

Bible-Reading Coach Podcast Transcript

Week 15: Week 15: 2 Samuel 9-24 Sin, Repentance & Rebellion (David, Bathsheba & Absalom)

Welcome to Week 15 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.

The next couple weeks we will be heading into what happened called the Glory Years of Israel's history. We're going to take a look at David's reign. We'll finish that up this week. And then it'll be followed by Solomon's reign. And we're going to see a couple things as we do that. First of all, we're going to see how truly great this time was. And secondly, we're going to see how short this time of greatness was, because it doesn't last long at all.

So let's get to the passage for this week, shall we? Second Samuel, beginning with chapters 9 and 10, you're going to see again, David's great character. David has now become king and of course when a new king comes in, especially when it's a king from a different family, usually the previous family's kings family gets killed or they're at least in serious trouble. And so, Saul's family is worried about what David is going to do because Hey, Dad/Uncle/Grandpa Saul tried to kill the new king, the new king is going to come and deal with us probably, right? But I want you to see how he doesn't just show kindness to Saul's family, he actually seeks them out, to show kindness to them. He then leads the people in a successful battle.

And then this wonderful start, and this beautiful upward trend in Israel's history comes to a screeching halt. With a famous episode that is so out of David's character. Second, Samuel 11 and 12 the infamous story of David and Bathsheba. Now, David's sin against Bathsheba, and I'm calling it David's sin against Bathsheba and not David sin with Bathsheba because there's no indication in the passage that Bathsheba is at fault at all. David's sin against Bathsheba is so out of character for him, that we really have a hard time processing it in the life of this extraordinary man. And that's part of the reason I think why we have tried to figure out ways to blame Bathsheba for this as though she was a temptress. And there's nothing in the story that says she was tempting him at all. There's no record, she did anything wrong. But David, such a good guy. It has to be her fault, right? It's kind of how some people have tried to process it. But no, even in David's own recollection of the story afterwards, he takes complete blame for it himself.

So he has this sin, he then tries to cover up one horrible sin with another horrible sin. The Prophet calls him on his sin. And then finally, David's true character re emerges. When he doesn't excuse his sin, he completely admits it, he completely confesses it and he completely repents of it. Now, just to give you an idea of how full his repentance was. David, of course, wrote many of the Psalms. And Psalm 51 is a song that he wrote, after his sin with Bathsheba and after Nathan the prophet had called him to repent. We know that because Psalm 51 tells us that. Let me read it for you a little bit. Again, we're going to get to this month down the road from

now in Psalm 51. But it happens at this time. So let me read just a small portion of it from Psalm 51 says this "For the Director of Music, a Psalm of David". So we know it's from David because that's actually a part of the original text. "When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba" so we know exactly the time in place when this took place. Here's what David says immediately after this, "Have mercy on me, oh God, according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion. Blot out my transgressions, wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me". And then Psalm 51 goes on with this beautiful but heartbreaking confession of sin in which David takes full responsibility.

This is another part of character that really matters. People of character don't always do everything right. Jesus was the only one who always did everything right. But a person of character when they do something wrong, even something this horrific, their character comes out in the way they respond to it, repent of it and take responsibility for it. And David does that. You'll see that this week in a beautiful, though heartbreaking way. We then go to chapters 13 through 19. And we have another heartbreaking story. It's like before Bathsheba, the king his kingdom was going well. It's all great. After Bathsheba, it's a mix of good and bad.

And one of the bad chapters is with David's son, Absalom. We have a multi chapter story in Second Samuel 13 through 19 of a family tragedy that involves incest, rape, revenge, murder, conspiracy, treason, a plot against The throne. And David on the run again this time from his own son. Yes, all of that and more happens in the middle of this week. And it doesn't end until Absalom his death in one of the weirdest ways ever. I'm not going to spoil it for you if you haven't read it before, okay, then David mourn so long and so loudly for his last son that he's told to stop because he's demoralizing the troops who had actually fought for him at that time.

All right, that's chapter 13 through 19. It's an extraordinary story. Then in chapter 23, 24, David's Kingdom begins to wind down after one minor rebellion and a couple of smaller victories in battle, the last years of David's kingdom, end much better than the middle part. So David has a great start to his kingdom. He has a great end to his kingdom. He has a rough middle. But that's a lot of our lives, isn't it? It's not about I read somewhere the other day, there's, there's no, there's no information more useless than the score at halftime? I think it's a great thing, right? If you're in a difficult way, right now, if you're still alive, it's only halftime. You know, David, after Bathsheba must have thought My kingdom is over, my life is over, my reputation is over. Now, it was only halftime. And because he continued to behave correctly after that God redeemed him to an amazing degree.

As the story of David draws to an end, we read another Psalm of David, this time, actually, in the story that we'll be reading this week, the count of his fighting men, and he finally builds an altar to God, before his time as King comes to an end. So as we draw to the close of this chapter, for this week, as we'll be reading ahead, I want you to take a note, because we mentioned a couple songs and mentioned Psalm 51. And we mentioned a Psalm of David, that's actually in the passage we'll be reading this week. So a quick note about the Psalms. David wrote 73 of the Psalms. When we get to the book of Psalms, we'll talk about that, again.

Solomon wrote 18 of them. So between them David and his son, Solomon, wrote 91 of the 150 Psalms. And this is a reminder that all the Bible is a library. Why aren't the Psalms written and put into the story at the time that David wrote them? Because the Psalms, by and large, are put in a separate section of the library in the poetry section of the library, okay? And also in that poetry section are three books that Solomon wrote are mostly wrote Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon, he wrote, and he wrote most of the proverbs as well.

So these two kings did an awful lot and had a big impact even on the library of the Bible itself. So again, as you're reading this week, think one more time about David's character. He was a sinful person, and we will see it in an extraordinary way this week. But when we think about David in general, what are the main things we think about him? The story of David Bathsheba is up there. But Goliath is higher, him being a great king was higher. The main thing we remember about him, the main character trait we remember about him is the phrase, "He was a man after God's own heart," which he's called in First Samuel 13. And which we will see repeated again, in Acts chapter 13. How does a man who commits adultery? And has the husband of the woman he committed adultery with killed? How does that man become known as a man after God's own heart? Well, because his character was such that even after that great sin, He behaved correctly.

You, you can never go back on it, you can never change it. You can't, he couldn't bring that man back to life again. He couldn't uncommit adultery, but he could repent before God, and he did. And he could behave correctly after that. And he did. So let's determine to live in a way that when we do fail, and when we do sin, and when we do make mistakes, and when we do things that are out of character, that people won't look at us and go, Oh, I knew that was who they were. Let's live in such a way that when we do fail, and we do sin, people are shocked. People go, wow, that is really out of character for them. And then let's be so repentant of our sin, that our name stays connected to God's heart. All right, you're gonna have a great read again this week. We'll see you next week.

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