

## 2 Samuel

As we mentioned last time, the books of 1 & 2 Samuel were originally one book

- They were later separated

The entire book of 2 Samuel revolves around one central character

- King David

David was king over Judah for 7½ years

- He was king over all Israel for 33 years (2 Sam 5:4-5; 1 Kings 2:10-11)

David lived at the halfway point between Abraham and Christ

- About 1000 B.C.

David is also the one man ever to be called “a man after My heart” (Acts 13:22; 1 Sam 13:14)

- What a title – especially in light of what we know about David

Because 1 & 2 Samuel were originally one book, there is no real “break” between the two books

- It is one unbroken historical document

2 Samuel continues many of the same themes as 1 Samuel

- The theme of Israel’s monarchy will be a major theme in this book

Saul was the king in focus of 1 Samuel

- David is the emphasis in 2 Samuel

Here are a few of the highlights that we will discuss

- The Davidic Covenant in chapter 7
- David’s sin with Bathsheba in chapter 11

A fairly easy outline that we will use is as follows

- David’s triumphs (1-10)
- David’s transgressions (11-12)
- David’s troubles (13-24)

### I. David’s triumphs (1-10)

As you remember, 1 Samuel ends with the death of Saul and Jonathan

- 2 Samuel resumes that very topic

In chapter one, David learns of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan

- He learns this data from a very unlikely source

A man comes to Saul from the frontlines of battle

- He reports that there were many deaths in the war
- He then tells David that Saul and Jonathan were killed (1:4)

David asks how he knows how Saul and Jonathan were dead

- The man replies that he came across Saul as he was leaning on his spear

Saul asked this Amalekite to kill him

- This man obliged and put him to death

Let's hit the pause button

- Let's compare what 1 Samuel 31 says with what this man claims in 2 Samuel 1

Flip back to 1 Samuel 31

- 31:4, "Saul took his sword and fell on it"
- 31:5, "When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead..."

Now look at 2 Samuel 1

- 1:6, "Saul was leaning on his spear"
- 1:7-9, Saul is still alive, asking this Amalekite to put him to death

Is the Amalekite telling the truth or is he lying?

- Based purely on the Text, I would lean toward his statements being a lie

1 Samuel has Saul dying by his own sword

- The Amalekite claims that Saul was leaning on his spear

1 Samuel has Saul dying on the battlefield by suicide

- The Amalekite has Saul dying by murder

It could be that Saul had fallen on his sword and that his armor bearer thought he was dead

- Then the Amalekite came along and killed him

Or it could be that the Amalekite took advantage of an opportunity to make himself look good before King David

There is some irony in the manner of Saul's death

- Back in 1 Samuel 15, Samuel told him to kill all of the Amalekites (which he did not do)
- It was an Amalekite who claimed to kill Saul

After a brief time of mourning, David challenges the Amalekite about his quickness to kill "the LORD's anointed" (1:14)

- David then has this Amalekite put to death

David then pens the words of a dirge or lament

- It is a poetic way of expressing grief and sorrow over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan
- David especially mourns the loss of his dear friend, Jonathan

This is but one example of David's poetic penmanship

- Of course, the book of Psalms contains many of David's writings

Now that Saul is dead, it would seem obvious that David would be the king, right?

- Not exactly

Chapter 2 has David being anointed as king over Judah

- He was king there for 7 years and 6 months (2:11)

However, Abner, the commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and made him king (2:8)

- He was king over Gilead

So now you have two different kings in two different parts of Israel

- In the latter half of chapter 2, there are men killed because of the competing kings
- Civil war then breaks out between the two

Chapter 3 verse 1 tells us, **"Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; and David grew steadily stronger, but the house of Saul grew weaker continually"**

- What was already assumed is now made clear

Even during Saul's latter years, he was losing power and influence

- In his jealousy and anger, he sought to kill David multiple times

Even though Ish-bosheth has been established as a king, he is still of the house of Saul

