

2 Samuel

“The Reign of the King”

I. Introduction to 2 Samuel

- A. Originally 1 & 2 Samuel were one book in the Hebrew Canon
1. 1 Samuel – 1st book of the Kingdoms
 2. 2 Samuel – 2nd book of the Kingdoms
 3. This is not a modern western historical account, but an ancient near-eastern history. It focuses on selected events to communicate theological truths.
- B. The authorship of 2 Samuel is uncertain
1. It clearly contains eyewitness testimony, but may also be a compilation of other sources.
 - a. 2 Samuel 1:18 mentions the Book of Jasher
 - b. 1 Chronicles 29:29 speaks of the Books of Nathan and Gad
 - c. Considered by many to have been written by Nathan and Gad; although we have no way of knowing for sure.
 2. 2 Samuel covers a period of 40 years.
 - a. Approximate dates: 1010 B.C. – 970 B.C.
 - b. It begins with the death of Saul, and ends with the final days of David
 3. 2 Samuel is distinctly the book of David’s reign.
 - a. It opens with his ascension to the throne over Judah, and ends when he is well advanced in years.
 4. The focus is upon the triumphs, trials and tragedies of his 40 year reign.
 - a. 2 Samuel 5:4-5 “David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.”

Chart of David through the years		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Approximate Age</u>
1040 B.C.	birth	0
1021	Goliath	19
1016	Fled Saul	24
1010	King of Judah	30
1003	King of Israel	37
982	Bathsheba	Mid 50’s
976	Absalom	Mid 60’s
970	Death	70



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5. David spends seven years reigning from Hebron over the Tribe of Judah.
6. David spends thirty-three years reigning over all Israel from his throne in Jerusalem.
7. Intermingled throughout 1 & 2 Samuel, the majority of the Psalms were written.
 - a. Not all Psalms reveal the situation in which they were written.
 - b. This may be partially due to the wide application that each of these poetic songs has in the life of the growing believer.
8. Those Psalms whose titles reveal that they were written during the narrative of 2 Samuel include:
 - a. Psalm 60 – Written after victories in 2 Samuel 8
 - b. Psalm 51 – Written after David repented of sin (Psalm 32 is considered to have been written at this occasion as well)
 - c. Psalm 3 – Written upon fleeing Absalom (2 Samuel 15)
 - d. Psalm 9 – Written after the death of a son; may refer to Bathsheba’s child, Amnon, or Absalom
9. Some key places to keep in mind as you read through 2 Samuel include:
 - a. Mount Gilboa – Where Saul and Jonathan died in battle with the Amalekites.
 - b. Hebron – Where David was anointed King of Judah (2 Samuel 2:1&4); later was anointed King of Israel (2 Samuel 5:1)
 - c. Mahanaim – Where Ishbosheth reigned as king of Israel (2 Samuel 2:8)
 - d. Jerusalem – David’s first campaign as king and the most holy of all cities (2 Samuel 5:6)
 - e. Geshur – The home of Absalom’s mother, and site where he fled after killing Amnon (2 Samuel 3:3, 14:37)
 - f. Threshing floor of Aranunah (also referred to as Ornan) – The land David purchased to offer sacrifice and stop the plague, and the future site the Temple (2 Samuel 24:24, 2 Chronicles 3:1)

II. Why Study 2 Samuel

- A. 2 Samuel continues the unbroken chain of inspired history of the people of God.
 1. Genesis to 2 Kings tells the story of the rise and fall of the nation.
 2. 1 & 2 Chronicles covers the same period as 1 Samuel – 2 Kings, from another perspective. The events are arranged to emphasize different truths.
 3. Ezra to Esther picks up where 2 Kings left off and tells of the rising again of the people of God
- B. 2 Samuel teaches the value of fellowship.
 1. NO MAN IS AN ISLAND. We were designed by God to be in community with one another.
 2. 2 Samuel illustrates the value of being surrounded by godly men. Many of the great heroes who came alongside David are listed for us here. A quick glance at the mighty men from 2 Samuel 21:15-22:
 - a. Abishai, Sibbechai, Elhannah, and Jonathan; killed the four descendants of Goliath
 3. 2 Samuel 23:8-39 lists:
 - a. Adino (23:8) killed 800 men in one battle
 - b. Eleazer (23:9) “Son of Dodo” – fought till his hand stuck to the sword
 - c. Shammah (23:11) Stood his ground to protect a bean field
 - d. 3 un-named men (23:16-17) risked their lives to bring David water too lofty for him to drink so he poured it out to the LORD

