

2 Samuel – A Study of David’s Successes and Sins

Chapter	Title	Page	Slide
1	Lies Never Pay	1	2
2	A Fight for a King	3	13
3	Abner’s Absurdity	5	24
4	Multiple Murders	7	34
5	A King is Crowned	8	41
6	The Ark Arrives	10	53
7	The Promised Preserver	12	63
8	Summary of Successes	14	72
9	A Covenant Kept	15	82
10	War is Waged	17	91
11	Blunder with Bathsheba	18	101
12	Punishment Pronounced <u>or</u> a Tough Tale	20	112
13	The Sword Comes Home	22	121
14	Pardoned Perpetrator	23	133
15	Absalom’s Apostasy	25	146
16	Absalom’s Ascension of Authority	27	158
17	Precise Preparations	29	169
18	Disastrous Defeat and Death	31	180
19	From Jordan to Jerusalem	32	189
20	The King Returns	34	203
21	Lives Squandered and Salvaged	35	214
22	Verse of Victory	37	224
23	Revelation and Roster	39	232
24	Punishment of Pestilence	41	246

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LIES NEVER PAY

Scripture Text: 2 Samuel 1

Who wrote 2 Samuel (2S)? Possibly Nathan and Gad, 1 Chronicles 29:29, possibly around 950BC during the reign of Solomon. 1S and 2S were originally one long book; divided to make study easier, divided c250BC in LXX. Events in 1S and 2S occurred c1050-961BC.

Key term: David – over 200x.

Two ways of diving the book:

1. God Establishes – Chs. 1-10
 2. God Chastens – Chs. 11-20
 3. God Preserves – Chs. 21-24
1. David’s National Victories – Chs. 1-10
 2. David’s Personal Defeats – Chs. 11-24

1. A False Report – v. 1-10

- Some skeptics claim an inconsistency in this chapter and the end of 1S.
- Amalekite's story is a deliberate lie. "A lie always contradicts the truth." Coffman
- 1: came to pass: reminds us this was one big book
- 2: out of the camp: probably only truth told is that Saul is dead.
- 6: evidence of a lie: spear is too long to lean on (8 ft)
- Every army followed by vagabonds
- 10: crown, bracelet: insignia of royalty, 2K 11:12
- Amalekite liar is simply bringing back what God would've wanted brought back.
- 4 examples of suicide in the Bible:
 1. Saul
 2. Ahithophel. 2S 17:23
 3. Zimri, 1K 16:18
 4. Judas Iscariot, Mt. 27:5

2. A Liar's Execution – v. 11-16

- 11: people frequently rent their clothes in Scripture in anger
 1. Reuben (1st) – Gen. 37:29-30
 2. Jacob – Gen. 37:34-35
 3. Joshua & Caleb – Num. 14:6
 4. Joshua – Joshua 7:6
 5. Jephthah – Judges 11:29-35
 6. David – 2S 11:1-11
 7. Tamar – 2S 13:19
 8. Ahab – 1K 21:20-28
 9. Elisha – 2K 2:12
 10. King of Syrian Army – 2K 5:7
 11. Eliakim – 2K 18:37
 12. Ezra – Ezra 9:1-4
 13. Mordecai – Esther 4:1
 14. High Priest, Caiaphas – Mt. 26:65/Mk. 14:63
 15. Paul & Barnabas – Ac. 14:14
- 12: great sorrow experienced at the loss of a father-in-law and close friend
- 13: background on messenger
- 14: cf. 1S 26:9
- 16: if he killed Saul, he deserved death; if not, he deserved death by false testimony.
- 3 good reasons for David's actions:
 1. Tale of killing Saul was a lie on the face of it.
 2. If Amalekite's claim of being a "son of a sojourner" was true, he would have known it was a great sin to kill the Lord's anointed." He did not know = falsehood of claim.

3. “This just punishment of the Amalekite once and for all precluded any untrue accusation of David’s enemies that he might have had a part, directly or indirectly in the death of Saul.” Young
 - Not sure how much time has passed between telling of story and execution; David may have received the truth by this time.

3. A Friend’s Lament – v. 17-27

- 17: Funeral dirge or a mournful elegy – Barnes. Eulogy made no reference to Saul’s sins or faults.
- 18: Book of Jasher – not preserved for us today, historical anthology of poems of ancient Israel. Cf. Joshua 10.
- 19: Mighty brought low in death! Frequently used in the funerals of great men.
- 20: Philistine women would go out rejoicing over Saul’s death – David quells rejoicing, 1S 18:16
- 21: curse pronounced at scene of death, land still naked and sterile today.
- 22: David praises the fallen warriors, Deut. 32:42
- 24: women commanded to grieve; scarlet, gold – great advances in prosperity in Saul’s reign.
- 26: a truly great friendship; Prov. 18:24
- 27: weapons of war parallelism to Saul and Jonathan themselves.