- God is growing the house of David

Chapter 3 has Abner switching sides

- Remember, he was the one who installed Ish-bosheth as king (2:8)
- Abner becomes angry over an accusation from King Ish-bosheth, so he goes to fight with David (3:12-21)

Joab accuses Abner of deceiving King David

- Joab thought that Abner was a spy

So without telling David, Joab tells Abner to meet with him

- At their meeting, Joab murders Abner (3:27)

It seems that Abner's death was at least partially motivated out of revenge

- In 3:27, we read that Abner's death was **"on account of the blood of Asahel his brother"**

Chapter 4 tells us that King Ish-bosheth was killed

- His murderers come before King David, thinking that David would reward them

Instead, King David has these men killed

- Just as he had the Amalekite killed who claimed to kill Saul

It is in chapter 4 that we are introduced to Mephibosheth

- This is Jonathan's son
- We learn that Mephibosheth was crippled in his feet

Now that King Ish-bosheth is dead, King David can be king over all Israel

- That's what we learn about in chapter 5

We are told that David was 30 when he became king

- He reigned a total of 40 years
  - o 7.5 years over Judah
  - o 33 years over Judah and Israel

5:10 tells us, "David became greater and greater, for the LORD God of hosts was with him"

- But 5:14 tells us, "David took more concubines and wives"

Late in chapter 5, we see David continuing to seek the counsel of the LORD before battle with the Philistines

- God allows David to have victory on both occasions

Chapter 6 is well known to most of us

- It is the account of Uzzah being struck down as the Ark was being moved

David wants the Ark moved from Baale-judah

- This is another name for Kiriath-jearim
- This is where the Ark has been since 1 Samuel 7

They put the Ark on a new cart and begin transporting it

- Ahio walks ahead of the Ark (6:4)
- David and Israel are celebrating with various musical instruments

At some point, the oxen pulling the cart cause the Ark to become unsteady

- Perhaps the Ark was beginning to fall off the cart
- We aren't given all the details

Uzzah reaches out to steady the Ark

- We read in verse 7, "the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God"

When God gave the rules about the Ark, how was it to be transported?

- With poles!
- This is what Exodus 25:13-14 clearly state

It may seem like a small thing, but God requires obedience even in the small things

- Even as small as carrying the Ark with poles vs. being on a cart!

After the Ark stayed in the house of Obed-edom for three months (6:11), David had the Ark moved once again

- 6:13 indicates that there were “bearers of the ark of the LORD”
- It was now being moved how God had prescribed in the Law

Every 6 steps, there was a sacrifice offered to the LORD

- That occurred until the Ark was placed inside of a tent
- Then more offerings were presented to the LORD (6:17)

We learn that Michal, Saul’s daughter and David’s wife, despised David for his dancing and celebration

- David emphasized that his actions were that of worship, not for pleasing anyone else
- We read in verse 23 that Michal was childless until the day of her death

The Ark is now being housed in a tent

- David is living in a house

David tells Nathan the prophet in verse 2, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains”

- In other words, why is the Ark in a tent when I am living in a house?

Nathan tells the King to do what is in his heart

- But that same night, the LORD tells Nathan to change his counsel toward David
- Those words from the LORD are recorded in 7:5-16

There have been entire books dedicated to these verses

- They frame out what is known as the Davidic Covenant

As you remember from Genesis, the Abrahamic Covenant from Genesis included

- Land
- Seed
- Blessing

The LORD asks two questions of David through Nathan

- Vs. 5, “Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in?”
- Vs. 7, the LORD never asked anyone, “Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?”

Both of these questions are expecting a negative answer

- David would not be the one to build a house for the LORD
- God never asked anyone to build Him a house (as if He was waiting or had a need)

The LORD makes some promises to David<sup>9</sup>

- Promises during his lifetime
- Promises after his lifetime

Promises during his lifetime

- The LORD would give David a great name (7:9)
- The LORD would appoint a place for Israel (7:10)
- The LORD would give David rest from all of his enemies (7:11)

Promises after his lifetime

- The Lord would give David a son to sit on the throne (7:12)
- The Lord would establish the house of David forever (7:13, 16)

The short-term reference is obviously to Solomon

- But Solomon would eventually die
- So how could David's kingdom be established "forever" through Solomon?