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- e. Abishai (23:18) brother of Joab, fought 300 men (also saved David when one of Goliath’s son would have killed him in battle, 2 Samuel 21:7)
 - f. Benaiah (23:20) killed lion-like men, a lion and a mighty Egyptian
 - g. A series of others are listed without recording their deeds. Most notable is Uriah the Hittite
- C. The key lesson of 2 Samuel is the danger of compromise and the consequences of sin.
- 1. The first ten chapters continue the story from 1 Samuel and tell of David’s triumphs
 - 2. The final ten chapters tell of trials and tragedies
 - 3. Situated in between is the lowest point in David’s life – his sinful encounter with Bathsheba
- D. There is much we can learn about the danger of sin and the way of repentance
- 1. First, we all must be on guard
 - a. Augustine wrote: “David’s fall should put upon their guard all who have not fallen and save from despair all those who have fallen.”
 - b. Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 10:12, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”
 - 2. Sin does not happen suddenly.
 - a. 2 Samuel 11:2-4, “then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, ‘Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?’ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her home.”
 - 3. Although we read it happened one evening, there was a lot of compromise that led to that one evening.
 - a. David multiplied wives and had concubines; a violation of the Law (Deuteronomy 17:17)
 - b. He allowed himself to take on the world’s view of marriage and sexual relations
 - c. David was in the wrong place (should have been in battle with his men)
 - d. David saw, beheld, sent, and inquired
 - e. Ignoring the warning signs will always lead to failure
 - f. The wife of Uriah – the ultimate reason for his sin was defying the Word of God
 - g. Sin leads to more sin
 - 4. The Cover Up
 - a. Pulled Uriah from battle
 - b. Got him drunk
 - c. Got him killed
 - d. Faked mourning for him
 - e. Married Bathsheba
 - f. Lied to the Nation
 - 5. He even wears the crown when the Ammonites are finally defeated
 - 6. We read of his hardened heart toward God
 - a. Kept it hidden for a year
 - b. Was ready to kill the man in Nathan’s story:
2 Samuel 12:5-6 “So David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, ‘As the Lord lived, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he

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shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

7. Sin can be forgiven.
 - a. Nathan exposed David’s sin; calling him out with that famous line, “You are the man!”
 - b. David goes on to cry out for forgiveness
 - c. Psalm 51
 - d. Though sin is forgiven, it carries grave consequences.
 8. Later he will write of the great internal suffering he experienced.
 - a. Psalm 32:3-4, “When I kept silent, my bones grew old, through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.”
 9. The whole book of 2 Samuel is built around the sin of David.
- E. Chapters 1 – 10 Tells of David’s triumphs
1. The Philistines are subdued
 2. The “Ites” are removed
 3. The nations around Israel are paying tribute
 4. The Ark is in Jerusalem
 5. The Lord is being magnified
- F. Chapters 13 – 14 Tells a tragic story of the consequences of sin
1. Key verse to the book: 2 Samuel 12:11
“Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house . . .’”
 2. The remainder of the book will follow the adversity that David will experience as a result of sin
 3. Sin can be forgiven but sin has grave consequences and should be avoided at all costs.

III. 2 Samuel Outline

- A. 2 Samuel can be easily divided by its content
1. Section 1 Chapters 1 – 10 David’s Triumphs
 2. Section 2 Chapters 11 – 12 David’ Tragic Fall
 3. Section 3 Chapters 13 – 24 David’s Trials
- B. Section 1 Chapters 1 – 10 David’s Triumphs
This section can be further divided
1. Chapters 1 – 4 David becomes King – emphasis on Hebron
 - a. The Amalekites who killed Saul
 - b. Called to Hebron, anointed by Judah as King
 - c. This begins a period of 7 years of conflict between Judah and Israel. As Israel refuses to recognize David as the rightful King.
 - d. Finally, Abner, Ishboeth’s general, defects to David, Abner was murdered and the nation rallied around David at Hebron
 2. Chapter 5 David’s 3rd Anointing
 - a. Samuel – call of God
 - b. Judah – recognition by those close to him

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- c. Israel – recognition by all
 - d. The Chronicler relates more details about the glorious three-day celebration in Hebron at the anointing of David.
 1. Each tribe sent a sizable contingent of armed men
 2. The celebration lasted 3 days. The locals provided most of the provisions, but tribes from as far as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali brought great quantities of good on all means of conveyance.
 3. “There was joy in Israel. . .” (1 Chronicles 12:23-40)
 - e. David was thirty years old when he became king (of all Israel?) In round figures, he reigned 40 years. Seven and a half years he ruled over Judah from Hebron. His rule over all Israel was 33 years (2 Samuel 5:4-5)
3. Chapter 6 David Reigns and Triumphs
- a. David’s first order of business was to establish Jerusalem as the new capital for the untied nation of Israel.
 1. Joab was the first to scale the vertical water tunnel and enter Jebus. He therefore became commander of the army.
 2. Once the city was secure, David took up residence in that stronghold.
 3. Since the place had been conquered by David’s men, and since David resided there, the place was called “the city of David”.
 - b. The Ark of God
 1. Establishing Jerusalem as the center of worship for the entire nation was the priority of the early years of David’s reign.
 2. The obvious first step in bringing this about was to transport the Ark, the ancient symbol of the covenant, to Jerusalem. This was accomplished in two stages.
 3. After consulting with his military commanders, David proposed to the assembly of Israel that the Ark be transported to Jerusalem, the new capital. The assembly concurred. The King then assembled an honor guard of thirty thousand men from all of Israel to escort the Ark of God to Jerusalem. This representative force traveled the ten miles from Jerusalem to Baale-judah (Baalah; Kiriath-jearim) where the Ark had resided for some seven decades.
 4. Unfortunately, David did not take time to research the proper manner of transporting the Ark. He placed the sacred chest on an Ox cart.
 5. This proved costly, as one man lay dead. The Ark remained at the house of Obed-edom for three months.
 6. David decided to try again to move the Ark to Jerusalem for two reasons:
 - Yahweh was blessings Obed-edom
 - David had learned the reason for his initial failure 1 Chronicles 15:13
 7. After this was done, the Levites reverently attached poles to the Ark and hoisted the sacred chest to their shoulders, “as Moses had commanded according to the work of Yahweh” (1 Chronicles 15:3-15)
 8. 1 Chronicles 16:4-42 When the Ark was installed in Jerusalem, David appointed priests and Levites to ministerial posts. Asaph was the chief of those appointed to lead the praise before the Ark. A lengthy psalm, is recorded in 1 Chronicles 16
 - Psalms exhort
 - Thanks
 - Remembering
 - Proclaiming the promise of God

