

# CLASH OF KINGDOMS

(4/7/2024; Life Group; 2 Samuel 2:8-4:12; Garett Halbert; Christ Proclamation Church)

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**Sermon Theme: People naturally reject rather than accept realities they don't desire, often to their own detriment. God has established the one true king and kingdom, yet people reject this reality for the failing kingdoms of the world. So, let's be those who accept King Jesus and seek the increase of His kingdom!**

## **I. Two Kingdoms Rise – Read 2 Samuel 2:8-3:5**

- A. What are the two kingdoms that begin to rise in 2:8-11? How would you summarize Abner's actions? Why are his actions so wrong (cf. 2 Samuel 3:9-10)?
- B. Read 2 Samuel 2:12-17. What happens when the men from two kingdoms battle? How does the death of these men show that this "Brothers' War" should not be happening?
- C. Read 2 Samuel 2:29-3:5. How are David and his kingdom highlighted in these verses as the kingdom on the rise?
- D. What causes people to set up false kingdoms rather than submit to the kingdom of God?

## **II. One Kingdom Falls – Read 2 Samuel 3:6-4:12**

- A. What observations do you make from 2 Samuel 3:6-25?
- B. Read 2 Samuel 3:6-11. What is the accusation that Ish-Bosheth makes against Abner? How does Abner's response to Ish-Bosheth help us identify that Abner is innocent?
- C. Read 2 Samuel 3:26-30. What is Joab's reaction to David's forgiveness towards Abner? In what ways does Joab's reaction highlight that Joab only followed God's king when it was convenient and didn't cost him anything?
- D. What do we learn about the frailty of worldly kingdoms in comparison to God's Kingdom? In addition, what do we learn about the costliness of being true servants of God's Kingdom?

## **III. One Kingdom Remains – Application**

- A. God is establishing the one true kingdom through King Jesus. How does Jesus' resurrection from the dead show that God has appointed Jesus as king (Romans 1:4)?
- B. Read Colossians 1:13-14. What do we learn about God's Kingdom and domain of darkness? How might this passage encourage us to engage the lost in our lives and communities?
- C. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. How can you promote peace among God's people? What are some Bible passages that can help us when we are slow to promote peace?