

# **The Story of the Bible in 16 Verses**

*The Upside-Down Kingdom*

Pastor Davis Johnson

July 17th, 2022

For His Glory and our joy!

## **Outline**

Introduction:

- No hero stories

## **The Kingdom of God:**

What it is

- Rule or sovereignty
- The story of Israel and their king
  - 1 Samuel 8:19-20
  - 1 Samuel 9:2; 10:15
  - 1 Samuel 16:7
- David: the king after God's own heart
  - Acts 13:22

What it isn't

- The book of Judges and the counterfeit kings we serve
- It isn't helping God
  - David/Nathan get it wrong
  - 2 Samuel 7:1-7
- It isn't advice

What it looks like

- It's upside down! Promises...for failures
  - David after God's own heart!
  - Psalm 51:1-4
  - Matthew 5:3-5

How you enter

- Through the forgiveness that is in Jesus, not just when you first believed but from first to last
- God is working exactly in the places things are falling apart

## **Scripture Passages** (from the New International Version)

### **2 Samuel 7:1-12**

- 7 After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”<sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”
- 4 But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:
- 5 “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. 7 Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?””
- 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.

### **1 Samuel 8:19-20**

- 19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. 20 Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

### **1 Samuel 9:2; 10:15**

- 2 Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else... 15 So all the people went to Gilgal and made Saul king in the presence of the Lord.

### **1 Samuel 16:7**

- 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

### **Acts 13:22**

- After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’

### **Judges 21:25**

- 21 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

### **Psalms 50:7-12**

- Listen, my people, and I will speak; I will testify against you, Israel: I am God, your God... every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.

### **Acts 17:24-25**

- 24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

### **Revelation 3:7**

- These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

### **Psalm 51:1-4**

- 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 iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

### **Acts 13:36-39**

- 36 "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. 37 But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. 38 "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

### **Matthew 5:3-5**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

### **2 Corinthians 1:8-9**

8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

## Quotes

“God created a kingdom, and he is the King, but he made human beings to represent him in that kingdom. Adam and Eve rejected this call, which led to sin and death. But God promised to defeat the Serpent through the seed of the woman, who is also the seed of Abraham. Through Abraham’s family, and specifically Judah’s royal seed, the covenant blessings would come to the world. Because all people were guilty and deserved death, the sacrifices of the Mosaic law revealed more clearly their need for a substitute.”

- Chris Bruno, *The Whole Story of the Bible in 16 Verses*

“Mentioned a thousand times in the Bible, David is the biblical man for all seasons, the most complex and many-sided human character in Scripture. Simply to name the roles that David fills suggests why he has inspired so many images of him, both within the Bible itself and in subsequent traditions. David was variously shepherd, fugitive, politician, king, poet, musician, prophet, warrior, friend (the Jonathan story), lover, father, sinner (adulterer and murderer), penitent and “type” of Christ. David is unique among biblical characters by virtue of being fully known to us both from the outside (as subject of narrative writing) and from the inside (as writer of lyric poems).”

- Leland Ryken et al., *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 194.

“If I sat with you and I listened to recording of the last month of your words, whose kingdom, what kingdom, would I conclude those words are spoken to serve? Would it be the kingdom of self with its self-focused demandingness, expectancy, and entitlement? Would I hear a person who is quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to slam, and quick to condemn, because people are always violating the laws of your kingdom? Is the greatest moral offense in your life an offense that someone makes against the laws of your kingdom?”

- Paull Tripp, *War of Words: Getting to the Heart of your Communication Struggles*

“The core message of every other religion is always advice, what you must do. In Christianity, the core message is news. Not what you must do to connect to God but what has been done. It’s news that Jesus Christ died and rose again for us. If you’re saved by what you do, then the core of religion is advice. If you’re saved by what he has done and we just have to believe the news and rest in him, then the core of Christianity is not advice but news...By the way, if you (and an awful lot of people do) continue to understand Christianity in an advice model, if you still basically think of Christianity as advice, how you should live. “If I live like this then God will bless me and take me to heaven.” If you continue to use the advice paradigm to understand Christianity, you’re cut off from the kingdom of God. You’re not connected to God. You don’t have any of this that Jesus offers.

- Timothy J. Keller, "Called to the Kingdom," in The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive, 2014–2015 (New York: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2015), Mk 1:14–34.

The facets of David's character that render him most lifelike, however, appear less in his heroic moments than in his times of error and failure. These are the stories that are for the most part edited out of childhood Sunday school curricula, such as the affair with Bathsheba and the taking of the national census (2 Sam 11; 24). One of the most noteworthy features of the David story is that it begins with heroic promise but becomes a story of crime and punishment. In his career as a sinner, moreover, David becomes a classic case of one sin leading to another, as he degenerates from adulterer to murderer. Although David responds to his sin by being the ideal penitent, his subsequent life is dominated by family discord and political troubles. David the failure is the common person's David – a flawed figure in whom readers can see themselves.

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[The gospel] says that God is most reliably present not in our strengths or our successes or the things we like best about ourselves. Rather, God is present and working in the world exactly in the place where a person is falling apart, where they are discovering the limits of their power instead of its possibilities. It also means that God is always involved with people and situations exactly as they currently are, instead of as they could be or might be or used to be."

