

**Title:** Behold the Conquering King!

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 8:1-18

**Series:** The Promise of the Messianic Kingdom

1. Introduction:

- a. Our last sermon in 2 Samuel dealt with the prophetic promises of the Messianic kingdom to come. The chapter contained the Davidic Covenant and the assurance that the true and future king would arise from the line of David. It also included David's reaction to the promises of God. If you remember, David was overcome with grateful adoration for the salvation only God could accomplish.
- b. From the heights of Chapter 7, we might look at Chapter 8 and not realize its importance. This would be a terrible mistake because our current chapter shows how God's Kingdom spreads and overcomes all when it is finally established.
- c. Beloved, living in 2023, we are privileged to live in the aftermath of the crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and enthronement of David's greatest descendant, Jesus, who brought and will bring His glorious kingdom to pass. The church is living in the age of the promise of the consummation of the messianic kingdom.
  - i. But what we have here today before us is an older Kingdom revelation that we should pay close attention to.
  - ii. Chapter 8 asserts that God's kingdom did come on Earth under David's kingship and that the

promise in 2 Samuel 7 did receive a real yet not final fulfillment in David's own time.

- iii. Therefore, 2 Samuel 8 is a historical record of how God's kingdom was established under David. However, it transcends; it goes beyond David's historical situation. It demonstrates the pattern of what will always be true when God's kingdom comes in its final form.
- iv. Therefore, 2 Samuel chapter 8 reports what has already happened and a preview of the incredible promise to come. It is both history and a glorious prophecy.
- v. Let us study our passage with this understanding.

2. Verses 1-6 and 13-14: The Conquering and Powerful Kingdom of God: After this David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and David took Gath out of the hand of the Philistines. (2) And he defeated Moab and he measured them with a line, making them lie down on the ground. Two lines he measured to be put to death, and one full line to be spared. And the Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute. (3) David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the river Euphrates. (4) And David took from him 1,700 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers. And David hamstrung all the chariot horses but left enough for 100 chariots. (5) And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down 22,000 men of the Syrians. (6) Then David put garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And the LORD gave victory to

David wherever he went...(13) And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. (14) Then he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

- a. This first section of chapter 8 introduces us to the truth that God's kingdom, when it finally comes, in whatever form it comes, will conquer and supplant man's kingdom. This will always be the case!
- b. The key word in the chapter is the word **nâkâh**. It is used a total of 7 times in this passage. It is translated as *defeated* in verses 1, 2, 3, 9, and 10, as *struck* in verse 5, and as *striking* in verse 13.
  - i. This one word teaches us that no human army can withstand David, God's appointed king, who is also the precursor to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. David's rule extended from the North to the South. It encompassed all the land of Israel that God had promised. By God's grace, David subdued all nations to the kingdom of God!
- c. God had promised David rest from all his enemies in 2 Samuel 7. Now in chapter 8, God fulfills His promise to David.
  - i. Therefore, David's kingdom is not his own. The kingdom belongs to God.
  - ii. And it is in this passage that God's kingdom is introduced for the first time in human history. It is finally made visible.
    1. Therefore, this early revelation of the kingdom is meant to bring us comfort,

because we are now living in a time in which we are awaiting the promised messianic kingdom of Christ. We must remember that He who brought the kingdom to pass under David will bring to pass in greater glory at the closing of this present age.

2. Like Abraham, we, too, are **looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God (Hebrews 11:10).**

d. Our verses also teach us that David's neighbors, the kingdom of men, were not men of goodwill longing for the Kingdom of God to be established. No, Beloved, the surrounding kingdoms hated the idea of being ruled by David. They hated giving up their power, place, and position. So they, instead of submitting to the Kingdom of God, chose to fight against it.

i. Man's reaction to any form of God's kingdom is always the same. We read about the final day when Christ will establish the eternal kingdom in **Psalms 2:2-3** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, (3) "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

1. Sinful man hates the thought of submission, even if his perceived autonomy is what kills him.

- ii. Therefore, David must establish the kingdom through force. He must **nâkâh** (strike down) the opposition to the Kingdom of God.
  - 1. Beloved, make sure to listen carefully to the point that is being made here. David is not conquering because he is bloodthirsty, corrupt, or greedy. David conquers because man's kingdom must be abolished, and the kingdom of God must be established. This is the only way for **justice** and **equity** to become a reality. We will never find these twin graces in the kingdom of man.
    - a. **Revelation 21:4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.
      - i. What man has always longed for can only be found in the coming kingdom of Christ.
  - 2. So God, in our passage, waged war with the unbelieving nations, and He did so for the sake of His elect people; because He loves them!
    - a. This is proved by both verses 6 and 14, which state that **the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went.**
    - b. Should we, the people of God, not delight in the truth that God will establish the Kingdom of His Son, even

by force, so that the Elect of God can live undisturbed and unhindered by the sin of humanity?

