

Intro:

Good Morning Arising church! Today is Sunday, July 20th 2025,

We could not be more thrilled to be bringing you the Word this morning. As a church, God has entrusted us with a **glorious and ever-multiplying vision**—one that calls us into something far greater than just ourselves. It's a vision that drives us to proclaim the victorious gospel through our lives wherever we go—across the States and the nations—raising up ministers from this very house, equipping future generations to go even further, and securing for ourselves a better resurrection.

Have you guys been blessed by the powerful messages we've been diving into over these past several weeks? Let's do a quick recap of them. The First message we heard was:

Light and Heavy



In this message, we learned what it means to honor and to treat as weighty the very things God deems as honorable. We also saw how we must not despise or take lightly any of the things that we saw on this list.

(READ SLIDE)

**“DO NOT
DESPISE”
OR
“DO SHOW
HONOR/GIVE
WEIGHT TO”**

1.ABRAHAM (& COVENANT) GEN. 12:3

2.BIRTHRIGHT/BLESSING GEN.25:34, HEB.

12:16-17

3.YOUR PARENTS EX.21:17, PRO.20:20

4.THE WORD OF GOD NUM. 15:30-31

5.GOD & HIS SACRIFICES 1 SAM. 2:30

6.GOD'S NAME & HIS ALTAR MAL.1:6-7

7.THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE PRO.3:11-12, HEB.

12:5-6

The Word of God warns us: to treat these things lightly is to invite judgment upon ourselves. But when we honor what He honors and give them the weight they deserve, it will bring abundant blessings.

We saw in the life of David, how he set the standard in this area. Despite all his failures, he consistently handled the discipline of the Lord with honor and great weight—treating it as something to always be taken seriously, and worth welcoming with full submission.

Next we heard the message: **Narrow and Wide**



NARROW & WIDE

In this message, we highlighted how God is able to keep even fools walking on the path of holiness—which brought great encouragement to us all. Rather than an ever-narrowing road that makes the believer more vulnerable, feeling like walking on a tight rope the further we follow with Jesus, we saw that the Lord actually broadens the path beneath us, intercedes on our behalf, and is fully able to save us when we choose to fight against willful sin rather than letting it rule over us.

(READ VS. 13 ON SLIDE)

PSALM 19:11-13 NIV 11

**11BY THEM YOUR SERVANT IS
WARNED;
IN KEEPING THEM THERE IS GREAT
REWARD.
12BUT WHO CAN DISCERN THEIR
OWN ERRORS?
FORGIVE MY HIDDEN FAULTS.
13KEEP YOUR SERVANT ALSO FROM
WILLFUL SINS;
MAY THEY NOT RULE OVER ME.
THEN I WILL BE BLAMELESS,
INNOCENT OF GREAT
TRANSGRESSION.**

We discovered that repentance is not a sign of weakness, but is faith-filled and righteous action. Through David's life, we came to understand how—even in the midst of great moral failure—he remained confident. Why? Because he knew how to repent and how to receive the Lord's discipline with humility.

(READ SLIDE)

“You don't stay on the path by not sinning...that's not where your confidence comes from... Your confidence comes from his ability to make you what you are not! And keep you on the path of holiness”

- Pastor Slaughter

1

This past Sunday, we heard from none other than Pastor Ben-Attitudes, The Slaughter House, Shane-the-Train Morrison, and Iron-Sights Ian Morrison, as they delivered a powerful, soul-stirring, and triumphant message titled:

All-out War Mentality.

ALL OUT WAR MENTALITY

In this message, we saw how:

What we do for the Lord in this life—through our faith-filled service to King Jesus—will profoundly shape and impact our **eternal reality** in the life to come.

(DO NOT READ)

DEGREES OF GLORY IN THE RESURRECTION

- **BRIGHTNESS CONNECTED W/ LEADING MANY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS** DAN 12:2-3
- **(VARYING SPLENDOR OF RESURRECTED BODIES) “STAR DIFFERS FROM STAR IN GLORY”** 1 COR. 15:41-42 ESV
- **DIFFERING REWARDS FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE** 1 CO 3:12-15, LK 19:11-27, REV.22:12
- **2 TIM. 2:3-7 REWARDING COMPARED TO:**
 - **SOLDIERS- DIFFERENT RANKS**
 - **ATHLETES- DIFFERENT PLACES**
 - **FARMERS- DIFFERENT SIZE OR QUALITIES OF CROPS**

Something that we cannot emphasize enough, is that the entire Christian walk **demands an All-Out War mentality**—a mindset that God will **continually develop** in us, and it is what we must also cultivate in ourselves continually.

(DO NOT READ)

DEVELOPMENT OF A WAR MENTALITY

- **THE PEOPLE WERE NOT READY FOR WAR** EX. 13:17-18
- **THE LORD LEAVES NATIONS SO THAT ISRAEL CAN KNOW & TEACH WAR** JUDGES 3:1-2
- **ENEMIES THAT ARE LEFT WILL BECOME BARBS IN YOUR EYES & THORNS IN YOUR SIDE** NU. 33:55
- **THEY ARE MORE NUMEROUS THAN YOU, SHOW THEM NO MERCY** DEUT. 7:1-2
- **GOD WILL STIR THEM UP SO YOU FIGHT & WIN PROGRESSIVELY** DEUT. 7:20-22

Marks of an All-Out War Mentality in the Christian Life:

- A growing desire to be with the people of God
- Disciplining your children—not to check a box, but to drive out sin
- Husbands ministering to their wives with the goal of **true spiritual freedom**
- Sacrificing comforts and resources in light of the eternal, resurrected reality
- Being consumed by the Word and waging war against sin
- Releasing forgiveness, overlooking offense, and contending for unity
- Boldly speaking **what needs to be said**
- Discerning the turning of hearts and predetermining your stance with Israel

We also saw in the life of David a man whose entire journey embodied an All-Out War mentality. David was the one who would rise up first when no one else would. He wrote Psalm 144—which, according to the LXX, was written unto Goliath. He was a valiant warrior, zealous for his God to be exalted above all things, his hands were trained for battle—not by relying

on untested armor, but by devoting his life to dwelling in the presence of God and faithfully obeying His commands in every circumstance.

This was made evident through the **war path** he walked with God.

(READ SLIDE)

DAVID'S WAR PATH

HE FOUGHT:

- **ALONE** 1 SAM 17:48-50
- **WITH BROTHERS BEFORE HE WAS KING** 1 SAM 27:8-9
- **WITH AN ARMY AFTER HE WAS KING** 1 CH 11:4-9

UNTIL ALL HIS ENEMIES WERE SUBDUED:

- **REST FROM ALL SURROUNDING ENEMIES** 2 SAM 7:1 ESV
- **VICTORY WHEREVER HE WENT** 2 SAM 8:14 ESV
- **PEACE ON EVERY SIDE, LAND SUBDUED** 1 CH 22:17-19 ESV

First and foremost, God is a man of war!
Goliath is also called a man of war by Saul!

But David truly is Israel's Man of War - he was victorious in every season and battle. He truly is the Man O' War



David the Man O' War!

Today, we will continue our journey through the life of King David. Some of the passages we'll explore may be familiar, while others you might have overlooked or forgotten. But one thing is abundantly clear—whether from recent messages or any diligent study of David's life—his story is marked by many great difficulties. Some of these hardships were brought on by his own choices, while others were completely beyond his control.

Which brings us to our sermon today! The Title of Our Message is: **THE LONG FIGHT**



David's life was a **LONG FIGHT**. From being a shepherd, to fighting Goliath, to great military conquests for Israel, to being chased by Saul, to reigning as King and conquering his enemies, to being hunted by Absalom!

As you can see, there is a reason the Lord says this to David in 1 Chronicles 28:3 -

- **1 Chronicles 28:3 (ESV)**

³ But God said to me, 'You may not build a house for my name, for you are **a man of war** and have shed blood.'

War marked David's life—his entire journey was **ONE LONG FIGHT**. It wasn't just a battle for the nation of Israel or for his own household—it was a fight for his very own salvation! This is how David reflects on his life in his final words in 2 Samuel 23:5...

- **2 Samuel 23:5 (NIV)**

⁵ “If **my house were not right with God**,
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting
covenant,
arranged and secured in every part;
surely he would not bring to **fruition** my salvation
and grant me my every desire.

