

Recap of 11/30/25 message by Pastor Steve Plank
(“God Told Me To...”) 2 Samuel 4:1-5:5:

Following Abner’s murder, Ish-bosheth and all Israel are distressed. Their military leader is dead, what are they doing? Two of Ish-bosheth’s commanders take matters into their own hands by murdering him and presenting his head to David. They claim to be instruments of God’s vengeance (2 Sa 4:8). David replies that it is Yahweh that delivers him from all distress, not these two murderers. He just has them executed and their bodies hung in public as a warning to others. Subsequently, all the tribes of Israel come to Hebron and make David king over all Israel. We learn that he has been king over Judah for seven and a half years and will reign over all Israel for the next thirty-three years.

God’s promise to David is fulfilled in God’s timing. In contrast to people who use God’s name to claim they are doing His bidding while only serving themselves, David has patiently waited on God to act, refusing to take ungodly actions to help achieve God’s promise. We must beware of helping God in a way that contradicts His Word. God allows us to work alongside Him, but never in ungodly ways. The Bible has a name for people who contradict God’s Word while claiming to be godly, false teachers.

Israel was warned about false teachers extensively in the Old Testament. We are explicitly warned about false teachers by every New-Testament author except James and he implicitly warns us in Jas 3. See Mt 7:15, Ac 20:28-30, 2 Co 11:4, 13-15, 2 Pt 2:1-3, Jd 3-4, 1 Jn 4:1, and 2 Jn 7-9 for just a few of these warnings. Notice that the warnings are about false teachers from within our number, from inside the professing church. They are people who change the gospel, encourage greed and licentiousness, and are out to promote themselves instead of Christ Jesus. The best way to recognize and combat false teachers/teaching, is to know God’s Word well. Don’t believe anything because your favorite pastor or Bible teacher says it. Take every teaching back to scripture to see if it is true. Your favorite teacher may help you see new things but only believe things because you are convinced the Bible teaches it. If/when you leave Del Rio Bible Church, ensure your new church teaches directly from a believed Bible. In other words, they believe what the Bible says and they teach it. Stay far away from anyone who says something like “I know what the Bible seems to say,” but then starts jumping through hoops to convince you that “it doesn’t really mean what it says, especially in our 21st century context.”