

Sunday 9th November 2025

David the King

2 Samuel 5 & 6

Welcome

- If you were crowned king or queen what would be the first thing you would do?

Word

When David was very young, (probably in his teenage years) Samuel was instructed by God to anoint David as king. (Remember the story about all the brothers coming before Samuel but God chose the smallest – David).

Read 2 Samuel 5: 1-5

David had to wait a long time (probably about 15 years) before he actually became king (of Judah) and then another 7 and a half years before he became king of all Israel. About 22 years in total - that's a long time to wait!

1. Are you good at waiting? Have you ever had to wait a long time for anything?
2. Does David's patience challenge your understanding of patience and timing in your life? Is there something you are waiting for at the moment?
3. How do you feel about waiting for an answer to prayer?

As king, David was able to unite Judah and Israel. He proceeded to make Jerusalem his home city (the city of David) and a palace was built for him.

(2 Samuel 5: 6-11). David, now settled, had time, and quiet, to reflect on his life. Read 2 Samuel 5: 12.

4. What does this verse tell us about David's conclusions as he reflects on his life?
5. Do you think David would have been able to understand a little about why the wait had been so long and how this would affect his ability to lead the nation?
6. Have there been times when you have benefitted from being quiet and reflecting on your life? Do you need to do this now?
7. Can you recall high points in your relationship with God? Or times when God was preparing you for the times ahead?
8. The Philistines (enemies of Israel) enter the scene in 2 Samuel 5:17. What does David do and why does he do it? (see verse 19 and 25)
9. David appears to be relying on God, consulting him in every decision, resulting in success. Do we always think about God when we have a decision to make? How can we be more consistent with this?

Read 2 Samuel 6: 1-5

The Ark of the Covenant contained the tablets that the Law was written on. It represented God's presence. (You can find out more about the details of the Ark of the Covenant from Exodus 25: 10-22)

10. How would you describe the mood of those bringing the ark to Jerusalem? Why do you think they felt like this?
11. Do we need an equivalent Ark of the Covenant today? Why/ why not?
12. Has anyone in the group watched the film 'Indiana Jones and the Lost Ark'? How was the Ark portrayed in that film?

Read 2 Samuel 6: 6-7

13. What happened to Uzzah and why?
14. Although this was an extreme situation – what does it represent about God’s holiness and reverence?
15. How can we show the appropriate reverence to God in worship whilst still enjoying the closeness of relationship encouraged by Jesus who urged us to call him Abba Father?
16. In what ways does this passage challenge you about your attitude to worship or entering the presence of God? Do you need to have more reverence when worshipping?

Read 2 Samuel 6: 12-16

17. The Ark of the Covenant was finally brought to Jerusalem. What was David’s reaction to the Ark arriving in Jerusalem and why?
18. What was Michal’s (David’s wife and Saul’s daughter) reaction to David’s actions and what had she failed to understand? (take a look at 2 Samuel 6: 21-22)
19. Are we sometimes guilty of judging other people because of the way they worship? Or do we sometimes feel self-conscious about worshipping the way we want to? How can we be more free to worship? How can we allow others to be freer with their worship even if it is very different to the way we worship?

This account of Uzzah and the Ark of the Covenant, although extreme, demonstrates the absolute holiness of God – but we also know that God is good. God’s holiness and goodness are most clearly revealed in the cross of Christ. God’s holiness demanded the death of his son for our sins. But his goodness and love flow out from the cross offering us acceptance, forgiveness and eternal life.

Optional Extra

The Following may help you understand the 'Holiness' of God:

In the Chronicles of Narnia by C.S Lewis, we are introduced to Aslan, the son of the great Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea. Here's what it says

"Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion – the Lion, the great Lion.

'Ooh' said Susan, 'I'd thought he was a man. Is he ... quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.'

'That you will, dearie, and no mistake.' Said Mrs Beaver. 'If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly.'

'Then he isn't safe?' said Lucy.

'Safe?' said Mr Beaver. 'Don't you hear what Mrs Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Course he isn't safe. But he's good'".

Aslan represents God and illustrates how God is both holy and good. How does this description of Aslan help you to understand what it means to 'fear the Lord'?

Worship and Witness

- Ask God for patience if you are waiting for answer to prayer
- Take time to thank God for everything he has done for you
- Praise God that he is both holy and good
- Consider how you can be more tolerant of others' worship style and be more free to worship yourself.