she raised up Merab's kids in her place

But David takes these five sons, now in their 40's and gives them plus the two sons of Rizpah who would have been in their 50's and 60's at least to the Gibeonites who hang them

- and if the story wasn't hard enough to understand up to this point, then God says, okay, and blesses the nation of Israel
 - what is going on here? – How is the character of God or David not in question?

Well the first thing to realize is God did not order the death of 7 men to appease Him – human sacrifice is forbidden by the law of God

- now you say, but God honored this act by blessing the nation and yes He did – because the law does affirm the policy of a life for a life
 - you see something we miss is back in verse one when David is asking what is wrong, why is there a famine – God says it is because of Saul and what – his blood thirsty house
 - it wasn't just Saul involved in mercilessly killing the Gibeonites – his household was involved

And you couple this with the fact the Jewish Talmud, the original commentary on the Old Testament says, these seven descendents of Saul were involved in the murders. And now we see it, the Law forbids human sacrifice, or even the punishment of children for the sins of the father, but upholds the death penalty, when you have taken a life wrongly

- So God is not out of character, David is not out of character

- A wrong has been done, murder has been committed by the house of Saul
- And as punishment, the men still alive who were part of that murder are themselves put to death
- And after the restitution is made, David gives the 7 descendants as well as Saul and Jonathan a proper funeral in the land of Israel
 - Now let's move on to the third conflict God used to restore and grow David, verse 15...

David – Growing through Conflict – II Samuel 20-24

#1 – Tribal Conflict – II Samuel 19:40-20:26

#2 – Ethnic Conflict – II Samuel 21:1-14

#3 – National Conflict – II Samuel 21:15-22

- In all the confusion of Absalom trying to take over the kingdom, the Philistines saw it as an opportunity to have a come back and once again become a power in the region
 - But now that David is on the throne, this rebellion will be put down
 - But not by him – by his mighty men

David goes out to battle and he is facing one of the sons of Goliath, the man he killed as a young man

- now David is in his mid-60's here and if you are mid 60's I am not saying anything about you, but it is probably not the best giant fighting time
 - my step dad is mid 60's and he was over for Father's day and Jonathan my son, being Jonathan, jumped on him as he does to me all the time – but Grandpa when down, knee swelled up because he is grandpa

Well this is Grandpa David and he isn't quite up to the battle against a giant who would have been highly motivated with revenge as David killed his Dad

- but all ends up okay, because David has mighty men around him, young men who have become like David, who step in and kill the Giant for David

And this is something we have talked about before, but it so important it bears repeating

- when David's mighty men were first coming to him, they were everyone who was in debt and depressed, they were not a mighty fighting force
 - but after spending years with David, they began to fight like him, think like him and do what he did
 - so much so when years later David was fleeing Jerusalem, remember Athiophel wanted 12,000 men to take on David's 600 – 200 to one odds were what he needed to feel comfortable

David's men became giant killers and great warriors – why, because David was

- now you may think I am reading too much into that, but none of Saul's mighty men ever killed a giant, because Saul never did
 - and you couple that with a knowledge that all of the guys mention in the end of chapter 21 were not alive when David killed Goliath, it was not that they had seen it – it was because that is who David was to the core and it rubbed off on them

I mention this because all of us in this room are getting older, someday the legacy of Calvary Chapel Vista will be left to another generation – but what will they be like?

- What do you want the legacy left to be?

