

# The Rise of the King

2 Samuel 1-7



Study Guide Term 4 2023





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## Welcome to Term 4

Can you believe we're almost at the end of another year? Soon the Jacarandas will be in bloom, Christmas decorations will fill the shopping centres, and the air will grow heavier with the onset of summer. We're familiar with the routine.

And while routines can be frustrating for some, there's plenty of good in them. For example, we have a routine of once a year, pausing to remember God's gift to us in the birth of Jesus. We get to remember the wonder of the incarnation. That God has not abandoned us in our sin, but has drawn near to us, become one of us, in his Son, Jesus.

As we head toward Christmas this year, we will be going through the first seven chapters of 2 Samuel. And it's a great book in preparing us for Christmas. In these opening chapters, David finally ascends to the kingly throne, uniting a nation. We begin to see something of God's king and his kingdom. We anticipate the coming of God's true king, Jesus.

God willing, we will also look forward to a number of other events this term. We plan to have a combined Thanksgiving Sunday on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November where we'll give thanks for the year of Kids Church and Redlands Youth, while also hearing a number of our youth share their profession of faith. Planning has begun for our annual *Carols in the Bush* where we get to serve our community with food and song and share with them the good news of Jesus' birth. We'll also have our usual Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Please be praying for the church this term. Pray that we'd be shaped by God's word more into the likeness of Jesus. Ask that God grow us in a love for the lost so that we share the good news of Christmas with our friends. Pray for the events we plan to run. And finally, pray also for our year twelve students, as they prepare for and complete their final exams.

God bless, Josh, Jen and Sam.



# How to Care for Mission Partners at Christmas

We are now in October - hasn't 2023 flown fast?! Christmas is approaching and this is a time when many of our mission partners feel the distance across oceans. Especially at this time, many feel their isolation from family and friends back in their passport country.

It is also a time of heightened busyness for our mission partners as they seek to share the gospel of Jesus coming to earth as a human baby with his mission to save the world. Our partners have extra opportunities to share their Christian culture and to explain the meaning behind the celebration.

So how can we care for, and support our mission partners in the lead up to Christmas? There are a few things you can do:

- **Sign the group Christmas card** that will be circulating in your service for your mission partner. Write some words of encouragement or affirmation in your message.
- **Find out** what special activities or services your partner is involved in at Christmas time and pray for them. Our mission partners particularly value your prayers at this time of reaching out to their neighbours, communities and helping their local fellowships invite people to taste the sweet message of the gospel of Jesus.
- **Personally email/write to them** or even consider sending them a gift\*. We should not forget our mission partners this Christmas - who likes being left off the Christmas invitation list or present rota for the work Christmas party?

Our 2023 mission partners are:

## Shore Hope

Victoria Point	Tim & Jeanne Iedema with Evie, Grace, Anna and Lydia (AFES QUT FOCUS)
Redland Bay	A & S with R (preparing to go to South Asia)

## Redlands

Early Church	E & L with baby due mid-end Nov (South East Asia)
10:30 Church	L & C with E and baby E (South East Asia)
Night Church	Izaac & Sarah Cowling with Zoe, Huxley, Elroy & Etta (AFES Griffith Christians, Nathan)

Redlands Youth	L & E with E & K (Sydney, serving East Asia)
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If you aren't already in contact with your mission partner and would like to find out how, please speak to Jocelyn Williams (email [russandjoce@gmail.com](mailto:russandjoce@gmail.com)) or speak to one of the other Missions committee members: Harry and Deanne Iedema, Wil Hsu, Will Langridge, Clare Lowther.

Jocelyn Williams

Missions Coordinator

\*Note: When writing/emailing do be careful what you write if your partner is in a sensitive country. If you need guidelines for writing safely, please contact Jocelyn and she can send you more information.



