

The Bible's Big Story, Week 5 King David
2 Samuel Chapter 7-11

Good morning and again welcome to Cedarbrook, my name is Kyle and I am one of the pastors here. We are now in week 5 of our series "The Bible's big picture". If you have missed any of the first few messages I hope you'll take some time to go back to check out the podcasts.

PUT UP SLIDE FROM REMY

As we have taken this journey beginning at creation, our series has moved us from creation all the way through the story of Joshua's leading the Israelite people. We have covered a ton of territory in just 5 weeks, and I want to give a quick recap in case you have not been here for the entire series.

The Bible starts out in the Garden of Eden, with Adam and Eve, and they disobey God, after they disobey, Things go from bad to worse. In fact things go so bad that God wipes the earth clean with a flood and starts over with Noah.

Then God calls Abram and makes a covenant with him. **It is this covenant between God and Abraham that sets the foundation for all of scripture.**

After God's covenant with Abram, his people end up as slaves in Egypt for 500 years. God showed his covenant commitment by calling Moses to lead them out of slavery and eventually Joshua led them into the Promised Land.

Last week we explored the story of Gods faithfulness to his covenant even to a group of outsiders, outcastes, and liars. The Gibeonites, they lied and cheated their way into the family of God. If God was ever going to break his Covenant with any group of people this would have been the group, the people who cheated their way into the Covenant. But God was true to his Covenant.

Throughout our first 4 weeks of this series we have seen **Gods faithfulness to his people, even through their lack of faith.** THAT'S THE BIBLES BIG STORY. **God is faithful to his people, even through their lack of faith.**

We have seen Gods love stand firm through failure after failure. What we have found is a theme, a theme that runs throughout our series and

throughout the entire bible: **God has a Rock solid commitment to us even through our continual failure.**

The Bible's big story is the story of God's unfailing love to his always failing People

Following Joshua's leadership there was a period of time in which Judges led the Israelite people, during this time the people basically did whatever they felt was right. They did not rely on God for leadership and things went askew.

Out of this mess God called a new leader, a man named Samuel to lead a revival, and lead the Israelites back to God.

Just over 1000 years before Jesus was born a prophet named Samuel was anointed the new king of Israel. God nudged this prophet Samuel to go to a little town named – Bethlehem, Yes the same Bethlehem that we know from the birth of Jesus.

Isn't that cool, Jesus birth is not the first mention of this tiny town, but 1000 years before Jesus was alive, Bethlehem just happened to be where a man named Jesse and his 8 sons lived. And in 1 Samuel Chapter 16 God moves Samuel to go Bethlehem and anoint David, the youngest son, the runt of the family to be the next king of Israel.

The Bible has a lot to say about David, in fact there is more written about David than any other character in the Old Testament, and he is also one of the many people and leaders talked about throughout the New Testament.

Years later David succeeds Samuel on the throne and becomes the 2nd King of Israel. **At the beginning of his reign, King David is an amazing Godly leader helping the Israelites faithfully follow God.**

One day David decides that he needs to build God a permanent home a Temple worthy of God.

2 Samuel 7:2 “Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

David feels awkward about living in a glorious palace while God is living in a tent, as a leader he wants to fix this problem.

In 2 Samuel 7:12-16, God informs David that he will not be allowed to build the Temple. Through the prophet Nathan God communicated to David that it was his role to unify the Israelite people and destroy all of Israel's enemies, but that God did not want a warrior to build the temple.

However, God follows that message with a **great promise to David**.

2 Samuel 7 starts with a conversation between God and David, in which David is asking God for permission to build a permanent home, a Temple for the Israelite people to forever worship God.

“When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.”

Verse 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

God makes this **great promise** to David that it will be David's son that will become king and build a temple, and that David's name and his family will be established forever.

This is a confirmation of God's Covenant with Abram. But it's also an expansion the original covenant. God promised to make Abram a great nation. Here, God promises to establish an eternal kingdom through the line of David.

Just a few years after God makes this promise, David does something to test God's patience, David makes a choice that tests God's willingness to keep his promise.

In 2 Samuel Chapter 11 we will see that **David makes an incredibly poor choice, one that tests God's faithfulness to his promise.**

Vs. 2-4, "One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a women bathing. The women was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her."

David see's Bathsheba bathing and asks one of his servants who the women is. He is informed that Bathsheba is the wife of Uriah, David's servant, friend, and a general in his army. Even with this knowledge David sends a servant to bring her to him, saying that he would like to talk to her.

Well as we see, they did more than talk, David makes this huge blunder, a mistake that he has to live with for the remainder of his life. He slept with his friend's wife. A few weeks later, in Verse 5 Bathsheba returned to inform David that she was pregnant with his child.

Now it's evident that David had a serious problem on his hands. So David makes up a story to bring Uriah in from the battlefield attempting to cover his tracks. After talking to Uriah, David tells him to spend the night with his wife before heading back out to battle. David thinks this will surly cover my mistake.

VS. 9, However, in the morning David learns that Uriah did not go home to his wife, but instead he slept outside the kings door all night.

VS 10, David asks Uriah why he did not go home, and Uriah responds, **how could I, with my men on the battlefield, I would never feel good about going home to be with my wife with my men still out in harms way.**

Uriah proves to be a much better man than David.

One more time David tries to get Uriah to go home, David asks him to stay one more day before returning to battle, having Uriah eat and drink with him, David gets Uriah drunk and urges him to go home to Bathsheba. But once again Uriah sleeps outside the kings door rather than with his wife.

