



**Hindsight is 20-20**  
37<sup>th</sup> in the “Samuel” Series  
2 Samuel 2:8-32  
February 18, 2024  
Pastor Kurt Pazdra II

**Introduction:** Scripture trains us to glimpse God’s providential care for us by showing us his consistent track record of kept promises. The skill of seeing God at work in our own stories strengthens our trust in him.

**Key Truth:** Human plans and cosmic powers fail, but God’s promises prevail.

### **Civil War (The Foreground / Historic Situation) —**

1. Guiding question: Will Abner’s power play outflank God’s plan?
2. God’s providence is glimpsed over the course of 3 scenes:
  - a. Civic conflict (vv. 8-11)
  - b. Comical contest (vv.12-16)
  - c. Chaotic combat (vv.17-32)
3. The schemes of human institutions cannot outflank God’s plan!

### **Cosmic War (The Background / Redemptive Significance) —**

1. Guiding question: Will cosmic power plays unravel God’s promises?
2. God’s providence is glimpsed through many “hyperlinks.” Let’s look at 2:
  - Ish-Bosheth (v.8) and God’s promise to Eve (Genesis 2:4-4:1, esp. 3:15).
  - Hebron (v.11) and God’s promise to Abram (Genesis 12-50, esp. Ch. 15).
3. The schemes of cosmic powers cannot unravel God’s promises!

**Response:** When it’s hard to trust God’s promises (easier to lean on our power and plans):

1. Look back to Jesus! Remember the Lord’s loyalty in ancient times, as recorded in Scripture, and in your own life, as guided by Scripture.
2. Look forward to Jesus! Wait for the Lord’s deliverance (Psalm 27:1, 14; Proverbs 20:22).

## Sunday Text Questions

2 Samuel 2:8-32

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

1. Read 2 Samuel 2:8-32 and delight in God's Word with curiosity! What questions do you have as you read?

2. Here's a key truth in this text: Human plans and cosmic powers fail, but God's promises prevail. How have you seen this to be true in your life / the lives of other Christians?

3. As the text flies through three scenes in the civil war between Ish-bosheth/Abner and David/Joab, we find that the plans of powerful human institutions couldn't outflank God's plan to make David king. What strengthens our trust in Jesus in the face of bad news and the abuses of corrupt human institutions?

4. We looked at how God kept his ancient covenant promises to Abraham and Eve, which were ultimately fulfilled by King Jesus. How do you feel and respond, knowing that Jesus defeated sin and death, made peace with you, and heals your shame so that you can be united with God and enjoy the Father's love?

5. God invites us to look back to Jesus and look forward to Jesus. That is, to remember his loyalty to rescue us in our past and wait for him to rescue us moving forward. What helps us look back and forward to Jesus?

**Further study this week:** These passages show us God's kept promises and help us trust God in hard times: Romans 8:31-39 (Mon); Galatians 3:6-4:7 (Tues); Luke 4 (Wed); Colossians 1:9-29 (Thurs); Psalm 89 (Fri).