Considering everything we've been learning—and what we're about to dive into—it's truly a beautiful and powerful moment to hear David declare that his house is right with God! This is nothing short of a miracle, and it should fill us with great encouragement. If God can bring David's house into alignment after all he endured and all his flaws, there is certainly hope for every one of us.

But do you see how it says - "If my house were not right with God...surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation"!

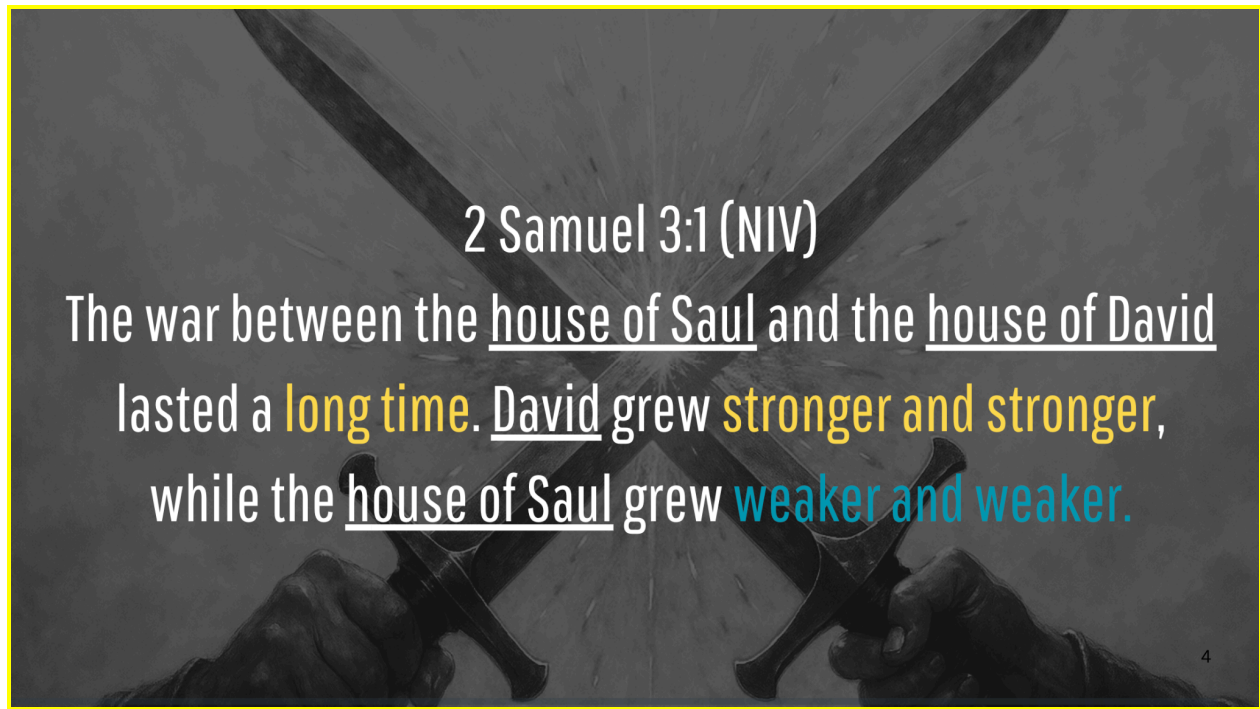
David came to understand that the long fight was what truly defined his life and it was the Lord's way of bringing the fruition of his salvation!

*elaborate

- The fight shapes you
- The obstacles strengthen you
- The fight actually is what saves you...

This brings us to an important verse that characterized David's life.

(READ SLIDE)



David's fight against the *House of Saul* was not a one-time fight, but we are going to show you, it actually lasted a lifetime, even **after Saul's death**. Likewise the spiritual fight against your flesh is not a one-time battle, but it is a war that will last a life-time.

The **LONG FIGHT** is the daily journey of being transformed to become more like Christ. What Adonai truly desires is that **His image grows stronger and stronger within you**, while your flesh grows weaker and weaker. The inner transformation and dying to self that we face daily—This is the LONG FIGHT.

Take a Look at this slide:

House of Saul

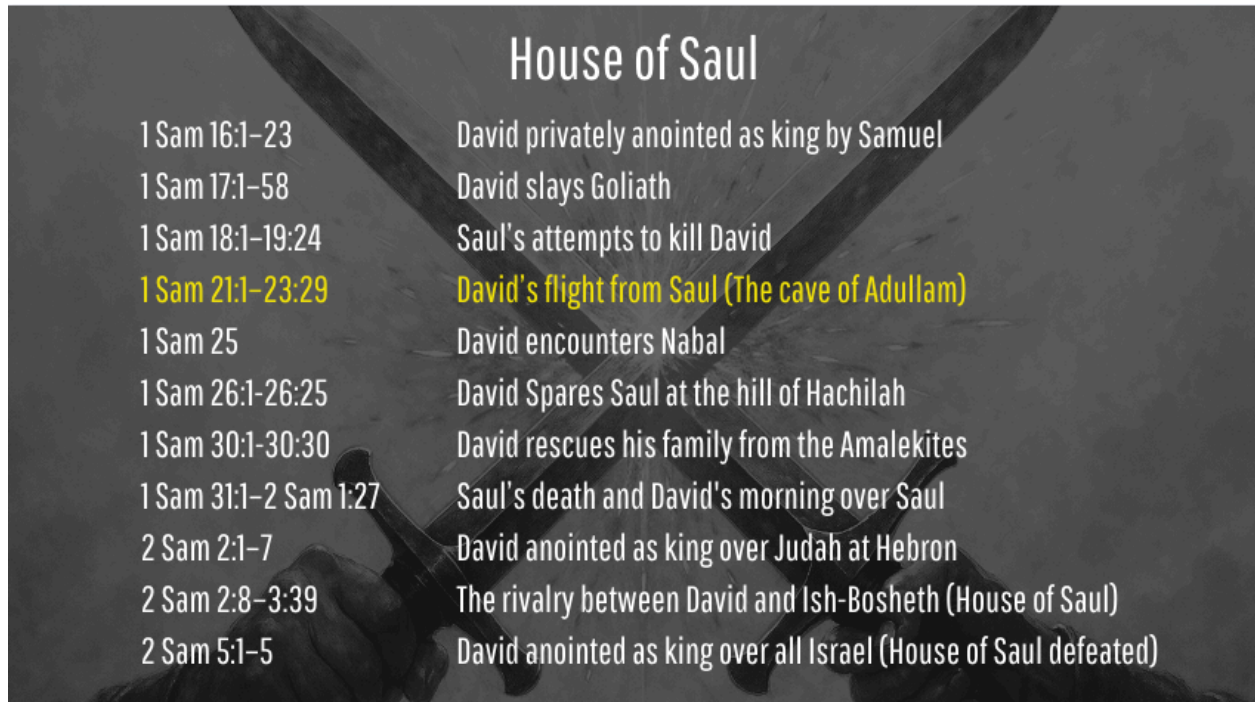
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2 Sam 2:8-3:39	The rivalry between David and Ish-Bosheth (House of Saul)
2 Sam 5:1-5	David anointed as king over all Israel (House of Saul defeated)

Today we are going to take you through the **Long fight** of David's life and see how God enabled him to be faithful through it all until the very end, and bring his salvation to fruition. It will be an epic overview of his life in many ways, and you will see just how God enabled him to do it.

We are going to start in 1 Samuel 22:1-2 and say **LONG FIGHT** as your turning there

- **1 Samuel 22:1-2 (NIV)**

22 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. **When his brothers** and his father's household heard about it, **they went down to him there.** ² All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.



House of Saul	
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The war between the house of Saul and the house of David has just begun. David is fleeing from Saul and comes to Adullam where his brothers and men in need of a leader gather to him. These men see something in David they want, and rally around him. David was no longer alone in this war, he now had men who were loyal to him and he trained them to be warriors, becoming their commander. In the very beginning of this long war, David surrounded himself with brothers, the beginning of him becoming stronger.

David surrounded himself with brothers whom he trained to become warriors—men he could depend on in his times of greatest need. At first, they were distressed, discontented, and in debt—just like many of us when the King finds us. But praise God He doesn't leave us that way. Like David, our King trains us for battle and surrounds us with brothers we can trust and fight alongside!

