Be Still, Peace is Possible/Week 6 notes/God Holds the Future/2 Samuel 24, 1 Kings 1-2, Ps.1139

Coming to the last chapter of David’s life, we can look back and see the faithfulness of God. But we can also see that God is perfectly in control…even in the tumultuous seasons of David’s life. God’s absolute control, His Sovereignty, saturates every page of Scripture. The Biblical writers refer to it often. Job 42:2, Isaiah 46:10, Isaiah 14:27 are a few verses we read in class. Psalm 46 :10 assures us that even though it seems the world is falling apart; God is still God. He is in control.

**DAVID’S STORY** *Two events in the closing years of David’s life* reiterate the truth of God’s sovereign control. Nothing can thwart the plans of God (Job 42:2). *To thwart* means to twist, turn around or squash. Nothing can stop God from accomplishing His plans.

The first event is in 2 Samuel 24. We do not know the “whys” behind all the events of Chapter 24. We simply know that God is working. If we were asked what David’s greatest sin is, most of us would say the events surrounding Bathsheba. But chapter 24 gives us the worst...or at least a sin equally disconcerting. David numbered his army! It may sound benign, and we are given no reason why he did it, but whatever the reason, God was greatly displeased with it. Joab, David’s general, and all the other military commanders were against the census. But David has been relentless. Perhaps it was pride. Perhaps he was planning revenge on those who had supported Absalom. Perhaps he was trying to secure Solomon’s power without trusting the Lord. Regardless, David’s heart is troubled when the prophet Gad confronts the king. God will forgive but severe consequences will follow. Pestilence will devour the land for three days. Seventy thousand people will die.AS the pestilence draws to a end, the prophet Gad instructs David to build an alter on the threshing floor of a man named Araunah. David. Buys the land from Araunah, builds and alter, offers sacrifices to God. Fire consumes the offering. (1 Chronicles 21:26).

The two great sins of David’s life could have been his undoing. But God was still in control. Still bringing about His plan even from the sinfulness of David’s choices. From Bathsheba He brought forth Solomon who would be the next king of Israel, and Solomon, Bathsheba’s son, would build the temple in Jerusalem. And from the second great sin, God used the purchased land for the alter as the ground on which Solomon would build the temple (2 Chronicles 3:1).

Do you see it? God’s plans would not be thwarted. He will accomplish His plans—not in spite of the sin, chaos and difficulty of David’s life—but through them. He causes all things to work together for His glory and according to His plan.

*The second event in David’s closing years* that we discussed is found in 1 Kings 1-2. David is old and dying. His servants find a beautiful virgin to be his nurse. Her name is Abishag the Shunammite. She evidently becomes a concubine, but in his old age and pending death there is not sexual relationship.

Adonijah is David’s oldest living son. It seems Adonijah believes he is to be the next king. David’s general Joab supports a coup. Abiathar the priest supports Adonijah as well. Adonijah throws a feast for all the kings’ sons, except Solomon. Neither did Adonijah invite Nathan the prophet or the men who supported David.

Nathan had to warn the dying King that Adonijah was trying to steal the kingdom. Nathan sent for the one person who would have the king’s ear quickly. He sent for Bathsheba. (I love this! The adulterous young woman is now an influential and wise woman. God has changed her!)Bathsheba warns David of all that is transpiring, telling hm the kingdom will be in confusion and possibly civil war if David dies without making Solomon king as God instructed. David rouses from his death bed and Solomon is anointed king that very day. David dies shortly thereafter, and Solomon is the legitimate king. But Adonijah has one more trick up his sleeve. He asks Bathsheba to speak to her son Solomon, and request that Solomon give Abishag the Shunammite to Adonijah. Bathsheba agrees, knowing full well how her son will respond. (remember to take a king’s concubine is a sign of taking the kingdom). When Bathsheba makes her request, Solomon is outraged. He knows what Adonijah is saying. He orders Adonijah killed. He also orders Joab killed. Abiathar is stripped of his priestly role. In other words, Solomon cleaned house! God’s plan would not be thwarted. Solomon would be king, firmly established on David’s throne. Once again, God used Bathsheba in an important and powerful role, solidifying her son’s reign. God is in control. Not man’s plans.

**THE BIGGER STORY.** I have enjoyed these weeks of study. However, we need to be reminded that all of Scripture is one story. It is God’s redemptive story of man, creation, and history. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is one overarching story. Yet we usually study it in pieces, by books, or by topics. So quickly, I want to see the big story.