Lessons:

1. Lying is always a sin. Oftentimes, we must lie to cover up another lie and that turns in to a vicious cycle quickly. We are better off to always tell the truth, John 8:32.
2. Suicide is not the answer to get out of a situation. Yes, we must pay for our actions but there is always a way out where we don’t have to take our lives.
3. Moses said it best in Numbers 23:23: “Be sure your sin will find you out.” God knows all and we never fool God with our sins.

A FIGHT FOR A KING

2 Samuel 2:1-32

Who wrote 2 Samuel (2S)? Possibly Nathan and Gad, 1 Chronicles 29:29, possibly around 950BC during the reign of Solomon.

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1. King David – v. 1-7

- David’s success as king did not happen all at once but occurred over time, 1 Chr. 12:22.

- 1: no mention of D inquiring of the Lord with flight to Achish at Gath; needs God
- 2: Hebron: ideal capital location; high in mtns.; Philistine chariots not good in mtns. City of refuge: Numbers 35, Joshua 20
- 3: suburbs of Hebron
- 4: 3 anointings of David as King: 1] by Samuel, 1S 10:1; 2] here; 3] final, 1 Chr. 24:8. 4 years between #2 & #3.
- 5: Jabesh-gilead: Benjamin tribe (of Saul); no sign of any vengeful recriminations
- 6: welcome indeed to men of Jabesh-gilead
- 7: diplomacy, tact, goodwill, understanding

2. King Ishbosheth – v. 8-11

- 8: Abner: chief captain of S's army; envied D's power and sought to keep position under new rule; S's uncle? 1 Chr. 8:33. Act of defiance against God's chosen.
- 10: D ruled Judah; Ish ruled Israel; D becomes king 7½ after moving to Hebron. King as a ploy; Ish had a disability or he would've died in battle with his father.
- 10: 2 years? Coffman: Abner took over then; Barnes agrees.
- 11: timeline matches 5:5 perfectly.
- Name also Eshbaal; scribes often *-baal* with *-bosheth* (**shame**)

3. Civil War – v. 12-32

- 12: went out – tech. phrase for “going out to war;” a war of Abner's choice > not ready
- 13: Gibeon: now El Jib; pool: existed since 1200bc, 37ftØ, 35.4ft deep; found in 1956
- 14: mass suicide on part of the contestants; 24 young men died with no shield to defend themselves
- 18: Asahel is D's nephew; Zeruah is D's sister; Abishai was with D when he found S asleep and wanted to kill S; both we among D's 30 mighty men, 2S 23: 8:35; 1Chr. 11:26ff
- Swiftmess was important in war; S & Jon. Were eulogized as being swift.
- 22: didn't want wrath of Joab
- 23: backward spear thrust killed Asahel
- 23: evidently, author recalled battle 75yrs after
- 24: retaliation
- 25: Benjaminites block A's immediate death
- 26: A knows death is coming for him

- 27: “We would have chased you all night!”
- 28: need a funeral for Asahel; war not over!
- 29: both ordered all night march: A for distance; Joab to find A; Hebron 14mi N of Bethlehem, roughly 26mi each [*Smith*]; plain/Arabah – 3000ft below mountains
- 32: no name recorded of father

Lessons:

1. We are always better off when we consult God’s Word when making decisions – it is filled with wisdom for every part of life!
2. Once God has issued His stance on something, it does not change – no matter how much we might wish it would. His Word is final and unchangeable.
3. Asahel had an opportunity to leave the battle he was in; he did not and paid dearly. We, too, always have a way out of sin – 1 Cor. 10:13

ABNER’S ABSURDITY

2 Samuel 3:1-39

- Who wrote 2 Samuel (2S)? Possibly Nathan and Gad, 1 Chronicles 29:29, possibly around 950BC during the reign of Solomon.
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- Key term: David – over 200x.

1. David’s Descendants – v. 1-5

- 1: fulfills prophecy in 1S 15:28; Abner desperately wants to be king as seen later
- 2-5: 3 sons nothing special; Annon: raped ½ sis. (Tamar; full sis. of Absalom), murdered by Absalom > rebelled against his father, sought to dethrone him; Chileab [*also Daniel*]: nothing; Adonijah: proclaimed himself King during D’s illness [thought Chileab dead]; nothing of Spephatiah & Ithream known
- Polygamy must be listed among D’s sins
- Eglah: might be Michal or there were 2 Eglahs – nothing known

2. Abner’s Downfall – v. 6-30

- 6: Abner making himself to be king
- 7: father's concubine: successor to the throne had exclusive rights; Rizpah: more in Ch. 21
- 12-16: Michal & Paltiel loved each other, hardly a more pitiful scene in all the Bible; M's feelings not consulted here.
- When God's law of marriage has been violated, there is no way to repair damage.
- DeHoff: "Some of the problems no human being could solve." [*Comm., Vol. II, p. 179*]
- Deut. 24:1-4: D had no right to take her back
- 14: 1S 18:24-27, D's price not mentioned
- 17-19: Israel sorely in need of a deliverer
- 20-21: wrong: D knew of Asahel's death, yet he did not brief Joab on dealings with Abner
- 22-24: Abner should've taken action as kin of Asahel; should've sacrificed his life instead
- 26: Sirah: Josephus: 20 furlongs [1 = 1/8 mi] from Hebron = 20 mi
- 26-30: D depended on leader of his army; curse culminated in Solomon's slaughter of Joab between the horns of the altar, 1K 2:29-34
- 29: Willis: 1] gonorrhea 2] leprosy 3] effeminacy 4] untimely death 5] hunger