*Luke 6:40 - call for discipleship...?

Luke 6:40 (ESV)

40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is **fully trained** will be like his teacher.

David's salvation coming to fruition would depend on the brothers around him, and how they helped save him many times over.

Your own personal development and victory in the LONG FIGHT - is only possible when you are surrounded by valiant brothers.

- **Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)**

²⁴ One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Let's keep moving in David's fight

- **1 Samuel 25:32–35 (NIV)**

³² David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has sent you today to meet me. ³³ **May you be blessed for
your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this
day and from avenging myself with my own hands.** ³⁴

Otherwise, as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”

³⁵ Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.”

House of Saul

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David is still fleeing from Saul, is confronted with yet another obstacle. Nabal's foolishness almost provoked David to slaughter his whole family. However, he is confronted by Abigail and chooses to humble himself, and turn from his intent to vindicate himself. Though David has been hunted and maligned by Saul, he does not use this moment seek his own desires or make excuses, **but turns into opportunities to praise God** for saving him from his own evil intents. This is a man who is sensitive to the Spirit, and displaying great humility.

Since the fight is long and tiresome - it's easy when YOU feel wronged, to feel justified in wronging others and taking matters into your own hands! Nabal did have to die, but God would take care of David, he did not need to out of his anger punish Nabal for his sins against him.

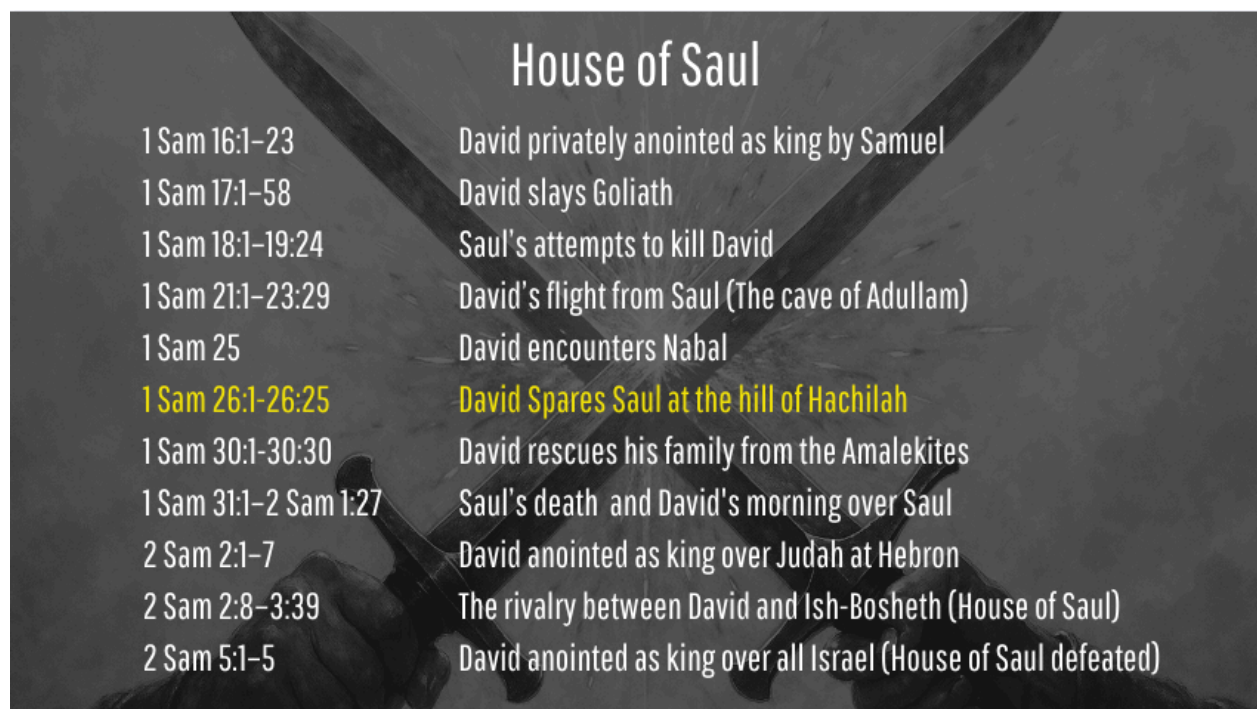
David's salvation coming to fruition would depend on a willingness to be wrong in a moment and change his actions to better reflect the Lord.

You don't remain faithful to your brothers on the mission field or your wife for a lifetime if you cannot admit you've gotten it wrong and need to repent.

Our development and victory as a body in the LONG FIGHT - will only be possible if we are walking in the willingness to be wrong daily, to change and become more like Christ.

- **1 Samuel 26:11 (NIV)**

¹¹ But the **Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed**. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."



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The context of this passage is that Saul and his men have fallen asleep, David and his mighty men are surrounding him—fully capable of taking his life. Remember, Saul had already attempted to murder David multiple times, and now David is given an opportunity to bring it all to an end. But as we read earlier, David—growing stronger and stronger—exclaims, “This is the Lord’s anointed.” His restraint is not a sign of weakness, but a demonstration of strength and full trust in the Lord. Rather than executing judgment in his own way, David chooses righteousness and mercy. **His**

desire to honor God far outweighs his personal desire to escape his trials or bring his suffering to an end, or even right the wrong done to him.

The salvation of David would come to fruition by his willingness to honor the Lord and Show mercy to HIS anointed, rather than escaping the mistreatment.

Saints, consider your personal walk of salvation right now. You are the living representatives of Christ here on earth. As you strive to do the Lord's will, you will face challenges from many directions—especially from people.:

- Coworkers
- Spouse
- children
- friends and family
- closest brothers

Just as Saul sought to harm David, people who should be helping you and supporting you will harm you. This is a call for us to remain steadfast, knowing that walking in obedience often invites opposition.

- **2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)**

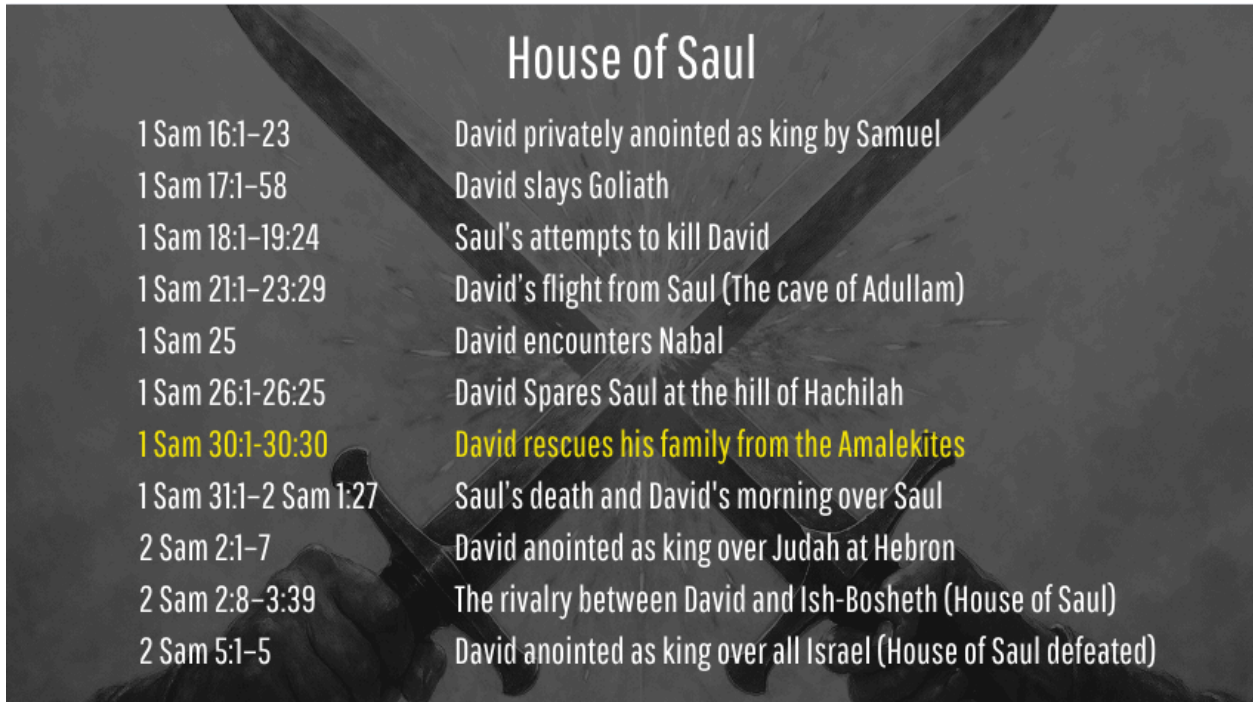
12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

When David had the chance to kill Saul and eliminate all his problems, he instead chose to show mercy to the one that was anointed by God. Saints, In order for you to be victorious in the Long fight, **you must be able to show mercy to those whom God loves**—even when everything in you wants to see them punished or judged.