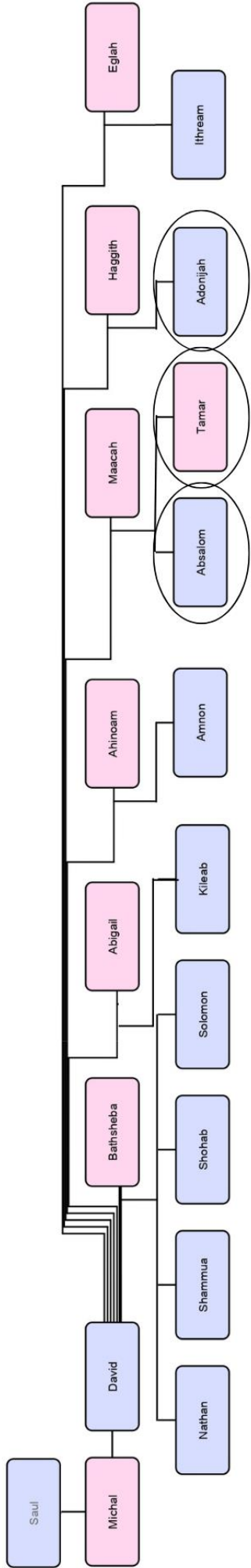
## Term 4 Calendar

15th October	➤ Lord's Supper
29th October	➤ Professions of faith
29th October	➤ Mission Quiz and Prayer afternoon
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4th November	➤ Congregational Meeting
26th November	➤ Thanksgiving Sunday 9:30am
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3rd December	➤ Lord's Supper
10th December	➤ Carols in the Bush
24th December	➤ Christmas Eve service
25th December	➤ Christmas Day service

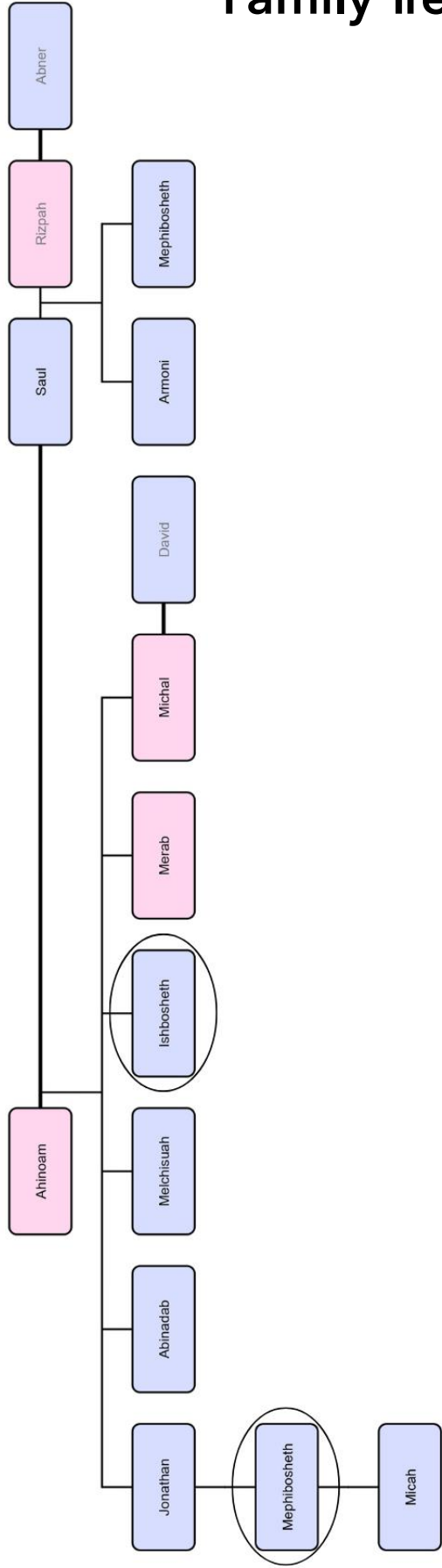


# Family Trees

David's Family Tree  
Commander of the army - Joab



Saul's Family Tree  
Commander of the army - Abner





# Study One: Kingdom Principles

*Read: 2 Samuel 1:1-16*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
  
2. What happened at the end of 1 Samuel to Saul and Jonathan? (1 Sam 31:1-6) How does 2 Samuel 1 move the story on?
  
3. How is the young man's report in 2 Samuel 1 different to what the narrator writes in 1 Sam 31:1-6? Why might the young man lie?
  
4. Why does David kill him? How does this echo David's priority to fear God that he has shown earlier? (1 Sam 24:4-6, 26:8-10)
  
5. What does David do before he kills the young man? (2 Sam 1:11-12) How does this activity, led by David, show his priorities as a future leader?





6. What do you expect might happen next?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why is this in the Bible? What does it help us understand about God, about being his people or about ourselves as human beings?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How does this section of Scripture help us to understand what it means that Jesus is 'Messiah'? (See John 1:19-34, for example)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. When are you most unpredictable to your non-Christian friends because you don't have their values (like David was here to the young man)? How do you need to grow by being more different to the world around you and lining up with God's priorities? How would you like to move towards this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Sometimes people say, 'How come God doesn't stop people doing violence in the Old Testament?' What would you say in response to that?



