

Week Eighteen

Days 120–126



Royal Kingdom Narrative: 2 Samuel 1–8 | Supplemental: 1 Chronicles 1–11: Psalms 13, 24–27, 60, 89

A NEW KING MOURNS A KING, UNIFIES ISRAEL



King David Playing the Harp (1622)
by Gerard van Honthorst

The reading from 1 Chronicles recounts the genealogies of the Israelites from Adam to Abraham, through the twelve tribes of Israel, to the kingship of David. His rise as the one king of Israel brings unity to the many names and generations seen in the biblical genealogies. The unification, however, will come to complete fulfillment for all humanity in Jesus, who comes from the human line of David.

- In 2 Samuel 1, David mourns the deaths of his enemy Saul and his dear friend Jonathan by singing a song of lamentation. David entreats the people of Israel to learn this song and sing it. David refuses to be held captive by the memory of Saul's animosity and jealousy. Rather, he honors Saul.
- David's rise to power includes numerous instances of violence and mercy.
- He must war against the relatives of Saul, but he does so while taking many opportunities to forgive those who fight him.
- Under David, Israel's unity will be based on the law of the Lord.
- The new king of Israel makes Jerusalem its capital, choosing it as his stronghold.
- In 2 Samuel 6, David brings the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem. The sacred Ark contains the Ten Commandments, Aaron's staff, and manna.
- This chapter emphasizes the sacredness of the Ark. Of course, Mary will be the more important Ark.
- Mary, the Mother of God, is the "new Ark of the Covenant," who carries the Word made flesh and "the living bread which came down from heaven" in her womb (John 6:51).
- God is pleased with David. He instructs the prophet Nathan to let David know that God will bless David's house.
- Although David has unified the kingdom, Deuteronomy 17:17 warns that a king should not have multiple wives "lest his heart turn away." Recalcitrant, King David takes many wives and concubines (see 2 Samuel 5:13).
- As a result, most of David's problems will come not from external enemies but from his own family.