3. David's Disassociation – v. 31-39

- D mightily tried to disassociate from Abner's crime; Israelites convinced of D's sincerity.
- 39: D was not as harsh as he was in Ch. 1; he was bound by prejudices, vices, & ambitions of his subordinates.
- "Only the providence of God could have brought out of this situation the glorious Israel that later developed." Coffman

Lessons:

1. God's plan for marriage is the oldest institution – older than the church by 4000 years. When man tries to muddle with the plans, lives get broken, and people must pay the consequences.
2. David was consumed with reconciliation; Abner & Joab lived by retaliation. We must always leave the paybacks to God and instead focus on living faithfully and loving others. [Romans 12:19]
3. God hates sin but loves the sinner. We should also do all we can to "avoid every appearance of evil." 1 Thessalonians 5:22

MULTIPLE MURDERS

2 Samuel 4:1-12

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1. News Travels – v. 1-4

- 1: near end of kingdom of Ishbosheth
- 2: Amorites/Canaanites: Gibeonite's story recorded in Joshua 9; deceived Israel into making a covenant with them; S persecuted.
- 3: 40-acre site se of Ras Abu Amid
- 4: parenthesis: shows the house of S had been reduced to a cripple, lays foundation for Ch. 9

2. One Death – v. 5-8

- 5: mercenary raiders employed by Ishbosheth
- 6: motivation: residual hatred in their hearts for S's persecution of their people
- 7: no doubt intended to be richly rewarded; how disgusting
- 8: evil men had no regard either for God or D's honor; evil men pretending to obey God's Word when they are actually God's enemies.

3. More Deaths – v. 9-12

- 9: D has every right to be outraged
- 3-point response: 1] own experience in the Lord
- 10: 2] precedent already established in dealing w/ Amalekite
- 3] contrast: S wicked; Isbosheth righteous
- Brothers should have anticipated D's response.
- 11: require blood; hold murderer guilty & execute him, Gen. 9:51; Ps. 91:2. Command to be executed, Gen. 9:6. Not an option but a divine command! Unavenged blood cried, 4:10
- 12: divinely ordered, politically necessary. If murderers go unpunished, they gov't crumbles in the opinion of the subjects.

Lessons:

1. We must be careful of our actions, or they can have generations-later-consequences. Saul's actions caused his family troubles years later.
2. When we sin, we should not rejoice in it and brag about it to other people. We should be ashamed of our sins and repent of them.
3. The slain blood of the righteous is known by God – and One Day He will make right all wrongs! Let us long for that day!

A KING IS CROWNED

2 Samuel 5:1-25

- Who wrote 2 Samuel (2S)? Possibly Nathan and Gad, 1 Chronicles 29:29, possibly around 950BC during the reign of Solomon.
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- Key term: David – over 200x.

Ch. 5-10 – 7 Major Events (this chapter's events are in **bold**.)

1. **Conquest of Jerusalem**
2. **2 victories over Philistines**
3. Bringing Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem
4. God's prophecy that of D's posterity one would arise to build God a 'house'
5. D's victories
6. D's kindness to the son of Jonathan
7. Victories over Ammonites & Syrians

1. Crowned King – v. 1-5

- 1: all came – representatives/elders, cf. v. 3
- 3: covenant: don't know content > pleasing. 3rd anointing. Before the Lord: solemn religious ceremony accompanied the making of the covenant between D & elders.
- 4: 30 years old – interesting chronological statement

- 5: reigned 40 years – 70 at end of reign
- Barnes: early years of S's reign silent, 1S 13-31 did not occupy a period of more than 10 years. If D was 20 years old when he slew Goliath, 4 years in S's service, 4 years of wilderness wandering, 1 year 4 months in Philistine country, a few months after S's death makes D thirty years old.

2. Captures Jerusalem – v. 6-10

- Jerusalem: spiritual capital of the World for all major religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam
- 6: Jebusites so conceited they claimed even the blind and lame could ward off attackers
- 8: water shaft: had a protected water supply that went to a spring at the Eastern foot of the ridge; D overcame by sending men up
- 9: D eliminated a Jebusite fortress that had cut his kingdom in two
- Mollo: many fortifications in Palestine, one of them in Shechem, Judges 9:6, 20

3. Cedar House – v. 11-12

- 11: Hiram also mentioned in 1K 9:10-14; Tyre known for cedar logs, Gentile territory
- Coffman: "No more desirable timber from which a house may be built." Hostile to all kinds of insects & creeping things for years.
- 12: D's selfishness is evident in next point. All blessings were directed to the good of God's people.

