Vote King David 2016
(2 Samuel 8:1-18)
4/13/16; Wed PM Pine Grove

Introduction

It is interesting to listen to the race for president in this country…

Interesting might not be the best word…

Disturbing might be a better word…

But anyway, presidential elections come and go in our country…

I have lived through 10 presidential elections…

This November will be my 11th, and though I can't remember all of them….

I never remember a presidential candidate running for office who promised to make lives worse after they were elected..

Now, that may have happened after the election, but no candidate runs on the promise to make your life more miserable…

They all claim to hold the solutions to make your life better…

Better jobs, better education, better way of life…

That has been the cry of candidates since George Washington became the first president of this country…

And that is the cry of nearly every candidate for public office…

They all run on the idea of making life better for the people who live under them..

Now, they have very different ideas of how to make that happen, but I can think of no candidate who promised things like injustice and immorality if you elected them.

Yet, no one has ever quite accomplished his or her pledge to make life perfect under their rule…

Although all have probably promised that to get elected…

Well, tonight we are going to a place in time when justice and righteousness went to all the people…

Because tonight, we are going to look at the rule of David over Israel…

For the past two weeks, we have simply looked at God's promise to David to make him king…

And David's reaction to that promise…

Tonight, we get into the nuts and bolts of what it looks like to be king of God's kingdom…

What does David do as the king of Israel?

What are his priorities as the king over Israel?

And then we need to take those things we see about David and apply to our lives tonight…

I think we will do both of those things before we finish tonight…

The theme of the night will be 4 characteristics of the king of God's kingdom…

So, let's begin by simply reading verse 1 of 2 Samuel 8…

I. The King Exercises Dominion (1)

8 Now after this it came about….

What is the "this"?

Well, it came about after David had been promised to be made king over all of Israel…

It came about after David praised God for all of His kindness to him…

When the covenant had been made and David had been overwhelmed with God's grace…

Then we get to the events of 2 Samuel 8…

8 Now after this it came about that David [a]defeated the Philistines and subdued them; and David took [b]control of the chief city from the hand of the Philistines.

Once God makes the promise that David and his line will be kings forever, we are not surprised what we read next…

David goes out and starts subduing his enemies..

The first on the list are the Philistines…

Here is a map that I will keep up for us to keep a running total of David's conquests in this chapter….

Their chief city was most likely Gath…

Though the land of the Philistines had multiple capitals, it seems to see the chief city as Gath…

That is where Goliath was from…

That was the city that David fled to when he was running from Saul…

And it seems best to see this chief city of Gath as the first one that David conquers…

I entitled this one verse as the king exercises dominion…

And that is certainly one quality of a king that we may not thin about often…

But kings rule and conquer and demonstrate their authority…

And that is certainly true of David as king over Israel…

God is going to enable David to exercise his dominion over the entire region around Israel…

Now, if the cat is already out of the bag, ti should be peeking over the edge by now…

Because what we are going to see in these verses and these characteristics of David is simply a preview of David's ultimate descendant…

What we see in 2 Samuel 8 is dim picture of the glory that has come and still waits to come in the King of kings Jesus Christ…

Jesus is a Savior, but we never forget Jesus is also a King…

And since he is a descendant of David, what we see in David is only going to be magnified in Jesus…

And as we look David at David tonight in his reign over Jerusalem, we get a sneak peek at Jesus' reign over the entire world in the future…

Everything that David demonstrates in his reign will be perfected by Christ..

And one thing that Jesus will do in His reign is exercise his dominion over the world…

David goes and conquers the city of the Philistines and brings them into submission to his rule over Israel…

Jesus will go out and subdue the whole world and bring them into submission to His rule…

Phil 2:10-11

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Make no mistake, even the unbelieving world will be brought into submission under the Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ..

Now, that doesn't mean that everyone will be saved, but everyone will be under his Rule..

They will either be on the right side of the rule of Christ or the wrong side of his rule, but all will be there and all will acknowledge his as King…

We miss this so much in how we think about the Lord Jesus…

Yes, he is the good shepherd, but he is also the roaring lion…

David conquered, and I assure you, Jesus will conquer…

But David doesn't stop with the Philistines….

