

The Anointed King: Anticipation For A Forever King Begins

What We All Want

2 Samuel 1-3

Main Idea

David models the overarching desire to see God's people brought into God's place under His rule for God's glory. Abner and Joab illustrate what happens when our desires are the guiding rule.

Overview

- **2 Samuel 1:** David finds out Saul and Jonathan have died as well as all of Israel being defeated. David also executes the man who confessed of killing Saul.
 - The Amalekite apparently makes up the story in an effort to be rewarded since we know from 1 Sam. 31 that Saul fell on the sword himself after being shot
 - David and those around him mourned, wept, and fasted that Saul and Jonathan, as well as the people of the Lord and for the House of Israel (God's people) because they had lost (v 12)
 - David wants God's people to remember this terrible day so as to learn from it (vs. 18)
 - David executes the messenger because he was willing to cut down the Lord's anointed
 - David mourns Saul and Jonathan's death, he doesn't see it as an opportunity for personal comfort
 - He loved Jonathan deeply as they had a deep friendship (vs. 26)
- **2 Samuel 2:** David seeks the Lord, is crowned king by Judah, and civil war breaks out among the northern tribes of Israel and Judah
 - David doesn't run to Judah, but seeks the word of the Lord and obeys it (v 1-4)
 - David honors those who honored Saul and Jonathan in burying them (v 4-7)
 - Abner establishes Saul's remaining son, Ishbosheth, king of the Northern Tribes of Israel (v 8-11)
 - Abner knew David was supposed to be king (3.9)
 - Abner challenges Joab to a fight with 12 men from each side
 - Civil War breaks out (v 12-32)
 - This represents further division among God's people
- **2 Samuel 3:** Saul's house gets weaker, David's gets stronger, David adds more wives/children, Abner switches sides and is murdered by Joab in response to Abner killing Joab's brother Asahel
 - Saul's house gets weaker and weaker while David's gets stronger (v 1)
 - David marries more women and has children with them (v 2-5)
 - Based off where these women are from it appears David may be trying to unite Israel through these marriages
 - Especially considering he summons Michal back as his wife (v 12-16)
 - The Author doesn't paint this as a happy occasion
 - David would have known the prescription of Deut. 17.17: King wasn't supposed to have many wives
 - Ishbosheth accuses Abner of sleeping with his concubine
 - Abner says he is going to help David as the Lord has him to be the king and set up his throne over Israel & Judah (that's all the people of God: v 10)

- Abner knows this should happen from “Dan to Beersheba” (the northern and southern borders of God’s place)
- “To whom does the LAND belong” (v 12)
 - God wants His people, in His place, under His rule for His glory: This is the shalom the way the world is supposed to be among them
- David mourns at Abner’s murder and David has Joab the murderer to mourn as well (v 31-37)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Discuss how others understand “peace” in the world...compare that with how it squares with the Lord’s purposes in understanding the term.*

1. How does David react to Saul and Jonathan’s death as well as Israel’s defeat? Why does David respond this way when it stood to benefit him? How have we seen this consistently in David?
2. Why do we have so much difficulty responding in this manner when bad things happen and we stand to benefit? Why do we often celebrate the downfall of others (even God’s people) instead of mourning?
3. Read 2 Samuel 2.1-4 and explain what David models. In what way might we learn from this?
4. Why is David being crowned king of Judah not complete God’s purposes for David’s kingship?
5. Read 2 Samuel 2.8-11 as well as 2 Samuel 3.10. Describe Abner’s behavior. What appears to be Abner’s motives? What happens because of Abner’s choices? What comes of Abner?
6. In what ways are we tempted to behave similarly to Abner? What would that look like? How does David inform the antidote? Christ?
7. Read 2 Samuel 3.9-12. How do you see God’s shalom being reflected in what Abner understands the purposes of David to be?
8. In what ways do you see the similarities in Christ? How do we live for this?
9. Why is David broken time and again for these previously known rivals? What do we learn from this?

Accountability question: *In what ways are you tempted to create “kingdoms” as Abner did instead of waiting patiently while being faithful as David/Christ did? Encourage and confront where necessary with the salve of the Gospel.*