

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 17:1-29

“God does not forget His servant” – March 17, 2019



Introduction

Shortly after David took the throne, God made a covenant with him, promising him an *eternal* house ([7:16](#)). But after David's adultery and murder, things start to unravel for him until Absalom betrays him and he's forced to flee Jerusalem. Had David's sin put such a strain on God's promises that they'd broken? Had his house come to an end? Those living in the land had to decide if they'd follow Absalom, or stick with David. It's a question we must ask 3,000 years later. When the Kingdom of God seems shaky or God seems distant, will we follow King Jesus or take control to do what we think is best? But the truth is, *God's kingdom will not fail, because He's in control, and keeps every promise He makes*

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Scene 1: Plans (17:1-14)
- II. Scene 2: Providence (17:15-23)
- III. Scene 3: Provision (17:24-29)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 17:1-14](#)

When Absalom is looking for what to do next, he is given two plans to choose from: the plan of Ahithophel and that of Hushai. Ahithophel's plan was good and smart, but it didn't include Absalom. Hushai's plan was elaborate and would give David the time to regroup, but it put the spotlight on Absalom and made him the star of the show (“My counsel is that all Israel be gathered to you”, v11). It's good for David that Hushai's plan is favored, but why did it go down this way? We see why in v14: “For the Lord had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel.” Absalom's pride blinded him and led to decisions that'd end up in disaster. On the other hand, humility embraces the fact that God is God and helps us to trust Him and follow Him rather than trying to be God. What would humility look like in your life where you're at in life?

Additional Reading: Proverbs 12:15, James 4:6

2. Read [2 Samuel 7:15-23](#)

Hushai sends news of the plan to David so he can escape, but before the news can get to him, Absalom's man spots them, reports them and hunts them down. When all hope seems

lost, the two men come across friends at just the right time with just the right help. It's no accident though, it's God's providence: the benevolent outworking of His sovereign rule. Here we see *both* the responsible choices of man and the sovereignty of God. They are not incompatible, but how they fit together is not explained. How does the truth of God's providence affect how we carry out our responsibilities (to pray, to act, to share Christ, to love, etc.)? How does God's call for our obedience shape the way we see His sovereign hand – especially knowing His providence is not contrary to His *other* attributes (such as His love, mercy, goodness, and grace)?

Additional Reading: Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:28

3. Read [2 Samuel 7:24-29](#)

Outnumbered and cornered by Absalom in Mahanaim, David is not without friends. Even here, Shobi, Machir, and Barzillai come to his aid at great risk to themselves. But the risk is not for those who side with God's king. For those who oppose God's chosen King (today, Jesus) they may *appear* to succeed for a short time, but they will not succeed. Are there ways you are pushing against God's kingdom rule? Do you find yourself ashamed of Christ or cutting corners in your obedience because of the fear of what following Him might entail? How does the truth that God is faithful and able to keep every promise He makes embolden our obedience today?

Additional Reading: Matthew 16:18, Psalm 2

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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