

Fight to Follow God's Way

This week, our readings focus on the start of King David's reign. After years of waiting and overcoming many trials, David finally takes the crown. While we hope these chapters describe the apex of David's kingship and crowning moments of his life, the facts reveal that things did not start off smoothly. The minute David establishes himself as king, the Philistines come to attack him. But as is his custom, David seeks God's guidance, and with God's help, he defeats the Philistines. All was well again, but not for long.

David then seeks to move the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, but he fails to follow God's way in moving it. As a consequence of this decision, an Israelite named Uzzah ends up touching the ark and is struck down by God. David then decides to follow God's way of bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, and it comes into town with great rejoicing.

As we read on, David continues to secure his kingdom and helps many people as he rules with righteousness and justice. Unfortunately, in Chapter 11, David makes the selfish and irresponsible choice to stay home during a battle, and temptation hits. David gives into sin, and the results of his actions have a profound effect on the rest of David's life.

The Lord eventually sends the prophet Nathan to confront David about his sin, and David repents in sincerity and God forgives him completely. How good to know that whatever our sin, it is completely washed away if we

repent and accept God's forgiveness! But forgiveness does not mean that there will be no consequences resulting from our sins. In David's case, the prophet tells him that the consequences will be trouble in his household, and in the next portion of scripture, we read about all of the turmoil. This includes Absalom, David's own son, chasing the King out of his home!

One overarching point seen in all of this is that no matter how great the task or how small the task, God has a way for us to follow. As we attempt to follow God's lead, we will be attacked from all sides, both externally and internally. For example, the Philistines needed to be defeated (an external attack), and David chose God's way and won. However, when moving the Ark of the Covenant, David faced an internal attack of pride and decided to do things his way-and a life was lost because of it. And when David stayed home from battle in Chapter 11, he ended up falling victim to the internal attacks of laziness and lust until he repented and received God's forgiveness.

In each stage of life, there will be different situations and "attacks" that come our way. The question is, how do we respond? Do we decide to do what we want or what God wants? As we read these passages and see that what should be victory after victory thwarted due to lack of completely following God's way, keep in mind Romans 7:21-22:

"So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members."

Fight to follow the way God puts before you, no matter how big or small the battle. Every attack matters to God, and he wants victory for you and for me.

~ **Earl VanderWall**

2 SAMUEL 5:1-3
1 CHRONICLES 11:1-3
1 CHRONICLES 12:23-40
2 SAMUEL 5:17-25
1 CHRONICLES 14:8-17
2 SAMUEL 5:6-10
1 CHRONICLES 11:4-9
1 CHRONICLES 3:4
2 SAMUEL 5:13
2 SAMUEL 5:4-5
2 SAMUEL 5:11-12
1 CHRONICLES 14:1-2
1 CHRONICLES 13:1-5
2 SAMUEL 6:1-11
1 CHRONICLES 13:6-14

April 23rd Readings

2 SAMUEL 6:12
1 CHRONICLES 15:1-28
2 SAMUEL 6:12-16
1 CHRONICLES 15:29
2 SAMUEL 6:17-19
1 CHRONICLES 16:1-43
2 SAMUEL 6:19-23

April 24th Readings

2 SAMUEL 7:1-17
1 CHRONICLES 17:1-15
2 SAMUEL 7:18-29
1 CHRONICLES 17:16-27
2 SAMUEL 8:1-14
1 CHRONICLES 18:1-13
PSALM 60

April 25th Readings

2 SAMUEL 8:15-18
1 CHRONICLES 18:14-17
1 CHRONICLES 6:16-30
1 CHRONICLES 6:50-53
1 CHRONICLES 6:31-48
2 SAMUEL 9:1-10:19
1 CHRONICLES 19:1-19

April 26th Readings

1 CHRONICLES 20:1
2 SAMUEL 11:1-12:14

PSALM 51
2 SAMUEL 12:15-25
2 SAMUEL 5:14-16
1 CHRONICLES 14:3-7
1 CHRONICLES 3:5-9

April 27th Readings

2 SAMUEL 12:26-31
1 CHRONICLES 20:2-3
2 SAMUEL 13:1-14:33

April 28th Readings

2 SAMUEL 15:1-17:14