

## 2 SAMUEL

### INTRODUCTION

1. AUTHOR – Unknown, but not Samuel since he died in 1 Samuel 25. Some accounts may be by David or Nathan but they were compiled after David's reign.
2. DATE WRITTEN – Again unknown. This book was originally written as one book to be combined with 1 Samuel.
3. DATES COVERED – The reign of David (40 years) from the death of Saul, to the end of David's reign.
4. NAME – Taken from Samuel and First book.
5. KEY VERSES – 5:3, 7:12-16, 12:7, 15:6, 18:18, and 24:10

### OUTLINE

1. DAVID'S REIGN IS ESTABLISHED OVER ALL ISRAEL. CH 1-7
  - A. David was anointed king over Judah while Ish-Bosheth ruled over Israel. (Ch1: 1-2:7)
  - B. David was anointed king over all Israel. (Ch2: 8-5:5)
  - C. David established his throne with a series of victories. (Ch5: 5-25)
  - D. God established David's throne forever. (Ch6-7)
2. DAVID HAS MANY SUCCESSES AS KING. CH 8-9
  - A. The Lord gave David victory wherever he went. (Ch8)
  - B. David treated Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, kindly. (Ch9)
3. DAVID'S REIGN HAS MANY TROUBLES. CH 10-20
  - A. David sinned with Bathsheba and was punished. (Ch10-12)
  - B. Absalom, David's son, rebelled against him and was defeated. (Ch13-19)
  - C. Sheba rebelled and was defeated. (Ch20)
4. AN APPENDIX TO DAVID'S RULE. CH 21-24
  - A. The Gibeonites were avenged against Saul. (Ch21) See Joshua 9.
  - B. David praised the Lord for his victories. (Ch22) See Psalm 18.
  - C. The list of David's great men. (Ch23) It includes Uriah.
  - D. David sinned in taking the census of his men and was punished. (Ch24)

### IMPORTANCE OF 2 SAMUEL

1. Second Samuel contains the story of David, a man whose heart was continually faithful to God. See 1 Sam 13:14, 1 Kings 11:4, 15:3. From this point on, David is used as an example of a righteous king.
2. God granted victories to David as he was faithful to the Lord. See Ch 5, 8, 10. This is a renewal of the pattern during the life of Joshua.
3. We see that even a "man after God's own heart" is capable of great sin as in chapters 11 and 24. Yet we see that even great sin is met by God's great forgiveness as in chapter 12. See Psalm 32 and 51.
4. We also notice that even though David's great sin was forgiven, he still suffered consequences of it the rest of his life. (12:10, 14 & Absalom)
5. We see the Covenant established with David that would only be fulfilled in God's eternal Son, the Messiah who would reign on David's throne in Chapter 7. Psalm 89 is David's response to God's grace and generosity.
6. We are again reminded of God's holiness and standards in the story of Uzzah in chapter 6:6-7.
7. We see the seriousness and long-term consequences hundreds of years later of the hasty decision made by Joshua and Israel toward the Gibeonites. Compare Joshua 9:14 with 2 Samuel 21.

## SECOND SAMUEL

1 – In this account, the Lord fulfilled his promise to David and he became king of Israel. There were some strange circumstances that brought it about. Saul and Jonathan died in battle. David learned of and mourned the death of Saul, “the Lord’s Anointed” with a great song. David put to death the bearer of the news that Saul was dead since he had on at least two occasions refused to lay a hand against Saul because he was “the Lord’s Anointed.” V12 “And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.”

2 – The captain of Saul’s army supported the one surviving son of Saul, Ish-Bosheth to be king. God promised David a long time ago that he would be king over Israel. Now that Saul was dead, it still took several years for God’s promise to be fulfilled. However in this chapter, David was anointed and recognized as king over Judah. V4 “And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.” It is the same with Jesus. He has been promised to rule over the entire earth but it has taken nearly 2000 years for that to be fulfilled so far. Our timing rarely lines up with God’s timing. But how often do we act as if our timing is better than God’s?

3 – Now Abner, after resisting David for so long and finally agreeing to turn over the kingdom to him, was slain by Joab. David mourned and claimed no responsibility. V37 “So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king’s will to put to death Abner the son of Ner.” God could have accomplished this process in a much easier way. We must trust that God always does things in the best way as is demonstrated by the death of Jesus. Could salvation not have been accomplished in an easier way? Evidently not!

4 – Now Ish-bosheth was killed by two of David’s men. Again he cannot understand how after they saw how careful he was with Saul, they thought he would be happy about the death of an innocent man who was killed while lying within his own house. David had them executed. V11 “How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?” The bottom line though is that at the end of chapter 4, everything is in place for David to become king of all Israel.

