



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 31, 2019

This Week's Focus: The perfect, eternally just, righteous, and merciful King that 1 & 2 Samuel foretells would come through the lineage of David is Jesus Christ.

This Week's Text: 2 Samuel 24

God's sovereignty is his omnipotent power, exclusive right, and authority to govern all things for his own wise and holy purposes.

Divine Providence is the continuous activity by which God preserves, provides, and manages his creation for his holy, wise, and eternal purposes that he intended from eternity for his glory and the good of his people.

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text? What have you learned from our study of 1&2 Samuel? How does the epilogue (2 Samuel 21-24) function with the rest of the two-volume work?
- Read and discuss the definitions of God's Sovereignty and Divine Providence above. How does human responsibility square with God's sovereignty (Acts 2:23; Genesis 50:20)?
- Discuss how a proper understanding of God's sovereignty, divine providence, and human responsibility is important when harmonizing the apparent contradiction of verse 1, verse 10, and 1 Chronicles 21:1. Does verse 1 imply that God is the author of evil (James 1:13-15)?
- What do you think wrong with David's census (verse 3; Exodus 30:12)?
- What was David's immediate response after the census was completed and how is it different from his past (chapters 11-12)? Are you sensitive to the Holy Spirit's work of conviction of sin? Are you quick to humbly confess your sin to God and seek his mercy and grace?
- What was David's prayer in response to God's word of judgment? Why would David rather suffer at the hands of a holy and righteous God rather than at the hand of his enemies?
- Why was the nation of Israel implicit in David's sin? How was God's wrath toward David and Israel *propitiated*? Discuss how Jesus's atoning work accomplished more than any sacrificial lamb, priest, or king in history (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 4:10). Have you experienced forgiveness and reconciliation with God through Jesus' vicarious life, death, and resurrection?

- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission by demonstrating and declaring the gospel to those in your community and spheres of influence?