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4. Chapter 7 Tells the story of David’s desire to build a house for the Lord
 - a. God’s responds with a promise to David that becomes one of the pivotal passages of the Old Testament
 1. Genesis 3:15 Messiah would be of the seed of the woman and would undo the work of Satan
 2. Genesis 22:18 Messiah would come from Abraham and be for all mankind
 3. Genesis 49:10 Messiah would come through Judah
 4. 2 Samuel 7 Messiah would come through David
 5. From this point forward the Jews expected their Messiah to come from David
 - b. Victories recorded
5. Chapter 8 – 10 Expansion of Israel’s territory
 - a. David expands the territory controlled by Israel significantly in all directions. His conquests resulted in foreign tribute flowing into the coffers of his kingdom. Distant kings swore vassal allegiance to David.
 - b. Key note: No victories recorded after Chapter 11
6. Chapters 11-12 David’s tragic fall
 - a. We already looked at the details of the fall in the “Why Study 2 Samuel” section
7. Chapters 13 – 24 David’s Trials
 - a. The final section of the book is best understood in light of 2 Samuel 12:11
“Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house’; . . .”
 - b. Chapter 13 The tragic Story of Amnon and Tamar
 1. Due to his personal failure, David fails to deal with Amnon properly and Absalom kills him
 - c. Chapter 14 – 18 Tells Absalom’s story
 1. His is a story of self-exaltation
 2. It is fitting that he dies of a big head
 - d. Chapter 19 Tells of the difficulty of reuniting the nation after Absalom’s rebellion
 - e. Chapter 20 tells of Sheba of Bethlehem who insights rebellion and leads the nation against David, yet again
 - f. Chapters 21- 24 Seem to be somewhat of an appendix to the book, dealing with a series of actions of the king including:
 - A Psalm of Praise
 - David’s last words
 - David’s mighty men
 - An error in judgment
 - The purchase of the land where the Temple will be built

IV. Types of Christ

A. Prophetic Teaching

1. A main prophetic teaching of 2 Samuel is found in the Davidic Covenant, spelled out in Chapter 7, verse 14 – 16. This is one of the mountain peaks of Scripture.

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B. Typical teaching

1. As much as any book of the Old Testament, 2 Samuel demonstrates the grace of God. David, himself, received God's grace time and time again. This is shown markedly in his awful sin, his restoration and his assurance of God's forgiveness.
2. David's care of Mephibosheth is a picture of the sinner received, forgiven, and exalted to a place of fellowship and protection. Consider these reflections of God's redeeming grace in Christ:
 - a. Mephibosheth was lame (2 Samuel 4:4), having fallen at the hands of another (Romans 5:12)
 - b. He was sought by David, even though he belonged to the family of the king's enemies (2 Samuel 9:1-3, Romans 5:6,8-10)
 - c. He was found in the house of Machir (2 Samuel 9:5), “machir” means “sold” (Romans 7:14)
 - d. He was in the land of Lodebar, which means “no pasture” (2 Samuel 9:5, 1 Peter 2:25)
 - e. He feared the king (2 Samuel 9:6, Matthew 10:28, Hebrews 9:27)
 - f. He took a place of humility before David (2 Samuel 9:6). This reminds us of the publican (Luke 18:13) and the prodigal (Luke 15:19)
 - g. David gave him the highest place (2 Samuel 9:10). How full is God's measure of grace! (Ephesians 1:3)
 - h. He lived in the city of Jerusalem, which means “peace” (2 Samuel 9:13, Romans 5:1-2, Philippians 4:7)
 - i. He carried the marks of his fall to his grave, but grace kept them out of sight (2 Samuel 9:13, 1 John 3:1-3)
3. All this speaks volumes about the work of our Lord, in making possible the salvation of sinners, and about our acceptance before him.