- **1 Sam 30:7-8 (NIV84)**

7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, 8 and David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I

overtake them?"..."Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."



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After being sent away by the Philistines—having initially fled there to escape Saul and having gained renown as a mighty warrior—David faces yet another crisis. The Amalekites have raided and taken captive all the women and children belonging to David and his men. In their grief and anger, his men turn on him and threaten to stone him. But as is David's practice, **he stops to seek his God for direction** in this desperate moment.

The fruition of David's salvation here would depend on his reliance and seeking his God to know what to do to save his men's families. This demonstrates David's strength in relationship with the Lord and leadership qualities because he knew the right answer would come from the Lord. David's strength and the salvation of his men depended on this fact!

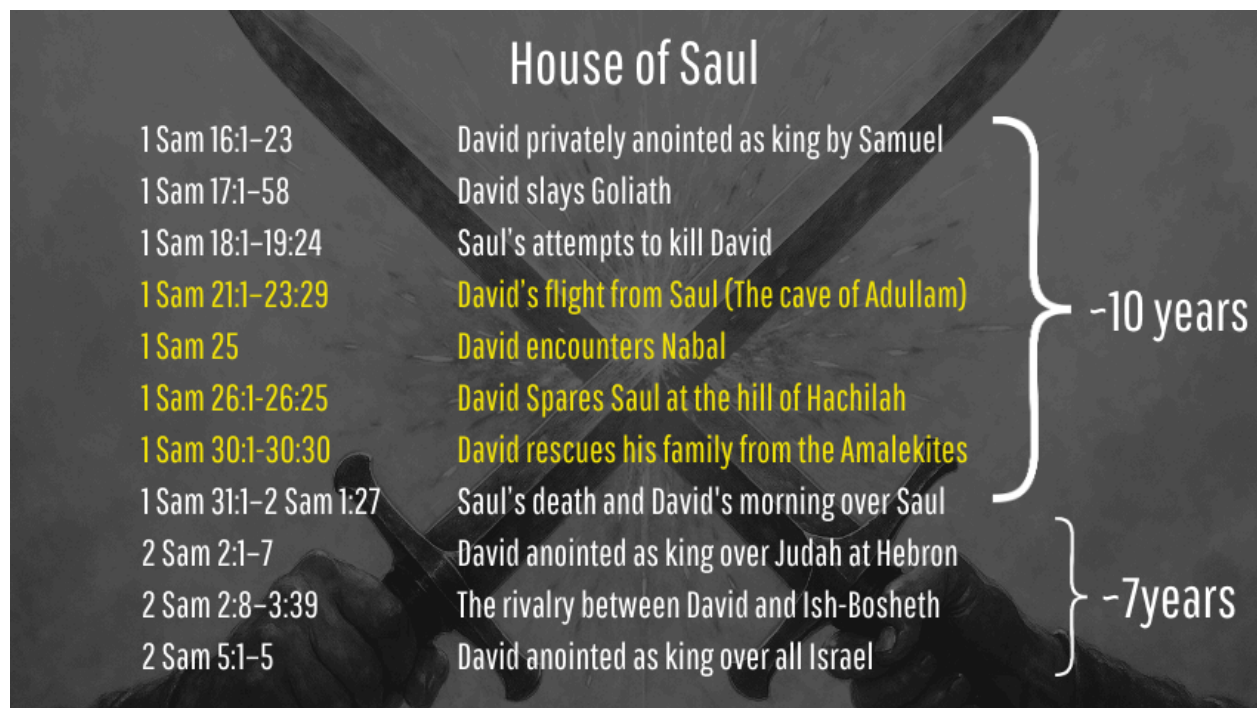
Your victory in the long fight will depend on how you seek the Lord for direction; instead of relying on what might seem right or be your natural

reaction. This will strengthen your relationship with him and grow your leadership capabilities.

When the enemy attacks your camp, your strength will come from seeking your God so that you will know exactly what the occasion demands of you, how to completely route your enemies and save your family.

Throughout all of these events David showed himself faithful in each unique battle, and grew stronger and stronger after every victory. This all occurred while he was on the run from Saul!

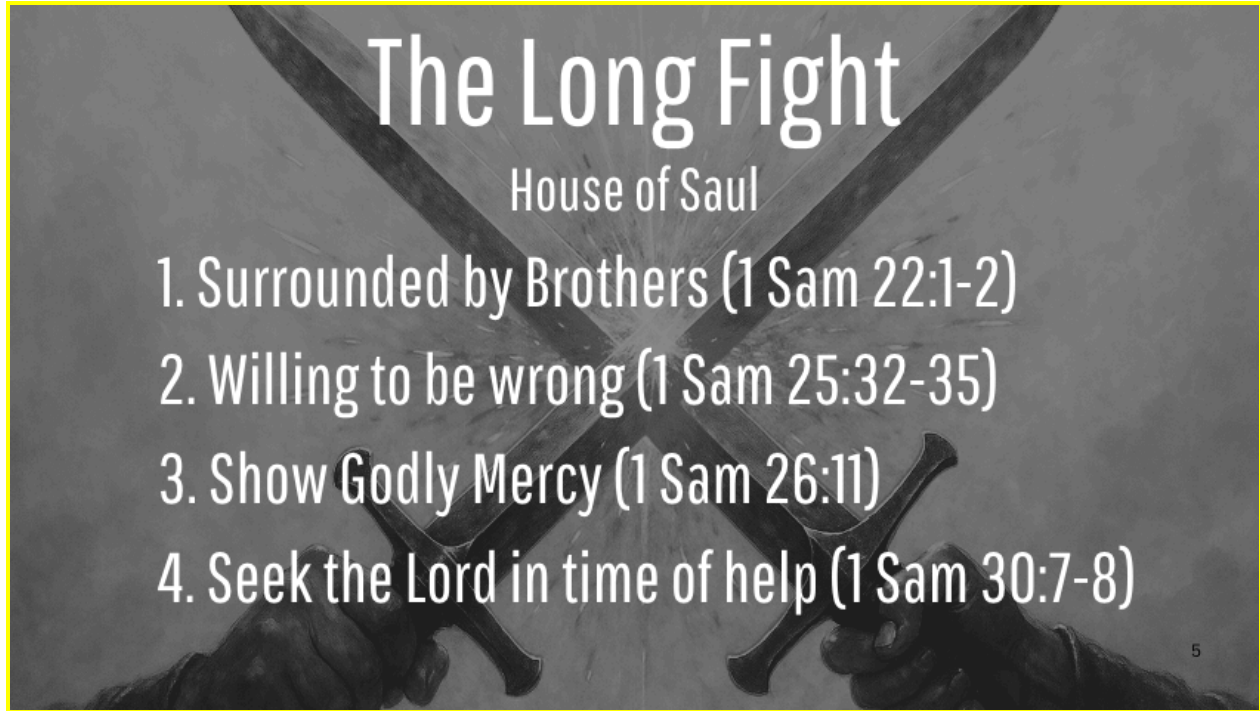
Look at this all together:



David's fight and flee from Saul could have lasted as long as 10 years. But, even when Saul died the fight against his house was not over! David will be anointed king over Judah at Hebron - then he will fight with Ish-Bosheth and other from the House of Saul, not for a few days or even months - but maybe as long as 7 more years!