## Study Two: Good Grief

*Read: 2 Samuel 1:17-27*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
2. How does verse 18 help us to understand how important this song was to David? How does this help us to understand the kind of person and leader that David was?
3. Why does David care about how the Philistines would react? (v20)
4. How does David describe both Saul and Jonathan? (see verses 19. 22-24) Why both?
5. What does David say about Jonathan? What does that mean? (v25-26)
6. What do you expect will happen next?



7. What does this teach us about God, about lament or grief or about ourselves as human beings?
8. Why does Jesus, in the New Testament lament over Lazarus? (John 11:33-36)
9. How do you think about grief in your life? Do you expect to grieve differently after engaging with this chapter? How is your grief shaped by the Bible? What do you need to trust God with today? How would you like to do this?
10. Sometimes people say, 'Everyone knows David and Jonathan were in a sexual relationship'. How would you respond to this?



## Study Three: A Tale of Two Kingdoms

*Read: 2 Samuel 2*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
2. What key event happened in verse 4? Who is David king over?
3. How does David's first action as king help show the kind of leader he intends to be? (v4b-7)
4. Who is king over Israel? (v9) Why do the commanders of Israel and Judah get the young men to fight?
5. Whose fault is the death of the young men? Asahel? (see verse 14, 22, 26)
6. What do you expect might happen next?



7. Why is this in the Bible? What does this help us understand about God, about being his people and/or about being a human being?
  
8. How does Jesus defeat his enemies? (Colossians 2:13-15) How is this very decisive victory different to the 'victory' we see in this passage?
  
9. When do you notice yourself being like these people: solving your problems by thinking, doing or saying things that don't fit with God's ways? How would it feel if you were to look weak instead of 'winning'?
  
10. Sometimes people say, 'Christians are just another lobby group, looking to control others and get power over them.' How might you respond?



## Study Four: Promise Rules

*Read: 2 Samuel 3*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
2. How do we know that David is slowly winning this violent war? (verses 1-5)
3. Why does Abner sleep with Saul's concubine? (verse 7) Why is he angry with Ish-Bosheth for objecting to this? (verse 8)
4. What has Abner known all along about David? (verses 9-11) How does this shape how we see Abner? How does he try to manage David? (verses 12-13)
5. How does David manage Abner? (verses 14-16) What does this tell us about David?



6. Why does Joab kill Abner? (verse 30) How does David manage this situation? (verse 33-39)
7. Why is this in the Bible? What does this help us understand about God, about being his people and/or about being a human being?
8. What did it look like for Jesus *not* to seek vengeance? (Isaiah 53:7, Luke 23:34) How does this help you to understand the kind of king Jesus is?
9. How might you be seeking vengeance or be 'managing people' to make yourself look good? Are you not speaking to someone honestly? Being glad when bad things happen to them? Not doing the good you could be doing for them? How are you going at knowing who your enemies are and loving them? (Matthew 5:44, Romans 12:17-19)
10. Sometimes people say, 'Women are just second-class citizens in the Bible.' How would you respond to this?



## Study Five: A Messy Messiah

*Read: 2 Samuel 4*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
2. How does this chapter connect with Abner's death in chapter 3?
3. Why is Ish-Bosheth frightened? How does this us to understand the true powerbroker behind the kingship?
4. How do Rekab and Baanah kill Ish-bosheth? What is repeated in the account? What unnecessary details do they give to David when they report to him?
5. How is David's reaction predictable? (verses 9-12) What does this tell us about David's leadership?





6. From just the details in verse 4, what might we expect from Mephibosheth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why is this in the Bible? What does this help us understand about God, about being his people and/or about being a human being?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How is Jesus' attitude to violence different to this passage in 2 Samuel? Why doesn't he fight back? (Matthew 26:52; 1 Peter 2:21-23)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What does it mean for you today to 'entrust yourself to God'? How are you trying to 'manage' God so that he does things your way or for an outcome that you are committed to? How might you pray about this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Sometimes people say, 'The Bible doesn't have anything to say about disability'. What would you say?



