

**A MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART:
A study in I and II Samuel and the Psalms of David
AMEN Bible Study 2014-2015**

**Eradicating Rebellion... Restoring Shalom
II Samuel 20-21
April 9, 2015**

Overview of 2 Samuel:

1. **The Triumphs of David** (1-10)
 - Political Triumphs (1-5)
 - Spiritual Triumphs (5-7)
 - Military Triumphs (8-10)

2. **The Transgressions of David** (11)
 - Sin of Adultery (11:1-5)
 - Sin of Murder (11:6-27)

3. **The Troubles of David** (12-24)
 - Troubles in David’s Family (12-13)
 - Troubles in David’s Kingdom (14-24)

- *Outline from Talk Thru the Bible, pp.81-82.*

Numbers 32:23 - “Be sure. Your sins will find you out.”

How have David’s sins found him out?

- The death of Bathsheba’s child
- The rape of his daughter Tamar
- The murders of Amnon and Absalom
- The slaying of his nephew Amasa

“The narrator invites us to pay particular attention to the social and psychological aftermath of adultery as well as to the obvious fulfillment of God’s judgment pronounced by God’s prophet... The implications for people in positions of leadership are likely to be especially significant... What we are meant to find is guidance to live by, a clue to the deceptions that distort our understanding of what is beneficial and what ought to be done. In other words, these chapters are meant to be a ‘*lamp to my feet and a light to my path*’ (Psalm 119:105).

THESIS: A peaceable kingdom is restored to the Lord’s Anointed in spite of pervasive rebellion.

I. 20:1-27: Eradicating Pervasive Rebellion in the Kingdom

The kingdom continues on in spite of double rebellion (from without and within).

A. 20:1-2: Sheba’s Rebellion Against the Lord’s Anointed

B. 20:3: Sad Women and David’s Own Rebellion

C. 20:4-13: Joab’s Rebellion Against the Lord’s Anointed

D. 20:14-22: A Wise Woman and the Eradication of Rebellion

E. 20:23-26: The Officers Serving the King

II. 21:1-22: Restoring God's Shalom in the Kingdom

A. 21:1-14 – The King Intervenes to Restore Shalom

1. 21:1-2 – A Promise Broken by a Murderous King

- King Saul's sin places God's people under God's curse.
- The Costs of Breaking a Promise – No Ordinary Famine

2. 21:1b – God's Merciful Answer Given to an Interceding King

- God extends His mercy when He does not keep us in the dark.
- God extend His mercy to us when He makes our guilt clear.

3. 21:3-9 – A Gruesome Atonement Made for a King's Sins

(cf. Numbers 35:33 – You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it.)

- 21:7-9 - David doesn't shirk the heart-rending task of selecting seven grandsons of Saul to atone for their grandfather's sin.
- Why? Because God's wrath stands behind Gibeon's request.
- Does this incident violate Deuteronomy 24:16? "Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin."
- No. This passage regulates individual criminal cases. Saul acted as King. Thus, his sin was national and his offense was representational.
- **Application:** We should be aghast and horrified at the goriness of atonement. It was a gruesome, bloody, messy and costly affair.

4. 21:7 – A Promise Kept by a Devoted King

- King David extends covenant safety to Jonathan's son - Mephibosheth.
- David foreshadows here the final and perfect Davidic King who ruthlessly commits Himself to our eternal safety even to His own demise.
- There is a true, sinless King who always keeps His covenant of love and continues to hold us in the palm of His hand and provide us a lavish feast at His banqueting table.

5. 21:10-14 – The Sad, Unceasing Vigil of a Loving Mother

- God accepted the measures taken to turn away His wrath for covenant breaking. 21:10a – "*Rain fell upon them from heaven...*"
- A honorable burial for Saul and His Sons (21:12-14)
- Result: "*And after that God responded to the plea for the land*" (v.14b).

Application:

- **Marinate in the sadness of this story. For there is goodness in sadness.**
(cf. Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 – "*It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.*"³ *Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.*"⁴ *The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.*")

- **Consider the massive cost to save covenant breakers like us.**
Ponder the Lord's propitiation – 1 John 4:10 – *“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

B. 21:15-22 – God intervenes to restore shalom as He...

- **21:15-17 – Preserving the Life of the King.**
“You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel”
- **21:17,18-19, 21 – Honoring the Servants of the King.**
- **21:15,17,18-19 – Fulfilling the Promises of His Word.**
 - God's early promises prove true to the end (Genesis 15:18-21 – the land of the Rephaim will be given to descendants of Abraham).
 - What the Lord promises at the first, He brings to fulfillment at the last (2 Samuel 3:18 – “By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.”)
- **21:20-21 – Silencing the Enemies of His People.**
(cf. Isaiah 54:17 – *“Here is how it will be at the last – all your enemies will be silenced.”*)

A Garland Method for Praying Through the Text

1. What do I see in this text for which I can praise the Lord?

- God justly judges all rebellion against Him and against His anointed king.
- This just judgment falls upon individuals (chapter 20) and upon nations (chapter 21).

2. What sinful thoughts, attitudes, and actions result in me when I forget this about the Lord?

- I am slow to acknowledge that I too am a rebel against God's kingly rule, guilty and unclean in His sight, and fit only for His just condemnation apart from the propitiation of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross.

3. How does this passage point me to the Lord Jesus Christ - His person, work and teachings?

- Redeeming love and retributive justice joined hands at Calvary. For there God showed Himself to be *“just, and the justifier of him who has faith in Jesus.”*
- This is the very heart of the Christian gospel. No version of that message goes deeper than that which declares my root problem before God to be my sin, which evokes wrath, and God's basic provision is propitiation, which brings peace with God.
— J. I. Packer, In My Place Condemned He Stood (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008), 41

4. How would I live differently in the truths of this passage were more real in my life?

- Regularly own my share of the guilt of the cross by cultivating a greater hatred for my own sin that dishonors God and caused my Lord to suffer a gruesome death on the tree.
- Regularly own my share of the prize of the cross by cultivating a lifestyle of repentance and faith in the finished work of my Redeemer and His persistent love for a rebel like me.
- Gladly seize every opportunity to worship my Savior who *“bore all of my sins in His body when He died on the tree”* (1 Peter 2:24).