

Psalm 79, II Samuel 5-10 (#60) Revised 2023

Psalm 79 — This psalm describes a plea for vengeance, deliverance, and atonement that finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ. *Give three requests made of God in this psalm?*

II Samuel 5— More than seven years after Saul's death, David is finally anointed king over all Israel. His first official act was to march up to Jerusalem and capture the stronghold of Zion from the Jebusites, which had been impregnable for four hundred years. Upon hearing of David's ascendance to the throne of all Israel, the Philistines wanted to stop David in his tracks. As David sought the Lord's guidance, God gave David victory over Israel's archenemies, the Philistines. *In verse 12, what two things did David understand? How can we apply this in our ministry with other people?*

II Samuel 6— David and 30,000 of his choice men try to bring the Ark of God from the house of Abinadab in Baale-judah to Jerusalem. As they move the ark on a cart, Uzzah reaches out to steady the Ark, and God strikes him dead. David becomes angry at the Lord's outburst and leaves the Ark at the house of Obed-edom. After seeing the blessing of the Lord on the family of Obed-edom, David brings the Ark up to Jerusalem in a way prescribed by Moses and celebrates with leaping and dancing before the Lord. David's wife Michal despises him in her heart for not being more dignified in his dress and worship. David made it clear to Michal that he wasn't concerned with his dignity, but rather had a desire to worship God fully and sincerely from his heart. *What important lessons did David learn when Uzzah was struck dead trying to steady the Ark of the Covenant? Extra Question: What is your impression concerning the exchange of words between Michal and David and the motives behind them?*

II Samuel 7— After David had built his palace, he is struck with the idea of building a house for God. The prophet Nathan immediately encourages David to do it. That night the Lord told Nathan to tell David His plan of building for David a house (dynasty). The Lord said to David, “Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.” As David hears the plan God has for him, he sits before the Lord in worship and awe knowing that he is unworthy of such an incredible promise. David is filled with wonder and humility when he realizes God’s grace, and His ability to fulfill in the future all that He has promised, culminating with ultimate purpose that the name of Yahweh will be exalted forever. *In the Old Testament, who were the main descendants (persons) through which the Messiah would come (Nation, Tribe and Family)? What texts of scripture show this? Extra Question: The promise made in this chapter to David is called the “Davidic Covenant”. Can you name any other unconditional covenants given by God in the Old Testament?*

II Samuel 8— The theme of this chapter is given in verses 6 and 14, “And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went.” Through God’s power David subjugated the Philistines who were west of Israel, the Edomites and Amalekites in the south, the Moabites and Ammonites in the east, and Zobah and the Arameans in the north. Through his intimate relationship with Yahweh, David was blessed in every way and administered justice and righteousness for all his people. *Why did David hamstring the horses? How might this apply to our lives? See Deuteronomy 17:16, Psalm 20:7, Psalms 33:16-19.*

II Samuel 9— David’s greatness has been seen in his leadership as a king and warrior, and also as a brilliant administrator. In this chapter his compassion and goodness are revealed. To keep a promise to his friend Jonathan, David searches for a member of Saul’s family to whom he can show kindness. David found out that Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth was alive, and so he restored all of Saul’s land to him. He also had him eat regularly at his table in Jerusalem. *How was David’s offer to Mephibosheth gracious and kind? In what ways did David’s actions to Mephibosheth mirror that which God in Christ does for us?*

II Samuel 10— King Hanun of Ammon was suspicious of the kindness that David was trying to show to him because of David’s friendship with Hanun’s father. Hanun completely humiliated the emissaries who came to bring condolences to him because of the death of his father, accused them of being spies, and then sent them back to Israel. David sent Joab and all his fighting men to battle the Ammonites. Knowing that beating Israel’s army would be difficult, Hanun called on the Arameans to unite with him, but both were soundly defeated. *How did Hanun make an error in judgment about David’s intentions? After the humiliating error, how might he have kept from going to war with David? How might we apply these lessons to our own lives?*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups. c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible ESV, c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible HCSB, c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion, c. 2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc., Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible, c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc., Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible NIV, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009 David C. Cook. 9. Halley’s Bible Handbook, c. 2000 Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006 Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible, c. 2000 Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c.1992 Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014 Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.