There would be a future Son of David who would establish His throne forever

- Not Solomon
- But Jesus Christ

Look with me at 2 Samuel 7:14, "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me"

- These words are quoted in Hebrews 1:5 in reference to Christ

Look with me at 2 Samuel 7:16, "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever"

- Listen to the words of the angel of God told Mary, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." (Lk 1:31-33)

All three aspects are fulfilled in Christ

- Throne of David
- House of Jacob forever
- Kingdom will have no end

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<sup>9</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary*, 2 Samuel, 361.

God promises David that the Messiah would ultimately come from his lineage

- “Behold, the days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land’” (Jer 23:5)
- “And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons, and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant shall be their prince forever” (Ezek 37:25)

Like the Abrahamic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant was unconditional

- It would be entirely dependent upon the LORD to bring about

How do we know this?

- Because David eventually died before its completion
- The Messiah would come long after David’s death

The first promise of the Messiah is made in Genesis 3:15, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

The second promise is made in Genesis 22:18, “And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice”

Consider:

- 1st prophecy – to Adam Genesis 3:15 (A race in general)
- 2nd prophecy – to Abraham Genesis 22:18 (A nation in the race, Israel)
- 3rd prophecy – to Jacob Genesis 49:10 (One tribe in that nation, Judah)
- 4th prophecy – to David 2 Samuel 7:8-16 (One family in that tribe, David)

The promise of the Messiah continued to get more and more narrow in scope

- Race
- Nation
- Tribe
- Family

David’s response to the words of the LORD is worth noting

- David is overwhelmed with humility
- David praises the LORD for His greatness and power in bringing about His promises

Chapter 8 records many military victories for David over his enemies

- Philistines
- Moabites
- Edomites

Chapter 9 describes the kindness that David shows to Saul's grandson and Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth

- David takes care of this son of Jonathan
- He invited Mephibosheth to eat at the king's table as one of the king's sons (9:11)

Chapter 10 records more military victories by David

- Arameans
- Ammonites

In these 10 chapters, we see David as a mighty ruler and king

- He rules in righteousness
- The fear of the LORD is his strength
- He is generous with others
- He regularly seeks guidance from the LORD

Look with me at chapter 8 – a summary of David's initial years as king

- 8:6, "the LORD helped David wherever he went"
- 8:15, "So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people"

Thus far, those are the triumphs of David

- Unfortunately, things go from good to bad very quickly

What can we learn from David's life thus far?

- God honors those who seek and obey Him
- Authority ultimately belongs to God, not man

Now we look at David's transgressions

## II. David's transgressions (11-12)

David is far from being a perfect ruler

- He was a sinner just like everyone else who had lived up to this point
- But he was a man who knew that he needed redemption from God
- Thus he responds well when he sins

The apostle James writes in his epistle, "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death" (1:14-15)

- That would be an understatement of what David experienced here in chapter 11 of 2 Samuel



David commits three sins that increase in intensity

- David stays behind when he should be with his army (11:1)
- David looks at Bathsheba, doesn't stop his internal lusts, and commits adultery with her (11:2-5)
- David then arranges to have Uriah killed on the front lines of battle (11:6-24)

If David would have been at battle with his army, he would not have seen Bathsheba

- If David had not seen Bathsheba, he would not have had Uriah killed
- There is a chain reaction of events that could have been avoided

Again, most of us are familiar with this account

- But it bears repeating some of the major points of the passage

David stays behind in battle when he should have gone with his men

- While back at home, he sees a beautiful woman bathing
- David invites the woman to his home and they are both guilty of adultery