David shows us the character needed to be faithful and victorious in the long fight against the house of Saul

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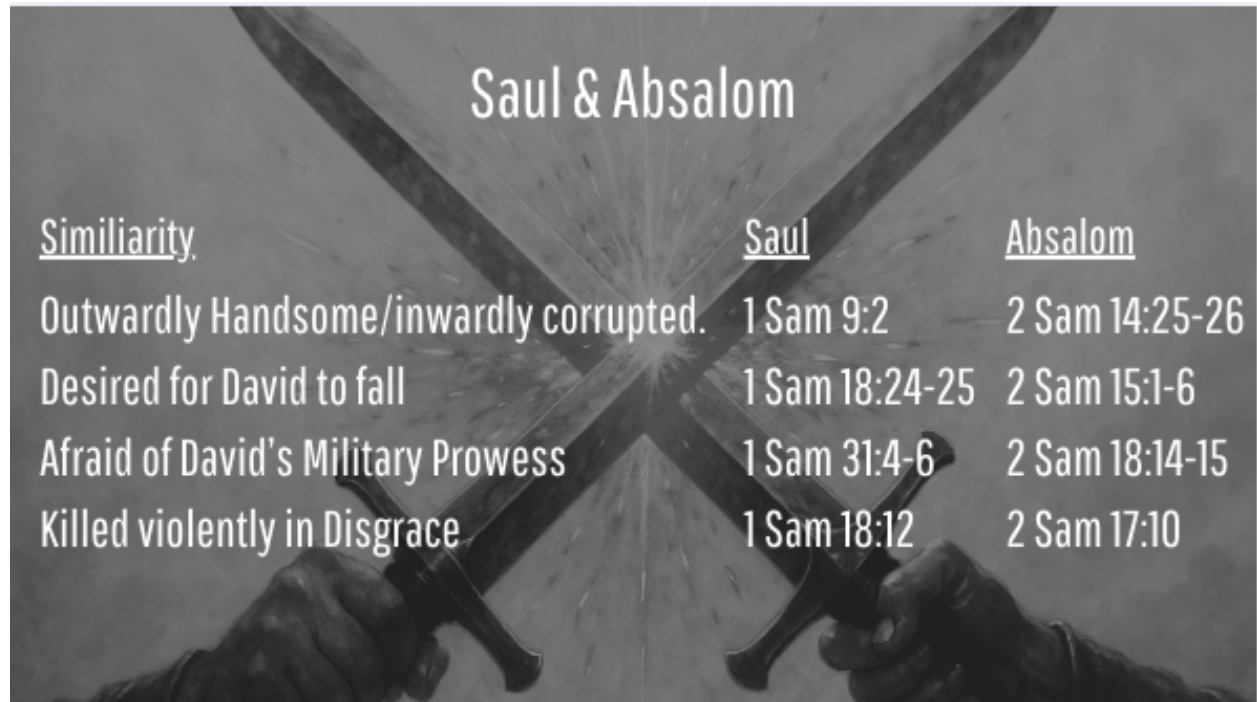
The Long Fight

House of Saul

1. Surrounded by Brothers (1 Sam 22:1-2)
2. Willing to be wrong (1 Sam 25:32-35)
3. Show Godly Mercy (1 Sam 26:11)
4. Seek the Lord in time of help (1 Sam 30:7-8)

5

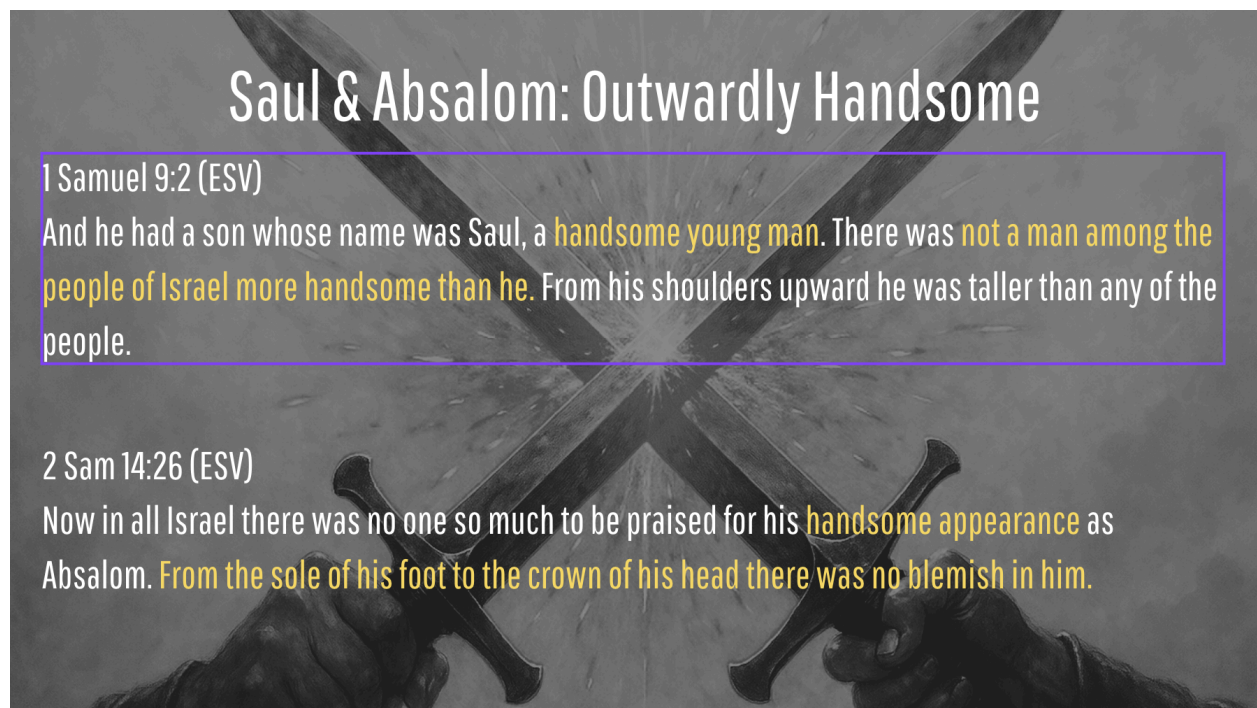
David may be King - but the fight is far from over! There would be another adversary that would arise from within the family of Israel who would greatly mirror the House of Saul - this is of course David's own son Absalom.



Saul & Absalom

<u>Similiarity.</u>	<u>Saul</u>	<u>Absalom</u>
Outwardly Handsome/inwardly corrupted.	1 Sam 9:2	2 Sam 14:25-26
Desired for David to fall	1 Sam 18:24-25	2 Sam 15:1-6
Afraid of David's Military Prowess	1 Sam 31:4-6	2 Sam 18:14-15
Killed violently in Disgrace	1 Sam 18:12	2 Sam 17:10

4 slides showing comparison



Saul & Absalom: Outwardly Handsome

1 Samuel 9:2 (ESV)
And he had a son whose name was Saul, a **handsome young man**. There was **not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he**. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

2 Sam 14:26 (ESV)
Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his **handsome appearance** as Absalom. **From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.**



Saul & Absalom: Desired David's Downfall

1 Sam 18:24-25 (ESV)

Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.' " **Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.**

2 Sam 17:2&4 (NIVUK)

I would attack him while he is weary and weak. I would strike him with terror, and then all the people with him will flee. **I would strike down only the king... This plan seemed good to Absalom and to all the elders of Israel.**



Saul & Absalom: Afraid of David's Might

1 Sam 18:12 (ESV)

Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.

2 Sam 17:10 (ESV)

Then even the valiant man, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will **utterly melt with fear**, for **all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man**, and that those who are with him are valiant men.



