

2 Samuel 8:1-10:19 | “The Righteous Reign of the King”  
*Preached on September 4, 2022 by Pastor Matt Brown*

Please turn in your Bibles to 2 Samuel 8, and we will be covering actually chapters 8, 9, and 10.  
*[pause]*

*All seems to be going well when an empire reaches its peak.*

They say that the Roman Empire reached its peak at about 117 AD, when they reached all the way into England and had control of everything around the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>1</sup>

*We also think of the peak of Alexander the Great’s empire, the Babylonian empire, the British empire, or the Mongol one. [pause]*

At its peak, an empire has been expanding its borders and control.

*Things are going pretty well, as they have success, and there is often prosperity that comes along with that. [pause]*

Well in our chapters before us, Israel may not be *exactly* at their peak, but if they aren’t, they are super close. *[pause]*

*Things are going well for king David and Israel.*

God has just promised great things to David in the previous chapter, and now God will start to fulfill some of those promises. *[pause]*

*In these chapters, we first see...*

### **I. The dominant success of the King.**

Have you ever seen someone just dominate the competition?

*I’ve even met people who dominate the opposition, no matter what the contest involves.*

It doesn’t matter if it’s basketball, chess, cooking, or anything - they just are good *at everything*.

*It’s like no matter who they face or where they compete, they are victorious. [pause]*

Well that’s sort of like David here in these chapters.

*He is successful everywhere he turns.*

Look there at chapter 8, verse 1. *[READ 8:1-8]*

*Here we see the dominant success of David all around him.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.history.com/news/ancient-roman-empire-map-julius-caesar-conquests>.

The long-time rivals, the Philistines? Defeated and stripped of some land.

The Moabites? Conquered so that they become his servants and bring tribute.

The king of Zobah in the north? Stripped of his army, his shields, his bronze, and his horses are hamstrung.

The Syrians who tried to help the king of Zobah? Struck down easily. *[pause]*

And then skip down to chapter 8, verse 12.

We will go back to verses 9-11, but look at verse 12 and following.

David dedicates the gold and silver from all the nations he subdued, and listen to the list...*[READ 8:12-14]*

That's a lot of nations.

Just look at this map to see what's going on. *[SHOW MAP ON PPT]*

David was really taking care of all the enemies that surrounded him on every side.

No matter where he turned - north, west, east, or south - he defeated them.

And by doing this, he was also expanding the borders of Israel to be bigger. *[pauseeee]*

We will get to chapter 9, but when we move over to chapter 10, we see this dominance continue.

The king of the Ammonites dies, and his son takes over.

David decides to reach out to the new king by sending servants, for his father had been loyal to him over the years.

But the new Ammonite king doesn't respond well to this gesture, for he thinks that David is spying on him.

So he treats David's men harshly by shaving off half of their beard and cutting their garments in the middle. *[pauseeeeeee]*

Now what's going to happen? War.

The Ammonites hire a bunch of Syrians to help them fight David, and David sends his commander, Joab, and his mighty men to go to battle.

And we find that Israel gets surrounded by the enemy. *[pause]*

Is David's success streak going to end abruptly? I mean his army is surrounded.

Let's see what happens as we read 2 Samuel 10:9...*[READ 10:9-19]*

Even though they were surrounded, Israel is once again victorious and dominates the enemy.

And then when the Syrians try to fight David again with the help of Hadadezer's commander, they are routed. *[pause]*

This defeat was so decisive that the chapter ends by saying, "So the Syrians were afraid to save the Ammonites anymore."

The Syrians are like, "We don't want to mess with David and Israel anymore. We saw what happens." *[pauseeee]*

So what do all of these victories teach us?

Well we must think about *how* David was able to be so successful.

2 Samuel 8:6 and 14 give us the answer: "The Lord gave victory to David wherever he went." *[pause]*

It was the Lord who was behind the dominant success of David and Israel.

If you took the Lord out of the picture, David would not have defeated enemies on every side like he did.

But that's why God is the true Difference Maker.

Dominant success was because of the Lord. *[pauseeee]*

We must always remember the control and power of our God.

If He wants to defeat enemies on every side, He will do it dominantly.

If He wants to win a battle when you are enclosed on every side, He will do it convincingly.

Nothing can hinder His power, nothing can stand in His way, or stay His hand. *[pauseeee]*

So many times we act like the God that we serve is weak and incapable.

We don't think He can change someone's heart.

We feel like we need to take control and use only our power to change a situation.