5 – Finally all Israel anointed David as king and he settled in, only to be attacked by the Philistines. He followed God’s guidance and won the victory. V10 “And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts was with him.” The presence of God in our lives does not mean the end of trouble and distress for us. God has his ways of doing things and those do not seem to be the easiest by our estimation. But he knows that they are the best.

6 – In this chapter, David brought the ark to Jerusalem. God’s method of transport was to have it carried by priests. He did not do it God’s way but had it brought on an ox cart. There was great celebration. When the oxen stumbled and it looked like the ark might fall off, Uzzah reached out his hand to catch it. God struck him dead. Later the journey continued. V15 “So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn.” A lot of people, including David are upset about this incident. The answer is that we have no idea how serious sin is to God. We get glimpses of it when we see an incident like this. We see it again when we see that God sent his Son Jesus to die for our sin. We see it again when we see that punishment for sin is eternity in hell apart from the presence of the grace of God. It is a truth that we are not able to discern the impact of our action on someone else. Only they can determine the impact. Our sin impacts God far more than we realize. It only makes the provision of Jesus who died for our sins even greater.

7 – In this chapter God revealed to David what he had been planning since the creation of the world. David would be established as king over God’s nation forever. V16 “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” The fulfillment of this

would be in the Messiah, Jesus, born nearly 1000 years later. David brought great worship. Is it true that God has done more for us in salvation and the promise of eternity than for David? It is in the sense that we get to look back and see the full impact of the Savior's life and work. Help us worship and respond in this way and more. V21 "Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness to make your servant know it." Some of the promises God gave David here will be fulfilled through Solomon but many of them will only be fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ who will reign forever on the throne of his father David.

8 – V6, 14 "And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went." This is a picture of the way things are supposed to work if we obey the Lord. It is the same picture we see in the book of Joshua. That is in contrast to the book of Judges that shows how things work when we do not obey.

9 – David's heart was much like God's. He desired to show kindness to anyone left of Jonathan's family. He learned that there is one son left. His name was Mephibosheth. He was lame from an accident when he was a child. David spoke to Mephibosheth in V7. "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always." David represents the Savior in his initiative toward Mephibosheth and because he did it on behalf of his covenant with Jonathan. So we as sinners are saved because of Jesus. God acts toward us in kindness and mercy because of Jesus.

10 – David and his nation were faced with a battle. Joab, David's captain of the army, gave good advice for fighting battles for the Lord. Make your best plans and strategies and then trust the Lord to do the actual victory. V12 "Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people and for the cities of our God, and may the Lord do what seems good to him." The Lord gave them victory over their enemies.

11 – This is the story of David and Bathsheba. Were the roots of this sin in the fact that David did not go out to battle? Was he as king supposed to have gone into battle? Then he was a beautiful woman, Bathsheba bathing and took her "and he lay with her." Instead of confessing and forsaking his sin, he tried to cover it up. Isn't this our default position? Don't we fear being caught more than the consequences of our sin? David arranged for Bathsheba's husband to come home so he could sleep with his wife. When that failed, he had her husband killed in battle so he could take and marry Bathsheba. It almost looks like he got away with it. But look at the Lord's reaction in V27 "And the thing that David had done displeased the Lord." Don't you feel sadness for the sake of the Lord in this? How our sin must also grieve him! Lord, let us feel with your heart reaction to our own sin, all of it. Let it point us to Jesus.

12 – The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to confront David about his sin. How would you like it if God told someone one of your sins and sent them to confront you about it? The key element in David's disobedience in Nathan's eyes is in V9. "Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight?" David responded well to Nathan's story that led David to accuse himself and declare his own punishment. He confessed, V13 "I have sinned against the Lord." How wonderful to hear that God forgives. "The Lord also has put away your sin. You shall not die." However there will be consequences. V14 "Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die." David sought the Lord's grace for his son by praying and fasting for him. However when he died, David committed it to the Lord and moved on, comforting his wife and having another son. How gracious of God this is when it says of this son, V24 "and the Lord loved him." This is Solomon who will succeed David on the throne. However, even though David was forgiven and restored, there remained many horrible consequences from David's sin.

13 – The consequences of David's sin began to be fulfilled. There is so much evil in this chapter. Amnon deceived and raped his sister. Absalom plotted for over two years to avenge that act. David as father seemed worthy of some blame for not addressing the sin of either of them. V21 "When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry." As king David made many good decisions. As father it seems that he failed to discipline any of his sons. He did not deal with Amnon for the rape. He did not deal with

Absalom for murdering Amnon. Strong king does not mean strong father. David appears weak as a father and it cost him much grief.