First, the Bible is organized according to the type of writing each book is. In the Old Testament, the first five books are the Pentateuch. Then comes the history books, then the poetry and wisdom literature. After that are the major prophets followed by the minor prophets. The New Testament begins with the four gospels followed by Acts which is the church history book. After Acts comes all the epistles (letters) to the churches written by Paul, James, Peter, John, Jude, and the writer of Hebrews, Finally the Bible ends with The Revelation.

From creation, we are aware that Jesus has always been. He is the second person of the Trinity and the “US” in Genesis 1:26 is God conversing with Trinity. Jesus did not first show up in Bethlehem in a mange. He has been God and with God from the beginning (John 1:1).

Genesis 3:15 gives us the first glimsp of a coming Redeemer. It is Satan’s first hearing as well. The seed of woman will crush his head. Satan has no idea who that will be, but he is determined to corrupt and destroy mankind in his quest to destroy “the seed”. But God’s plans will not be thwarted!

Gen 5 is Adam’s lineage. Before you get too bored with a genealogy, take a gander at the names. The lists are following the lineage of “the seed,” God’s promises, and the covenant. At the end of Adam’s genealogy is Noah.

Genesis 6:8 God chooses Noah and makes a covenant with Noah. Noah will carry on the lineage of “the seed”.

Genesis 10 is Noah’s genealogy. Abram (Abraham) rounds out the list.

Genesis 12, God chooses Abram and calls Abram to follow God. God makes a covenant with Abram, promising to make him a great nation that will bless the world. They will be God’s chosen people. He will also give his people the own land.

Genesis17:7, God reminds Abraham for the third time that God Himself will give Abraham a son through Sarah. The son will be named Isaac. God will establish HIS covenant with Isaac.

Genesis 18:14, Is ANYTHING too difficult for the Lord? Absolutely not!

Genesis 26 God makes the covenant with Isaac. The lineage of the seed continues. Satan may now know the line from which the Redeemer will come, but he does not know details.

Genesis 28, Isaac and Rebecca have twin sons. God chooses the younger one, Jacob to continue the lineage of the Redeemer. God makes a covenant with Jacob.

Genesis 32:28, God changes Jacob’s name to Israel. Jacob/Israel’s twelve sons become the tribes of Israel. The nation of Israel. God’s chosen people.

Genesis 38 is an interruption in the story of Joseph, the oldest son of Jacob’s second wife Rachel. Joseph the favored child. Joseph who is sold into slavery by his brothers. But another story interrupts the grand and expansive story of Joseph. It is the story of Judah. The fourth son of Leah, the sister of Rachel and Jacob’s first wife. (What a mess, huh?)

Judah is a worthless fellow, far from the Lord. He marries a pagan woman and has three pagan sons. He acquires a pagan woman named Tamar to marry his oldest son. But the oldest son is wicked, and God kills him. Tamar is given to the second son. But the second son is wicked, and God kills him. Finally, Judah tells her to go home to her family. He will call her when the third son is old enough to marry. Tamar knows he will never call her. She dresses like a prostitute and seduces her father-in- law, Judah. Tamar conceives twins by Judah. AND GOD CHOOSES TAMAR” S SON, PEREZ to be in the lineage of the Redeemer (Jesus)!! To us this is unbelievable. That God would use such a sinful awful story out of which to bring “the seed”. That’s GRACE. God’s plans will not be thwarted! Jacob will even bless Judah as the son from whom the scepter will never depart. Judah will be a tribe of Kings (Genesis 40;10). Both David and Jesus ware in the lineage of Judah.

Genesis 46, all of Joseph’s family (Jacob and his sons and their families) move to Egypt. God uses the difficulty of Joseph’s life to save his family. I

Exodus 1:7, The nation of Israel multiplies and becomes mighty during their years in Egypt. But there arose a Pharaoh who did not acknowledge Joseph. This Pharaoh enslaved Israel. They remained slaves for over 400 years. BUT God’s plans would not be thwarted.

Exodus 2, during the genocide of Hebrew baby boys, God spared a baby known as Moses from the priestly tribe of Levi. God would raise him in Pharoah’s place and train him to be God’s leader.

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy continue God’s story of establishing His people, Israel. Exodus 19:4-6 , God says they are His own possession, a kingdom of priest and a holy nation. Moses leads the nation out of slavery. God establishes His relationship with them through His covenant. He gives them the Law as a reflection of a people who are God’s people. They obey the Law to demonstrate they have a unique relationship with God.

Deuteronomy 7:6-9, are beautiful words about the grace and faithfulness of God to His people. His people will bless the whole earth through the Redeemer.

