

## WEEK EIGHTEEN INTRODUCTION

David traverses the heights and the valleys in this week's readings. The Lord establishes His covenant with David (the Davidic Covenant) in 2 Samuel 7, even though the word is not used in that chapter. This covenant provides an essential framework for the later arrival of the *Messiah*, who is the King in the line of David who will redeem God's people. God freely promises Himself to David *without condition*. God *unilaterally* promises to build David's house and lineage. God's gracious covenant to David provides the stability which carries His promise through David's sin. The covenant depends upon the strength of God's grace.

However, 2 Samuel 11 records David's adultery with Bathsheba and (arranged) murder of her husband, Uriah. Even under the gracious covenant of God, David's sin is not without consequence. Weeks to follow will show David's life filled with violence and betrayal.

Yet, God's grace extends all the way down to David's heart. As Psalm 51 demonstrates, David forsakes sin to seek God's mercy and grace. His repentance models the grace of repentance and gives a hopeful example that God accepts us brokenhearted by sin.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*Turn your face away from my sins and blot out all my guilt. God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

– Psalm 51:9-10

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God commits Himself to David by saying in 2 Samuel 7:15, *But my faithful love will never leave him as it did when I removed it from Saul whom I removed from before you*. What distinguishes David from Saul most fundamentally? Can you point out some ways the presence or absence of the faithful love of God changed the two men? What about you? When did the love of God come into your life? How has He changed you?

Psalms 1-2 stand as the front doors of the entire book of Psalms. These two Psalms introduce key themes that show up throughout the Psalter. How does Psalm 1 describe the blessed/flourishing life? What are key components of living a full and abundant life according to this Psalm? How does what God's word says here contrast with what the prevailing culture says is a flourishing life?

Psalm 2 describes the conspiring of the nations against "the LORD and his Anointed One." The nations "rage" against God and His Messiah. According to this Psalm who is the king of the nations? What significance do you think that truth carries? Rather than raging, how ought the rulers of the earth respond to God's appointed king (vv.10-12)?

Twice in 2 Samuel 8 in verses 6 and 14 the text states, *The LORD made David victorious wherever he went*. Compare this passage with the life of Joseph (Gen. 39:23 for example). Where does success come from? How do these incidents reflect Psalm 1? How then should we seek to live?

How does Psalm 53 describe the condition of sinful humanity? How does the Apostle Paul draw on these verses in Romans 3:9-20? If *there is none who does good* what hope do we have before the good God? What is the solution of Psalm 53:6? How does Paul open that up in Romans 3:21-26?

Psalm 51 begins with *Be gracious to me, God*. Why does David begin by asking for mercy/grace from the Lord? What motivates God toward sinners? Note the two phrases that begin with “according to” in verse 1. Is “love” and “mercy/compassion” how you usually think about how God approaches you in your sin? How does your view of God need to change? How does God prove His love according to Romans 5:8?

What is the fountain of the sinner’s joy in Psalm 32? How does David experience peace in this Psalm? Is your soul in turmoil? Perhaps there is something you need to confess to the Lord. Do so now knowing who He is and what He is like.

From where does worship spring in Psalm 103? What has God done to demonstrate His worthiness of worship? Having thought about your own sin and need for confession, pray the wondrous truth of Psalm 103:11-12 over your life, *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God” -**Psalm 20:7**

**The temptation is to put our trust into the mighty things of this life. For the Psalmist they were the emblems of war, chariots and horses. Today we may seek strength, security, and success through means which reflect the world’s strength. Examine your life, how are you trusting in the strong things in this world? What would it look like in your life to trust God for strength, security, and success?**