Psalm 80, II Samuel 11-16 (#61) Revised 2023

Psalm 80 – This psalm is a prayer for restoration calling upon the God of Heaven’s Armies. *There are two glaring omissions in this psalm. What is the author not telling us about the cause of these events?*

II Samuel 11— As this chapter unfolds, we see a downward spiraling of David’s life from one of purity and love for God to one of lust, adultery, deceit, and murder. Instead of being with his troops, David decided to stay home, relax, and run the war from his palace. After committing adultery with Bathsheba, David tried to cover up his sin by bringing back her husband, Uriah, from the war, but he would not cooperate. To further hide his sin, David had his general, Joab, place Uriah in the heat of the battle so he would be killed. Subsequent to the death of Uriah, Bathsheba was taken into the palace as David’s wife following a time of mourning. *Give reasons why David fell into sin, and what he could have done to keep from sinning.*

II Samuel 12— “You are the man” says Nathan to David, when confronting him of his wicked sin. After Nathan’s skillful story, David is outraged and didn’t know that when he judged the rich man that he was judging himself. David revealed himself as a man of God when he thoroughly repented of the evil he had done. Nathan declared the consequences of David’s sin including the death of the baby he had with Bathsheba. God in His grace allows them to have other sons including Solomon, who is called Jedidiah (beloved of the Lord) by God. God is also gracious with David shown by the winning the battle against the city of Rabbah of the Ammonites. *In verses 7-14 the prophet Nathan gives the consequences of David’s sin. What is the scriptural principle given here, and how does this apply to our lives (both negative and positive)? See also Galatians 6:7-8. Extra Question: What does David say about the afterlife, and what happens to children who die in infancy? See verse 23 and Matthew 18:14.*

II Samuel 13— The toll for David’s one night of passion begins to roll in. First, Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar, and then two years later, Absalom kills Amnon for what he did to his sister. Although David grieves for all that has happened, he does not correct or forgive his sons. *What does this chapter say about the David’s role as a father, and the way he was deceived by his children?*

II Samuel 14— As with the tale told by Nathan in chapter twelve, Joab brings a wise woman from Tekoa who pretended to be in mourning, and she also tells a story to touch the heart of David. Finally realizing that Joab put the woman up to it, David grants Joab’s request and brings Absalom back from Geshur, but he does not allow him to come into his presence. After two years, through Joab’s intercession, David finally summons and makes peace with Absalom. *1. What may have been some reasons why both David and Joab wanted to bring Absalom back from banishment? 2. In order to get Joab’s attention, Absalom had his servants burn Joab’s barley field. Share a time in your life that God has had to figuratively burn your barley field to get your attention.*

II Samuel 15— Now that Absalom is back in the good graces of his father, he turns on him and steals the hearts of Israel. In this emotion packed chapter, Absalom immediately consolidates his kingdom as he sends messengers throughout Israel to proclaim him as king. David realizes that he must quickly escape Jerusalem. As he flees, many are still loyal to David including the 600 men who came with him from Gath and the high priests Zadok and Abiathar who were asked by David to stay in Jerusalem. Although Ahithophel was one of the conspirators with Absalom, Hushai, upon David’s advice, stayed back with Absalom in Jerusalem to counteract Ahithophel’s counsel. *Why couldn’t David just crush the rebellion?*

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II Samuel 16— As David and his party were leaving the Mount of Olives, they were met by Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, who brought donkeys and food for their flight from Jerusalem. Ziba defamed Mephibosheth and was rewarded with the estate of Mephibosheth. As they were leaving, a relative of Saul by the name of Shimei was yelling curses and throwing stones at David and all those with him. David forbade Abishai to kill him accepting this as the Lord's discipline. After Absalom enters the city, Hushai joins Ahithophel in counseling Absalom. Upon receiving the advice from Ahithophel, Absalom pitches a tent on the roof of the palace, and slept with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. *Was it true what Ziba said about Mephibosheth in verse three? See II Samuel 19:24-30. What lesson might we learn from David's judgment to give Ziba all of the land of Mephibosheth?*

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Psalms 81-82, II Samuel 17-22 (#62) Revised 2023

