

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 24:1-25

“Wrath and Mercy” – May 26, 2019



Introduction

As we come to the close of 2 Samuel, we're faced with another account of David's sin. Why end the story this way? Because the message of 1 & 2 Samuel has been to show that God will send a King who one day right every wrong and rule forever so the kingdom of God will be on earth: God's people will dwell with God, in His place, under His good rule. How can we paradise will be restored? Chapter 24 shows the three-fold foundation the kingdom of God is built upon.

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. God's sovereignty (24:1-9)
- II. God's mercy (24:10-16)
- III. God's justice (24:17-25)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 24:1-9](#)

God's anger is the necessary and appropriate response to moral evil. The anger God has toward His people (v1) points to their sin, though we're not told in this text *what* the sin was. God will use the sinful choice of David as a vehicle to discipline the nation. Remarkably, God is neither the author of sin ([Ps. 145:17](#)), nor does he tempt anyone ([James 1:13](#)), yet we see God's sovereignty extending even over the real, responsible (and sinful) choices of man. Why is God's sovereignty good news for us when sin leaves a mess? Can you think of examples in Scripture, where God used what man meant for evil, but used it for good?

Additional Reading: James 1:13-15, Philippians 2:12-13

2. Read [2 Samuel 24:10-16](#)

The wages of sin, is death. This is what Paul reminds us in Romans 6:23 and what God warned from the very beginning in Genesis 2:17. The death of seventy thousand men is an awful reality, but knowing the entire nation was guilty of treasonous sin hints at God's mercy. On each side of v15, we see God's mercy: David's confidence in it (v14) and God's compassion welling up and ordering the angel to stop (v16). Even in God's wrath, there is mercy (see [Habakkuk 3:2](#)). When you think of God's mercy, do you think of it as the *exception* to the way God generally operates or as the expression of His heart, His character? The writer in

Hebrews 12 talks about the loving discipline of our *earthly* parents who do so for our good, because they love. How can we find the balance between *revering* God's awesome, holy power and coming *boldly* into His presence? ([see Hebrews 4:14-16](#))

Additional Reading: Hosea 11:8-9, Isaiah 49:15

3. Read [2 Samuel 24:17-25](#)

God is breath-takingly merciful, and He will not compromise His justice (see [Exodus 34:6-7](#)). While the plague was stopped momentarily because of mercy, the demands of justice against a sinful people still stood. What do the animal offerings and altar built on the threshing floor point forward too ([2 Chronicles 3:1](#))? How does Christ's life, death, and resurrection bolster our confidence of the future He's promised His children?

Additional Reading: Romans 3:23-26, Romans 8:1

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.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Psalm 96 , "Praise and Worship."