## Study Six: Kingdom Collage

*Read: 2 Samuel 5*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
2. Describe the path to 'full' kingship (over all of Israel) for David. When did it start and how does it culminate in 2 Samuel 5:1-4?
3. How does David conquer Jerusalem? Why is this significant? (verses 6-9)
4. Why is the gift from Hiram significant? (verses 11-12)
5. How is his defeat of the Philistines different to earlier defeats of the Philistines? (1 Samuel 13:1-4 (for example); 2 Samuel 5:19, 21, 25)
6. How do we know that verse 10 is correct from the evidence in this chapter (and earlier in 2 Samuel)? (verses 13-15)



7. What do you expect might happen next?
8. Why is this in the Bible? What does this help us understand about God, about being his people and/or about being a human being?
9. How does David's sudden and complete exultation as true king remind us somewhat of Jesus in Phil 2:6-11?
10. Often, we are aware of what is missing or broken in our lives. What is going well in your life today? Where are the joys? What gifts (including people and peace) has God given to you? How might a passage like Philippians 4:4-7 shape your response to this?
11. Sometimes people say, 'Christianity is dying out. It'll be gone in another 20 years.' How might you respond?



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# Study Seven: The Terror and Ecstasy of God

*Read: 2 Samuel 6*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
2. If you had to 'graph' this chapter, would the curve of the narrative go up or down? Why?
3. What does David get right in verses 1-5? How is this different to previous ruler's or to Israel's attitudes to the ark? (Joshua 3:3; 1 Samuel 4:4-5; 6:19-21)
4. Why does Uzzah die? (verse 7) How is this right? (Exodus 25:13-14)
5. Why is David angry? (verse 8) How does it change and shape his relationship with God, as seen in how he gets the ark to Jerusalem? (verses 8-14) What changes? What stays the same?



6. What do you make of David's interaction with Michal? (verses 20-23) What might happen next?
7. Why is this in the Bible? What does this help us understand about God, about being his people and/or about being a human being?
8. How does Jesus' full and complete obedience to God every second of his earthly life matter to us? (2 Corinthians 5:21) How does this shape your attitude to Jesus today?
9. What is your attitude to your sin? Which sins – attitudes, thoughts, words, behaviours – do you think don't matter too much? How can you grow in fearing God and turning away from your sin this week? How might you need to remind yourself of Jesus' love for you as you do this?
10. Sometimes people say, 'The God of the Old Testament is angry and violent; the Jesus of the New Testament is kind and approachable.' How would you like to respond to this?



## Study Eight: Getting to Know the Covenant of God

*Read: 2 Samuel 7:1-17*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
  
2. Why is David so grateful? What does he want to do for God? (verses 1-3)
  
3. What does God's word to Nathan tell us about:
  - a. Who is the true giver in the relationship?
  - b. God's view of David
  - c. God's attitude to his people
  - d. The coming true Messiah
  - e. David's son Solomon
  - f. David's dynasty?



4. What would you expect to happen next?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Why is this in the Bible? What does this help us understand about God, about being his people and/or about being a human being?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How does Jesus fulfill this Scripture? (Luke 1:32-33)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How does this passage help us to get a right view of 'doing things for God'? What is your attitude to serving others, or doing things on God's terms - do you think you are a bit indispensable? Or that God owes you because you've done things on his terms? How does it help to remember that you are resting in Jesus and he has accepted you completely? How might you pray about this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Some people might say, 'Christians have to do the right thing all the time or they won't get into heaven.' How would you respond to this?



## Study Nine: Sit Down and Stand on God's Promises

*Read: 2 Samuel 7:18-29*

1. What just happened? Who are the main characters? What tribe or nation are they from? What did they just do?
2. How does David's response help us to understand his relationship with God? Why does God make these promises to David? (verses 18-21)
3. How does Israel's history with God help David to understand God's promises to him? (verses 22-24)
4. Why does David ask God to do what he has promised? What outcome is he expecting? (verses 25-26)
5. What do we learn about prayer from David's prayer and from his conclusion in verses 27-29?
6. What would you expect to happen next?





7. Why is this in the Bible? What does this help us understand about God, about being his people and/or about being a human being?
  
8. How does Jesus' teaching about prayer help us as we pray? (Matthew 6:5-15)
  
9. How would you like to grow in your prayer life? Often we can think about our prayers as containing: confession, adoration or praise, thanksgiving, asking God for things for ourselves and others. Would you like to extend one of those areas? What kind of prayer reflex would you like to have and how might you grow towards that? In your group, share ideas that have worked at different times in your lives!
  
10. Some people might say, 'Prayer is about trusting that things will work out or having good spiritual energy.' How might you respond to this?



# NOTES



