THE STORY CHAPTER 12

Trials of a King

November 26-27, 2016

Appearing on the Big Screen…

“‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: **12**When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. **13**He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14**I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. **15**But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16**Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me[b]; your throne will be established forever.’” **17**Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

*Pg. 159, 2 Samuel 7:11*

In the Spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

*Pg. 161, 2 Samuel 11:1*

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am Pregnant.”

*2 Samuel 11:2-5*

1. **David first chose concealment.**

**26**When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. **27**After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

*Pg. 162, 2 Samuel 11:26-27*

1. **David ultimately chose confession.**

**1**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

**2**Wash away all my iniquityand cleanse me from my sin.

10 “Create in me a pure heart, O God,

    and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**11**Do not cast me from your presence

    or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**12**Restore to me the joy of your salvation

    and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

*Pg. 163, Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12*

Then I acknowledged my sin to you

    and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, “I will confess

    my transgressions to the Lord.”

And you forgave

    the guilt of my sin.

*Psalm 32:5*

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

*Proverbs 28:13*

1. **David brings a broken hallelujah.**

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

*Psalm 51:17*

THE STORY CHAPTER 12

Trials of a King

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Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, TX

November 26-27, 2016

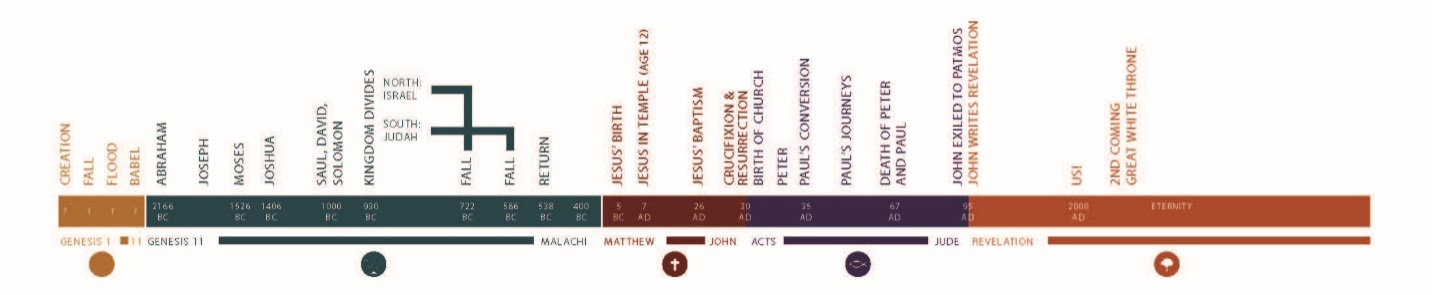
**To view The Story Chapter 12 sermon video,** [**CLICK HERE**](http://media.oakhillschurch.com/default.aspx?page=3679&item=556)**.**

We are exploring God’s story from Genesis to Revelation. And here’s why this journey through scripture is so important:

1. God’s story isn’t finished yet. It didn’t end with the last page of the Bible. He could’ve chosen to end it there but he didn’t.
2. You have a role to play in His story.

Yes you. No. I’m not talking to someone else. If you’re a you, God has given you a character to play in his unfolding cosmic drama. He chose to continue telling his story through us and our prayer for each of you is that you find your place in His story.

*Refer to Timeline poster.*

**

Now in case you’re new to the Bible or maybe just missed a couple weeks, God has been telling his story through the nation of Israel. To this point they have been a loose confederation of tribes but something very significant is happening. The nation is now coming together as one kingdom.

The king, who has led them to this point, is probably my favorite character in the Bible. He was a poet, a musician. But he was also a warrior. A leader. He was a harp-playing, giant-slaying man who was said to be a man after God’s own heart. We’re speaking of course of none other than….David.

King David. If you were a Jebusite, Moabite, or Ammonite, King David was your kryptonite. He had done something that no one had done before. He expanded the size and wealth of Israel, brought the Israelite tribes together, conquered Jerusalem and brought the Ark of the Covenant there. Finally God’s people, God’s nation has a place to call home. Remember back in chapter 2 when we explored the God’s promise to Abraham?

*Refer back to the Timeline.*

Well, the Israelites remembered. And so did God.

David was king of the hill. Literally. The city of David, as it was called, sat on a sloping hill. David was riding high. You would be too had you heard these words from 2 Samuel 7: 11, also found in your Story book midway on page 159:

“‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: **12**When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. **13**He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14**I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. **15**But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16**Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me[b]; your throne will be established forever.’” **17**Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

*Pg. 159, 2 Samuel 7:11*

We sometimes refer to this as the Davidic covenant. Just as God is fulfilling his promise to Abraham, he makes yet another promise to David that a messiah would come and establish a kingdom that would last forever.

David knew the bigger they are the harder they fall. After all, like a single stone felling a giant, He had seen pride take down his predecessor Saul. David was riding high but as the say, what goes up must…Well, let’s pray and dive into chapter 12.

Prayer

We begin on page 161 in your Story books or chapter 11 in 2 Samuel. The writer begins in vs. 1:

In the Spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

*Pg. 161, 2 Samuel 11:1*

Something is not right. David is in the wrong place at the wrong time.

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.”

Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

*2 Samuel 11:2-4*

Notice how many times we see David send. He sends someone to find out about her. He sends messengers to get her. She goes back home and now she has a message of her own:

The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am Pregnant.”

