



**THE RISE AND FALL
OF A KING**
THE LIFE OF DAVID



A King Who Will Never Fall

Pastors Jeff T, John N, Tommy C, and Nick G | 2 Samuel 7:1-17

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER:

What's one project you started with great intentions that didn't go the way you planned?
Describe a promise you've received (or you've made) that prompted great joy.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Contrast two pivotal events listed below in the lives of Saul, the first king of Israel, and David. In 1 Samuel 13, Saul had a noble idea: sacrifice to the Lord. The Lord told Saul through the prophet Samuel to wait. Saul sacrifices anyway. In 2 Samuel 7, David has a noble idea: build a 'house of cedar' for the 'ark of God.' The Lord told David through the prophet Nathan not to. David obeys. How do these events underscore David as 'a man after God's own heart' (1 Samuel 13:14)?

In 2 Samuel 7:1-17, summarize how the Davidic Covenant develops the themes of: House, Kingdom, Throne.

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Trace how the New Testament writers point to Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant: Luke 1:30-33; Acts 2:29-36; Romans 1:1-6; Revelation 22:16-17.

How does the promise of a 'forever King' expose the difference between merely believing in Jesus and truly submitting to Him?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Read Psalm 20:7. Where are you leaning on 'chariots and horses' rather than trusting 'in the name of the Lord our God' — whether He supplies some horses or not?

Where is it tempting to spend time building up your own kingdom rather than God's kingdom? Pray that the Lord would increase your love and passion for His house and kingdom so that we may have a heart like David, knowing that we all have a Better King in Jesus.

Rejoice together with David regarding God's amazing Covenant: read 2 Samuel 7:18-29.

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

Read Numbers 23:19 and Psalm 105:8. God keeps His promises. Together as a family, look in scripture for the promises of God and write them down. Focus on what God promised to David and has given in Jesus. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness.

FURTHER STUDY:

For more on the Biblical Covenants and how they help us understand the Bible – and God Himself – better, read two articles at crossway.org: 'Why We Must Understand the Biblical Covenants to Understand the Bible' and '10 Things You Should Know About the Biblical Covenants.'

For more on the Davidic Covenant specifically, read 'The Davidic Covenant' at Ligonier.org.



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QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK'S SERMON:

Believe: The Gospel of John

John 1:1-13 — February 28–March 1

Great news! As we begin a new series in the Gospel of John, we are introducing study journals that go along with the sermon series. These journals provide three short reflections per week. They focus on the Scripture text that will be the subject of the sermon right around the corner. This will help us understand the text, prepare us to get more from the sermon, and ultimately, know and love our Great God and King!

Below is the first read for the first text: John 1:1-13. Be sure to pick up your study journal for John at church.

'IN THE BEGINNING': CHRIST THE ETERNAL GOD

Read John 1:1-13

In verses 1-3, our focus for today, John introduces us to the character of Jesus, whom he refers to as "the Word."

He opens with 'in the beginning,' a phrase he repeats again in verse 2. This is a direct quotation of the opening lines of the book of Genesis. By doing this, John tells us something beautiful about Jesus:

His incarnation conveys the same level of magnitude as creation itself.

John introduces us to the person of Jesus in his Gospel, and he calls on the authority of tradition. He tells us that Jesus, 'the Word,' was there in the 'in the beginning' beginning. That it was through Him that all things were made.

He's not a new figure randomly appearing on the page; no, the Word is the self-sufficient, eternal God who existed before all things and who called all things into existence. The Word was there at the beginning with God, and the Word was God.

In these three verses, we are told many beautiful things about Jesus. He is eternal, without beginning or end. He is God, and He was with God in the beginning (this being the astounding theology of the Trinity). His arrival, like the beautiful and wise beginning of the world, should amaze us. And He is the one through whom all things were made.

What comes to your mind when you think about Jesus? How would you describe Him to someone who'd never heard of Him before?

Take some time right now to read over these verses, and then list all of the awesome, beautiful things that stand out to you about Jesus' character.

Be encouraged today as you remember who our Lord is.