

Introduction

2 Samuel is a continuation from 1 Samuel. It begins with Saul's death (the first king of Israel) continuing with the reign of David for 40 years. 2 Samuel Traces Kind David's reign through his triumphs and tragedies.

Date of writing

1050-750 BC

Purpose

The most committed believer can fail and constantly needs God's grace.

The Theme

- David's sin turns triumph into troubles
- David expanding the kingdom which was established by Saul

Main Character: King David

King David is the main character in this book, with his name appearing over 200 times. God had instructed Samuel the prophet that David would be the next king after Saul- and after Saul's death David takes over. God loved David so much, God describes him in 1 Samuel as 'A man after God's own heart'. This is one of the reasons the church loves reading the Psalms.

Outline

1. David Mourns for Saul and Jonathan (1:1-27)
2. David King of Judah (2:1-5:5)
3. David's Early Successes (5:6-10:19)
4. David's Difficulties and sin (11:1-21:22)
5. Song of David (22:1-51)
6. Last Words of David (23:1-7)
7. David's Warriors and Their Exploits (23:8-39)
8. David counts the people(24:1-25)

Name:

Year:



Monday (Read 2 Samuel 1: 1-16)

In this passage we read about how a young man came and reported to David that Saul and his son Jonathan were dead – paving the way for David to take the throne! Did you notice something remarkable here? For so many years, Saul had made David's life a living misery! He tried to kill him by throwing a spear at him, he chased him around the mountains trying to kill him and many more. And how does David respond to the news that this servant had killed Saul? We read in v14 " So David said to him, "How was it that you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" Good or bad, Saul was the anointed King of the Lord. David, instead of rewarding this servant, rebuked him for daring to kill the man anointed by God. Note also that this servant was lying – we read in 1 Samuel 31: 3-4, that "Saul took a sword and fell on it". If you go back to this passage and read it, you will find that Saul was wounded by an arrow, and then asked his armour bearer to take his life. When the armour bearer refused, Saul took his own life. There are two lessons we learn here: 1. Don't lie – there are always consequences (the armour bearer lied about killing Saul himself and was swiftly punished) . 2. Love and respect others, regardless of what they have done to you in the past (as David did with Saul).



Tuesday (Read 2 Samuel 1:17-27)

Verse 17 says "indeed it is written in the book of Jasher"

Don't bother looking for the Book of Jasher (meaning upright or righteous) as you won't find it. This ancient book which contained everything from Joshua's speech at the battle of Gibeon to David's tribute to Saul and Jonathan has been lost for centuries.

David's emotions were so shaken by that news, that he could not keep his tears from flowing, nor his tongue from uttering that touching song. This song or lamentation reveals feelings of love and loyalty. Amazing considering how much Saul had hated David! Who does this remind you of? Who is the One who continues to love even if everyone hates? Who is the One who prayed for the forgiveness of those hurting Him? Jesus Christ, of course! No wonder David is "a man after God's own heart!"

Wednesday (Read 2 Samuel 2: 1-7)

Although David was sure that he is the chosen king by the Lord, Yet he inquired of the Lord, if he should go up to any of the cities of Judah. David knew the importance of seeking God's counsel, not only during time of affliction, when things are vague and confused, but even in moments of comfort, and when the way seems obvious. **Do you do this? Do you seek God's counsel with all your decisions? Give it a go and you won't be disappointed!**



Thursday (Read 2 Samuel 2: 8-11)

God set David a king, being anointed by the house of Judah, to dwell seven and a half years in Hebron (2 Samuel 2: 11); then he was anointed a king over all tribes. On another front, Abner the son of Ner, the commander of Saul's army, was preoccupied in recovering some of the cities that were lost during the battle of Gilboa. After five and a half years of strife, he set 'Ichbosheth' the son of Saul a king over Israel (except for the tribe of Judah); and brought him over to 'Mahanaim' as a capital of the kingdom. Ichbosheth was 40 years old when he reigned, and remained a king for two years, in continuous troubles. David was king over Judah only and stayed at Hebron (refer to map).



Friday & Saturday (Read 2 Samuel 2: 11-32)

This passage is a little confusing, so let's recap what happened: Abner was aware of Ichbosheth's weak personality; He did not fight together with his father and brothers in the battle of Gilboa; or he probably deserted the land of battle in the time of danger. Yet Abner set him a king, so as to be himself, the actual head of the kingdom; especially, that he was a cousin of Saul; He also had fear that David may dismiss him from his position as the commander of the army.

It seems that the two parties were not feeling comfortable to fight against each other ... They all sat down on the two sides of the pool, uninterested to prepare for war. Intending to stir up the situation, Abner suggested that the young men from both sides should arise and compete. Twelve young men from each side arose; each one grasped his opponent by the head, and thrust his sword in his side; so the 24 men fell down together. This ignited the emotions of the two parties; There was a fierce battle that day; and Abner and his men were defeated before those of David. Abner then escaped; but Asahel, intended to catch up with him and kill him, yet he was not as strong in war as his brother Joab, nor as Abner.

Abner looked behind him and saw Asahel; He did not fear Asahel: But he knew that Joab would surely avenge his slain brother (Asahel) by killing him, in which case, Ichobosheth would be destroyed, and the kingdom would definitely go from the tribe of Benjamin to Judah (to David). Abner looked behind him, and told Asahel to quit his pursuit of the commander, and turn to his right hand or to his left, and lay hold of one of the young men and take his armor for himself; but Asahel refused. Abner repeated his demand, and warned him, saying: "Turn aside from following me; Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I face your brother Joab? ". However, when Asahel arrogantly insisted on following him, Abner struck him in the stomach with the blunt end of the spear, as a kind of warning; but the spear came out of his back, and he fell down there and died on the spot. So it was, as everyone loved him and his brothers Joab and Abishai, as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died, they stood still. Joab and Abishai, as was expected, pursued Abner to avenge the killing of their brother Asahel.

Joab blew a trumpet to stop the fighting and Abner and his men went over to Mahanaim, while Joab and his men went to Hebron, where David reigns.