We will see this more next week when we look at four things David did to leave a legacy to the next generation, an important study next Wednesday Night

- But do you want your kids to love Jesus
 - you need to love Jesus
- Do you want your kids to be lovers of the Word
 - You need to be a lover of the Word
- Do you want your kids to be prayer warriors

- You need to be a prayer warrior
- Do you want your kids to be pure
 - you need to be pure

You can say, well I haven't been, hey friend there is no time like the present to decide to follow Jesus with all of your heart

- and the motivation is, it doesn't just affect you
 - these things are caught, not so much taught
 - but so is sin and rebellion
- For all the good David did – He chose to multiply wives and his son also chose to multiply wives
 - God will be graceful, He does not condemn you
 - But there is no time like the present to be serious about your walk with God for no other reason than you are leaving a legacy of something - What is the something????
- Well we are going to skip, chapters 22 and 23, we will refer back to them before we are done tonight, so don't panic, but I want us first to see one more conflict

David – Growing through Conflict – II Samuel 20-24

#1 – Tribal Conflict – II Samuel 19:40-20:26

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#4 – Personal Conflict – II Samuel 24:1-25

- Read the chapter

Now there is some great confusion about this most important chapter in II Samuel historically

- the reason is I Chronicles account of this says that Satan got David to number the people
 - II Samuel says God did it
 - So what is going on here

Well I personally believe both are true

- you see in James chapter one, verse 13 it says, God does not tempt us
 - but earlier in the chapter it says God does test us
- the problem is, test and tempt are the same Greek word
 - So image the confusion – God tempts us, God never tempts us – well which is it?

Well the reality is, it is both sides of one coin

- The Lord and our enemy will use the same exact circumstance in our life
 - The enemy will want to use it to tear us down and destroy us
 - The Lord will want to use it to mature us and grow us
- And the reality is, what happens and how we respond is up to us
 - We are either going to cling to Jesus in the trial and be built up or we will sin and be devoured

So yes – as II Samuel says, God is working in David by moving him to number the people and yes, as I Chronicles tells us, Satan was moving David to number the people

- Well then why would God punish if He was moving David to number the people – really two reasons
 - Again – God is wanting to work David's greatest sin issue out of him – David's greatest sin was not adultery with Bathsheba or even killing Uriah or even the failure to raise his kids the right way

Six times in the Word, David says, "I have sinned." But only once does David say, "I have greatly sinned."

- it was in this instance – when he was consumed with pride

David's pride was in not doing things the Lord's way

- remember when he first moved the ark, he moved the ark the way the Philistines did and what seemed good to his leadership team, but not as God has described in the book of Numbers
 - and God dealt with that

Well here again – God tells us in His Word, why and how a census should be taken

- Exodus 30:12 says,

“When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.” – Exodus 30:12

- God wanted an offering to the tabernacle and someday a temple when a census was taken – and part of the reason for that was to say – Lord by giving this gift to you, we are not numbering ourselves to see how strong we are, we know our strength is in you
 - And that was David’s other problem

Not only did he not take the census the right way, but he did not take it for the right reasons

- when God ordered a census twice in the book of numbers, it was to organize the men for war and to see how the land that they were yet to inherit was to be divided up
 - it was not to see how strong Israel had become which was David’s motivation
- You see it was David who wrote in Psalm 20 – some trust in horses, some trust in chariots, but we will trust in the name of our God

David at one time knew his identity was not in how many people he ruled over, but in who His God was

- But David forgot that in His pride – and yes – he is in his late 60’s, he only has a few more years of life
 - But God continues to teach us deep lessons because he is preparing us also for eternity
- God was preparing David to learn a deep lesson he needed to learn for eternity – do things God’s way, and for God’s reasons

But David gives into his pride and seeing who he is based on how many people he rules over, and into his belief that “I know better than God” and then when it is done, David confesses his sin, calls it “great sin” and then the prophet Gad gives David a choice

- do you want 7 years of famine
 - 3 months given over into the hand of your enemies
 - or 3 days of plague from the Lord

And I find David’s answer so interesting, David says,

“Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.” – II Samuel 24:14

- David in the Old Testament says – I would rather fall into God’s merciful hands than man
 - And I want you to notice that because there is a growing trend today to think – well if I was God I wouldn’t be that judgmental
 - I am nicer than God – no you are not!
- those who know God well like David would say – no you are not

Another one that is becoming very popular in Seminaries today is this idea called progressive revelation

- that God is learning in the Old Testament how to be kind like man and by the New Testament – Jesus teaches the old man how to be kind like us humans
 - this is dumb, double dumb

For first of all, 'Jesus teaches the old man how to be nice?

