



"Times Change – God Does Not"

2 Samuel 1

September 13, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 1

David Hears of Saul's Death

¹ After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. ² And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. ³ David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." ⁴ And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." ⁵ Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" ⁶ And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. ⁷ And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' ⁸ And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' ⁹ And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' ¹⁰ So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

¹¹ Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. ¹² And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. ¹³ And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." ¹⁴ David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" ¹⁵ Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. ¹⁶ And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'"

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

¹⁷ And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, ¹⁸ and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said:

¹⁹ "Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ Tell it not in Gath,
publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

²¹ "You mountains of Gilboa,
let there be no dew or rain upon you,
nor fields of offerings!
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

²² "From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan turned not back,

and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

- 23 "Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles;
they were stronger than lions.
- 24 "You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.
- 25 "How the mighty have fallen
in the midst of the battle!
- "Jonathan lies slain on your high places.
- 26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
very pleasant have you been to me;
your love to me was extraordinary,
surpassing the love of women.
- 27 "How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!"

MAIN THEME

A new era was beginning in Israel. Saul was dead, David was moving toward the throne, and everything was changing. But there would not be a different God. Yahweh's plan continued to move forward because God does not change.

David's response to Saul and Jonathan's deaths shows us how to live faithfully through changing seasons. Life brings victories and losses, joy and heartbreak, beginnings and endings. Through every season, God remains consistent and faithful.

Because God does not change, we do not have to abandon our convictions when circumstances change. We can also make room to grieve what has been lost. Faith in God's future does not eliminate the pain of the past.

Ultimately, David's story points beyond David to Jesus Christ, the Son of David. Earthly kings come and go and circumstances change, but God remains faithful to his promises and his plan of redemption.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Life Offers Good and Bad Seasons, but God Is Consistent and Faithful

2 Samuel 1:1–4; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8

- What emotions do you think David experienced when he learned that both Saul and Jonathan were dead?
- What good and difficult seasons had David already experienced before this moment?
- Why is God's unchanging character especially important when circumstances change suddenly?
- What season of life are you in right now, and what truth about God do you most need to remember?

2. Don't Abandon Your Godly Convictions When Circumstances Change

2 Samuel 1:5–16; Proverbs 4:23; James 1:2–4

- Why might the Amalekite messenger have expected David to reward him?
- What does David's response reveal about his convictions concerning Saul as the LORD's anointed?
- Why are convictions sometimes hardest to maintain when circumstances seem to work in our favor?
- Is there an area where changing circumstances are tempting you to compromise something you know is right?

3. When Life Changes, Take Time to Grieve What Has Been Lost

2 Samuel 1:17–27; Ecclesiastes 3:1–4; Psalm 34:18

- What do David's mourning, fasting, and lament teach us about the place of grief in the life of faith?
- Why do you think David chose to remember Saul's positive contributions rather than rehearse all the ways Saul had hurt him?
- How does David's grief over Jonathan show that trusting God's future does not erase the pain of loss?
- Is there a loss or closed chapter in your life that you need to give yourself permission to grieve?

4. Times Change—God Does Not

2 Samuel 1; 2 Samuel 7:12–16; Hebrews 13:8

- How was God's larger plan still moving forward even while David was grieving?
- How does God's promise concerning David's royal line ultimately point to Jesus?
- What is the difference between trusting God and assuming that everything will quickly get better?
- What are you struggling to place in God's hands—your family, health, job, relationships, or future?

PRAY

Dear Father, thank you that you do not change. Our circumstances can shift quickly, people come and go, and seasons begin and end, but you remain faithful. Help us trust you in both the good seasons and the painful ones. Give us the courage to hold tightly to godly convictions even when circumstances tempt us to compromise. When we experience loss, give us freedom to grieve honestly while still trusting that you are at work. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For Further Study:

- Psalm 34:17–18
- Psalm 102:25–27
- Malachi 3:6
- 2 Samuel 7:12–16
- Hebrews 13:8
- James 1:17

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

The Shepherd Boy Becomes King of Judah

2 Samuel 5:1–12