Joshua, Judges, and Ruth are the early history of Israel. God is establishing them in the land of Canaan. He is providing and protecting. He also disciplines the children He loves. His plans will not be thwarted…even by sin.

1 Samuel finds God’s people desiring an earthly king. Saul is anointed, but quickly fails. God chooses His own king for Israel. A man after God’s own heart. David. David is from the tribe of Judah, the lineage of kings.

1 Samuel 7, God makes a covenant with David. David’s kingdom will be an eternal kingdom. The eternal King will sit on David’s throne. God would bless David with a great name and a great legacy. Amazingly, God made a covenant with David knowing all along David would sin greatly. BUT GOD’s PLANS WOULD NOT BE THWARTED. IN fact, God would use even David’s sins to accomplish God purpose.

1 Kings Solomon is king. He accomplishes God’s purpose, but he is excessive. He marries foreign women who turn his heart away from God. God is still in control—though times would get rough.

2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, the kingdom of Israel splits after Solomon’s reign, Judah and Benjamin form the Southern kingdom, referred to as Judah for the remainder of the Old Testament. Jerusalem is the capital city for the Southern kingdom. The other 10 tribes form the Northern Kingdom called Israel. The capital city is Samaria.

Twenty-one kings reign in Judah after Solomon. Some are good kings, and some are bad, but God is still in control. The kings that rule the Northern Kingdom of Israel are all bad kings, moving the northern tribes further and further away from God. God finally judges the northern kingdom of Israel using the Assyrians. The northern Jews are scattered throughout the Assyrian territory, intermarrying with foreign people, creating the hated Samaritan race we see in the New Testament. The ten tribes of the Northern kingdom never fully recover. But God…

The Southern kingdom of Judah eventually moves away from God also. But God delays their judgement for 400 years after the northern kingdom’s judgement. When God judges Judah, he uses the Babylonians. The Jews will remain in captivity and exile for 70 years in Babylon (the book of Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah) But God will return them to their homeland (Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther). The Jewish people will rebuild the temple, establish the religious system, rebuild Jerusalem.

In the turmoil of kings, the falling away of His people, the judgment of God, the exile, the return. God is always speaking. Always redeeming. Always in control. David’s throne will not end. The seed is still coming. Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Isaiah 14:27, Isaiah 42;1-3, Isaiah 53:5-6, Jeremiah 31:17 and 33, Jeremiah 32:17 and 27, Ezekiel 11:19-20, Ezekiel 37:14, Micah 5:2 and 5….and dozens more!

The New Testament, the Seed has come, Jesus the Messiah is born. Matthew 1 is the lineage of Jesus. Look at the names. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Tamar…. Following the seed…until we get to Jesus. Jesus lives, ministers, and ushers in God’s kingdom. But in God’s redemptive plan, Jesus dies a cruel death, the perfect Son of God paying the price for our sin. Certainly, Satan thought he had won when Jesus died. But Christ arose! The serpent’s head crushed. Sin, death and hell defeated. Jesus ascended into heaven and is coming again for His people. The victory has been won and will be fully realized when Christ returns in all His glory!

The church was born in Acts 2. The coming together of Jews and Gentile as the people of God. His people under a New Covenant. (Hebrews, Ephesian 1-3, Romans). This is God’s wonderful work of redemption. God’s plan all along. And in the final days, He will call us home. The final days of history will unfold just as God directs. Revelation 5:5, Revelation 19, Revelation 21. Jesus Christ will reign on the Throne of David forever. The Seed. The Lion of Judah. All the Old Testament imagery and promises fulfilled. God has always been in control. His plan s will never be thwarted!!

**YOUR STORY.** The bigger story is wonderful and sometimes overwhelming, but dear woman, your story is a part of the bigger story. He chose to have a relationship with you. He loves you. He redeems you-- making all things new. He has set you apart to sanctify you, making you like Christ throughout your life, until you see Him face to face. (Philippians 1:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

Sometimes we cannot see the big story especially when life is hard and there is pain and suffering all around us. But God is faithful. Rest confidently in the truth that His plans for you will not be thwarted either. Jesus teaches that we are not to be anxious because God sees and knows our every need (Matthew 6:25-34, Matthew 10:29-31.

Philippians 4:6-9 are important verses as we are faced with challenges that discourage us. Pray, worship, ask, be thankful. Study these verses on your own and implement them in your life. God never minimizes our concerns, our fears, or our suffering. He does however require us to trust Him, to take the long view of life. One day our suffering will pale compared to glory we will experience. One day He will wipe away every tear. Today, He is providing every need (Philippians 6:19) He will never leave us. And His plans will never be thwarted. God is still in control—even of your story.