Again in the morning David ask why, Uriah a man of great integrity has the same response, **“With my men in the heat of battle how could I go ever feel good about going home.”**

Just when we would think that the story could not get any crazier, David does something that you simply cannot believe.

VS 14-22, David wrote a letter to Joab the commander of his army, Uriah’s boss. In the letter David sent specific instructions to Joab, that in the heat of the battle, he was to place Uriah on the front lines, and when the battle is raging, pull all support of Uriah, leave him alone to fight the battle. Joab would certainly know that this order was a death sentence for Uriah.

And get this, David sends this note to Joab, in the hands of Uriah.

Yea that’s right, Uriah is carrying his own death sentence out to the battlefield.

Joab receives the message, obeys the king, Uriah goes to battle and is killed.

Now God has to decide if he would keep his promise to David or retract his promise. He had made this promise to David that it would be David’s son that will become king and build the temple, and that David’s name will be established forever.

God had made this unconditional promise to David, but David had really messed up.

Based on David’s action I think many of us would even understand if God had changed His mind.

2 Samuel chapter 12 opens with the Prophet Nathan coming to David, he confronts David about what he has done. Nathan tells David, You have sinned, and you have done evil in the site of the Lord.

Chapter 12 goes on to tell us that David fell down before the alter of God and He confessed His sin. In fact you can read David’s Confession, it is recorded for us in Psalms 51, these are the words David wrote as he recognized His sin, and begs God for forgiveness.

Psalms 51: 1-2 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

10-11, Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

David begins the 51st psalm with an important phrase, “Your Unfailing Love” the original Hebrew word here would have been, “HESED” meaning Gods unfailing love. As I explored this word HESED the meaning just got more rich.

HESED was described in one article as Gods, Unfailing, or Faithful, Loyal, or steadfast love. These descriptors add to my understanding of God’s unfailing love for us in spite of our failures. HESED love does not come with limits or benchmarks to earn it, but God offers this HESED love to us each and every day.

HESED is often used throughout scripture when God is communicating his covenant love for his people. In psalm 136 the word HESED is translated as Everlasting Love, or love “the endures forever”.

This HESED love is a love that allows God to see past our mistakes, past our failures, and remain dedicated to his covenant. This HESED love is the type of Love that, When Jesus could have and maybe wanted to leave the cross, this HESED love is the love that allowed Jesus to be nailed to the cross to fulfill Gods covenant with Abram and David.

The Bible tells us that God forgave David. God forgave David, but he also held him accountable for what he had done. **David’s sin had all kinds of brutal consequences but God’s promise endured.** The consequences for David’s choices are unbelievably brutal.

His sin was the cause of 85 priests being killed for his lies, His entire family fell apart, The baby that Bathsheba was pregnant with passed away, his sons went to war with each other, his favorite son murdered his oldest son, his favorite general (Joab) then murdered that favorite son. His family was split, and the kingdom was divided for a time, he had to move out of the palace and his kids humiliated him for years.

At this point in the story David's legacy was not one of blessing and honor, it appeared that David would go down in history as a failed leader.

But **through all of the chaos**, and all of the personal disaster for David, God never withdrew his promise to David. **God's promise to David was eternal.**

In spite of all of that history and chaos that ensued in David's personal life, 990 years later a man in the family tree of David, a man by the name of Joseph with his pregnant wife Mary made there way right back to the city of Bethlehem. **And it was there in the city that became known as the "city of David"**, back in Bethlehem that Mary gave birth to the great, great.....great.... Grandson of king David, who we know as the Messiah, Jesus.

God's unfailing love, God's HESED love for us means that when God makes a promise he keeps his promise.

David's mistake, David's incredibly poor choice, his sinfulness is the beginning of a 1000 year long story that shows each of us that God keeps his promise. Just like God promised, David's house, David's family, David's name was made great, through the legacy and life of Jesus.

We have seen throughout this series that God is Faithful to his people. He was faithful to Abraham, Moses, the Gibeonites, and to David, as we look at Gods faithfulness to his continually failing people we can be assured that he will be faithful to us too, not matter our failures.

This story of David's biggest mistake is added proof that...

The Bible is the story of God's HESED LOVE, his unfailing love to his always failing People

When God makes a promise, He Keeps His Promise.

Now some of us could hear that statement and begin to think that this offers us a get out of jail free card. You could easily believe that you can live any way you want and God will still keep his promises.

But what we should know is that God's faithfulness should never be an excuse for sin. It should be a cause for gratefulness and worship.

What we see from the story of King David is, YES, God will keep His promise, but like David we will also be accountable for our choices. David's sin led to all kinds of terrible consequences.

Maybe you believe that your addictions, your choice to cheat on your spouse, your taxes, or at work, your lies, deceit, and selfishness have somehow canceled God's promise to you.

You feel that your choices have been so bad that it would make God break his promise, that you are not worthy of His goodness or faithfulness.

You look at all the consequences in David's story and the consequences in your life, and you see them as proof of God abandoning you. You see the Consequences of your poor choices and you think those consequences are the proof that God has given up on you.

This is not true, not at all, Consequences do not mean God has given up on you. The Consequences we read in David's story did not mean that God had broken His promise to David, and they do not mean that he has broken his promise to you.

The story of king David is a story of God being faithful to us even when we are not always faithful to him.

God kept his promise to David even in the face of a terrible situation and God is going to keep his promise to you. **No matter what!**

Pray with me!