

Today:

January 5, 2014

Scripture Focus: 2 Samuel 7; Matthew 2

But that night, the word of God came to Nathan saying, “Go and tell my servant David: This is God’s word on the matter: You’re going to build a ‘house’ for me to live in? Why, I haven’t lived in a ‘house’ from the time I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt till now. All that time I’ve moved about with nothing but a tent. And in all my travels with Israel, did I ever say to any of the leaders I commanded to shepherd Israel, ‘Why haven’t you built me a house of cedar?’

“So here is what you are to tell my servant David: The God-of-the-Angel-Armies has this word for you: I took you from the pasture, tagging along after sheep, and made you prince over my people Israel. I was with you everywhere you went and mowed your enemies down before you. Now I’m making you famous, to be ranked with the great names on earth. And I’m going to set aside a place for my people Israel and plant them there so they’ll have their own home and not be knocked around any more. Nor will evil men afflict you as they always have, even during the days I set judges over my people Israel. Finally, I’m going to give you peace from all your enemies.

*“Furthermore, God has this message for you: God himself will build you a house! When your life is complete and you’re buried with your ancestors, then I’ll raise up your child, your own flesh and blood, to succeed you, and I’ll firmly establish his rule. He will build a house to honor me, and **I will guarantee his kingdom’s rule permanently.** I’ll be a father to him, and he’ll be a son to me. When he does wrong, I’ll discipline him in the usual ways, the pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life. But I’ll never remove my gracious love from him, as I removed it from Saul, who preceded you and whom I most certainly did remove. Your family and your kingdom are permanently secured. I’m keeping my eye on them! And your royal throne will always be there, rock solid.”*

Nathan gave David a complete and accurate account of everything he heard and saw in the vision.

(2 Samuel 7:4-17, Message)

Notes from Worship:

(What caught your attention? What do you want to reflect on more this week?)

Notes from Formation Station:

(Discussion, Bible Study, Biblical People)

Family Discussion Questions:

- How does Jesus fulfill God’s promise to establish an everlasting Kingdom?
- What does God’s kingdom look like today? Where can you see God’s Kingdom?
- How would you like to be more involved in God’s kingdom work?

This Week: **January 6-11**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 1/6	Tuesday 1/7	Wednesday 1/8	Thursday 1/9	Friday 1/10	Saturday 1/11
2 Samuel 13-15	Psalms 3-4, 13, 28, 55	2 Samuel 16-18	Psalms 26, 40-41, 58, 61-62, 64	2 Samuel 19-21; Psalms 5, 38, 42	2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

- What do you think of David's son Absalom? What jumps out to you in these chapters?

Tuesday

- The beginning of Psalm 3 says "A Psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom" (see 2 Samuel 15). With this in mind, what is especially striking in this Psalm? If you were in David's place, what else would you have written?

Wednesday

- What do you think of David's emotions at the end of 2 Samuel 18?

Thursday

- Which of these Psalms do you resonate with the most? Why?

Friday

- After reading more about David's reign, what do you think of him? Do you have a more positive or a more negative portrayal than before?

Saturday

- What catches your attention in David's last words (2 Samuel 23:1-7)?

Scripture Memory:

As we continue our study of Israel's Kings, our second key memory passage is ***Micah 6:6-8***. In only a few verses, this passage summarizes the heart of what many of the prophets teach to God's people during the time of the kings. Let us not only put these verses to memory, but let us also take them to heart so that we can live them out.

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Next Sunday: January 12

Theme: United Monarchy: *David-Solomon*

Scripture Focus: *1 Kings 1-2*