- Did you notice verse 16 of chapter 24? – who is doing the killing of the people – the Angel of the Lord
 - If that is hard to see in II Samuel 24, read I Chronicles 21 and it is super clear
 - The angel of the Lord is killing people
- Now who is the Angel of the Lord? – the second part of the trinity who will later be named Jesus
 - Jesus is killing people
 - He was teaching the old man how to be nice
 - Have you read the last book of the Bible - will Jesus forget how to be nice in the end?
- This is just dumb – God has never changed – He loves us, and He judges sin – if we won't do things His way, then just like He promises, He will judge sin

Okay, but why kill 70,000, why not just judge David – oh listen, this is important

- If you will notice verse one of chapter 24, the anger of the Lord was aroused against who? – David? – no the people
 - The story we are reading is about David's sin, but the people and David does it too, what have these sheep done
 - The reality is, they had been Baaaaad little sheep

Picture of a Baaaad Sheep

The Jewish Talmud the original commentary says these 70,000 were involved in serious rebellion against the Lord – the 70,000 were not random

- And so what does God do
 - He tests David to see if he will do the right thing and when he fails – He not only teaches David a deep lesson, as I'm sure his heart broke for the people
 - But God kills two birds with one stone and judges those who were being baaaaad little sheep, those who were in open rebellion against Him
 - God's character never changes – He is merciful, but if you choose to live contrary to what He loving has for you – you will experience consequences

In our day in age we don't think this way, because we live after the cross

- but that is an interesting thing to think about right at this moment because this mountain where the threshing floor of Arunah is located at is Mount Moriah, just above the Old City of David, the old Jerusalem
 - and David the king, stops the plague, but after paying the full price for this piece of land and offering a sacrifice
- The reason chronicles includes this sin of David's and not the Bathsheba, Uriah, Absalom stories is because this sin is critical to understand why the temple is where it is at, which is important to the priests that were writing chronicles to the generation that was rebuilding the temple
 - David builds an altar to stop the plague
 - And Solomon will build the holy of holies right over that same spot

And years later another King will offer the full price for our sin, and be sacrificed at the very top of this same mountain, Mount Moriah

- for it is on this mountain, Jesus will die for our sins and the plague of sin will be stopped
 - it all happens right around this spot, the threshing floor of Arunah
- Where David learns a deep lesson about sin and consequences and stopping the plague of sin
 - Now as David is expiring and all of these conflicts...

David – Growing through Conflict – II Samuel 20-24

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#5 – In the Conflict – David worshiped and led - II Samuel 22-23

- and yet before we go, we see that in the midst of all this conflict and trouble David was still a worshipper and a leader – II Samuel 22-23
- In chapter 22 David rewrites the song he wrote in Psalm 18 which is a story of God's faithfulness when David was young and now that he is old he gets back to singing the same old songs.

Karl Barth an old theologian and most of what he writes I disagree with but one thing he said I find to be so true was after writing many things for his whole life they asked him “what was the most important revelation he ever learned” and his answer was “Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so”

- There is a danger as we grow in the Lord to think we need to discover new truth, but we so often discover when we get older the things we learned when we were young either chronologically or spiritually, are the best things we had for all of our lives.

David singing the same songs, realizing God has never changed

- and in chapter 23 it is a list again of David's mighty men
 - and as we talked about already tonight – David took men that were in debt and depressed and made them mighty men, by being like himself
 - you love Jesus, love His Word and watch it transfer to the next generation

In fact that is what we are going to look at next week

- we are going to cover the chapters that Chronicles tells us about that II Samuel skips
 - Chronicles skips all the chapters about David's sin and 10 years of consequences
 - But Chronicles adds a whole section on David's life about him leaving a legacy for the next generation
- And I hope you can be with us next Wednesday as we wrap the Life of David up and learn how we can leave a legacy to the next generation