They may have been at the top of his list, but there are others…

Let's look at them in the next section as we see…

II. The King Expands the Kingdom (2-8)

I am going to go slow through verses 2-8 so we can keep up with the geography…

Verse 2..

2 He [c]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.

WE all see Moab right here to the right of the dead sea…

David had once sent his parents there to hide, but here the Moabites are brought into submission to David's rule..

However, we do see that David did not eliminate all the Moabites…

He allowed a third to live and become servant of His kingdom…

Verses 3-4..

3 Then David [d]defeated Hadadezer, the son of Rehob king of Zobah, as he went to restore his [e]rule at the [f]River. 4 David captured from him

1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers; and David hamstrung the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots.

Here David moves north in his conquests, defeating the king of Zobah…

From what we gather, Zobah was a northern territory that was bordered on the north by the Euphrates River…

David went and defeated the king of Zobah who was named Hadadezer…

He disabled their horses and and captured the men of Zobah's army

So, you see that area on the map…

But David's not finished yet…

Verse 5….

5 When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David [g]killed 22,000 Arameans. 6 Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. And the Lord helped David wherever he went. 7 David took the shields of gold which were [h]carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to

Jerusalem. 8 From [i]Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a very large amount of bronze.

The Aremeans were the people of the kingdom just north of Israel in and around Damascus Syria…

This was the land of Aram…

They had been a constant threat to Israel from the north…

So, the Aremeans in the south came to the rescue of the the Zobites in the north, and David cut them down too..

In fact, he killed 22,000 of them…

Let's take a break from the passage and he geography to make a few comments here…

Notice a key phrase in this passage at the end of verse 6…

The Lord helped David wherever he went…

This is so important to understand with all this conquest in the chapter…

God is the One working through David to accomplish His purposes..

God is the One empowering David in all this victories…

And again, getting back to the first section…

We may resist thinking about God at times…

But God is a God who executes justice and grows his kingdom…

We don't have the right to extend the kingdom that way, but God does and he is never wrong to do it…

At the 2nd coming of Christ a the end of the tribulation, he will speak and the kings of the earth will be destroyed…

And Rev 19 says that the birds of the air will feast on the flesh of dead kings in the day…

And the harlot of Babylon will also be destroyed in chapter 19

The woman who had led the world astray with her immorality will be slain and guess what the reaction of heaven will be to her death?

The saints will rejoice over it…

They will praise for the fact that he has avenged their blood with her blood..

I don't want to make this into a celebration over blood and gore, but don't fall into the euro of thinking that God is not a conquering King…

He is, and His justice is celebrated by those who love Him…

What we read in 2 Samuel 8 is tragic, but none of these people are innocent here…

They had all opposed God and Israel…

David was simply an agent of the Lord to carry out justice against God's enemies..

Jesus is and will that agent in the future…

The kingdom that he brings will be ruled with a rod of iron that will execute justice against the enemies of God immediately when they disobey…

As God's people, we all have a desire for immediate justice at times…

How many times have you wanted instant justice for a confessed murderer?

How many times have you wanted instant justice for those who mistreat you?

Don't be fooled into only seeing the blood and gore of this chapter…

Instead, rejoice in the fact that God is just and what He does is always right…

Under David, God's kingdom expanded, and we all look forward to the day when His kingdom will expand on this earth and His justice will reign forever…

That brings us to verses 9-12…

III. The King Extends Grace (9-12)

Verse 9….

9 Now when Toi king of Hamath heard that David had [j]defeated all the army of Hadadezer

Let's stop right there and go back to the map for a minute…

Toi is the king of Hamath, which is at the top of the screen…

Well Toi hears that David has defeated the nation to his east…

And for Toi, that is good news…

Look at verse 10…

10 Toi sent [k]Joram his son to King David to [l]greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and [m]defeated him; for Hadadezer [n]had been at war with Toi. And [o]Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold and of bronze.

The old saying is this….

The enemy of my enemy is my friend…

And since Hadadezer was the enemy of Toi and David, that meant that Toi and David were friends…

And so Toi sends some goodies to David by his son as a greeting and a blessing…

Now, this is fascinating to me in a couple of ways..

