



CHAPTER 12 – THE TRIALS OF A KING

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God’s grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God’s expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: David’s sin and repentance, Absalom’s rebellion, preparations to build the temple.

DIGGING IN

- 1) The chapter opens up (page 161) with a reference that it was the time of year “when kings go off to war.” The last sentence of the opening paragraph tells us, “But David remained in Jerusalem.” It has been said that idle hands are the Devil’s workshop. Explain why that is.
- 2) Identify the progression of sins that David committed over the course of pages 161-162. What does his example teach us about the nature of sin?
- 3) The LORD sent the prophet Nathan to confront David for his sin. David could have responded, “Who are you to judge me?” How will Christians respond when someone comes to them to rebuke them for a sin?

Note: In the footnote on page 164, it says that “God is one God but acts in three “persons” of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.” This is wrong if you understand it to mean that there is one God who simply puts on a different mask and acts as three persons. We confess in the Athanasian Creed: “We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.” Want to know why it matters? As Pastor.

- 4) Read the words of Psalm 51 which are recorded on pages 163-164. What do learn about the human nature from these words? What do we learn about God?

- 5) Nathan declared to David that “The LORD has taken away your sin.” (page 165) Still, God said there would be consequences for David’s sin. What were those consequences? Imagine that a Christian boy sins against his mother. His mother forgives him but also announces that he will have his favorite toy taken away for a week. The boy responds, “But I thought you forgive me?” Help the boy to understand the difference between forgiveness for sin and consequences for sin.

- 6) David had a renegade son named Absalom. What dilemma did David face when it came to his feelings towards his son? How can parents today deal with rebellious adult children?

- 7) David made preparations for the future construction of the temple. By God’s grace, what was David’s legacy? Explain why all the people gave so generously for the project. What does that teach us about Christian giving and estate planning?

Chapter 13: The King Who Had It All

Bible Reference: 1 Kings 1-8; 10-11; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Proverbs 1-3; 6; 20-21