

# Bible Challenge 2018

## Week 11: March 11-17

### Outline:

2 Samuel 1: The Funeral for Saul  
2 Samuel 2: David Publicly Anointed as King  
2 Samuel 3-5: David Solidifying his Power  
2 Samuel 6: The Return of the Ark to Jerusalem  
2 Samuel 7: The Davidic Covenant  
2 Samuel 8-10: David at War, Establishing the Kingdom's Borders  
2 Samuel 11-12: Bathsheba  
2 Samuel 13-17: Absalom's Rise to Power and David's Flight  
2 Samuel 18-19: Absalom's Defeat and David's Return to Power  
2 Samuel 20: David and Sheba  
2 Samuel 21: David and the Gibeonites  
2 Samuel 22: The Composition of Psalm 18  
2 Samuel 23: David's Final Words and the Roll-Call of the Mighty Men  
2 Samuel 24: David and the Tragic Census

While 1 Samuel focuses on the transition from the era of the Judges to that of the Kings, 2 Samuel deals with the greatest king of Israel's United Kingdom...David. For the most part, he is a bright light in the midst of a very dark period of Israel's history. David's rule over Israel would last for 40 years, and this book covers the significant portion of that era (1 Kings will record his death).

### The Funeral for Saul

One of the more remarkable events in this era of history is how David treated Saul in death. Saul was a wicked man who disregarded God's ways and tried to kill David in his fierce anger. Yet, Saul was still the anointed King of Israel and David's eulogy that we have recorded emphasizes the good things that Saul did and represented while honoring God in the midst of it all. I have often been asked how I (as a pastor) approach funeral messages for people who are likely not Christians. The answer, "Do what David did." So, I honor the things that the man or woman did and point people toward Christ for hope and comfort.

### David Publicly Anointed as King and Solidifying Power

We have already seen David anointed by Samuel, yet now we are at the beginning of David's official role as King over the nation. Thus, it is proper to anoint him in a more public way, this time by the people of Judah. But notice, it is just Judah, the two southern tribes, that anointed David. The people of the northern kingdom were still loyal to Saul and his line and thus they anointed Ishbosheth as king. Often we do not think of the "Divided Kingdom" until Solomon's son Rehoboam becomes king. Yet, it seems here that there always was a division between the northern and the southern peoples, with Abner (the Commander of Saul's armies) aligning with the northern people initially.

With the death of Abner and eventually Ishbosheth (who was assassinated), David's influence and power grew to the point where the northern tribes pledged their allegiance to him. One of the things to notice in David's consolidation of the Kingdom was how he did not oppress the northern tribes for rejecting him at first. David even publically mourns the death of Abner. In some ways this mindset would be reflected in Lincoln's attitude toward the southern states after the American Civil War. It was a war between brothers but when the war was resolved, the brothers remained.

### The Return of the Ark to Jerusalem

This is one of the passages of Scripture that often causes both Christians and critics of Christianity to do a double-take. Namely, why did God strike Uzzah dead? All Uzzah did was to reach over and steady the Ark, he had the best intentions, did he not? This is just one more of the many illustrations in Scripture as to how seriously God takes his worship... indeed, he is a jealous God.

The Ark, of course, had been left at the house of Abinadab after its return by the Philistines. David had established his governmental seat in Jerusalem as well as God designing it to be a place of worship. So, David calls for it but never searches out the Scriptures to discover how it should properly be returned. Scripture tells us that the Ark was to be carried on poles (Exodus 25:14) by Levites (Deuteronomy 10:8),

and more specifically, the Kohathites (Numbers 4:15). It was also to be covered by the Veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies (Exodus 26:31-33; 40:21; Numbers 4:5). In David's case, it was brought out uncovered and placed on an ox-cart.

So, when the cart that the Ark was never to have been on hit a bump and the uncovered Ark shifted, Uzzah the Judean touched that which was uncovered and not to be touched, God was angered and Uzzah lost his life. Did Uzzah have the best intentions? Yes. But, does God care about our intentions or whether we serve him in the way he calls us to serve him? And, which defiles more? The dirt that God made or the hand of a sinful man?

### The Davidic Covenant

God makes a promise to David of a coming King who will hold his kingdom eternally. This, of course, is a prediction not of Solomon's kingdom but of Christ's.

### David at War and Bathsheba

David's rule is defined largely by the wars he had to establish the Kingdom's borders and to defeat his enemies. This is what kings do. Yet, when his armies were on campaign, one year he chose to remain back from the fighting and soon he found him ensnared by the beauty of one of his soldier's wives (remember, David already had multiple wives of his own. He has an affair, he tries to cover up his sin, to do so he ultimately has her husband, Uriah, put to death, and then God sends the prophet Nathan to confront him. The punishment — their firstborn would die and trouble would be the hallmark of the latter part of David's reign. Oh, the consequences when we give into sin.

### Absalom

Absalom is the third son of David, his mother being Maacah, the daughter of the King of Geshur (a neighboring kingdom to the north). He became angered at his father after his sister, Tamar, was raped and David would do nothing about it. So, he took things into his own hands, created a conspiracy and eventually put David on the run. Eventually, Absalom was caught in a tree by his hair and Joab and his armorbearers struck him dead (to David's great dismay).

### Gibeonites

Do you remember back in the book of Joshua, chapter 9, when there were disguised people who came to Joshua pretending to have been a long trip. Yes, they were Gibeonites, but Saul had been oppressing them and God was angry and brought a famine. David will make this right, honoring the promises made by Joshua to the people.