We learn in verse 3 that this woman's name is Bathsheba

- We also learn that she is the wife of Uriah the Hittite
- He is one of David's mighty men (2 Sam 23:39)

David sends a message to Joab on the frontlines

- David wants Uriah to return home

David wants Uriah to be with his wife, to try and cover his sinful act

- But when Uriah arrives back in town, he refuses to be with his wife

David now drafts a letter to Joab

- He tells Joab to put Uriah on the frontlines of the fiercest battle (11:15)
- We learn in verse 17 that Uriah is killed

Drop down with me to verse 27

- **"When the *time of mourning* was over, David sent and brought her to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD"**

David won't get away with his sin

- The LORD sends Nathan to David with a message

Nathan tells David a story about a rich man who stole a lamb from a poor man

- David is outraged and exclaims, **"As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die"** (12:5)

Nathan then tells the king in verse 7, "You are the man!"

- Verse 9, Nathan says, "Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight"
- Verse 10, "Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife"

Give David some credit as to how he responds

- He doesn't blameshift
- He doesn't make excuses

David admits in verse 13, "I have sinned against the LORD"

- Nathan immediately comforts the king, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. 14 However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die"

The first son from David and Bathsheba is sick

- He eventually dies (12:18)

But God is gracious to allow David and Bathsheba to have another son

- His name is Solomon (12:24)

I would be missing the point if I just told you these historical facts

- As we were reminded a few weeks ago, we need to ask "so what?"

Sin always has consequences

- We may not see them, but they are there
- We may not see them in our lifetime, but we will be held responsible

Even though David was a man after God's own heart, he was still a sinner

- Our hope is not David
- Rather, our hope is in his Son, Jesus Christ!

There is one more transgression that David commits, but we will discuss that toward the end of the book

A laundry list of sins take place in this section of the book

- Murder
- Rape
- Disobedience
- Rebellion
- Fear of man
- Lying
- Numbering Israel
- Deception

- Jealousy
- Revenge
- Anger

These troubles came upon the Israel in part because of David's sin with Bathsheba

What I appreciate about 2 Samuel is the fact that it shows the good, bad, and ugly of David's life

- There is no attempt to cover up what took place in his life
- Instead, there is candid honesty so that we can learn from his mistakes

I pray that we can be like David and Nathan

- Like David – humble enough to be confronted, showing true repentance and confessions for sins committed
- Like Nathan – bold enough to confront others when there is clear sin committed

David never allowed idolatry to be an issue in the life of Israel

- He was a true and loyal servant of the LORD
- He is the standard by which other kings are measured

### III. David's troubles (13-24)

These twelve chapters discuss some of the various troubles that plagued David in his later years

- David experienced many hardships and difficulties in his life

Chapter 13 is the account of Amnon raping Tamar

- Keep in mind that these are both children of David
- They are brother and sister!

Amnon is in love with his sister

- His friend tells him to pretend to be sick
- Then to ask his father, David, to allow Tamar to come to his place and prepare a meal for him

With calculated intent in his heart, Amnon lies to his father

- Unknowingly, David tells Tamar to go and cook a meal for her brother

Amnon asks everyone to leave his room

- It is there that he takes advantage of her

Immediately after, we read in verse 15 that he “**hated her with a very great hatred**”

- So we learn that he didn't truly love his sister
- It was sinful lust

Tamar's brother, Absalom, finds out what was done (13:20)

- He waits two years (13:23)
- He had Amnon killed

Chapter 15 has Absalom conspiring to be king

- He lies to his father about going to Hebron to fulfill a vow
- It's all part of the plot for Absalom to establish himself as king in Hebron

Once David hears about this, he flees the city

- He runs to escape from his own son

In 1 Samuel, David was on the run from Saul

- Now he is on the run from his own son!

