

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
July 28, 2016**

2 Samuel 19:1–43. David’s return to power.

2 Peter 3:1–13. God’s coming judgment and hope.

Psalms 145:1–21. The greatness of God.

COMMENTS:

2 Samuel 19:1–43. 19:1-3: What should have been a joyful day of celebration of David’s return became a day of profound grief for David. His elation at having regained the kingdom was undercut by his despair at having lost a son. So chagrined were David’s soldiers that they slipped out of town, as though they were losers instead of winners in the battle against Absalom’s troops. **19:4–8:** Joab, who had known before the frustration of doing what he felt was right only to have the king turn it against him (see 3:27–39; 14:28–33), confronted David and rebuked him for his insensitivity toward his officers and people. It appeared, Joab said, that David would have been more satisfied if Absalom had lived and all of them had died. In order to salvage what little morale was left, Joab urged David to appear before the troops and assure them that he appreciated their selfless service to him. David needed to start thinking of the sacrifice and loyalty of his troops and families who suffered for him. David was so obsessed with the death of Absalom, his favorite son, that he could think of nothing else. By isolating himself from his men, the king turned a military victory into an emotional defeat. Certainly we expect a father to grieve over the tragic death of a son and overlook the son’s mistakes and sins. But leaders must still lead, even in times when they are in despair and depression. David the father forgot that he was also *God’s anointed king* and that he still had his crown because God and his brave soldiers put the good of the nation ahead of their own personal interests. Joab’s short but cutting speech jolted the king back to reality, and David took his place at the gate—where his men came to him and where he acknowledged their brave service. The one thing that’s missing in the entire Absalom episode is David’s seeking the mind of the Lord as he made decisions. The younger David called for the Urim and Thummim or asked for the counsel of a prophet, but apart from his prayer in 15:31, we don’t find David requesting guidance and recognizing the job the Lord had for him in ruling as king. Even a man after God’s own heart can get so distracted as to get his eyes off of the Lord. No matter where we are, the Lord is always there to deliver us from prolonged depression over the death of a loved one, but He really is the only light out of that dark tunnel. He really is the ultimate good of our lives. He is both our Creator and Final End.

2 Peter 3:1–13. After Peter discusses false teachers and their denial of Jesus’ return, he provides his readers with the incentive of obedience by the promise of Jesus’ return (**3:1-2**). False teachers were looking skeptically at such promises because the stability of the universe did not indicate that God was about to break again into history (**3:3–4**). Peter responded to the denials of the heretics by suggesting that the present regularity of the world was not an argument for permanent continuance in the same form. The God who held the universe together by His word could alter it with the same word (**3:7**). In favor of a belief in Jesus’ return, Peter also argued that God viewed time very different from man (**3:8**). The true explanation for the delay in Christ’s return was God’s grace in allowing an opportunity for unbelievers to respond in faith to Jesus (**3:9**). Peter believed that Christ’s promise to return would be fulfilled with destructive power at a time when sinners would least expect it (**3:10**). The fact of Jesus’ promised return was to provide strength for a new attitude of purity, commitment, and the eternal perspective (**3:11**) since this world is going up in flames (**3:12**).

Psalm 145:1–21. In this psalm David vows to praise the Lord as King and His name (His character) “Every day.” Note David’s appreciation of God’s unfathomable greatness—no one has ever plumbed its depths—a truth that is especially known by Christian Realists, cf. *Esse*, the simplicity of God, and timelessness of God. To live in the greatness of God is far richer than “living in God” in a functional, pragmatic, or conduit manner. Observe **verse 9**, as I noted in our last Bible class, every person is drawn to what he views as his good. This is an inescapable truth. No man freely does anything good or bad unless it is under the guise of good in some way. The believer who really sees God as good is irresistibly drawn to Him in delight. Note those beautiful truths in **verses 17-21**: righteous, grace, nearness of the Lord, truth, and love. No wonder David so loved and delighted in the Lord. God really was his greatest good and everything else was simply means to exist, to thrive, and to love and appreciate God.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don