- Simeon Zahl, "Theology of the Cross" <https://mbird.com/glossary/theology-of-the-cross/>



# We Live Life Without Filters

By Sharing Stories Of Failure

[Get started](#)

The first rule is that these are stories of professional failure, not tales of substance abuse or moral lapses. Second, speakers must avoid giving advice.

Finally, no hero stories. The hero story: “Yes, I failed, but I’ve got it all together now.” The upbeat ending often robs the failure story of its inherent power.”



**THE  
STORY  
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# King David



**I will establish the throne  
of his kingdom forever.**

**2 Samuel 7:12-13**

# The Kingdom of God

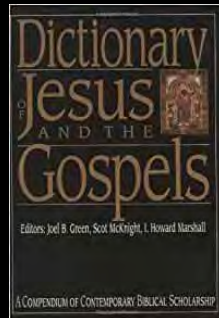
1. What it is
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“Three terms to express the same idea:

1. the kingdom of God
2. the kingdom of heaven
3. and the absolute “the kingdom”

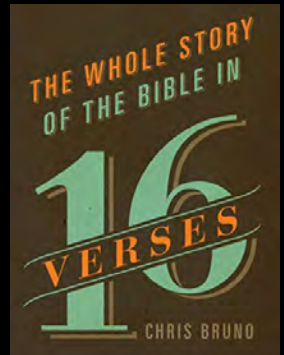
The primary meaning is abstract and dynamic, that is, “sovereignty” or “royal rule.”

C. C. Caragounis, “Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Heaven,” ed. Joel B. Green and Scot McKnight, *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992), 417.



God created a kingdom, and he is the King, but he made human beings to represent him in that kingdom. Adam and Eve rejected this call, which led to sin and death. But God promised to defeat the Serpent through the seed of the woman, who is also the seed of Abraham. Through Abraham's family, and specifically Judah's royal seed, the covenant blessings would come to the world. Because all people were guilty and deserved death, the sacrifices of the Mosaic law revealed more clearly their need for a substitute."

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<sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”

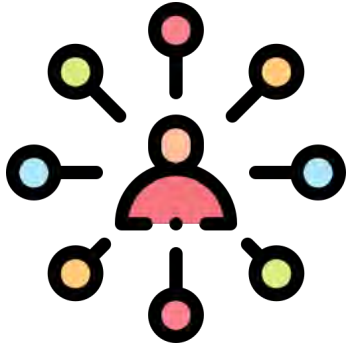
# The Kingdom of God

1. What it is
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# Judges 21:25

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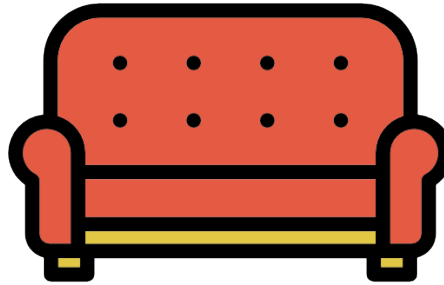
# Our Counterfeit Kings



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If I sat with you and I listened to recording of the last month of your words, whose kingdom, what kingdom, would I conclude those words are spoken to serve? Would it be the kingdom of self with its self-focused demandingness, expectancy, and entitlement? Would I hear a person who is quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to slam, and quick to condemn, because people are always violating the laws of your kingdom? Is the greatest moral offense in your life an offense that someone makes against the laws of your kingdom?"

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## Psalm 50:7-12

Listen, my people, and I will speak;

I will testify against you, Israel:

I am God, your God...

every animal of the forest is mine,  
and the cattle on a thousand hills.

I know every bird in the mountains,  
and the insects in the fields are mine.

If I were hungry I would not tell you,  
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.





## Acts 17:24-25

<sup>24</sup> “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

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## 2 Samuel 7:12-13

The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

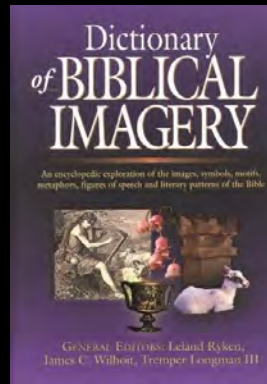
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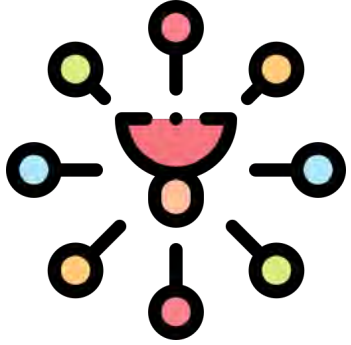
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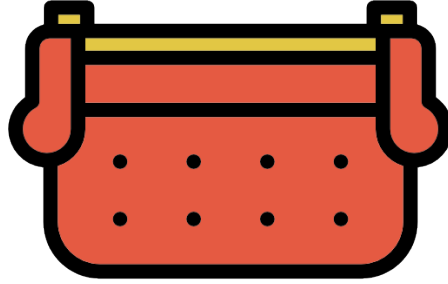
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# Gospel Application

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