Yet the Lord continually shows us that He is the one and only Omnipotent God. *[pauseeee]*

In these chapters, God was showing His power to defeat the enemy, but He was also showing His power to fulfill His Word.

Remember how in the last chapter, chapter 7, God promised to give David rest from all his enemies?<sup>2</sup>

Now God was starting to accomplish that promise. *[pauseeee]*

You see, in order to keep a promise, you have to have *power* to keep it.

If I promise to give you a job, in order to fulfill it, I must have the power to get you that job.

So in order for God to fulfill His promise to give David rest, He had to have the power to accomplish it, and power He has! *[pauseeeee]*

This means that our Father in heaven has power to defeat our enemies, but He also has power to always fulfill what He has promised.

He is not thwarted by unforeseen circumstances like we are.

His promises are not foiled by unexpected powerful people.

If He has promised something, He is not only trustworthy, but He also has the power to make it happen! *[pauseeeee]*

Some of us may think, “I know that God isn’t lying. He isn’t unreliable. But can He do something amidst *this* situation?”

And the answer is, “Yes, if He wills!”

The reliable God is also the remarkably powerful God!

So trust Him! *[pauseeeeeee]*

Now we know from Scripture that David as king prefigures Christ as king, and so this dominant success of king David is a foreshadowing of what Christ will do.

David defeated every enemy on every side, and the kingdom was established in peace.

What will Christ do, according to Scripture?

The Old Testament prophesied that he would strike his enemies,<sup>3</sup> and then when you get to Revelation 19, you see how this all plays out through Jesus...

A rider on a white horse appears, and on his head are many diadems, and it then says this...

“From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.

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<sup>2</sup> See 2 Samuel 7:11.

<sup>3</sup> See Psalm 2:8-9, Isaiah 11:4, and Zechariah 14 for a couple examples.

He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.” [pause]

A little further, we see that the kings of the armies of earth gather against him, but they are all “slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse...”<sup>4</sup> [pauseee]

Like David dominantly conquered his enemies, so even more decisively, the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ will conquer his enemies and bring peace to His kingdom when He returns. [pauseeee]

And did you notice with David, he gained great wealth from the defeat of his enemies.

So also, when Zechariah talks of this momentous day of victory, he says that, “the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance.”<sup>5</sup> [pauseeee]

The dominant success of David here in these chapters points us forward to Christ’s future defeat of all the nations who oppose Him.

And like David’s time, it will be done through the Lord’s power for Christ is Lord, and it will be done according to the Lord’s promise, for He has promised that Christ will do this. [pauseeee]

What a King that we have! He will defeat our enemies with His mere breath!

Talk about “dominant success”!

And if we trust in Christ, we are NOT on the losing side, for He will secure His kingdom and bring peace. [pause]

What confidence we can have even today!

This is the One we love. This is the One we serve and follow. This is our King. [pauseeee]

*Not only do we see the dominant success of the King, but also...*

## **II. The glorious character of the King.**

We all long for a righteous leader.

We desire to follow someone who does what’s right and what’s just, but so often we see the abuse of power and the corruption of our leaders. [pause]

Well at this point in David’s kingship, he shows great character.

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<sup>4</sup> See Revelation 19:11-21.

<sup>5</sup> Zechariah 14:14.

Notice 2 Samuel 8:15, “So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people.” *[pause]*

It’s one thing to be powerful, it’s another to use that power *righteously*.

We have all seen leaders who were powerful, but not good.

And we have seen leaders who were good, but not very powerful.

But here David uses his power in good, right, and just ways. *[pause]*

He didn’t act unjustly, but gave his people fair treatment.

He wouldn’t treat one group better simply because they were of a certain tribe, but he was a just leader.

He didn’t benefit the powerful to the detriment of the poor.

In this way, he was reflecting and imitating God’s character to the nation. *[pause]*

Wouldn’t you want such a leader?

Well David’s justice and righteousness point forward to Christ. *[pause]*

Isaiah 9:7, that famous passage which talks of the child born, says this...

“Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it *with justice and with righteousness*.”

And then when Jesus comes to earth and begins his ministry, what do we find?

He is a man who emanates justice and righteousness because He is God Himself.

And when He comes again, His kingdom will be one of justice and righteousness. *[pauseeee]*

We won’t ever have to worry about injustice or corruption, but we will have a perfect, righteous Ruler!

Isn’t that something to look forward to and hope in?! *[pause]*

We don’t have to forever know only injustice and inequity, but there’s a better Day coming.