Maybe Toi is just toying with David…

Maybe he sees how Israel is mowing down the nation around him…

And he just wants to keep from being next on the list…

Or Maybe he is truly glad that David has defeated one of his enemies for him…

And just wants to say thanks…

We don't know exactly why Toi send the gifts to make peace with David…

WE just know this…

David accepts the gifts, give them to the Lord and then accepts Toi's submission to Him..

Toi is the only non-Israelite who doesn't get destroyed by the new king…

And I think that is important for a couple reasons…

One, we see the grace of God flow through David to this Gentile king to spare his life…

We have God's justice flow through David, but it is a nice balance to see some grace in this chapter as well…

But two, this is a foreshadowing of the grace that will come through David's descendant to all the world..

The salvation found in Jesus Christ will not just come to Israel.

Rather, it will come to anyone who submits to Him…

We as Gentiles have all bowed our knees to a Jewish king and we have found pardon…

And we see a glimpse of that in Toi right here in chapter 8…

He isn't Jewish, but he acknowledges that David rules and his life is spared…

In psalm 2, we find instruction for all the nation of the earth to choose sides in this world…

Whereas Psalm 1 is a call to individuals to choose the right path in life, Psalm 2 is a call to all the nations…

And listen to what God tells the nations on how to make peace with Him at the end of this psalm..

Listen to Psalm 2:10-12…

10
Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;
Take warning, O [j]judges of the earth.
11
[k]Worship the Lord with [l]reverence
And rejoice with trembling.
12
[m]Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way,
For His wrath may [n]soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

The key to being right with God as a nation is to do homage to His Son…

Some translations say here…

“Kiss the Son so that He won’t become angry and you persist in the way..”

In other words, kings of the nations need to submit to the King of kings so that God won’e become angry with them and destroy them…

And where do we see this pictured in Scripture?

In Toi, the king of Hamath..

He saw the king of Israel and he went to Him to make peace and bow the knee to Him, and David spared him and his nation…

Such a great reminder of the grace of God…

Such a great reminder of how merciful our King is..

What is the message that we take to the world today…

Repent and bow your knee to Jesus so that he not become angry and you perish in the way..

This is the grace of God today…

There are two people in the world…

The Aremeans who refuse to acknowledge Jesus as King and will get mowed over by Him…

And the Hamathians who submit to Him and are spared…

King David executed the Lord's justice, but he also extended the Lord's grace to Toi.

A final thing to take note of here is found in verses 11-12…

11 King David also dedicated these to the Lord, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued: 12 from [p]Aram and Moab and the sons of Ammon and the Philistines and Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

All of David's success led to much wealth for he nation of Israel..

As nations would fall to David, they would be made servants of David and they would offer their gold, silver, and bronze to David as tribute…

Yet, David never kept these items for Himself, they were always given to the Lord because David knew who was responsible for his success…

Now, there is an interesting parallel to this in the final words of the Bible…

In Revelation 21, we find a description of the new heavens and the new earth..

This is what many call the eternal state…

It is the final destination for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ…

And in Rev 21:22-26, we read something very interesting…

22 I saw no [q]temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its [r]temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth [s]will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those [t]whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

It seems to me as I read those verses, I see a couple fascinating things…

The eternal state of the new heavens and he new each will have nations in it…

But also notice what the nations will do….

They will bring their glory to God…

What is the glory of the nations?

I don't say I have a definite answer here, but maybe this is a product of some sort that they bring to God…

Not exactly sure, but it seems to have a close connection to what wee see in this small picture of God's kingdom in 2 Samuel 8…

As the nations submitted to the king David, they brought to Him who then brought it to the Lord…

Is there a connection there?

I wouldn't say definitely, but I do see the nations in the eternal state offering constant gifts of thanksgiving to God…

One final characteristic to see in this passage regarding David is found in verses 13-18…

King David exercised dominion, he expanded the kingdom, he extended grace…

And finally….

IV. The King Is Exalted (13-18)

Verse 13…

13 So David made a name for himself when he returned from [q]killing 18,000 [r]Arameans in the Valley of Salt. 14 He put garrisons in Edom. In all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.

If you look back at our map, Edom was the area south of Israel…

The Valley of Salt was an area just south of the Dead Sea…

The picture here is that David defeated the enemies of God on all sides to expand God's kingdom in all directions..

