

WEEK NINETEEN INTRODUCTION

The narrative reading of Week 19 conveys seasons of instability in David's reign as king. His own son, Absalom, leads a conspiracy that chases the king from Jerusalem. The conspiracy is occasioned by an abominable event within the royal family, which chapter 13 records. Another profound threat arises under the leadership of Sheba, who mounts an overt rebellion against David. This rebellion arose from rivalry between Judah and Israel during the return of David from his exile during Absalom's usurpation. In each case, God's word to David spoken through the prophet Nathan given in 2 Samuel 12:10 rings true, *the sword will never leave your house*. David's latter years are marked by dangers without and dangers within. In this way and others, David's life paints an image that is made clear in the Lord Jesus Christ. David is betrayed and rebelled against as king. The same, to a greater degree, is true of Christ. Divisiveness sets Israel against Judah rather than against continued threats outside. The same is true of Jesus' church. While the Scriptures describe the true history of David, the fulfillment of these historical events is King Jesus.

KEY SCRIPTURE

You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and new wine abound. I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, LORD, make me live in safety..

— Psalm 4:7-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The title of Psalm 3 states that David writes this Psalm *when he fled from his son*. Imagine the mixture of sadness, anger, confusion, hurt, and fear David carries from Absalom's actions. How does David respond in this Psalm? How does David confront the voices around him saying there's no help for him? How does the Psalm end? What can you take away from this Psalm for your own life?

Summarize how Absalom and David's relationship falls apart. What leads up to their difficulties? What responses would prevent the escalation of bad feelings? What does Absalom do to steal the hearts of the people of Israel?

How does rivalry and envy between Judah and Israel show up toward the end of 2 Samuel 19? What do you think is behind such envy? Where else does envy appear in chapter 19? How do you see the same forces of rivalry and envy at work in our world today? How do you see the same drive in your own heart? How does James distinguish between earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom in James 3:13-18?

2 Samuel 22:28 states, *You save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down.* What is the difference between humility and pride? How does humility prepare a person for salvation? How does pride prevent someone from accepting Christ? Read James 4:6. Does humility or pride mark your life? Consider Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11.

Psalm 42 contains the refrain, *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.* This is repeated twice in this Psalm and once in Psalm 43. There is gospel hope here. Where does the Psalmist rest his hope, in his feelings or in God? How can you apply that truth to your life in Christ? Will you believe your feelings or what God says in Christ through the Spirit in the word?

Psalm 62 repeats, *For God alone my soul waits in silence.* Why does David say he waits for God *alone*? Why else might he be tempted to trust in? What else are we tempted to trust in to bring us salvation, joy, and fullness?

What is the highest good? Why are we here? How should we aim our lives? Psalm 57:5 proclaims, *Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!* How can you make the great goal of your life God's glory in every area?

2 Samuel 23:1 describes David four ways: 1. *The son of Jesse* 2. *The man who was raised on high* 3. *The anointed of the God of Jacob* 4. *The sweet psalmist of Israel*. What do these four descriptions tell us about David? Having read of David's life and kingship, can you link these titles with specific events or instances in David's life? How do these things point us toward Jesus?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.” -**Psalm 26:8**

David speaks of the temple and the worship of the Lord. We no longer worship *in* the temple. Rather, the church *is* the temple. David loves worship. Can it be said of you that you *love* worshipping with God’s people gathered as the *temple of God*? Will you prepare and commit to gathering with Jesus’ church on the Lord’s Day to worship our Triune God?