- i. This thought should fill us with grateful praise. Christ is coming, and He will do away with man's kingdom and establish God's kingdom, a kingdom of perfect and sinless glory.
- e. We know that David's kingdom was not perfect, but in a real sense, a prophetic message was being preached through its establishment. Our chapter gives us the pattern by which the true Kingdom will be an ultimate reality one day.
- f. We learn some truths about the coming kingdom from our passage today.
  - i. Truth 1 - Men will also fight against the Messianic King, Jesus Christ. This is the witness of the Scriptures. Men and nations do not long to receive the eternal kingdom; therefore, the kingdom of Christ will not be established by popular demand, consensus, or election but by the armed might of God.
    1. **Revelation 17:14** They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”
    2. Beloved, the doctrine of the Kingdom of God is steeped in God's sovereign and mighty power. Christ's second coming is

remarkably different than his first. No longer will man see the servant King but instead, they will see the conquering King.

a. Listen to the **Focus on the Bible**

**Commentary:** 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 last because Christ, David's seed, imposes it over all objection and opposition and conquers all His and our enemies.

ii. Truth 2 - The kingdom of God must exterminate every bit of the kingdom of man. There can be no remnant left of sinful man's self-rule. Christ's kingdom, the kingdom of God, must conquer all and fill all!

1. **Daniel 2:34-35** As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. (35) Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

iii. Truth 3 - God will one day establish the eternal kingdom, the kingdom of Christ, for two

purposes. Number one, the safety of His elect. Number two, the punishment of the wicked.

1. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-8** and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels (8) in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

iv. Truth 4 - No wicked person will be left in the kingdom of God.

1. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, (10) nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

3. Verses 7-12: The Riches of the Kingdom of God: And David took the shields of gold that were carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. (8) And from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took very much bronze. (9) When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, (10) Toi sent his son Joram to King David, to



ask about his health and to bless him because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Hadadezer had often been at war with Toi. And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold, and of bronze. (11) These also King David dedicated to the LORD, together with the silver and gold that he dedicated from all the nations he subdued, (12) from Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

a. In these verses, we read about David's wealth from the conquered or submitted people.

- i. David immediately has the potential for great individual wealth. However, we must notice what David does with these treasures. He immediately consecrates all of it. He gives it to God because the wealth of all nations rightly belongs to the true King.
- ii. Again, we see David as a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

1. **Isaiah 60:5** Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

b. Now, let us turn our attention to the message of grace found in our passage. We read about Toi, King of Hamath. The scriptures report that Toi is the only king that voluntarily submits to King David. Therefore David does not have to take Hamath in battle.

Beloved, in this verse, we see the light of the Gospel of Grace shining upon us.

- i. **Focus on the Bible Commentary:** Toi exemplifies another pattern in the Bible's kingdom doctrine. If there are rulers and nations that war against God's kingdom, some (although very few) will lay down their arms and seek peace.
  1. **Micah 4:1-2** It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, (2) and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
  2. **Zechariah 2:10-11** Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. (11) And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.
- ii. Our text teaches us that most nations must be subdued, but others (very few) will submit. Some remain rebellious; others are repentant. Some must be crushed; others are contrite.

1. Apparently, before the great and awesome Day of the Lord, some nations will heed the call of **Psalms 2:10-12** Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. (11) Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (12) Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

a. But how does one **take refuge in Christ?** How does one ‘**kiss the SON.**’

b. **GOSPEL**

c. Toi’s response shows that sinners do not need to be **nâkâh** (struck down by the wrath of the Son). Man can escape the terrible judgment when he submits to King Jesus.

- i. **Luke 14:31-32** Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? (32) And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for peace terms.
- ii. No nation can plead victimhood as if it had no alternative but to be crushed. Similarly, no individual can claim victimhood either.

4. Verse 15-18: The Order and Justice of the Kingdom of God: So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. (16) Joab

the son of Zeruah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, (17) and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary, (18) and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were priests.

a. Our passage concludes with the beautiful words, “**So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people.**”

i. The Bible reports that, on the whole, David properly fulfilled his royal responsibilities. What we have in this statement is a general assessment of the reign of King David. David typically did what a godly king was supposed to do. We know that **justice** and **equity** will always be present at the coming of the true kingdom. Kings Jesus will never fail. His kingdom will always be **just** and **true!**

ii. But in our passage we learn that **Justice** and **equity** (righteousness) were ideals of the Davidic kingdom as well. In other words, David made a concerted effort to walk circumspectly before our God.

1. This is the duty of all Christians. We read in **Ephesians 5:15-17** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, (16) making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (17) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

2. Beloved, we do not rule over a kingdom like David did, but we can exemplify the kingdom in whatever offices God has placed us in. If we keep doing what is **just** and **right**, we evidence a foretaste of the kingdom to come.
- iii. We know that neither David nor his kingdom was perfect. For as much as David is a prophetic picture, he is not the real thing. Only Jesus Christ was and is absolutely perfect. Only His kingdom will be perfectly **just** and **righteous**.
  1. However, by the empowering of the Holy Spirit, it should be our goal to walk in such a way that we make the kingdom visible to this world. We must do what is **just** and **right** because we represent Him, who will one day establish His perfect rule.
    - a. **2 Corinthians 5:20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

## 5. Benediction:

- a. **2 Peter 1:11** For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Public Reading of Scripture 2 Peter 1:3-11