The Philistines in he west were defeated….

The Moabites in the East…

The people of Zobah in the north and now the Edomites in the south…

But what is the most important in these 2 verses is found in verse 13…

David made a name for himself…

That goes to back to the chapter 7…

Do you remember one of God's promises to David in the Davidic Covenant?

Yes, God was going to bless David's line, but God also promised to make David's name great in the world…

Therefore, we should not be surprised to even see verse 13…

But it is true, David's name was becoming great in all the land..

David's name is still great today…

But to add to that, let's read verses 15-18….

15 So David reigned over all Israel; and David [s]administered justice and righteousness for all his people. 16 Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder. 17 Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahim-elech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary. 18 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada [t]was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were [u]chief ministers.

Couple things to take note of here…

#1 - David is fully in charge of all of Israel…

He is reigning over all of it…

And really in every sense of the word reign.

He's not just in charge.

He is exercising his dominion…

Extending his rule…

Expanding the kingdom in all directions…

And now we also see here that he is appointing his leaders to all parts of his government…

He is appointing his military leader, his secretary, his priests, his administrators…

This is David's kingdom.

This is a true picture of what ruling a country looks like…

This isn't a weak king like Saul.

David is reigning over all of Israel, and he is reigning fully.

#2 - Notice the conditions of David's kingdom.

He administered justice and righteousness to all his people…

Now, we know this wasn't a perfect kingdom.

David wasn't even fully just or righteous in all his actions…

But the overwhelming characteristic of this kingdom is that justice and righteousness flowed to the people…

And when you think about it, that is what people desire…

They want things fair and they desire righteous laws and righteous living…

And that was certainly true in 1000 BC in Israel…

Conclusion

Let me end by bringing this text to bear on your life tonight….

1. King David is a drop in the bucket compared to King Jesus.

Here is what I mean by that…

All of these things that you see in chapter 8 are only a grain of sand compared to the seashore of Jesus' coming reign on this earth..

Jesus will exercise dominion over this earth that will go beyond the boundaries of Israel…

All nations will bow to him without a fight or complaint.

The extent of Jesus' kingdom will be global.

No part of the world will be beyond his rule.

The amount of grace of Jesus Christ will far exceed the grace of David.

Look now around you…

We are all recipients of the the King's grace now.

Today is the day to do homage to the Son lest He become angry and destroy you…

And look at how long his grace has been offered…

And then finally, King Jesus' has been and will be exalted far greater than David ever was.

Jesus' name is the name above all names…

Jesus' kingdom will be perfect justice and right-eousness to all..

Jesus' kingdom will be the greatest in history…

And please take note of the final verses here…

It is easy to overlook all of David's appointments to his kingdom, but I think we see something very in-teresting here…

As great as David was, he still allowed others to serve and reign with Him in his kingdom..

And guess what we will see in the Kingdom of Je-sus Christ?

We will be assigned roles in His kingdom to reign and rule with Him…

That is really incredible for me to think about…

To have a part in the greatest kingdom the world have ever seen is way more than I deserve…

But I look forward to what that means….

Now, that leads into the second application for us…

Not only can we look forward to that coming kingdom, we are called to be kingdom citizens even now..

#2 - We can be a drop in the bucket too.

Here is what I mean…

Even though David and his kingdom was far less greater than Jesus and his coming kingdom, what he did and how he reigned honored the Lord.

David was only a shadow of what was to come, but he was an effective shadow in the world in which God placed him…

He brought glory to God's name in his day.

He worshipped the Lord and enjoyed a right relationship with Him…

And look, all of that is available for us today.

When we get saved, we are kingdom citizens, and we are called to live in obedience to our King wherever we are placed and whatever time we live in…

In California, there is no sweet tea or Duke's mayo…

So, we took Duke's mayo with us, and Tonya kept asking sweet tea…

And there are times when I went and make me a ham sandwich and a glass of tea and it was just like I was in South Carolina…

In other words, I brought the south with me to California.

And though we aren't fully living in Jesus' kingdom yet, we can act like it through our obedience and worship of Him today…

Just like David brought a small picture of God's kingdom to earth in his day, we bring a small version of the kingdom of God to earth…

When we live lives that honor our King…

Let us pray.