4. More Concubines – v. 13-16

- Note: no daughter names; low status in soc.
- Shammua: same name as one who heads up spies, Num. 13:1
- DeHoff: "This was one of the mistakes D made." (II, p. 191) Coffman: "gross and ridiculous sin."
- Violation of DT. 17:17; 6x in Hebron, Michal, plus ones here: 15/20! Opens up for Solomon
- D had 19 sons total: 6 born in Hebron and 13 born in Jerusalem

5. Philistine Conquest – v. 17-25

- 17: Philistines go up, D goes down, possibly to cave of Adullam
- 18: Valley of Rephaim: possibly SW of Jerusalem
- 21: 1 Chr. 14:12 D's men burned idols of the Philistines as commanded in DT. 7:5,25
- 22-25: God achieved this victory; marching in balsam trees like Gideon in Judges 7:15-25

Lessons:

1. We have no earthly king to worship. Instead, Jesus Christ sits on His Throne and reigns, 1 Tim. 6:15.
2. Although we worship God at the “church house,” He does not live there like He dwelt in the Tabernacle or Temple. We worship God in Spirit & Truth, John 4:24.
3. Polygamy has always been a sin in God’s eyes, and it does not matter if we are the Lord’s anointed king – that does not make it acceptable in God’s eyes! Sin is sin is sin!

THE ARK RETURNS

2 Samuel 6:1-23

Ch. 5-10 – 7 Major Events (Willis) (this chapter’s even is highlighted)

1. Conquest of Jerusalem – Ch. 5
2. 2 victories over Philistines – Ch. 5
- 3. Bringing Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem**
4. God’s prophecy that of D’s posterity one would arise to build God a ‘house’
5. D’s victories
6. D’s kindness to the son of Jonathan
7. Victories over Ammonites & Syrians

Israelites in deplorable situation – so divided there were 2 High Priests (Zadok in Gibeon & Abithar in Hebron). Unification = consolidate.

D wore an ephod like Samuel, offered sacrifices, and blessed the people (type of Christ & His Kingship, Ps. 110)

Parallel account: 1 Chr. 13:1-14; 15:1-16:3

1. Removing the Ark – v. 1-5

- 1: again (5:6). Went to Baale-Judah (Kiriath-jearim): Ark rested there for 20+ years at request of Bethshemesh, 1S 6:19-7:12
- 2: angelic armies of Heaven
- 3: direct violation: no excuse for D; must be carried by Levites on poles, Ex. 25:12-15, 37:1-5, Num. 7:9; covered by goatskin, Num. 4:15; D knew a better way, 1 Chr. 15:12-13

- 3: Uzzah: not a Levite – grand/father Abinadab was of the tribe of Judah – *everything was wrong!*
- No Levites mentioned as being present!

2. Uzzah’s Mistake – v. 6-15

- None of God’s commands are trivial.
- If they had followed God’s commands, this would not have been an issue for Uzzah.
- 8: anger directed at calamity which he attributed to himself.
- Perez-Uzzah: the breaking forth of Uzzah
- 12: parallel account tells D followed commands the second time; D saw blessings
- 13: a potential test to see if God will strike
- 14: Ephod: small apron used on ceremonial occasions (D possibly had nothing else on). 1 Chr. 15:27: fine linen robe (possibly put aside during dancing, exposing himself).
- Word for dancing found nowhere else – idea of whirling about; conduct forbidden for priests (wear ‘breeches’ Ex. 28:40-43)

3. Michal’s Reaction – v. 16-23

- 16: sinful for D to take her back, DT. 17:17; all of D’s marriages seem to have been founded upon political, financial, or other motives – not love. She despised D for his behavior.
- 18: D acting as priest again; when the Ark was with the Philistines, they had death & destruction; blessings came to the Israelites.
- D did not deny Michal’s charge against him. His only justification was he did it “before the Lord.”
- Michal not trying to insult the king, she found a time to talk to him.
- 23: no children after her return to D. 5 sons are mentioned in 1S 21:10.

Lessons:

1. God gives specific commands for us for a reason. His punishments for disobedience are just because He is a righteous God. Sometimes we must pay for other people’s bad decisions.
2. It is evident D exposed himself when he was doing things he shouldn’t do (dancing) and wearing things he shouldn’t wear (priestly garments). We sin when we change God’s commands to fit our desires.
3. D gives a lousy excuse for his disobedience. God knows all – no excuse will work with God!

A PROMISED PRESERVER

2 Samuel 7:1-29

Ch. 5-10 – 7 Major Events [Willis] (this chapter in **bold**)

1. Conquest of Jerusalem – Ch. 5
2. 2 victories over Philistines – Ch. 5
3. Bringing Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem – Ch. 6
- 4. God's prophecy that of D's posterity one would arise to build God a 'house'**
5. D's victories
6. D's kindness to the son of Jonathan
7. Victories over Ammonites & Syrians

"A milestone of Old Testament revelation."

