



## DAVID'S KING • God Shows Himself Glorious, Faithful and Powerful

### What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

2 Samuel 6:1-7:29

Throughout the Samuel narratives, God shows Himself to be the hero. As good as David seems to be, he is nothing without the LORD. In this study, we see how glorious, faithful and powerful God really is. God is never content to let people break His law and get away with it or give glory to themselves. In 2 Samuel 6-7, God punishes Uzzah for touching the ark, blesses Obed-edom's house for simply having the ark in his house and makes a covenant with David, promising to bring about a greater future kingdom.

The most beautiful promise in this narrative (and probably in all of 2 Samuel) comes in chapter 7 when God promises David that He will raise up David's offspring and establish his kingdom forever (vv. 12-17). This is temporally fulfilled in Solomon, David's son who will be king after David. But it is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, who reigns supreme over the entire universe. These chapters look forward to the day when Jesus will build a kingdom that not even hell can prevail against (see Matt. 16:18). This lesson should teach the group that we can delight in, worship and claim the promises of God because He has brought about a better kingdom than David's.

#### Uzzah Touches the Ark; David Dances (6:1-23)

If you think back to 1 Samuel, you might remember that the Philistines stole the ark of the covenant, but thankfully, Israel got it back (see 1 Sam. 5-6). I don't know about you, but whenever I read about the ark, I always think of *Indiana Jones*. Imagine David playing the role of Harrison Ford as Indiana. He goes to great lengths to get the ark where it belongs – Jerusalem. (Well, Indy might want it in a museum!) The ark is very important to the Israelites. It represents God's physical presence with them. The Israelites were so happy to have the ark that they “were making merry before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals” (v. 5).

When the ark came to the threshing floor, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah, who was driving the cart, reached out and took hold of the ark so it would not fall. Uzzah's intentions were good, but this is a mistake, for no one is supposed to touch the ark. God became angry and struck Uzzah down on the spot. Seems like a harsh punishment, but God is holy and His commands must be obeyed. It's not an unfair punishment because God said that whoever touches the ark will die (see Ex. 25:12-15). Not only that, but Uzzah never would have had to touch the ark in the first place if he had followed God's clear instructions for transporting the ark. Despite knowing this, David gets angry at God. We never

### What's the Big Idea?

After establishing David's kingdom in Jerusalem, God reveals His presence and promises in powerful ways. Once again, God never lets David down and He never will let us down either. This lesson aims to show that God's holy grace calls for a response of fearful gladness and awe.

### What's the Problem?

We are selfish people who look to ourselves for help instead of looking to God to satisfy us, help us, protect us and keep us.



see God's response to David's anger, but it's safe to say it's not a good thing to be mad at the Maker of the Universe. However, we do see a response from David in verse 9: "David was afraid of the LORD that day."

After a pit stop at Obed-edom's house, the ark comes back to Jerusalem once again. David danced before the LORD, praising Him for blessing Obed-edom's house and expecting that God will do the same for him. Michal, Saul's daughter, saw David dancing. She thought he was making a fool of himself. Not so fast, Michal. David said, "I will make myself yet more contemptible than this" (v. 22). David understood that there is nothing foolish about dancing and singing to God Almighty. Lead your group to the truth that we can find our delight and pleasure in God, no matter how odd it might look to the world around us.

#### God's Covenant with David; David's Prayer (7:1-29)

When David is done rebuking Michal, he has quite a profound thought. "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent" (v. 2). David wants to build God a temple, so the prophet Nathan says, "Go do all that is in your heart" in verse 3. This seems innocent enough to Nathan. The LORD has different plans, however. God tells Nathan to tell David that he hasn't lived in a house for a long time, why start now? If God had wanted a house for Himself, He would have asked someone to build it! God puts David in his place, reminding him who he really is. "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel" (v. 8). Talk about a humble reminder. God then explains why He doesn't need a house. God tells David that He will build a house for Himself in David's offspring. This offspring will establish an eternal kingdom. This kingdom will consist of a people that God has redeemed for Himself. Jesus is the offspring and those who follow Him are God's people. And through the indwelling power of God's Spirit, they will make up God's house.