*2 Samuel 11:5*

Uh oh. David is in real trouble here. Bathsheba, is not his wife, but she is the granddaughter of one of David’s most trusted counsel, and the wife of one of his best soldiers.

Ever find yourself wondering how in the world did I get here? How did I get so far from God. Am I too far gone? Does God care? Is he willing and able to reach down into the mess I’ve made? And if you’ve ever asked any of those questions, maybe you’ve asked this one as well- “Once I’ve blown it, is there a way back for me?”

It’s been my experience that most people will choose one of two paths when they find themselves at a crossroads. They will either conceal their sin or they will confess it.

Let’s take a look to see which path David chooses:

**1. David first chose concealment.**

Unfortunately, David is not done sending yet. He sends for Uriah. David tries to conceal his sin by getting Uriah to go home and be with his wife. Then no one would know, right?

His plan fails not once but twice. Uriah goes back and sleeps on a mat with the other soldiers because that’s the way things are done.

Surely David is done sending? Nope. David in a moment of desperation to conceal his sin, sends a decree to Joab, which sends Uriah to the front lines and ultimately sends him to his death.

Chapter 11 of 2 Samuel ends like this, or the middle of page 162 in your Story book:

**26**When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. **27**After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

*Pg. 162, 2 Samuel 11:26-27*

God had grown tired of David’s sending, so he did some sending of his own. No it wasn’t a lightening bolt from heaven. He sent the prophet and trusted friend Nathan to David.

Nathan tells David a story about a rich man who has a large number of sheep but takes the one lamb of a poor man. As it with us, David despises the things he sees in himself and he is outraged. He wants the rich man’s head on a platter.

To which Nathan responds, “You are the man!”

Exhausted from almost a year of trying to conceal his sin, David’s heart breaks. Later in Psalm 32, David would say, “When I kept silent, my bones wasted away.”

Maybe that’s you. Maybe you’re carrying something that you’ve decided to conceal and you can almost feel it in your body. You’ve tried that door but the pathway never seems to deliver what it promises. The price seems small in the beginning but the compounding interest always seems to break the bank.

Remember God’s promise to David? Remember God doesn’t break promises? David gets a second chance to choose a different door. The good news is he took it and it took him back to the heart of God. Are you looking for a door like that? Well, here it is:

**2. David ultimately chose confession.**

Bottom of page 163, Psalm 51, this Psalm is the fourth of 7 called penitential psalms. That means they’re focused on repentance and confession.

Need a way back to God? Here it is:

**1**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

**2**Wash away all my iniquityand cleanse me from my sin.

10 “Create in me a pure heart, O God,

    and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**11**Do not cast me from your presence

    or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**12**Restore to me the joy of your salvation

    and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

*Pg. 163, Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12*

David repents and confesses his sin and God grants forgiveness.

Please do not confuse David’s escaping God’s wrath with escaping the earthly consequence of his sin. As you read the rest of chapter 12, or the rest of 2 Samuel, you know that David would endure severe consequences for his sin.

David would bear many scars throughout the remainder of his life but the beauty is in this- God would sustain him through it all. The loss of children, family crumbling, God would never let go of David. He would stop hiding his sin and found his hiding place in God. He would write, “I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.

Would you like to have that kind of relationship with God? You can. All you have to do is follow David’s example in Psalm 32: 5

Then I acknowledged my sin to you

    and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, “I will confess

    my transgressions to the Lord.”

And you forgave

    the guilt of my sin.

*Psalm 32:5*

But the thing I love most about David, is that through it all, he never lost his hallelujah. He didn’t lose his pathway back to God through worship.

Maybe you’ve wondered over the last couple weeks-King Saul sins, loses his throne, King David sins but is a man after God’s own heart. Why the difference?

Saul chose concealment; David chose confession. The proverb is lived out:

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

*Proverbs 28:13*

Saul’s story ends with brokenness. The story of David ends as:

**3. David brings a broken hallelujah.**

He not only confesses his sin; he confesses God’s power to overcome his sin. This is an important part of confession. God’s strength is strongest, when you are at your weakest. David covered up his sin but he knew there was only one who could cover his sin.

And so in his brokenness David would write,

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

*Psalm 51:17*

Did you catch that? David doesn’t offer another victory in battle or try to earn his way back into God’s good graces. In fact this man after God’s own heart offers exactly the opposite. He offers his brokenness in worship.

Some of you know a few weeks ago Leonard Cohen passed away who penned the song, “Hallelujah.”

*“Hallelujah” is sung, using altered lyrics:*

I've heard there was a secret chord

That David played, and it pleased the Lord

But you don't really care for music, do you?

It goes like this

The fourth, the fifth

The minor fall, the major lift

The baffled king composing Hallelujah

Hallelujah x4

Your faith was strong but you needed proof

You saw her bathing on the roof

Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew you

You had it all, you wanted more

You paid the price, it left you poor

With nothing but a broken hallelujah

Hallelujah x4

I did my best, it wasn't much

I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch

I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you

And even though it all went wrong

I'll stand before the Lord of Song

With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah

Hallelujah by LEONARD COHEN

Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Maybe a broken hallelujah is *all* you have to offer today. God’s message to you is, “It’s *all* you need.”

We’re not that much different than David are we? We may not be the king of a nation, but the desire is strong for us to build and rule our own kingdom.

The price tag on concealment is deceivingly higher than that of confession. But even the price of confession does not compare to the price Jesus paid so you could find your way back to the heart of God. David found his way back to God through repentance, confession, and praise. You can too.

*PRAY*