Saul & Absalom: Killed Violently in Disgrace

1 Sam 31:4 (ESV)

4 Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. **Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it.**

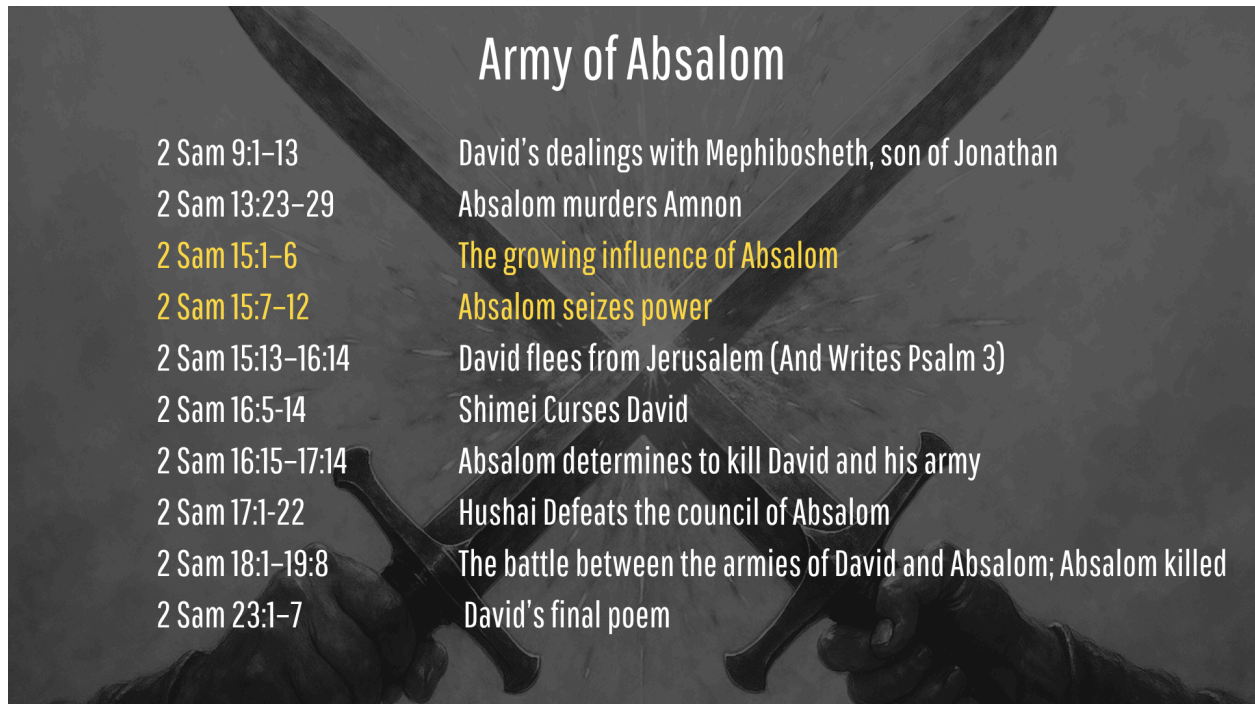
2 Sam 18:14-15 (ESV)

Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." And he took **three javelins** in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was **still alive in the oak**. 15 And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

Often times new enemies look like enemies we've fought before. Absalom is an enemy from within the house of David but embodied the house of Saul.

***Preaching point: You may have defeated a Nabal trait or two, but be on the lookout, because the LORD will reveal another one for you to fight against!**

Absalom's rivalry with David all started when Absalom did not trust His father to rule rightly in the matter of his brother Amnon.



One could point to many faults of David that led to this - and there certainly were many. But the actual emphasis at the end of David's life is that Adonai fought for David and empowered him to win EVERY battle.

- **2 Samuel 22:40-44 (ESV)**

⁴⁰ For you equipped me with **strength for the battle**;
you made **those who rise against me sink under me**.
[ABSALOM]

⁴¹ You made my enemies turn their backs to me,
those who hated me, and I destroyed them.

⁴² They looked, but there was none to save;
they cried to the Lord, but he did not answer them.

⁴³ I beat them fine as the dust of the earth;
I crushed them and stamped them down like the mire of the
streets.

44 "You delivered me from strife with my people;
you **kept me as the head of the nations;**
people whom I had not known served me.

He mourns initially, but at the end of David's life he is praising God that he remained King - even though his son rose against him.

God was always faithful to David, and David despite the consequences and perpetual enemies was faithful and saw his salvation come to fruition because HE NEVER GAVE UP!

***David never gave up - that's why he was successful and faithful**

We want to emphasize the faith that David had despite the war with Saul's house lasting a long time. You need to understand that the war with the house of Saul will take time, but be strong! Have faith that all your enemies will be defeated before you like David's were!

Let's look at few key aspects of David's life during the struggle with Absalom:

Before moving on, keep in mind that the backdrop of what we are about to get in to is that Absalom has driven David out of Jerusalem, he is hunting David down, and David is on the run with a small group.

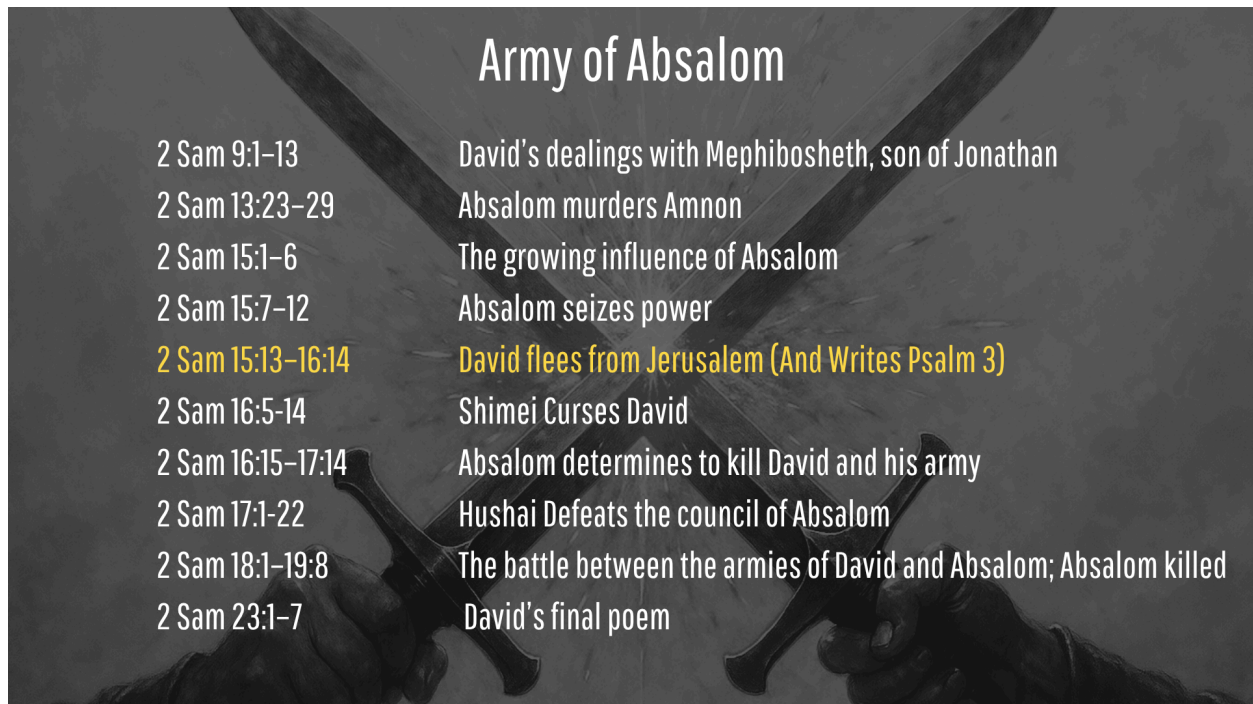
Doesn't that sound a lot like his flight from Saul?

Yet again we are going to see that throughout this hunt and coup - David remains faithful in the fight - let's see how.

- **2 Samuel 15:15–16 (LSB)**

15 Then the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants **are ready to do whatever my lord the king chooses.**"

16 So the king went out and all his household with him.
But the king left ten concubines to keep the house.



It's admittedly an interesting moment when you're about to preach about 10 concubines, but here we are!

David left his home under the care of his concubines as he endured the difficulty and discipline of being driven out of Jerusalem by Absalom. Yet this is the same David who once led his men to recover every woman and child from Ziklag. Surely he wasn't abandoning these women to Absalom's rebellion—no, he was acting in faith.

David carried within him a full expectation of victory, trusting that **he would one day return to his rightful throne in Jerusalem**. The Fruition of David's salvation required faith-fueled obedience and an unshakable confidence in the promise of victory—a determination to endure the **LONG FIGHT**.

Likewise, the fruition of your salvation demands faith-filled action and enduring hope for victory in the **LONG FIGHT**:

- Continually teaching the Word to your family, even when it seems like it's not taking root
- Leading your wife into difficult places God has called you, even if there's initial resistance
- Consistently training your children, even when it feels like the effort is bearing no fruit

This is the kind of faith that endures like David's—undaunted, disciplined, and rooted in the expectation that **God will finish what He started**.

- **Mark 4:26–29 (LSB)**

26 And He was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;

27 and he sleeps and rises, night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know. 28 “The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. 29 “But when the grain is ripe, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

The fight is long! You must have the faith-filled perspective that you will have victory.