### Psalm 18, David's Final Words, and the Mighty Men

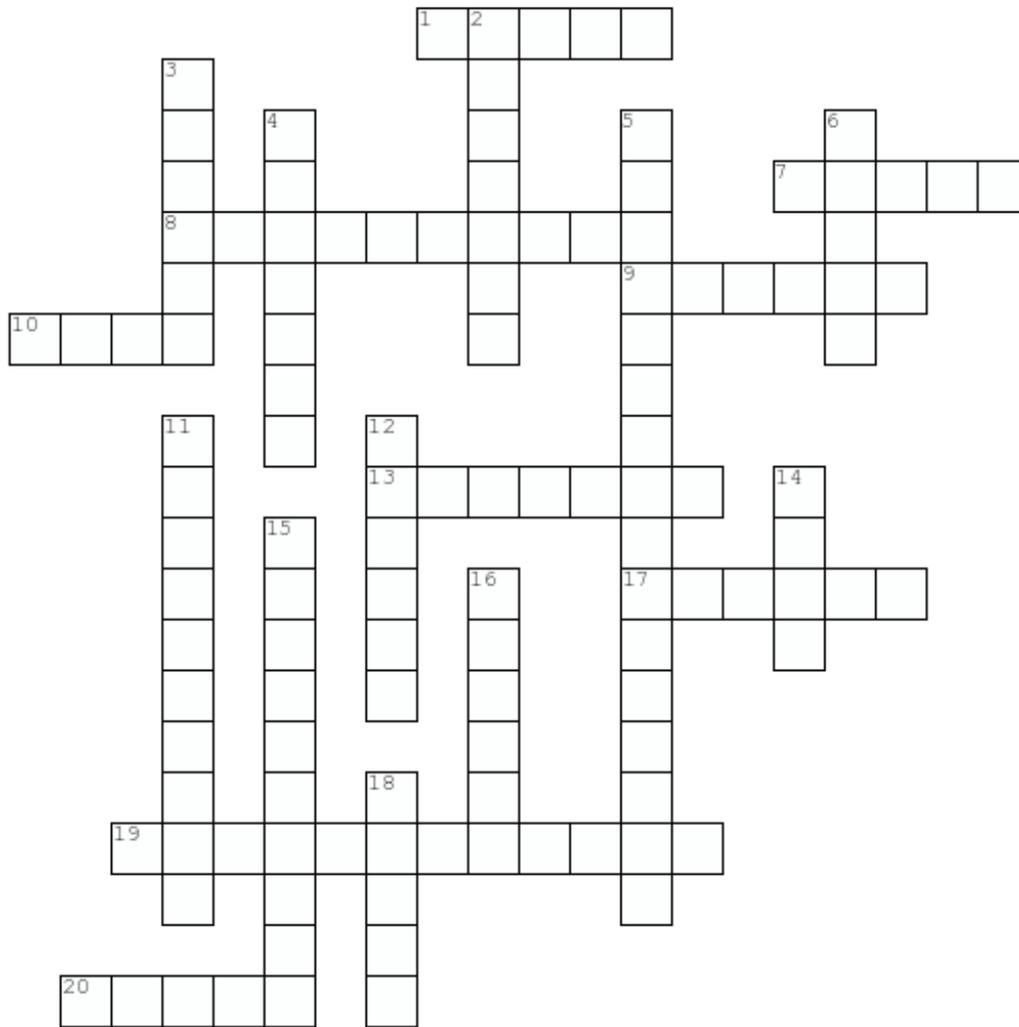
For a number of the Psalms, we are aware of the circumstances that give birth to them...Psalm 18 is one such Psalm. We find David here, toward the end of his reign, reflecting on God's provision and protection in all of the battles and conquests. As we have seen before, it is a rehearsal of God's mighty acts in the context of a son so that future generations would be told of the glorious faithfulness of our God to his people.

The Mighty Men are an interesting bunch. These are the men who were with him during his flight from Saul and during all of the battles that followed within his kingship. They were great and brave warriors who had accomplished deeds of valor and might...it is so sad that one of these loyal soldiers was Uriah the Hittite.

### The Tragic Census

Once again we see the consequences that come as a result of choosing to sin rather than to trust God's ways. In this case, David orders a census which he was not supposed to do. As a result, 70,000 men died from pestilence that God sent against the city. Destruction was stayed with David's repentance, but again and again, this God we worship is not to be trifled with.

## Week 11: 2 Samuel



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### Across

1. A 'worthless man' who rejected David's kingship.
7. Absalom's beautiful sister.
8. Absalom took control of his father's \_\_\_\_\_, a symbol that he had replaced his father as king.
9. Many of David's concubines were housed here.
10. This Philistine was a descendant of Giants.
13. It was his threshing floor that David bought to sacrifice to the Lord after his census.
17. What season of the year was the time when Kings went into battle.
19. The disabled son of Saul that David protected and cared for.
20. Someone who should never had touched (or seen) the Ark of the Covenant.

### Down

2. Uriah was this nationality
3. The mother of Absalom.
4. The chief of David's bodyguard.
5. The name of the leader of the Mighty Men.
6. This priest removes the Ark of the Covenant from Jerusalem out of loyalty to David.
11. These people had been promised a place in Israel by Joshua.
12. The prophet that confronts David after his sin with Bathsheba.
14. Absalom was particularly proud of this feature.
15. This man is anointed king over Israel — 10 northern kingdom.
16. When Absalom had taken control of Jerusalem, David went onto this mountain to weep and pray.
18. The general of the Northern Kingdom, loyal to Saul's heirs.