14 – Joab and a wise woman of Tekoa conspired successfully to get Absalom restored to his home yet not into the presence and grace of the king. V23-24 "So Joab arose and went to Geshur and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. And the king said, 'Let him dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence.' So Absalom lived apart in his own house and did not come into the king's presence." When Jesus died for our sins, he restored us fully to the Father. There is no partial restoration. There is an interesting statement by the woman after David rendered his decision that sounds like a phrase Nathan could have used regarding David's judgment against the man in Nathan's story. It is in V13, "For in giving this decision the king convicts himself..."

15 – David fled. He knew that all of this was a result of his sin with Bathsheba and yet he trusted the results and outcome into the hand of the Lord. He said, V25 "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place." It is interesting how the Lord directed David to pray regarding the advice the counselors give to Absalom.

16 – Note the number of times it was recognized that the Lord was the one in charge of all that happened. We need that awareness more in our lives. David committed the cursing that was sent his way and said that it may be from the Lord. V11-12 "...for the Lord has told him to. It may be that the Lord will look on the wrong done to me, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing today."

17 – Absalom sought the advice of two counselors. The first had sworn loyalty to him while the second was a plant by King David. Each offered advice and the advice of the second was seen as better. The author wrote in V14, "For the Lord had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel so that the Lord might bring harm against Absalom." This is most evident in the death of Jesus that outwardly looked so terrible but actually accomplished salvation for the world.

18 – The battle was fought between the forces loyal to Absalom and those loyal to David. David gave strict instructions not to harm his son Absalom. The forces of David totally defeated the forces of Absalom and Joab David's commander killed Absalom. The news of the battle came to David. V28 "Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who had raised their hand against my lord the king." David mourned so strongly for the death of his son that the accusation against David was that he chose the welfare of his son Absalom over the welfare of the nation. Again it seems that the emphasis is that David's sin was the cause of all this turmoil. Absalom died and David mourned over his death. David's grief may be a picture of the father son relationship that illustrates in some way the relationship of Father God and Son Jesus.

19 – The seeds of the division between Judah and Israel appear in this chapter. David was restored as king but they fought over who would restore David as king. While it seemed the great world divide is between Jews and Gentiles, here it also appears among Jews. How great is the grace of God in Jesus as seen in the church. Not only is the divide between Jews and Gentiles overcome, but all others as well! Every division is an opportunity for the grace of God to overcome and be shown.

20 – One more rebellion broke out and Joab and David's forces of Judah defeated it. V1 "Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said, 'We have no portion in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents O Israel!'" David's army chases him and he is killed.

21 – This is a strange story. In this chapter seven descendants of Saul are hanged because of Saul's sin against the Gibeonites. It appears that they were innocent of any wrongdoing yet there was something about this that satisfies God so that before it is said that there was famine and after their hanging, V14

"God responded to the plea for the land." The innocent died for the sin of the guilty. That does sound like a picture of Jesus.

22 – This is a psalm of deliverance. It presents two pictures. One is of God's power and wrath against those who are opposed to him or those who belong to him. That is what our salvation saves us from. The other is a picture of deliverance. V47-49 "The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock and exalted be my God the rock of my salvation, the God who gave me vengeance and brought down peoples under me, who brought me out from my enemies; you exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from men of violence." That is how wonderful it is to be rescued by God as we are through Jesus. We will be rescued from all our enemies when Jesus returns.

23 – This chapter lists the exploits of the mighty men that fought with David. V8 "These are the names of the mighty men whom David had." Note that the final name listed is "Uriah the Hittite." He was the husband of Bathsheba. As loyal and as great as he was for David, David sinned against him with adultery and murder. What is encouraging about the names of these men is that their names are preserved 3000 years after their lives ended. God knows our name and in Jesus we belong to him for all eternity.

24 – The story is that God was angry against Israel and incited David against them. When David numbered the people the Lord punished them by sending a plague in which 70,000 were killed. It seems that numbering the people was wrong because it might lead to trust in the numbers of people and not in God. So he reduced the number of the people. This chapter is an illustration of propitiation as is chapter 21. God reacts to sin by punishment. It is the sacrifice that is offered that appeases the Lord's wrath. V25 "So the Lord responded to the plea for the land and the plague was averted from Israel." It is the death of Jesus that ultimately satisfied the righteous demands of God's wrath against us.