What about verse 14? It says, "When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men." We know that Jesus never sinned, so we can conclude that this prophecy is immediately fulfilled in Solomon – David's son and the next king of Israel. Solomon is human and certainly did commit sins. But we can read this another way: Jesus took on our iniquity and bore our stripes. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake he made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." In another prophecy in Isaiah 53, it says of Jesus, "He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities...it was the will of the LORD to crush Him" (vv. 5, 10). Jesus took our sins in Himself and the Father crushed Him in order that all who call on Him might be saved.

David's response is pure jubilation. He bursts into a prayer of gratitude. "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is in my house, that you have brought me thus far? And yet it was a small thing in your eyes" (v. 18b-19a). David humbles himself and claims the promises of God. "And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant" (v. 28). God has promised good to those who belong to Jesus. Pray that your group would see the splendor, beauty and power of Jesus as the one who has come to build God's kingdom and redeem His people.

#### What's Our Response?

Like David, we should revere God, delight in Him, worship Him, and claim His promises.

## What Are the Questions?

2 Samuel 6:1-7:29

### LAUNCH

What has been your experience in relating to God as one who is both infinitely holy and boundlessly gracious?

### EXPLORE

Read 2 Samuel 6:1-11.

1. What does David decide to do as this section begins?
2. What does the narrator say in verse 2 about the ark, and what do these descriptions say about its significance?
3. What happens when Uzzah tries to save the ark from falling and why?
4. In what ways do you see the irreverence of Uzzah or the smugness of Michal in your disposition toward God?
5. How does David respond?

Read 2 Samuel 6:12-23.

6. What gives David new hope about moving the ark to Jerusalem?
7. How does David respond to the LORD in this section?

8. What does the contrast between David and Michal say about their heart attitudes toward God?

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17.

9. What is the setting at the beginning of this chapter?
10. How does God respond to David's plan to build Him a house?
11. What does God promise David?
12. In what way does God's word to David express His overwhelming grace?

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29.

13. What are the main sentiments David expresses as he marvels at God's grace in verses 18-24?
14. What is the focus of David's prayer to God in verses 25-29?

### APPLY

15. What about God's grace as expressed in these chapters moves you to respond to Him with fearful gladness?
16. Read Acts 13:22-23. In what way does God fulfill His promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-13 through Jesus?
17. In what way is David's response to God in 7:18-29 fitting for followers of Christ?

## What Are the Answers?

1. He wants to move the ark to Jerusalem.
2. He says it's the ark of God which is called by the Name, the very name of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned above the cherubim. These descriptions emphasize that the ark is a really big deal.
3. God strikes him dead for his irreverence. See Numbers 4:4-6, 15, 17-20; 7:9 for further explanation on why Uzzah was irreverent.
4. Allow the group to discuss.
5. He's angry and in awe of God's holiness.
6. He hears that the LORD had blessed the person who was keeping the ark.
7. He celebrates with exuberance.
8. David has a pure heart that's focused on celebrating before the LORD, while Michal is concerned with outward appearances.
9. God had given David rest from all his enemies, and David decides to build a house for God.
10. He tells him he doesn't want David to build Him a house. He says instead that He will build a house for David.
11. He promises to make him a great name, to plant Israel in safety, to make an enduring house for David and to establish the kingdom of his descendant forever.
12. David starts with the intention of building a house for God, but God blows him away by promising to build a house for David that will last forever.
13. He marvels that God would choose him. He marvels at God's faithfulness, greatness and incomparability.
14. He prays that God would do what He has just promised.
15. Allow the group to discuss.
16. Jesus is the descendant of David who fulfills God's promise to establish David's kingdom forever.
17. We should also be blown away by God's grace that He would include us in His plan to build an eternal house and kingdom centered on Jesus. We should join with David in praying God's promises back to Him, asking for His kingdom to come as Jesus taught us in Matthew 6:10.

## Memorize

It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD – and I will make merry before the LORD. I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes.

2 Samuel 6:21-22