

Bible-Reading Coach Podcast Transcript

Week 14: 1 Samuel 20-31 & 2 Samuel 1-8, *David: From Fugitive to King*

Welcome to Week 14 of the Bible reading coach podcast. My name is Karl Vaters, and I'm here to help you read through the entire Bible in 52 weeks.

This week we'll be reading the last half of First Samuel and the beginning of Second Samuel. But as we mentioned last week is really the continuation of a single story because they were probably divided into two books because of scroll size. But they did split the scrolls in a very purposeful place. As we'll see this week, First Samuel covers the ministry of Samuel and the king of Kingdom of Saul. And second Samuel is when the kingdom of David begins. So, the last chapter is a First Samuel, which we'll start by reading this week are all about the split between Saul and David that started last week. Then Saul dies and David's reign will begin in Second Samuel.

So let's get take a look at it passage by passage. Starting first thing next week, you're going to see David still on the run as we left him last week, he was on the run from Saul Saul trying to kill him because he was jealous of David's popularity. And David is still on the run and First Samuel chapters 21 through 23. He's right on the run, because Saul is jealous because Saul is evil, because Saul is making bad decisions. And at this point, Saul is even influenced by demons and he wants David dead. In fact, it gets so bad for David that on the run, he finds himself in Philistia, in the town of Gath. And if you remember Gath from last week, Gath is the hometown of Goliath. Yes, the Goliath David famously killed, David ends up in Gath's hometown, and they take him in and treat him better than his own people. So if you've ever been in a situation where your family or your church or your friends seem to be treating you worse than strangers, you're not alone. It happens to everybody at some point or another, it happened to David. So you'll see that at the very beginning of this week's reading.

Then we'll get to First Samuel 24 through 26. And you'll note, I want you to note, David's choices as we read through that part of the passage. Even as David is on the run, he acts like the kind of King everybody would want to have as a king or as a president. He's always a person of character. You'll also notice there's a chapter on David and this troublemaker named Navall in the middle of all that. So even in the middle of that, note David's behavior. And also note that even while David continues to behave honorably, he keeps being hassled by dishonorable people like Saul and Navall. Again, it's another important lesson for us. We behave honorably, not because it's going to turn out better for us but because behaving honorably is always the right thing to do. There are times you're going to do the right thing, and you're going to get in trouble because of it. Keep doing the right thing. David is a great example for us of that will then get the first name of 27 through 31.

As we finish up first Samuel, in the middle of this week, we'll get to the final chapter of Saul's life. And it's really an interesting one, it actually plays out in what storytellers called the A/B storyline, that is two storylines that are told at the same time. If you do if you ever seen that

in a movie, or a TV show, and we see it a lot in movies and TV shows, you'll see it goes from one scene in one place to another scene in another place. But because they flip back and forth, you recognize, oh, these two things are actually happening at the same time, but in different places. That's what happens in chapters 27 through 31. In one place, you've got Saul getting ready to go to battle and having a battle with the Philistines. On the other side, you've got David at the same time in another place in Philistia. And I want you to note by the time the story plays itself out again in chapter chapters 27 to 31 of First Samuel, note how God oversees both of these stories happening at the same time but in different places. And he does it to bring about his will. It's really important to see that, okay?

Now, that's where we'll finish with First Samuel and then coming to towards the end of this week, we'll get to Second Samuel, chapters one through four begins with David hearing about Saul's death. Now, note this, David wanted to be in the battle in which Saul was killed, and he would have been on the other side because he was living in Philistia in the town of Gath. Note that as we go through, it's a really weird part of the story, okay? God spared him from being in that battle in a very strange way that David did not like, but it put David out of the battle so that David was not on the enemy side when Saul was killed and therefore has no responsibility for Saul's death. He didn't know Saul was going to be killed in that battle, but God did. And God spared David from being in a place of be potentially even perceived as being responsible for Saul's death.

This leads to a series of conflicts between Saul's family and David, but we'll see in Second Samuel chapters five through eight how David makes things right. When David finally does step up and actually begin his reign as king, he begins to do several things that put some some bad things back in their place. Again, he wins a great decisive battle, the Ark comes back to Jerusalem where it belongs. God even stops David from doing one thing, David says, God, you've been living in a tent all these years, I want to build you a palace, and God says, I'm cooling the tent. But I get your desire to want to build me this palace, this temple, but you're not going to be the one who's going to build it, your son is going to build it.

So as you read this week, note again, a couple of things about David once, once again, Also note how he's a great person of character, even when things go bad. And in fact, I would say especially when things go bad, is when David's character really comes to the foreground. Note also how his first desires as King are to give praise and thanks to God always got David puts God's desires ahead of his own. And remember that David is not the hero of the story, alright? We'll see again, week after week after week, God is always the hero story, even when we have someone as admirable as David, step up to be the main character in it. Even though David is the main human character in the story, God is always the hero and pay attention to the characteristics that God says He wants His people to have, and especially his leaders to have. David is a great example to us in so many ways about how to behave as a godly person, and how to behave in godly leadership. Again, a great week, a lot of stuff, you're going to enjoy this. We'll see you next week.

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