

WEEK SIXTEEN INTRODUCTION

What began two weeks ago in 1 Samuel 16 comes to realization in this week's reading. David ascends to the throne of Israel, but not without conflict. David laments the deaths of Saul and his sons, particularly his friend Jonathan. Judah anoints David king, a position he occupies for 7.5 years. After first being anointed, God makes David wait to actually become king. Those years of waiting serve to mold David and prepare him. Through the unjust treatment at the hands of Saul to the Ziklag rescue mission, young shepherd David matures into the man who would lead the united kingdom of Israel.

KEY SCRIPTURE

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

– Psalm 84:10-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Do you think the Amalekite in 2 Samuel 1:1-10 is telling David the truth? Read 1 Samuel 31:3-6. Why might the Amalekite do what he does? How does this episode display David's readiness to rule? How does this event parallel 2 Samuel 4? Why do you think these episodes are both included in the biblical record, what point is conveyed?

Why does David revere "the LORD's anointed"? What is the significance of that title for the king of Israel? How does that phrase appear later describing Jesus?

In Psalm 9:2 David sings, *I will rejoice and boast about you; I will sing about your name, Most High*. How is boasting about the Lord different than how we typically understand boasting? Read Galatians 6:14. How is boasting linked to praise here? Does the Lord and His work in the person and work of Jesus make you want to sing?

Spend some time in Psalm 16. Consider first how the Psalm begins and ends. What causes the change from verse 1 to verse 11? Look at verse 2b, *I have nothing good besides you*. Anything good derives its goodness from God. Read verses 5 and 11. When these verses are read in context with verse 2, what depiction of God is given? Have you experienced God as this soul-satisfying?

How does the Lord intersect the sorrow and grief of the Psalmist in Psalm 43? What is his comfort and *greatest joy*?

What do the Psalmist's enemies trust in according to Psalm 49:6? *How* do we and our neighbors fall into the same trap at times? The language of redemption in verse 7 is significant. Trusting in *anything* other than the Lord and His gospel involves participation in a false gospel. Examine your heart and life for rival trusts where you're propped up on something other than Christ Jesus.

When despondency and confusion arises around him, what does the Psalmist bring to mind in Psalm 77:11-12? How can you put this principle into practice? Where can you see the work of the holy God most vividly? Meditate on Philippians 4:8. What practices can you pursue to “set your mind on things above” (Col. 3:1-2)?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.”
-Colossians 3:1-2

How will you cultivate heavenly mindedness this week? Who can you “seek the things above” with? Who can you follow? Who are you bringing along?