2 promises and 1 prayer:

1. Promised House – v. 1-11
2. Promised Savior – v. 12-17
3. David's Prayer – v. 18-29

1. Promised House – v. 1-11

- 1: D's conscience began to get to him
- 2: 1st mention of Nathan the prophet; he understood what was on D's mind
- 3: speaking as a friend of the king not prophet. Approval from God?
- 4: a negative; Willis:
 - 1] leave impression God limited to physical location;
 - 2] D man of war & bloodshed;
 - 3] D did not have time 1K 5:3-4
- 8: D's mind was on worldly successes
- 9: enemies God had already defeated
- 11: future enemies [not a contradiction]
- 10: disturbances and afflictions not as intense
- 11: house: not to a palace or physical residence; a promise to est. Davidic dynasty

- Not a conditional promise based on merit!

2. Promised Savior – v. 12-17

- Not applied to Solomon
- 12: Solomon not 'raised up' after D but during his reign
- 14: not even said to angels, Heb. 1:5-7
- Iniquities: Solomon never punished
- 15,16: this throne established forever – not Earthly dynasty. Throne of D only lasted over all of Israel through Solomon; cf. Ps. 89:35-37

3. David's Prayer – v. 18-29

- Interesting features of this prayer:
 - 18: sat: unusual posture
 - 19,20,22,24,25,28,29: O Lord God: 2 different words used for God here
 - 19: future generations: many gen. later when Jeconiah the last of D's earthly house sat on throne
 - 23: God replaced Canaanites with Israelites
 - 24: D could never see the full scope of this
 - 29: plea of D's physical posterity
1. Continued until Jesus came, Mt. 1:16 (Joseph)
 2. Continued through Nathan until Jesus came, Luke 3:23 (Mary)

Lessons:

1. We worship God the way He commands today – in Spirit and in Truth, John 4:24. Anything else is not acceptable.
2. The entire Bible contains the beautiful story of Jesus Christ. Nathan gives us some great insight of the prophesied Messiah a millennia before He came into this world.
3. We need to maintain a very active prayer life. Even looking at all his faults, D was a man that lived a life of frequent, fervent prayer. Let us increase our prayers.

SUMMARY OF SUCCESSES

2 Samuel 8

Chapters 5-10 – 7 Major Events according to Willis: (Ch. 8 event is in **bold**.)

1. Conquest of Jerusalem – Ch. 5
2. 2 victories over Philistines – Ch. 5
3. Bringing Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem – Ch. 6
4. God's prophecy that of D's posterity one would arise to build God a 'house' – Ch. 7
5. **D's victories**
6. D's kindness to the son of Jonathan
7. Victories over Ammonites & Syrians

Not in chronological order: all parts of his reign. Parallel in 1 Chr. 18.

Note: they counted a different way. Arabs developed our present system.

1. Defeat of the Philistines & Moabites – v. 1-8

- 1: NIV: *in the course of time*: a summary; Methegammah: Philistine city of Gath
- 2: surprising as D at one time had trusted them [his parents stayed w/ Moabite king while D was a refugee]; prevalent way of war
- 3: Hadadezer = Hadarezer in 10:16
- 4: Hamstrung: great damage could be done to a hostile military force
- 6: thought of the whole chapter; not because of army, tactics, or leader, but because of God
- Shields of gold: DeHoff: costly ornaments worn by the Syrian soldiers

2. Domain Extended – v. 9-12

- 9: Hamath: NE bastion of Solomon's Empire, 1K 14:25, descendants of Ham & Canaan, Gen. 10:18
- 10: R.P. Smith: Ps. 18:43-44: D's joyful feelings about this mission
- 11: all the great stores of gold, silver, bronze, and other precious articles were used

3. Defeat of Edomites – v. 13-18

- Great contrast: Valley of Salt: extreme S of Arabah, S from Dead Sea
- 2 centuries later, Amaziah king of Judah defeats 10,000 Edomites & captured Sela

- 13: no contradiction here: 2S8 says D, 1C 18:13 says Abishai, Ps. 60 *heading* & 1K 11:15-16 says Joab
- Willis: “D involved as king, Joab commander of the army, Abishai had charge of that particular battle.” Same as saying President 41 Bush, Secretary of Defense Cheney, and General Schwarzkopf won Desert Storm.
- Wise & efficient applied to 1st half of reign.
- 17: Zadok & Ahimelech high priests: contrary to Law of Moses, 1 by Saul, 1 by D
- Cherethites and Pelethites – bodyguard of foreign mercenaries (1st time)
- 18: D’s sons were priests: no Biblical record of any such thing (performing priestly duties). If they did, it fits the typical nature of D acting as priest. They did not serve in the same way as Abithar and Zadok.

Lessons:

1. The Philistines and Moabites were utterly defeated by D. it is interesting to see how D’s opinion of the Moabites shifted. Let us remember the Moabites started in sin (incest/Lot’s daughter) and it only went downhill from there and they were destroyed.
2. D continued to have success not because he was the best but because God was on his side, Romans 8:31.
3. D greatly expanded his kingdom. Our kingdom today, the church, has no limits and is open to everyone.