While we see rampant injustice and unrighteousness permeate our nation, yet someday a just and righteous Ruler will reign over the world. *[pause]*

Even now he deals with us justly and righteously, but when He returns, we will get to see His just and righteous rule on full display. *[pauseeeeeee]*

Not only did David rule with justice, but he also ruled with love and faithfulness. *[pause]*

Consider the faithfulness he tried to show to the new Ammonite king.

Remember in chapter 10, where the Ammonite king died, and his son took over?

David said in chapter 10, verse 2, “I will deal loyally with Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father dealt loyally with me.”

David was trying to show faithfulness because the Ammonite king had been faithful to him.  
[pauseeeee]

Yet the prime way that David showed love and faithfulness is found in chapter 9, which we haven’t touched on.

Turn to 2 Samuel 9.

Sandwiched between chapters 8 and 10, which describe great military victories of David, is chapter 9.

Let’s start READING. [READ 9:1-8]

David is at the height of his power, and yet here he is seeking and looking to show kindness to someone - anyone - left in the line of Saul. [pause]

He could have easily thought, “Eh, who cares. The line of Saul is pretty much gone, and things are going well for me.”

He could have even thought, “I need to kill off any of Saul’s descendents because remember what Saul did to me for years? Plus they are a threat to my kingship.”

Yet he takes the initiative to show love based on his promise to Jonathan.<sup>6</sup> [pauseeee]

This reminds us that someone who shows true kindness and love doesn’t just sit back and wait for others to be kind to them - but they step out and take the initiative.

David didn’t wait until Mephibosheth came begging at his door, but he sought him and found him in order to show him love. [pause]

Doesn’t that reflect what the Lord has done for us?!

He took the initiative in salvation.

He didn’t wait and sit back, for we would still be in our sins, but Jesus “came to seek and to save the lost.”<sup>7</sup> [pauseeee]

Do you sit back and wait for someone to be kind to you and then you’ll be kind?

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<sup>6</sup> See 1 Samuel 20:14-17.

<sup>7</sup> Luke 19:10.

Or do you take the initiative of kindness and love?

Do you take the initiative to show love to an enemy? What about to a frustrating or annoying person in your life? *[pauseeee]*

We also see that true love takes risks.

By having a descendant of Saul around him, David was letting a threat to his throne continue to be near him.

We even find that Mephibosheth has a son in verse 12, which would be an additional risk. *[pauseeeee]*

Love takes risks.

It says, “I know that you may hurt me, but I’m going to love you anyways.”

“I know that this is a risk, but I’m going to love this person, and leave it in the hands of the Lord.” *[pause]*

Is your love willing to take risks?

Are you willing to expend great amounts of energy on someone in love, even if you know that there is a risk they may hurt you emotionally?

Are you willing to help someone in need or are you *only* consumed with the risks involved? *[pauseeeee]*

Something else about David’s kindness and love here is the fact that Mephibosheth couldn’t really contribute much to the kingdom.

That’s because love is sacrificial. *[pause]*

Mephibosheth was crippled, so it’s not like he could go out and be a commander for David.

It’s not like he could have a high up position and bring in vast amounts of income, but actually, he was *an expense* to the kingdom.

David wouldn’t *get* from Mephibosheth, but David would *give* to him in the form of land and food at his table.

And this wasn’t going to be a one time meal either, for he was told that he would eat at David’s table always. *[pause]*

Talk about sacrificial love!

True love doesn’t give to get in return, but gives even if it never gets anything back - is that the kind of love you show?



Even though David wouldn't get anything in return for his love, yet he gave and gave to Mephibosheth, inviting him to his family table, and treating him as a son. *[pause]*

Isn't that what Christ does for us?

While we deserved to die on the spot, yet God so loved us that He sent His only Son to die for us.<sup>8</sup>

We were his enemies, yet because of Christ's work on the Cross, we are now adopted as sons!<sup>9</sup>

We are invited to the table and treated as children of the King! *[pauseeee]*

Like Mephibosheth, all of us should say, "What is your servant that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

And the truth is, like him, we are helpless nobodies who can't do much for ourselves.

But God, in His steadfast love, sought us out, sacrificially sent His Son to die for us, and then invited us to His table and treats us as sons. *[pauseeeee]*

You see, David wasn't just some strong, victorious warrior king and that's it - but he was also a just, loving, and faithful king.

And that's what Christ is to perfection...