You must resist the temptation to despair and expect failure out of yourself and others.

*elaborate as time allows

No matter who the adversary was, David always entrusted himself to God. No matter how challenging our adversaries become, the answer is always to entrust ourselves fully to the Lord

The enemy David was facing came from within his own house, yet David knew who to turn to.

Psalm 3 was written during this period when David was on the run from Absalom, listen to how he is responding.

Psalm 3:1–8 (ESV)

A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN HE FLED FROM ABSALOM HIS SON.

1 O Lord, how many are my foes!

Many are rising against me;

2 many are saying of my soul,
“There is no salvation for him in God.” *Selah*

3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.

4 I cried aloud to the Lord,
and he answered me from his holy hill. *Selah*

5 **I lay down and slept;**
I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

6 **I will not be afraid of many thousands of people**
who have set themselves against me all around.

7 Arise, O Lord!
Save me, O my God!
For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;
you break the teeth of the wicked.

8 Salvation belongs to the Lord;
your blessing be on your people! *Selah*

When the time came to leave Jerusalem, David fully entrusted himself to his God. This is a time where David is seeing many people rise against him.

Despite his enemies rising up, David knew that he would be protected by the Lord. He was resting secure because he knew God would protect him and answer him. This is a shadow and type of Christ...

- **1 Peter 2:23 (NIV)**

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Even though he was leaving the place of refuge, he fully trusted God would be the shield around him as he went and would answer him from his holy hill.

The trust David demonstrates in the face of his foes is the only way to overcome the long battles we face. Our trust in Yahweh must be determined like David's was!

We cannot be faithless either. David cries to God to ARISE and confront his enemies! Even here, David demonstrates his all-out war mentality as he asks God to break the teeth of the wicked. God is the one to whom salvation belongs to and it is how his people win wars.

- **2 Samuel 15:24–26 (ESV)**

24 And Abiathar came up, and behold, Zadok came also with all the Levites, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God until the people had all passed out of the city. 25 Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place. 26 But if he

says, 'I have no pleasure in you,' behold, here I am, let him do to me what seems good to him."

David entrusted himself full to the Lord, whether he returned to the city of Jerusalem or not. His faith was in the Lord regardless of the situation.

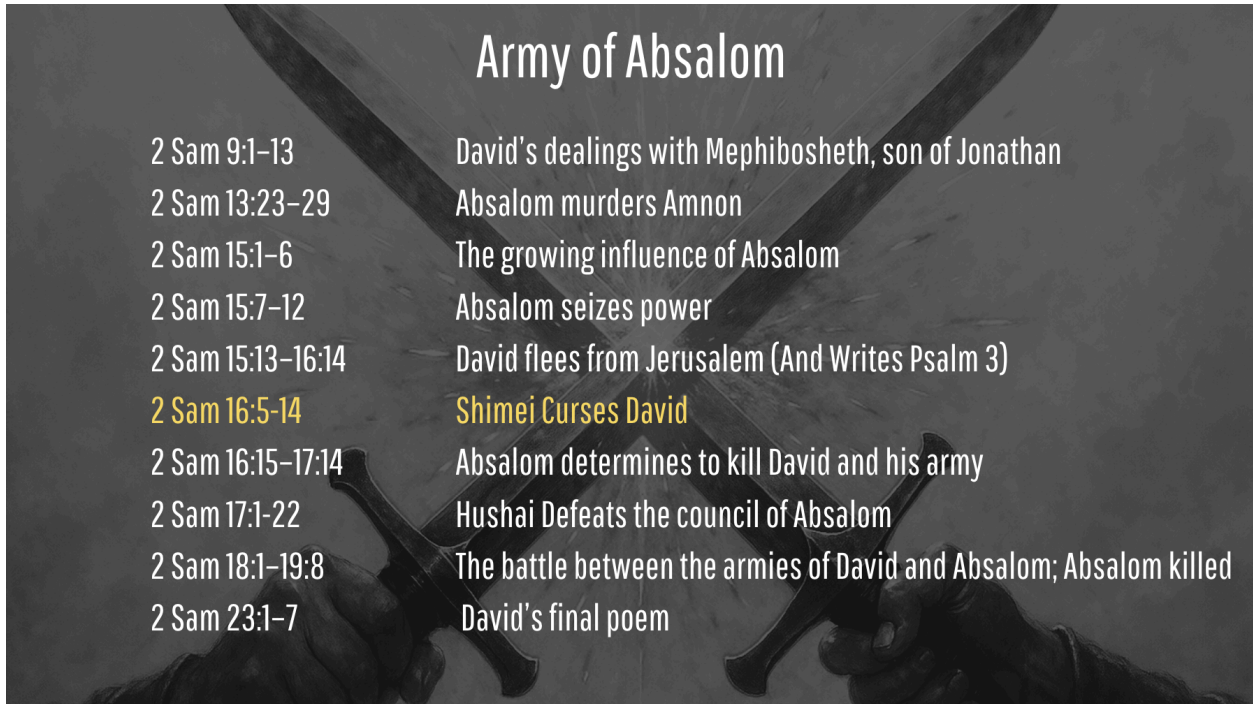
Jerusalem is where the ark is, and it's where David knew it should stay. The long war may bring you to places where you may feel far away from the familiar and safety of our homes. Nonetheless, we must take the attitude of David and have faith that the Lord is the shield around us anywhere we go!

- **2 Samuel 16:10–12 (LSB)**

10 But the king said, "What have I to do with you, O sons of Zeruiah? If he curses, and if Yahweh has told him, 'Curse David,' then who shall say, 'Why have you done so?'"

11 Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my son who came forth from my body seeks my life; how much more now this Benjamite? **Let him alone and let him curse, for Yahweh has told him.**

12 "Perhaps Yahweh will look on my affliction and return good to me instead of his cursing this day."



Army of Absalom	
2 Sam 9:1-13	David's dealings with Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan
2 Sam 13:23-29	Absalom murders Amnon
2 Sam 15:1-6	The growing influence of Absalom
2 Sam 15:7-12	Absalom seizes power
2 Sam 15:13-16:14	David flees from Jerusalem (And Writes Psalm 3)
2 Sam 16:5-14	Shimei Curses David
2 Sam 16:15-17:14	Absalom determines to kill David and his army
2 Sam 17:1-22	Hushai Defeats the council of Absalom
2 Sam 18:1-19:8	The battle between the armies of David and Absalom; Absalom killed
2 Sam 23:1-7	David's final poem

As Shimei hurls down curses, David does not try to defend himself. He remains unoffended and refused to get entangled with Shimei's distraction. Instead he considers what is happening as from God and moves forward toward his mission.

Prov 19:11 (NIV1984)

11 A man's wisdom gives him patience;
it is to his glory to **overlook an offense**.

Proverbs 18:19 (ESV) (Optional preaching point)

"A brother **offended** is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle."

The fight is long, and its easy to get exhausted by the ever increasing pressure of righteousness on our lives. This pressure can make it very easy to get offended by others.

Shimei is merely a distraction saying nonsense and it does not even phase David one bit- he is confident and secure.

Let's bring this close to home - HOW MUCH MORE important is in in the Long Fight for your salvation to not get offended when Godly people correct you and are trying to merely help you!

Offended people do not remain faithful, they cave under the pressure and resort to pointing the finger at everyone else.

David throughout his life refused to be offended by whatever came his way. He was not faithless in the Lord, but rather considered what the Lord would do as just and right all the time!

We are getting closer to the place we will end our message and David's fight. We have only one final story of David's faithfulness and favor during the Long Fight that is his entire life. This one is perhaps the best.

These next several passages are the thrilling downfall of Absalom's rebellion - but are often overlooked when reading through the story.

Most Christians read the story of David and Absalom and focus on all the wrong details.

- Everyone knows that Absalom was hung by his hair and killed by Joab
- Everyone knows David mourns his death and its uncertain if Joab is in the right...
- Everyone looks at this story as a massive failure and consequence of David's parenting.

We are going to show you that if that is the takeaway - you're reading the story wrong!