A COVENANT KEPT

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Chapters 5-10 – 7 Major Events (Willis):

- Conquest of Jerusalem – Chapter 5
- 2 victories over Philistines – Chapter 5
- Bringing Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem – Chapter 6
- God’s prophecy that of D’s posterity one would arise to build God a ‘house’ – Chapter 7
- D’s victories – Chapter 8
- **D’s kindness to the son of Jonathan**
- Victories over Ammonites & Syrians

1. Covenant – v. 1-5

- 1: events of this chapter occur after a gap from Ch. 4; Mephibosheth was 5 in Ch. 4, now grown, married, and had a son, v. 12.
- For Jonathan's sake: made when both were young, 1S 20:14-17.
- 2: apparently, no one could answer his question. Ziba's closeness to Saul could help answer
- 3: Mephibosheth's real name is Meribbaal, 1 Chr. 8:34
- 4: Lo-debar: E of Jordan River not far from Ishbosheth's capital. Ammiel, 1C 3:5, father of Bathshua (Bathsheba). Machir would become D's brother-in-law. He was rich and loved S's family so much he took & cared for Mephibosheth; later financially help D in war.
- 5: custom was for new king to enslave former king's family.
- To those of S's household, d's promise of goodwill might sound like what Herod said to the wisemen, Mt. 2:8.

2. Meeting – v. 6-13

- 6: customary way of showing respect & submission to ancient kings; D must have sensed fear in Mephibosheth's heart.
- 7: Saul – grandfather
- 8: dead dog: hyperbole and self-derogation was characteristic of Orientals
- D uses similar language in 1S 24:14
- 11: seize of estate is indicated by the number of men required to cultivate it; wealth brought to Mephibosheth because he had family to support; through son Micah the family line survives to captivity.
- 11: Ziba appears reluctant about his new arrangement – he acts treacherously during Absalom's rebellion.
- FYI: 2 of Saul's sons were names Mephibosheth (Meribbaal): 1] this one 2] 2S 21:7-9, executed by D to avenge S's heartless slaughter of the Gibeonites.
- 13: "so" – in this manner – must have needed a large palace to accommodate a large household.

Lessons:

1. D made a promise years before to his best friend. Today, when we make a promise, we should always keep it.
2. Mephibosheth might have been fearful for his life as D was approaching – yet, he had nothing to worry about.

3. Sinners, like Mephibosheth, have been crippled by the “fall” in Eden. God has honored and blessed us with the promise of Eternal Life and inviting us to a feast at His Table in His Kingdom perpetually.

WAR IS WAGED

2 Samuel 10:1-19

Chapters 5-10 – 7 Major Events [Willis]

1. Conquest of Jerusalem – Ch. 5
2. 2 victories over Philistines – Ch. 5
3. Bringing Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem – Ch. 6
4. God’s prophecy that of D’s posterity one would arise to build God a ‘house’ – Ch. 7
5. D’s victories – Ch. 8
6. D’s kindness to the son of Jonathan – Ch. 9
7. **Victories over Ammonites & Syrians – Ch. 10**

This chapter sets the scene for D’s sin with Bathsheba (Ch. 11).

Psalm 44 and Psalm 60 may have some reference to what is written here.

1. Insulting Treatment – v. 1-5

- 1: not known what kindness is shown; Nahash was a bitter enemy of S, 1S 11:1-11
- 2: Rabbah, capital of the Ammonites, 23mi due E of Jericho
- 3: mistrust founded upon national hatred; D killed 2/3 of the Moabites (kinfolk with Ammonites, descendants of Lot, Gen. 19).
- 4: gross insult to D; double makes it hard to ignore.
- They wore no trousers, this left them exposed in battle.
- Shaving the beard was more serious – stayed in Jerusalem until it regrew.
- Superstition: gaining the hair of the enemy gave the possessor power over them.

2. Prepare for War – v. 6-8

- Rabbah: Philadelphia in NT
- Cost of hiring soldiers: ½ million £ sterling

- 6: Maacah: SW of Mount Hermon
- 7: “mighty men” special group of 600 men that continued when S pursued D; host: great army of Israelites.
- 1 Chr. 19:7: camped at Medeba, 4mi. Straight SW of Rabbah.

3. Great Victory – v. 9-14

- Syrian mercenaries in the rear the greatest threat.
- Abishai, Joab’s brother, was not chosen – he was leading the attack at the gates of Rabbah
- Mercenaries had no patriotic interest in defending Rabbah.
- Joab launched all-out attack and his hand-picked veterans destroyed everyone in path
- The war is not over yet!
- 12: fighting to trust the outcome of the battle to the Will of God.

4. Final Rally – v. 15-19

- Helam – location unknown
- Hadadezer stung by defeat of his mercenaries by Joab.
- D established the Euphrates River as the Eastern boundary of Israel.
- Hadadezer finally submits to D’s rule.