He's the Warrior King, but also the Shepherd King.

He's the Lion and the Lamb.

And in His kingship, we see sovereignty in someday destroying His enemies - but we also see sovereignty infused with justice, love, and faithfulness to the undeserving.

And that's why in Him, we can take refuge in *both* His strength and kindness. *[pauseeeee]*

*So we saw the King's success and character, but we also notice...*

### **III. The different responses to the King.**

People often respond differently to the same thing.

You see this especially in politics.

Someone is put forward as being nominated for a government position, and what happens?

Those belonging to their political party celebrate this and are happy, but those belonging to the other party don't like the nomination and are totally against it.

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<sup>8</sup> See John 3:16.

<sup>9</sup> See Galatians 4:4-7.

Two responses to the same person. *[pause]*

So also, here in these chapters, we see different responses to king David.

Some tried to resist him and fight back like the many nations that lost to him.

And the Ammonite king in chapter 10 even spurned the kindness of David by returning evil for David's kindness.

David was reaching out in love and faithfulness, but it's like the Ammonite king slapped his hand out of the way and slapped him in the face, instead. *[pauseeee]*

The negative response of the Ammonite king and the other nations who tried to oppose David reminds us of how some people respond negatively to Christ.

Some reject him and try to oppose him, as they spurn his authority and kindness. *[pause]*

Jesus, in love, has offered them life and forgiveness by dying on the Cross.

He has reached out his hand in kindness and steadfast love, but like David, his kindness is spurned. *[pause]*

If only they would turn from their sins, submit to Him, and receive His kindness, they would receive eternal life, forgiveness, and refuge.

But they reject His kingdom and His kindness. *[pauseeee]*

Are you like the Ammonite king, who rejected David's kindness?

Have you rejected the grace of Jesus Christ?

He has shown great love by dying on the Cross, so that you don't have to stand condemned for your sins, but what has been your response to Him?

Have you received his gift by faith in what He did for you, or have you spurned his gracious offer and rejected Him? *[pause]*

Trust in Him today! Don't keep rejecting His offer of kindness!

Turn from your sinful ways and trust that what Jesus did on the Cross will save you from your sins! *[pauseeee]*

Thankfully, not all spurn the kindness of the king, for some receive and seek the kindness of the king.

Look at 2 Samuel 8:9-10...*[READ 8:9-10]*

This king truly recognized the authority and power of king David, and submitted to him.

In doing this, he wasn't defeated, but found refuge in king David. *[pauseeee]*

And then in chapter 9, Mephibosheth doesn't spurn the kindness of David, but receives it, and gets life and blessing. *[pause]*

He could have been angry at David, or thought that David was going to trick him and kill him, for he was in the line of Saul, but he gladly and humbly received the kindness of David.

*[pauseeee]*

**This is how we are to respond to King Jesus' kindness!**

He has come and died on the Cross for our sins, and rose again.

He has offered life, refuge, grace, and blessing in Him, but we have to draw near and receive it in faith! *[pause]*

If we reject him and spurn his grace, we only receive condemnation and judgment, but if we receive His grace, we are blessed forevermore.

What's your response to the King, Jesus Christ?

Do you spurn his kindness or do you humbly and gladly receive his kindness and submit to him? *[pauseeee]*

*These chapters taken together push us to...*

**Hope in and live in light of the full display of the righteous reign of Christ!**

David's reign, characterized by success and righteousness, causes us to look with hope to the coming righteous reign of Christ.

He is certainly reigning to some degree now, but when He comes again, His righteous reign will be fully realized and experienced by the world. *[pause]*

He will come again and in dominant success, defeat the nations of the world that oppose him with a breath.

In spite of all the resistance, the Davidic King will rule.

He will bring peace and security, and will reign with justice and righteousness.

So we say like John, "Come, Lord Jesus!"<sup>10</sup> as we look forward with hope to the day when all will be made right, and the King will reign. *[pauseeee]*

Even as we look forward and hope in the righteous reign of Christ, we also live in light of it.

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<sup>10</sup> Revelation 22:20.

We serve Him now, set our priorities to the priorities that He has given, and we trust Him.

We share the good news of the kingdom, so that others may be rescued and transferred into His glorious kingdom.<sup>11</sup>

And we find refuge in Him today. *[pause]*

Like Joab, no matter what we face as we await his coming, we trust him, and as we follow Him, we say, “May the Lord do what seems good to him.”

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<sup>11</sup> A reference to Colossians 1:13.