

“Advancing the Kingdom”  
2 Samuel 8:1-14  
(Preached at Trinity, March 31, 2019)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Verse 1 – “after this”** – On the surface this seems abrupt as we pass from **Chapter 7** to **Chapter 8**. We are taken from the sublime scene of David praying in the presence of God to scenes of brutal warfare.  
But it really isn’t abrupt at all. Instead, it is quite reasonable. After David received the promise of an everlasting kingdom David went forth to subdue the enemies of God.
2. As we read about David we must not forget that he was a man of war. At times his actions seemed brutal, but advancing the kingdom was sometimes brutal work. The enemies of God show no mercy to God’s people. They must be bold and courageous as they persevere in the warfare. Paul reminds the saints many years later,  
**1 Timothy 6:12 NAS** - "Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."
3. On one hand, David was at peace.
  - A. The enemies in the immediate area had had been vanquished.  
**2 Samuel 7:1 NAU** - "Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies"
  - B. But the Kingdom of God demands absolute dominion. This was the charge to Israel when they entered Canaan.  
**Exodus. 23:31-33 NAU** - "I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you. <sup>32</sup> "You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods. <sup>33</sup> "They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for *if* you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."
  - C. David was at rest from immediate threats, but he was to advance the Kingdom beyond his immediate borders.

## I. The conquest described

## A. The Philistines

**2 Samuel 8:1 NAU** - "Now after this it came about that David defeated the Philistines and subdued them; and David took control of the chief city from the hand of the Philistines."

1. David defeated the attack of the Philistines in **Chapter 5**

**2 Samuel 5:19 NAU** - "Then David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You give them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand."

2. Here, however, David carried the war to them and captured their chief city. **1Chron.** tells us it was Gath.

**1 Chronicles 18:1 NAU** - "Now after this it came about that David defeated the Philistines and subdued them and took Gath and its towns from the hand of the Philistines."

3. This was the city of Goliath. It was th city of King Achish, the city where David had fled for protection. Now David has laid claim to the city. This must have been demoralizing to the Philistines.

## B. Then David turns his attention upon Moab

**2 Samuel 8:2 NAU** - "He defeated Moab, and measured them with the line, making them lie down on the ground; and he measured two lines to put to death and one full line to keep alive. And the Moabites became servants to David, bringing tribute."

1. The Moabites were distant kinsmen to David. Moab was the son born from the incestuous affair of Abraham's nephew. David's great grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabitess. In **1 Samuel** David gave his parents into their hand for protection.

**1 Samuel 22:3-4 NAU** - "And David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother come *and stay* with you until I know what God will do for me." <sup>4</sup> Then he left them with the king of Moab; and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold."

2. But Moab had always show hostility towards Israel. The kings of Moab included Balak and Eglon.

3. It's hard for us to contemplate the severity of David's treatment of the Moabites. He executed a full two-thirds of their army.

We have to remember that David's is serving as God's king. He was not a perfect king, but he was acting judicially. God's justice will be perfect. John Calvin gives some clarity – "Since our Lord gave them so many occasions to moderate themselves and yet they grew worse and inflamed themselves in all cruelty, it was quite fair for them to be punished in good measure, once for all, and for their arrogance to be broken. That is why, therefore, the stringency which David exercised against the Moabites ought not to be considered cruelty, but to be the just judgment of God, since they had abused his long patience and had mocked Him."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Calvin, John, *Genesis – Vol.2, Geneva Series of Commentaries*, (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2000) page 406.

4. And we must not overlook the mercy shown to the third who deserved no mercy.
- C. Next, David turned his attention to Hadadezer.
1. The narrator tells us that this campaign took place as this prince was seeking to recover his border at the river – referring to the River Euphrates. This was land promised to Israel.  
**Genesis 15:18 NAU** - "On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates"
  2. Hadadezer was a powerful foe with chariots but David triumphed over him. David captured 1700 of the cavalry and 20,000 foot soldiers.
  3. **Verse 7** tells us David carried off their shields of gold, great wealth brought into Jerusalem. This is significant information as we consider the future building of the Temple.
- D. As was often the case, most of the ancient kings formed allegiances with neighboring kings. The Arameans from Damascus came to the aid of Hadadezer.
1. It would seem they were too late. It cost them 22,000 men  
**2 Samuel 8:5 NAU** - "When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David killed 22,000 Arameans."
  2. These proud and ancient Syrians became servants to David
- E. **Verses 9-10** records the king of Hamath, Toi, coming to pay homage to King David by sending his son.
1. It is interesting that David did not strike him down. This is because he came seeking peace.
  2. Although, it isn't likely Toi was submitting his life and will to the God of Israel, he serves as a pattern of that which was to come.  
Those who war against God's kingdom are stricken. Those who seek peace find peace.  
**Micah 4:1-2 NAU** - "And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."
- F. In **Verse 14** we are told the Edomites were also put under the authority of David.

## II. The significance of David's conquest

- A. God's Kingdom has been progressively being advanced upon the earth
1. The Garden of Eden was a display of God's Kingdom  
God told Adam, "I am God. I am your provider. You must submit to My authority. Your dominion over the earth will be a reflection of My dominion."
  2. The Flood was a reflection of a world refusing to come under the dominion of God's Kingdom. The Noahic Covenant displayed the unfailing covenant purpose of God to establish His Kingdom.

