



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 9

A HOUSE DIVIDED

...the Israelites who had supported Absalom fled to their homes. And throughout all the tribes of Israel there was much discussion and argument going on. The people were saying, "The king rescued us from our enemies and saved us from the Philistines, but Absalom chased him out of the country. Now Absalom, whom we anointed to rule over us, is dead. Why not ask David to come back and be our king again?"

– 2 Samuel 19:8-10 ESV

- **When we last left David**

- He was back on the throne
- But he was mourning Absalom's death
- Joab rebuked him

"Now go out there and congratulate your troops, for I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a single one of them will remain here tonight. Then you will be worse off than ever before." – 2 Samuel 19:7 NLT

*So the king went out and took his seat at the town gate, and as the news spread throughout the town that he was there, **everyone went to him.*** – 2 Samuel 19:8 NLT

- **A house divided**

- David was back in power
- But his kingdom was fractured
 - Many had sided with Absalom
 - Others had backed David

...throughout all the tribes of Israel there was much discussion and argument going on.
– 2 Samuel 19:9 NLT

- Their candidate was dead
- But they still needed a king

- So, David was the logical choice
*Now Absalom, whom we anointed to rule over us, is dead. **Why not ask David to come back and be our king again?*** – 2 Samuel 19:10 NLT
 - Not exactly a glowing endorsement
 - David's credibility had suffered
 - **Compromised credentials**
 - David has been **dethroned**
cursed
publicly humiliated
deemed incompetent
and betrayed
 - Absalom had portrayed David as...
...a poor and unjust judge
"You've really got a strong case here! It's too bad the king doesn't have anyone to hear it. I wish I were the judge. Then everyone could bring their cases to me for judgment, and I would give them justice!" – 2 Samuel 15:3 NLT

...an aloof and uncaring ruler
When people tried to bow before him, Absalom wouldn't let them. Instead, he took them by the hand and kissed them. Absalom did this with everyone who came to the king for judgment, and so he stole the hearts of all the people of Israel. – 2 Samuel 15:5-6 NLT
 - David had to **win back** his own tribe
 - He accuses them of **infidelity**
"Why are you the last ones to welcome back the king into his palace? For I have heard that all Israel is ready. You are my relatives, my own tribe, my own flesh and blood! So why are you the last ones to welcome back the king?" – 2 Samuel 19:11-12 NLT
 - Not exactly accurate
 - But David was desperate
 - ~ He was willing to fudge the facts
 - ~ And to get even with Joab for Absalom
- And David told them to tell Amasa, "Since you are my own flesh and blood, like Joab, may God strike me and even kill me if I do not appoint you as commander of my army in his place."* – 2 Samuel 19:13 NLT
- Amasa was David's nephew
 - ~ And Joab's cousin
 - ~ He had commanded Absalom's army
 - ~ So, he was a co-conspirator in the coup
 - David was willing to pardon Amasa

- ~ Just to pay back Joab
- ~ And his ploy worked

Then Amasa convinced all the men of Judah, and they responded unanimously. They sent word to the king, "Return to us, and bring back all who are with you." – 2 Samuel 19:14 NLT

- **An unhealthy grudge**

- David couldn't forget what Joab had done
- And he refused to forgive him
- Joab had disobeyed a direct order

And the king gave this command to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai: "For my sake, deal gently with young Absalom." And all the troops heard the king give this order to his commanders. – 2 Samuel 18:5 NLT

Then he [Joab] took three daggers and plunged them into Absalom's heart as he dangled, still alive, in the great tree. Ten of Joab's young armor bearers then surrounded Absalom and killed him. – 2 Samuel 18:14 NLT

- Absalom got what he deserved: Death (Deuteronomy 19:11-13 ESV)

- **I beg your pardon**

- David refused to forgive Joab, but...
...he pardoned Shimei and Ziba

And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahurim, hurried to come down with the men of Judah to meet King David. – 2 Samuel 19:16 ESV

And Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan before the king. – 2 Samuel 19:17

- Shimei had verbally abused David
 - Tried to **physically stone** him
 - Accused him of Saul's **murder**
 - And of **stealing** Saul's throne

"Get out of here, you murderer, you scoundrel!" he shouted at David. "The LORD is paying you back for all the bloodshed in Saul's clan. You stole his throne, and now the LORD has given it to your son Absalom. At last you will taste some of your own medicine, for you are a murderer!" – 2 Samuel 16:7-8 NLT

- Ziba had **purposefully deceived** David
 - He tried to **buy** David's favor
 - **Destroy** Mephibosheth's character
 - And **steal** Mephibosheth's inheritance
 - And David **rewarded** him

"Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours." And Ziba said, "I pay homage; let me ever find favor in your sight, my lord the king." – 2 Samuel 16:4 NLT

- **A pardon or procrastination?**

- Shimei begs for forgiveness
- And David willingly obliges

"Shall anyone be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?" And the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king gave him his oath. – 2 Samuel 19:22-23 ESV

- Yet, David was **disingenuous**
 - o Better yet, he was **dishonest**
 - o He was putting off the **inevitable**
 - o **Passing the buck!**

- David's deathbed instructions to Solomon:

*"...remember Shimei son of Gera, the man from Bahurim in Benjamin. He cursed me with a terrible curse as I was fleeing to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan River, I swore by the LORD that I would not kill him. But that oath does not make him innocent. **You are a wise man, and you will know how to arrange a bloody death for him.**" – 1 Kings 2:8 NLT*

- Cleaning up after David
 - o Solomon ended up executing...Shimei
 - ...Adonijah
 - ...Joab
 - o And he ended up defrocking Abiathar
- He had to clean up the messes David left
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- **Food/fight – Chapter 20-21**