Lessons:

1. Hanun embarrassed D’s men in battle and they had to wait their embarrassment out. In Christ, we have nothing that can embarrass us, Romans 1:16.
2. We would do well to adopt the attitude that Joab had in battle – fighting to accomplish God’s Will. When we align our lives to live by God’s Will we are pleasing to God.
3. Hadadezer had to finally submit to D as king and become subject to his decrees. Today, we must quit following our desires and submit to the Will of God.

BLUNDER WITH BATHSHEBA

2 Samuel 11:1-29

- The Bad Days, Chapters 11-20
- This chapter illustrates God’s ultimate plan being fulfilled > getting to Christ.
- Mathew 1: David (Bathsheba) > Solomon > Joseph (Mary) > Jesus

- Luke 3: David > Nathan > Joseph > Jesus
- Sin has its consequences.

1. The Sin – v. 1-5

- 1: victory at Medeba took place in autumn, winter coming on, Joab returned to Jerusalem; D should have gone to battle, not stayed home!
- 2: in the East, it was improper to look over to the inner court of the adjacent building; D had a harem of ~20 women, didn't need any more > had too many to start with!
- 3: also called Bethshua in 1C 3:5; Eliam is the son of Ahithopel, 2S 23:34; she is A's granddaughter; Uriah is the hero of the story; residence adjacent to palace indicates status
- 4: no record of unwillingness on B's part; uncleanness: after *time of the month* allowed conception to occur easily; shameful to lie with her!
- 5: both guilty of Lev. 20:10. B recognizes they are in grave trouble & alarmed.

2. The Coverup – v. 6-13 (9 Total)

- 1S 21:5: stern prohibition of sexual relations on the part of soldiers who were consecrated to warfare
- 6: 1 send me Uriah: hoping to make this child look legitimately Uriah's
- 7: 2 pure hypocrisy: deception on why he was called
- 8: 3 go to your house & wash your feet: well-known idiom, cf. v. 11.
- 9: D instructed servants to spy, possibly the same ones that brought B to D
- 10: shameful conduct probably becoming known
- 11: apparently Ark taken into battle, Absalom did such, 15:24
- 11: tents: possibly used for *Feast of Tabernacles* meaning 6 months have passed since the start of the siege; refusal shows D's efforts in vain.
- 12: 4 keeping Uriah in town
- 13: 5 making Uriah drunk, Habakkuk 2:15-16. Matthew Henry: "Robbing a man of his reason is worse than robbing him of his money."

3. Removal of Evidence – v. 14-29

- 14: 6 letter to Joab: most despicable act of treachery; Uriah carried his death note!
- 16: 7 massacre of 18 men: *LXX* provides info on number. These men were murdered by direct command of king David.

- 18: 8 Joab's letter: would've looked like everything was going normal on warfront; little speculation on this.
- 22-25: whole city of Jerusalem becoming aware of D's sinful actions. No way to avoid consequences: B is pregnant with D's child
- 26: 9 marriage: not long after the period of mourning passed, a "shotgun wedding." *"Child would have been born 5 months early."*
- 27: God displeased. A moment of tragic sorrow for D and all Israel.

Lessons:

1. Just because we see something we like doesn't mean we can take it. D was under the command not to covet his neighbor's wife" – Jesus instituted the same today.
2. People today try to coverup their sins. D tried 9 times and none of them worked. Too many try to cover up with #9: God knows, and people know. Admit sin, repent of sin, live faithful to God.
3. Uriah is the true hero in this chapter; he does his best to obey his commands and should be praised.

PUNISHMENT PRONOUNCED OR A TOUGH TALE

2 Samuel 12:1-31

- Nathan's perfect knowledge may have started with hearing from those around the court.
- God, no doubt, revealed it to him.
- D no doubt felt shameful yet accomplished that he had successfully covered up his sin.

1. Parable – v. 1-9

- 1: a rare parable in the OT; Nathan appears to simply need judgment in a case presented; D had no reason to think anything was up – all previous communication was favorable, Ch. 7
- 4: keeping with Ex. 22:1
- 5: easier to see other's sins
- 6: no pity for Bathsheba, Ahithopel, Uriah, Joab, families of slaughtered soldiers
- 7: God: "I anointed." Samuel merely a representative
- 8: reference to the multiplicity of D's wives

- 9: D sunk so low he had his enemies do his murdering for him; profound shock to D – imagine the courage Nathan needed.

