

what happens when you stray away from God.







"Whoever under the reproof of God will humble the soul with confession and repentance, as did David, may be sure that there is hope for him. Whoever will in faith accept God's promises, will find pardon. The Lord will never cast away one truly repentant soul" - Patriarchs & Prophets p. 726



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The Reign of King David



LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for the many blessings You have given me. Help me to be more helpful and kind to my family and appreciate what they do for me. I love You Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 51:1, 2, 7

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 7:1-29



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today begins with a conversation between David and Nathan the prophet. David wanted to build a permanent building for the Ark of the Covenant. David felt uncomfortable that he was living in a palace of cedar but the Ark of God was in a tent. Nathan agreed with David and told him to do what was in his heart. But our reading tells us that God spoke to Nathan the prophet to let him know that He did not want David to build the temple. Instead, one of David's sons would have this honour. When Nathan delivered this message to David, David accepted it wholeheartedly. Verses 18-29 record the conversation that David had with God.

Our reading today is an amazing example to us of what to do when God answers our hopes, dreams and prayers with a 'no'. David could have sulked and been



angry with God. As a king, he could even have had Nathan, the prophet, killed or exiled because he did not like the answer that Nathan delivered. However David chose to totally accept God's decision and verse 22 tells us David praised God. This is a wonderful witness that shows us what we should do as well.

FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading how many times did the word 'house' appear?





LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for Your love for me and what You do for me every day. Help me to trust You more and believe what I read about You in my Bible. I want to shine for You and I want to share the love of Jesus with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 51:1, 2, 7

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Chronicles 18:1-6 &

14-17 and 2 Samuel

9:1-13

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading in Chronicles today tells us about the wars when David had victory over the Philistines, Moabites and the Syrians. Verse 6 tells us that God preserved and looked after David throughout these times. Verse 3 talks about David gaining power as far as the river Euphrates. This was fulfilled prophecy as God had promised Abraham (see *Genesis 15:18*) that his descendants would have this land. God certainly blessed David's reign over Israel. Our reading in 2 Samuel reminds us of the special friendship which David and Jonathan shared during Saul's reign. They had made a covenant back in 1 Samuel 20 that David would take care of Jonathan's family. David was told that one of Jonathan's sons, Mephibosheth, was still alive. We found out about Mephibosheth in last week's devotional in 2 Samuel 4. David summoned Mephibosheth and restored to him the land which

his grandfather, king Saul owned. This was an acknowledgement of the special friendship David had with Jonathan, Mephibosheth was to eat daily at king David's table for the rest of his life.

David kept the promise he had made with Jonathan which showed David's integrity. Integrity means being honest and reliable and doing the right thing. Have a look at *Proverbs 20:7* and *Job 2:3*.



FIND A WORD

In todays Bible reading in 2 Samuel how many times did the name 'Mephibosheth' appear? _____





LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing me safely through another day. Help me to be a good friend to others and to be kind and helpful. Help me to keep my promises and to be reliable. Thank You for loving me so much. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 51:1, 2, 7

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 10:1-19



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today the Bible told us about a war between Israel and the Ammonites and Syrians. King Nahash of Ammon died and his son Hanun took his place. When David heard this news he wanted to show kindness to the new king, as his father Nahash had shown kindness to David while he was running from king Saul. But the kindness was taken the wrong way by the new king and he publicly disgraced David's ambassadors. Because of this, war quickly followed. The Ammonites asked the Syrians to come and help them fight but Israel defeated both armies. The Syrians came back against Israel the second time but David and his army defeated them again. After this David became great.

David had shown he was humble and kind and he honoured and worshiped God. With this God blessed him abundantly. Read *Psalm 18:46-50*.

FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times did the name 'David' appear?





LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for my Bible. Help me to understand what I read in it today. Help me to pray and talk to You more often throughout the day. Don't let me forget You and became too self-sufficient. I love you Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 51:1, 2, 7

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 11:1-27



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

When you become great and are high and lifted up before the people, there is a risk of a great fall. Our reading today tells us of David's fall into sin. Verse 1 tells us that David should have been out in battle with his men but he had sent his commander in chief, Joab, instead. So because of this, David was idle. When David saw Bathsheba he should have turned away. David already had seven wives that we know of. So David definitely did not need another wife. The Bible does not tell us that David asked God to help him resist temptation, which showed he had become less dependant on God at this time. When Bathsheba found out she was pregnant with David's child, David sent orders to Joab to send Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, home from the battlefield. David wanted to cover up his sin. But Uriah who was a very loyal, hardworking solider did not want to go home to his



wife but stayed at the king's palace. Eventually David sent Uriah back to the battlefield with a letter for Joab. In this letter Uriah was carrying his own death warrant. Uriah was put on the battle's frontline and killed by the enemy. Verse 27 tells us that Bathsheba became David's wife and gave birth to David's son. But God was displeased with what David had done. Up until this point David had remained faithful despite everything he had gone through. He had made some mistakes but this time he had deliberately sinned and went to great lengths to cover it up.

FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading how many times did the name 'Uriah' appear?





LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for Jesus and what He did for me on the cross. Please forgive me for my sins and help me to grow to be more like Jesus. Thank You for the promises in the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 51:1, 2, 7

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 12:1-14



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us that God sent the prophet Nathan to speak with David as God had a message for him. Nathan delivered the message through telling a story. David reacted angrily to the rich man in the story who took the poor man's only lamb. When David said "And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb," he pronounced his own punishment. When Nathan told David he was the rich man who stole the poor man's only lamb, David made no excuses. Instead David humbled himself before God and repented. Verse 9 tells us that David had broken the commandments of God. He had broken *Exodus 20:13 & 14*, "You shall not murder" and "You shall not commit adultery". David had first taken Uriah's wife, then he had Uriah deliberately murdered on the battlefield. God forgave David but the consequence was that David's son to Bathsheba would die.

Psalm 51 is David's record of repentance and part of this psalm is our memory verse for this week. I'm sure that, at the time, this was not a great experience for David. But David's sin and repentance is here in the Bible to give us hope and comfort. Our memory verse is a wonderful promise for us to claim. Psalm 32 was also written by David and tells us the joy of forgiveness. Also look at 1 John 1:9.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times was the word 'lamb' mentioned?





LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for the roof over my head and the food in my stomach. I'm grateful for what you do for me. Help me to be kind, caring and thoughtful to someone who doesn't have the blessings that I have. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 51:1, 2, 7

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 12:15-23



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

From our reading today we find that Bathsheba's son to David fell sick. David took off his royal robes and crown, then lay on the ground before God in great anguish and grief. He did not eat during this time. David knew that this son was prophesied to die because of his sin but he hoped that, if he interceded before God for his son, God might change his mind. After seven days of praying and pleading for his child, the child died. David accepted this and got up, washed himself, put on clean clothes then went and ate. In our devotional yesterday we read that David pronounced judgment on himself by saying the wrongdoer should pay fourfold. So, David would lose four of his own sons to death. This child of Bathsheba's was his first son to die.

David accepted God's answer of a 'no' for the healing of his child. This even surprised David's servants. In verse 21 they could not understand David's reaction. Sometimes when we pray for something we can also get a 'no' from God. God knows the end from the beginning and He knows what's best for us. We need to trust in His wisdom even though the answer we get is not what we want and causes us much sadness and grief. There are times when God does graciously answer our prayers and other times He does it in ways we do not expect. Claim this verse found in *Isaiah 26:4*.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times does the word 'fasted' appear?





LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for keeping me safe this past week. Thank You for giving us the Sabbath day where we can stop from the business of life and spend a day with You. Help me to be a witness for You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 51:1, 2, 7

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Chronicles 20:1-8



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our reading today tells us that Israel captured the city of Rabbah in Ammon and also went to war with the Philistine giants. We studied in devotional 37 how the giant Goliath was almost three metres tall, so these men were huge. Verse 5 tells us that one of them was Goliath's brother.

The story of David this week has been a serious one. David was a mighty, powerful man who was faithful in his worship and obedience to God and God blessed him

abundantly. But for a short time he slipped and lost his grip on God and committed a terrible sin. That's why we must make sure we pray and read our Bibles every day or our love for God will grow cold. Then we will open our hearts for Satan to come in and tempt us. We certainly don't want to do that! David repented and was forgiven but God could not take away the consequences of his sin. We will study about that in the next couple of devotionals.



SABBATH QUIZ

- 1. What did David want to build for the Ark of the Covenant?
- 2. Who was the man that was to eat at David's table?
- 3. Who was the man that was sent to the frontline of the battle to die?
- 4. How many days did David fast and pray for his son? _____
- 5. How many fingers did the giant have on each hand? _____