- David would endure **another rebellion**
- Israel would suffer a **3-year famine**
- And **ongoing conflict** with the Philistines
- David's fragile kingdom is fractured again
 - o David has not yet returned to Jerusalem
 - o His kingdom remains disunified
 - o The 11 northern tribes feel slighted
 - o **A worthless man** seizes the opportunity

Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said, "We have no portion in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel!" So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem. – 2 Samuel 20:1-2 ESV

- **Past bad decisions come back to roost**

- David had replaced Joab with Amasa

- Amasa had been Absalom's general
- Judah and Sheba's forces go to war
- Amasa and Joab meet on the battlefield
- Joab murders Amasa

Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. But Amasa did not observe the sword that was in Joab's hand. So Joab struck him with it in the stomach and spilled his entrails to the ground without striking a second blow, and he died. – 2 Samuel 20:9-10 ESV

- A wise woman
 - o Light in the darkness
 - David is surrounded by fools
 - The lunatics are running the asylum
 - And it's every man for himself
 - But wisdom wins out
 - o Sheba ends up entrapped at Abel
 - Joab has the city besieged
 - The gates are about to fall
 - When a "wise woman" intercedes

*"There used to be a saying, 'If you want to settle an argument, ask advice at the town of Abel.' I am one who is peace loving and faithful in Israel. But you are destroying an important town in Israel. **Why do you want to devour what belongs to the LORD?**" – 2 Samuel 20:18-19 NLT*

- o She mediates on behalf of her city
 - She fears for their safety
 - And points out that they are Israelites
 - Joab demands Sheba's expulsion
 - And she offers a compromise solution

Then the woman went to all the people with her wise advice, and they cut off Sheba's head and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the ram's horn and called his troops back from the attack. They all returned to their homes, and Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem. – 2 Samuel 20:22 NLT

- **The epilogue – 2 Samuel 21-24**

- A coup attempt has been foiled
- Fratricide has been avoided
- The kingdom has been solidified
- David's reign has been restored
- Six snapshots of David's kingship
 - o Not in chronological order
 - o They span the length of his reign
 - o And act as a summation of his kingship

CH 21 David avenges the Gibeonites
 David sought the act of the LORD... – 2 Samuel 21:1 ESV

David's battles with the Philistines

...there was again war with the Philistines... and they fell by the hand of David... – 2 Samuel 21:18, 22 ESV

CH 22

David's song of deliverance

David spoke to the LORD the words of this song... – 2 Samuel 22:1 ESV

CH 23

David's last words

Now these are the last words of David...the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel. – 2 Samuel 23:1 ESV

David's mighty men

And the LORD brought about a great victory that day... – 2 Samuel 23:10 ESV

CH 24

David's census

"I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of your servant..." – 2 Samuel 24:10 ESV

- **A flawed and fractured vessel**

- He was **imperfect**...and a man after God's own heart
- He faced constant **difficulties**...and experienced **God's deliverance**
- He had a disposition to **sin**...and an appreciation for **forgiveness**
- He faced the prospect of **death**...and embraced the promise of **life**

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you. – 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 NLT

- **Discussion Questions**

Discuss any parallels you see in the 2 Corinthians passage and David's life. How should it give us hope for our lives?

If you had to choose one word to summarize David's life, what would it be and why?

Now share the word that best describes your own life at this point in time, and your reason for choosing it.



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 10 HOMEWORK

WEEK 10 – DAVID’S FINAL DAYS

This is a harsh lesson because it starts well but ends poorly. David is nearing the end of his illustrious life, and while he has learned many lessons along the way, he seems to take his eye off the objective as he nears the finish line. Chapter 23 opens with his “final words,” which contain stirring insights into God’s character and what appear to be self-flattering words about his reign as king. He almost seems to be bragging about the divinely ordained success of his kingdom. But David is simply contrasting a godly and an ungodly king. He will praise his “mighty men” who stand in direct opposition to the “worthless men” who will be thrown away. But David will follow all his flattering praise for his men with a decision that will rock his world and cost the lives of 70,000 innocent people.

PASSAGE: 2 Samuel 23-1 Kings 1:1-4

DEVOTIONARY™: Pages 349-366

- As usual, try to spend some time in the Devotionary™ readings for this week or use the audio file to listen to the readings as you drive in your car.
- Look at “the last words of David” found in verses 1-7 of Chapter 23. What does David have to say about God that strikes a chord with you?

Focus on verses 3 and 4. How do David’s words seem to contradict his life as chronicled in the Book of 2 Samuel? Where do you see the disconnects and inconsistencies?

- After reading 2 Samuel 23:8-39, go back and look at 1 Samuel 22:1-2. It seems likely that some of 400 debt-ridden, depressed, and distressed men who gathered with David in the

cave of Adullam ended up becoming David's "mighty men." According to 2 Samuel 23:8-39, what was the key to their transformation?

How should this thought give us hope?

- Read 2 Samuel 24 and summarize what you think is happening in this passage.

What do you think it means when it says God "incited David" against his own people?

What would have been wrong with David numbering the people? What was it that David was really trying to find out?

According to verse 10, what was David's reaction when he had completed the census, and what does it reveal about David's heart?

What is significant about David's choice of punishment in verse 14?

Why do you think God was so harsh in His punishment? What does it say about His perspective on sin?

- Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25. What jumps out at you in this passage? What does it reveal about David and what does it tell you about God?
- Now read 1 Kings 1:1-4. How would you say these verses summarize the life of David?

How do these verses remind us of the temporal nature of our existence and our need to focus on the future God has planned?