In chapter 16, David finds more opposition

- A man named Shimei curses David
- He also throws stones at the king

But David's doesn't allow his servants to kill this man

- Instead, he admits that there could be some truth that the LORD is speaking through this man

Absalom then enters Jerusalem

- People are already declaring him to be king (16:16)

Chapter 17 has Absalom having to decide between two different counselors

- Ahithophel and Hushai

Absalom chooses to listen to Hushai

- But what Absalom didn't know is that Hushai would warn David of his plan
- This would give David more time to prepare for the battle

Chapter 18 has David preparing his people for battle

- He divides the men into three groups

He tells his men in 18:5, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom"

- Even though his son is revolting against him, David is still wanting his men to be gentle with Absalom

Absalom was riding a mule, according to verse 9

- The area was a very thick forest (18:8)

As Absalom was riding in the forest, his hair was caught on a branch

- The mule kept walking
- So Absalom was literally hanging by his hair! (18:9)

A soldier from David's army sees Absalom and tells Joab

- Joab comes and kills Absalom (18:14)
- This is totally contrary to the what David had told his men about how to treat his son (18:5)

Chapter 19 has David restored as king

Chapter 20 has another uprising, even though it would be short-lived

- This time it is Sheba who leads a revolt
- Israel followed him while Judah followed David (20:2)

A woman from the city where Sheba was staying ended up killing Sheba

- She put his revolt to an end rather quickly

2 Samuel 21-24 is a bit of epilogue

- It contains some various tidbits of history that aren't exactly chronological<sup>10</sup>

We learn in 21:16 that another Philistine giant intended to kill David

- Abishai helps King David to kill this giant

In verse 19, we read about a giant called Goliath

- If we compare this to 1 Chronicles 20:5, we see that it is "**Lahmi the brother of Goliath**"

Chapter 22 is David's song of praise

- If you compare this with Psalm 18, it is very identical

This is a good reminder that many of David's psalms have direct historical references to events in his life

- This is one of those examples

David should be a good example to us of praising God for victories and answers to prayer

- He sought the Lord much
- He praised the Lord often

Chapter 23 is David's final song that we have recorded

- He refers to God as "**the Rock of Israel**" (23:3)
- He refers to the everlasting covenant that God initiated with him (23:5)

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 380.

The rest of chapter 23 is a listing of David's "mighty men" (23:8)

- These are men who well known for their military triumphs

I like to think of these guys as the special forces of David's army

- They went above and beyond the normal expectations of a soldier

Chapter 24 lists one more of David's sins

- This time, it is taking a census

Twice in the book of Numbers, God commanded that there be a census taken (Num 1:2; 26:1)

- All of the men of fighting age were counted

But there is no mention of the LORD telling David to number the people here in 2 Samuel 24

- Joab tries to deter the king from doing this (24:3)
- David admits later that this was sinful (24:10)

There are many reasons why David wanted the people numbered

- Pride
- Desire to increase the size of his army

We read in 1 Chronicles 21:1, "Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel."

- Now that is interesting, isn't it?

God used Satan to move on the heart of David to count the people

- Then, God used this to punish the nation for her sins, including multiple revolts against David<sup>16</sup>

Because of David's sin, the LORD gives the king three options to choose as punishment

- 7 years of famine on the land
- 3 months of fleeing from his enemies
- 3 days of pestilence in the land

Notice David's response in verse 14, "I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the LORD for His mercies are great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man"

- The Lord sends pestilence on the land
- 70,000 men are killed

We read in verse 16 that the LORD used an angel to smite the people

- The LORD commanded the angel to stop

Verse 17 tells us that David saw the angel striking down the people

- David said, “Behold, it is I who have sinned, and it is I who have done wrong; but these sheep, what have they done? Please let Your hand be against me and against my father’s house”

David then builds an altar to the Lord in the closing verses of the chapter

- As David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, “the LORD was moved by prayer for the land, and the plague was held back from Israel”

There is so much that we can learn from the book of 2 Samuel

- I trust that you will write down a few things that impacted you

Don’t just read this as a historical book

- This is the Word of God
- It should be convicting, encouraging, and comforting you in your life

Next time, we will look at 1 & 2 Kings