

...doing simple things together!

Week 19, Day 1 --- 2 Samuel 7 - 1 Chronicles 17

Week 19, Day 2 --- Psalm 25 - Psalm 29 - Psalm 33 - Psalm 36 - Psalm 39

Week 19, Day 3 --- 2 Samuel 8-9 - 1 Chronicles 18

Week 19, Day 4 --- Psalm 50 - Psalm 53 - Psalm 60 - Psalm 75

Week 19, Day 5 --- 2 Samuel 10 - 1 Chronicles 19 - Psalm 20

Week 19, Day 6 --- Psalm 65-67 - Psalm 69-70

Week 19, Day 7 --- 2 Samuel 11-12 - 1 Chronicles 20

Day 1 --- 2 Samuel 7 - 1 Chronicles 17

This is really the high point of David's reign. There will continue to be border skirmishes as he gradually expands the kingdom, but in general the land is at peace. David's palace has been built in Jerusalem and he has settled there. The house for God would be the temple. God would not allow David to build it because David had been a man of war. God did promise David that his son Solomon would build the temple and he did.

You'll notice that there are only very small differences between these two chapters. The will continue to happen as we read through the stories of the kings, but in many cases you'll need to read both points of view to get the complete picture. The repetition tells us that this was an important interaction between God and David.

Pay close attention to the prayer of David. How does he address God? What does he say to God? What does he ask of God? Looking at David's example can help you learn how to pray.

Day 2 --- Psalm 25 - Psalm 29 - Psalm 33 - Psalm 36 - Psalm 39

Psalm 25 seems very appropriate for your situation. It is a song, but also a prayer. It is a prayer that asks for guidance from God. As you're learning to pray, try this. You don't have to be a poet. Try writing out this psalm in your own words and then reading it to God as a prayer.

Psalm 36 provides an interesting comparison between the wicked and the love of God. The wicked have no fear of anything or anyone. Fear is a good thing. It keeps us from doing all sorts of things we shouldn't do. Fear of getting burned should keep us from touching a hot stove. Fear of God may turn us toward Him, but it is God's love that draws us close to Him.

Compare Psalm 33 and Psalm 39. They are both written by David. How was David feeling when he wrote each psalm? Are there any emotions that can't be expressed to God? Who do you share your deepest feelings with?

Day 3 --- 2 Samuel 8-9 - 1 Chronicles 18

David is completing the job that Joshua and the Israelites left incomplete. Israel grows to its largest physical size under David. He conquers the people and areas that God intended to give to the Israelites, but that they failed to conquer. Everything is going well. What do you expect to happen next?

Day 4 --- Psalm 50 - Psalm 53 - Psalm 60 - Psalm 75

Psalm 50 tells us that God is self-sufficient. God asks us to sacrifice. He asks us to give, but He doesn't need our gifts. In other places we will learn that what God desires is our heart. He wants our hearts to be like His heart. He wants us to care about what He cares about.

Psalm 53 would be discouraging if it weren't for Jesus. The psalm tells us that left on our own we don't become good.

Psalm 60 is a prayer before going into battle. What is David's concern? What is David's request of God?

Psalm 75 is full of images. I can't explain all of them because I don't understand all of them. One of them I do know because of reading Revelation. Verse 8 says that God's hand is holding a cup of wine. A cup of wine in God's hand represents God's wrath. When it is poured out it means that God's judgment on evil is being brought to earth.

Check out these verses if you want to see this image expanded. Remember to read the chapter around the verse to really understand what is being said.

- <u>Isaiah 63:3</u>
- Jeremiah 25:15
- Revelation 14:10
- Revelation 14:19
- Revelation 16:19
- Revelation 19:15

Day 5 --- 2 Samuel 10 - 1 Chronicles 19 - Psalm 20

What or who do you trust? The Syrians trusted in chariots and horsed and they were defeated by David. David and his men trusted in God and they were victorious.

It is amazing the bad advice that kings are given throughout the Bible. In those days a king was like a mayor today. He was typically someone who ruled a city. A really powerful king would be a king over kings of multiple cities. Often they would fight against each other, but on occasion they would ally together and fight against a common enemy. While we probably consider it terrible to be naked from the waist down in public, the bigger disgrace to David's men was having half their beards cut off. Hair was very special to the Israelites and beards were not to be cut at all.

Day 6 --- Psalm 65-67 - Psalm 69-70

It is often hard to remember that David went through some very hard times before he came to the throne. We are often reminded by David's psalms that life was not always easy for him. The Bible tells us that David was a man after God's own heart. David loved God and God loved David. The result is an honesty and transparency in his psalms that is difficult for most of us to achieve. As you pray, do not search for the right words. Speak from your heart. God already knows all your thoughts and emotions.

Your willingness to express them to Him out loud is what is very pleasing to Him. Think about the various occasions when you might pray a prayer like each of these psalms.

Day 7 --- 2 Samuel 11-12 - 1 Chronicles 20

This is one of the saddest stories in David's life. The first part is easy to understand. David is the king. He sees a beautiful woman and he takes her. This was totally normal for other kings, but not for a king who feared God. When David feared he would be caught he made things worse. Instead of confessing and dealing with the consequences he added murder to his adultery. What would David likely have done if he lived in our time?

The last part of this story is difficult to understand. The easy part is that even when God forgives us there are consequences to our sin. In David's case the consequence was a rebellious family and trouble in his kingdom until the day of his death. Also, the child that was born as a result of his adultery died. I can think of many reasons why the child had to die, but I really can't be sure why God does this. I'll also never understand why God chooses the next child of Bathsheba to be the next king. Why do you think God loved Solomon so much? Why did David sin?