Psalm 81 — This psalm is a celebration of Israel's past history with the Lord, giving certain promises if they obey Him and follow His ways. *What promises (from this chapter) does God give us if we obey Him?*

Psalm 82 — This chapter is an admonition to Israel's priesthood who had been granted authority to pass judgments on God's behalf but have not acted justly. *What does it mean when God says "you are gods" in verse 6?*

II Samuel 17— Ahithophel and Hushai are in a crucial contest to see which advice would be accepted by Absalom and the elders of Israel. Although Ahithophel gave good advice, the proposal of Hushai was accepted by Absalom since the Lord had decreed to bring disaster upon him. The sons of Zadok and Abiathar, the high priests, took the information of a possible impending attack of Absalom and his army to David so that he would cross the Jordan River and escape. A cousin of Joab by the name of Amasa became the leader of Absalom's army. During this time of adversity, many came to refresh David with beds, basins, and different kinds of food. *Although this was a time of judgment by God on David, where do we see God's sovereignty and grace toward David in this chapter?*

II Samuel 18— David again takes charge of his army and divides them into three divisions led by with Joab, Abishai, and Ittai. David commanded his three commanders, "Treat the young man Absalom gently for my sake." David's forces defeated the people of Israel who had 20,000 casualties with more of them dying from the perils of the forest than caused by the sword. Being caught by his hair in tangled branches, Absalom is killed by Joab and his armor-bearers. Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok, and a Cushite ran to tell David the news that Absalom is dead. David is overcome with grief because of the death of his son. *Was Joab right in disobeying David's orders and killing Absalom?*

II Samuel 19— Subsequent to being confronted by Joab about his continued mourning of the death of Absalom, David finally takes his place at the gate to receive his troops. Judah and Israel rally around David to restore him as king, and Amasa becomes the commander of the army in Joab's place. After David and his household crossed the Jordan, he was met by various people including Shimei who had previously cursed him, Ziba, Mephibosheth, and Barzillai the Gileadite who supplied his needs while David was in Mahanaim. The men of Judah and Israel get into an argument about who has priority of transporting the king back to Jerusalem. *Why did David appoint Amasa as commander of the army in place of Joab?*

II Samuel 20— A Benjaminite named Sheba rebelled against David and took the men of Israel with him. Amasa is told by David to have his army ready to go after Sheba in three days, but since he was not able to do it, Abishai was told to go in Amasa's place. When Amasa arrives at the battle late, Joab treacherously murders him and takes over as commander of the army again. Joab's troops followed Sheba to the town of Abel of Beth-maacah, and were trying to batter the wall to make it collapse in order to get Sheba. A wise woman talked to Joab and interceded for the people of the town. An agreement was made that if they would toss the head of Sheba over the wall, then Joab would not do any further damage to the walls or the people. She convinced the people of the town to do that very thing. *As you read this story of Joab in this chapter and all the preceding incidents mentioned in scripture about him, give the good, bad, and ugly about him. Did his evil ever catch up with him? See I Kings 2:28-35.*

II Samuel 21— After three years of famine, David inquires of the Lord to find out why this famine has happened. God reveals to David that the famine occurred because King Saul had tried to exterminate the Gideonites with whom Israel had made a covenant four hundred years earlier. David asked what reparations should be made to them, and they requested that seven of Saul’s descendants be hanged in the presence of the Lord. Rizpah, the mother of two of those hanged, mourned and protected the bodies for many months until David gave the bodies of the men a proper burial. “After this God answered prayer for the land (v. 14b).” The rest of the chapter tells the stories of the fights of David’s men with Philistine giants. *What does this chapter say about the importance of keeping the covenants and promises we make, as well as the consequences of not keeping them?*

II Samuel 22— This song of thanksgiving is a reflection of God’s faithfulness to deliver David from the hands of all his enemies. This chapter is also Psalm 18 in the book of Psalms. I Samuel begins with Hannah’s song of triumph (I Samuel 2) in her life, and II Samuel ends with David’s song of victory over all his enemies. I and II Samuel shows David as a shepherd, great warrior, a wise leader and king, a repentant sinner, an inattentive father, and finishes with this chapter showing David as a poet and musician. *After reading this chapter, what verse or verses spoke to you the most and why?*

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