3. God told Israel that they would advance His kingdom  
**Exodus 23:31-33 NAU** - "I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you.
  4. The Mosaic Covenant was God again establishing His authority by giving His Law.
  5. In **Chapter 7** God affirmed to David the eternal nature of His Kingdom. The word "forever" is used 6 times in that chapter.  
**2 Samuel 7:13 NAU** - "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."  
**2 Samuel 7:16 NAU** - "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."
  6. **Chapter 7** ends with David praying for God to accomplish all that He had spoken.  
**2 Samuel 7:25-26 NAU** - "Now therefore, O LORD God, the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and his house, confirm *it* forever, and do as You have spoken,<sup>26</sup> that Your name may be magnified forever,"
- B. **Chapter 8** is the record of David doing what God had promised. He was advancing the Kingdom of God.
1. God promised David rest from all his enemies and a permanent kingdom. David was doing what God promised.
  2. The nations, however, were not willing subjects.  
John Woodhouse: "The problem with establishing God's kingdom is that this kingdom has enemies."<sup>2</sup>  
The nations surrounding David resisted God's anointed and his rule. David had to conquer them.  
**Psalms 2:2-6 NAU** - "The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,<sup>3</sup> "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!"<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.<sup>5</sup> Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying,<sup>6</sup> "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."
  3. It was not ultimately David's doing but God working through him.  
**2 Samuel 8:6** - "And the LORD helped David wherever he went."  
**2 Samuel 8:14** - "And the LORD helped David wherever he went."

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<sup>2</sup> John Woodhouse, *2 Samuel: Your Kingdom Come*, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 234.

### III. How does this affect us in the New Covenant?

#### A. The New Covenant is still about Kingdom building

1. Jesus taught of the continual growth of the Kingdom of God  
**Matthew 13:31-32 NAU** - "He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."
2. The Kingdom is advanced through the preaching of the Gospel
  - a. In the Great Commission Jesus began by stating His authority as King and then charged His disciples to advancing the Kingdom to the nations.  
**Matthew 28:18-19 NAU** - "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations"
  - b. He described a great harvest that demanded laborers  
**Matthew 9:37-38 NAU** - "Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

#### B. Just as in the Old Covenant, the New Covenant is still a holy Kingdom

1. David was driving out the pagan nations around him
2. We too must remain separate from the world around us  
**2 Corinthians 6:17-18 NAS** - "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. <sup>18</sup> "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty."
3. As God's holy people we are to wage war upon all that is not holy  
**1 Peter 2:9-11 NAS** - "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul."

#### C. Just as in the Old Covenant, we are in the midst of a raging war

1. This present world is unceasing in its efforts to conform us to its ways. It doesn't tolerate resistance.
2. Satan is unrelenting in his attacks. His fiery arrows are continually filling the sky. We are to be steadfast in our resistance.

3. The Church marches forth as the Church at war. We march forth with courage and confidence announcing for all men to bow before the King. Ralph Dale Davis writes: “The church tends to mute this virile biblical note and thereby emasculates the doctrine of the kingdom. Sometimes this bland sentimentality has become canonized in our hymns, e.g.,

*For not with swords' loud clashing,  
Nor roll of stirring drums,  
With deeds of love and mercy  
The heavenly kingdom comes.*

There is a tad of truth in this but a great deal of distortion, as if should people only be nice enough the kingdom would arrive. But surely the cross has taught us that no one defeats the dominion of darkness in a bloodless coup. Nor will history simply ooze into the kingdom of God. That kingdom will come at the last because Christ, David's seed, imposes it over all objection and opposition and conquers all his and our enemies.”<sup>3</sup>

4. Perhaps we are more accurate as we sing “Onward Christian Soldiers”,
- At the sign of triumph,  
Satan's host doth flee;  
On then, Christian soldiers,  
On to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver  
At the shout of praise;  
Brothers, lift your voices,  
Loud your anthems raise.

D. Just as in the Old Covenant, the only proper response to the King is that of homage.

1. King Toi of Hamath came to give homage to David. **Verse 10** says he came to greet him and bless him.
2. The only proper response to King Jesus is that of submission and homage. **Psalm 2:10-12 NAS** - "Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Worship the LORD with reverence, And rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!"

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<sup>3</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity*, Focus on the Bible Commentary, (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2002), 112.

Conclusion:

1. This is the nature of our life upon this earth. It is an endless battle as we continually push to advance the Kingdom.  
“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
2. May God keep our eyes fixed upon our duty as soldiers.  
**2 Timothy 2:3-4 NAU** - "Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."
3. And if you are persisting on resisting His reign, understand clearly you will not prevail. Surrender to His gracious rule. He is worthy of all praise, honor, and worship.  
John Woodhouse - In his mercy this judgment may be held back for a time, giving opportunity for repentance. But, as was the case with the Moabites, the day will come when God will “judge the world in righteousness” Let us not abuse the patience of God by failing to heed the warnings of the gospel concerning the righteous judgment to come.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> John Woodhouse, *2 Samuel: Your Kingdom Come*, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 238.