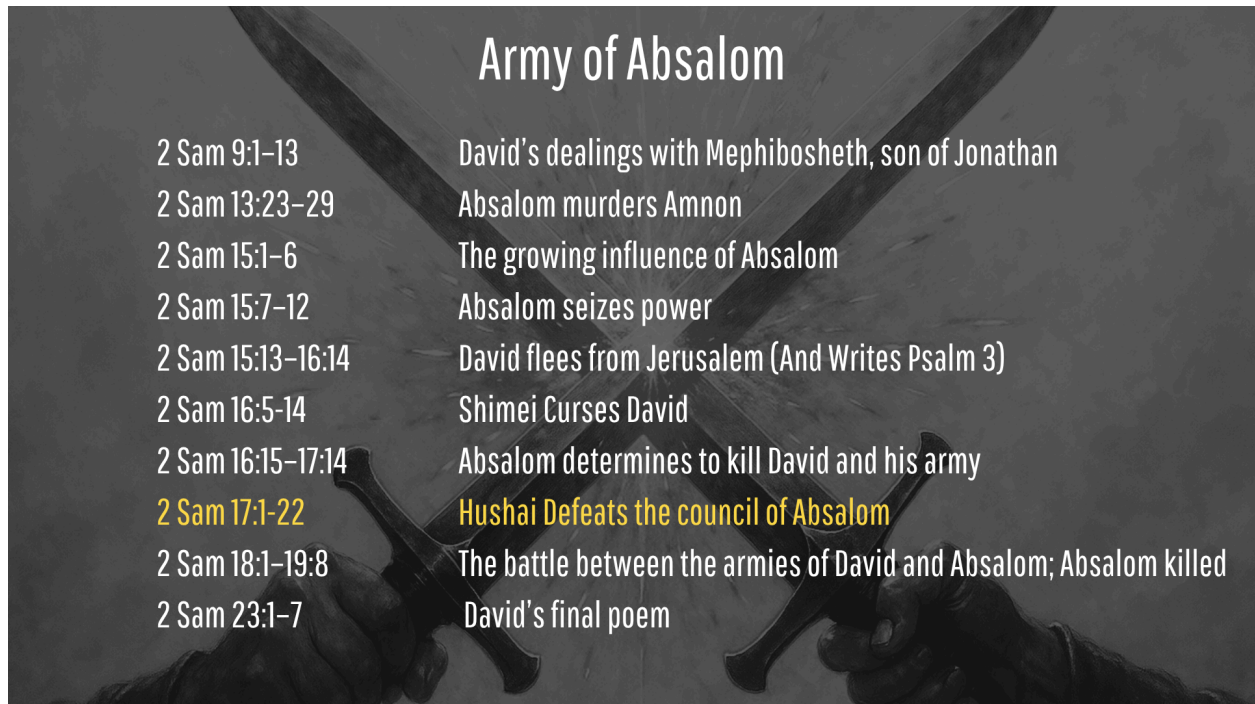
Chapter 17 really is the original Mission Impossible, its usually overshadowed by the obvious sin of Absalom, but what you can miss is the legendary heroics of David's friends and other "sons".

We won't read it all, but David sends two trusted brothers and priests - Zadok and Abiathar with their sons, Jonathan and Ahimaaz to infiltrate Absalom's inner circle. Along with them goes a man named Hushai - who is said many times to be a friend of David. Their mission is to get Absalom to not attack right away but to wait and first rally all the people of Israel.

Something truly epic happens in this mission - Hushai uses David's reputation as a man of war to strike fear into Absalom and his cohort to dissuade them from attacking. Listen to the way the people of Israel perceived their King.

- **2 Samuel 17:8–10 (NKJV)**

8 For,” said Hushai, “you know your father and his men, that they *are mighty men*, and they *are* enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field; and *your father is a man of war*, and will not camp with the people. **9** Surely by now he is hidden in some pit, or in some *other* place. And it will be, when some of them are overthrown at the first, that whoever hears it will say, ‘There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.’ **10** And even he *who is* valiant, whose heart *is* like the heart of a lion, will **melt completely**. For all Israel knows that *your father is a mighty man, and those who are with him are valiant men.*



Say what you want about David - his reputation precedes him. He is an older man - yet his military skill terrifies the army of Absalom.

The fear of David works and Absalom listens to Hushai - this ultimately will lead to his destruction. What happens next is incredible

- **2 Sam 17:15-22**

15 Hushai told Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, "Ahithophel has advised Absalom and the elders of Israel to do such and such, but I have advised them to do so and so. 16 Now send a message immediately and tell David, 'Do not spend the night at the fords in the desert; cross over without fail, or the king and all the people with him will be swallowed up.'"

Not only did he have brothers who would fight for him, he had brothers WITH SONS who were also capable of achieving daring tasks to see success.

Hushai informs Abiathar and Zadok the priests so that they can inform David and work to sabotage the enemy's plans - the way they do it - their sons Jonathan and Ahimaaz!

17 **Jonathan** and **Ahimaaz** were staying at En Rogel. **A servant girl** was to go and inform them, and **they were to go and tell King David**, for they could not risk being seen entering the city. 18 But a young man saw them and told Absalom. So the two of them left quickly and went to the house of a man in Bahurim. He had a well in his courtyard, and they climbed down into it. 19 His wife took a covering and spread it out over the opening of the well and scattered grain over it. No one knew anything about it.

This story is more exciting than anything Hollywood puts out - the OG Mission Impossible.



Abiathar and Zadok were priests who ministered before the Ark and remained loyal to King David, fully devoted to both him and the Lord's purposes concerning his life. Their sons, Jonathan and Ahimaaz, were equally committed—brave young men who risked their lives to protect the king. And among them was a nameless, faceless wife, whose quiet obedience played a critical role.

David's actual son may have rallied thousands against his own father, this is certainly a consequence for David's actions.

But despite his own son rebelling, David's friends, his brothers, and his brothers sons are obeying his instructions and saving David's life and ensuring the rightful King sits on the throne once again.

Fathers in this house, you are the priests, protectors, and providers of your families. This is your God-assigned mission. You are men entrusted with the very presence of God, and through your leadership, the Lord will bring salvation to full fruition in your homes. Your faithfulness is what will empower us to stand victorious in the LONG FIGHT.

- Just like **Abiathar and Zadok**, you must walk faithfully in the role God has given you—
- Remaining fully devoted to the King and His purposes
- And raising up children and making disciples who will be just as committed to God's mission—if not more.

This truly is the most essential piece to winning the Long War - raising sons to finish the fight.

Zadok and his line would go on to make an eternal impact on the priesthood, even in the days to come:

- **Ezekiel 44:15 (NIV)**

¹⁵ “ ‘But the Levitical priests, who are descendants of Zadok and who guarded my sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from

me, are to come near to minister before me; they are to stand before me to offer sacrifices of fat and blood, declares the Sovereign Lord.

Do you see how there is two different ways to read this story?

Focused only on Absalom and David's failure

-or-

Celebrating the incredible victory that David and his men were able to accomplish through brotherhood, courage and even espionage.

Let's take a minute and look back at David's battle plan for the Long Fight...

(READ SLIDE)



How are you reading the story?

Obsessed with all the ways your failing and getting frozen by inaction?

Or looking around at all the ways God is giving you victory and letting it inspire you to pick up your sword again and settle in for the Long Fight.

CLOSING:

Faithfulness is meant to take a lifetime

The Fight is always long because your salvation was never a transaction, but always meant to reach its fruition when you reach the end of your life.

The question is not: have you been faithful? It is instead: will you continue to be faithful in the life-long fight that salvation requires.

Do not be discouraged at the difficulty in front of you or the failure right behind you - you are in this fight for life - get up and fight every day until the sword freezes to your hand.

- **2 Samuel 23:10 (NIV)**

¹⁰ but Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The Lord brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead.

- **Matthew 24:9–13 (NIV)**

⁹ “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness,

the love of most will grow cold,¹³ **but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.**

Despite his failures, he remained faithful to the very end—through every difficulty and trial.

- **2 Samuel 23:5 (NIV)**

⁵ “If my house were not right with God,
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting
covenant,
arranged and secured in every part;
surely he would **not bring to fruition my salvation**
and grant me my every desire.

David was in a perpetual all-out-war mentality, and because of this - God's favor followed him in incredible ways, even in our stories tonight:

- Ittai joins
- Hushai his friend shows up and offers help and saves his life
- Help from a man and his wife
- Sons who have been raised up as warriors

The fight will be long, the failure will happen, but all along the way God will bring supernatural help/favor to those who live like this.