2. Punishment – v. 10-23

- 10: sword never depart: 3 sons of D would be murdered: Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah > did not end here.
- 11: Take your wives: Absalom lived near D & was a neighbor; Absalom's 1st action to take D's throne was to lie publicly with the king's concubines, 16:22; light of the sun: broad daylight
- 13: offered no excuses; Nathan illustrates the great nature regarding the forgiveness of sins
- Shall not die: either to the man in Nathan's story (which is D) or [as DeHoff put it] the sin of adultery, Lev. 20:10. Likely both.
- 15-23 brings great comfort to those in times of loss – very self-explanatory

3. Parturition (birth) – v. 24-31

- 24: Solomon means peaceable – given at circumcision; Jedidiah: given by the Lord, same root as D, means “to love.” Why did God choose Solomon? Payne: S = oldest son born in Jerusalem to a wife, not concubine!
- 27: city of waters: captured the city's water supply, a fortification that still flows today
- 30: their king: weighed a talent of gold [100/125lbs]; D probably didn't physically wear it; the weight signifies it adorned a statue of their idol – Malcam.
- David had no pity on these people.

Lessons:

1. Every action we do has consequences. D's son lost his life because of D's sin. We really need to weigh the consequences before we act.
2. It is not always easy to inform someone when they are out-of-line with God's teachings. We must be like Nathan and tell the truth always and say it in love, Eph. 4:15.
3. God's grace and redemptive nature is on full display with the birth of Solomon – the wisest (and most foolish) man to ever live. God can turn bad to good.

THE SWORD COMES HOME

2 Samuel 13:1-39

Nathan's words come true and effect the heir-apparent to the throne.

1. Lust and Rape – v. 1-14

- 1: Absalom and Tamar are by Maacah, daughter of king Talmai of Gesher. Both noted for their beauty. Tamar = palm tree; Absalom, proud of his hair. Amnon, 1st born child of Ahinoam, woman of Jezreel.
- Loved poor translation, not really loved but allowed himself to be consumed with lust.
- None of D's children followed in his devotion. They did follow his shameful sins!
- 3: Jonadab: nephew of D, not really a friend of Amnon at all.
- 6: no time lost in acting upon this evil idea
- 12: verbal quotation from Gen. 34:17; in tragic moment of rape, Tamar recalls the disgraceful rape of Dinah.
- 13: desperately trying to get out of a terrible situation; knew such a kind of wedding forbidden, Lev. 18:9, 11
- Everything Tamar cherish was taken from her.

2. Love and Hatred – v. 15-22

- 15: hated her: where did the "love" go?
- 16: why was this true? He bolted the door and made it appear she had dishonored Amnon – a lie! It was the other way around. Also, he prevented her from crying out for help, Deut. 22:27.
- 18: same word for Joseph's coat of many colors: long tunic reaching hands and feet. Tamar wore it as an indication of the high rank as virgin daughter of the king. Ashes represent extreme sorrow.
- 19: probably sent outside without a veil so she tries to cover her head in shame
- 20: "your beautiful sister raped by godless Amnon."
- 21: D angry but did nothing about it; punishment is deserved, Lev. 22:28 > must marry the virgin and be severely fined. IF the one that raped was a man's sister, death is the penalty, Lev. 20:17.
- D's lack of punishment led directly to Absalom's murdering him
- 22: hatred will break forth

3. Revenge, Report, Return, and Longing – v. 23-39

- 23: 2 years = premeditated; Baal-hazor: exact place debated, possibly el-Taiyibe 12mi N of J
- 26: question indicates some suspicion on D's part. It is apparent that Amnon thought he got away with rape.
- 29: mule: potentially 1st time mentioned. [Gen. 36:24 is translated by Jewish leaders as mule.] Lev. 19:19: hybrid breeding forbidden.
- 30-33: report gravely exaggerated. Amazing thing: how did Joab have this info in advance of the event?
- 34-36: Nathan's words must have rang in D's ears (12:10).
- 37-39: Absalom welcomed in court of pagan court (grandfather). D's heart saddened over Amnon but shifts to miss Absalom.

<u>David</u>	<u>Absalom</u>
>Procured help	>Procured help
>Did not deserve to die	>Did deserve death
>Involved rape	>Involved rape
>Victim brought to residence	>Victim brought to residence

Lesson:

1. John categorized sin well in 1 John 2:15-17. Amnon acted upon all three and sinned with his half-sister.
2. Although, according to the Law, Amnon deserved to die, Absalom should have allowed the Law to handle the matter! Today, we should never get in the way of God's Law when handling punishments.
3. The similarities between D's sin & Amnon's sin are striking. Let us not ignore the punishment for sin because we (or a family member) are struggling with a sin. It is a shame to teach anything otherwise!

PARDONED PERPETRATOR

2 Samuel 14:1-33

- Ch. 13 – Absalom's murder of Amnon
- Ch. 14-19 – Absalom's rebellion against David

- Ch. 14 – Three people of interest in our study

1. Woman – v. 1-17

- Personal motivation: Absalom could ascend to throne, keep Joab around.
- Similar to parable/curse of Nathan: any wronged person can appeal to the king.
- 1: ASV *towards*, better translated *against* (13). Refusal to see for 2 yrs. indicates against
- 2: Joab reared near Tekoa (10mi S of Jerusalem); Amos also from Tekoa
- 3: entire story a clever fabrication
- 7: Barnes: indicates whole court & king's sons were against Absalom; this knowledge hindered D from yielding to his affection & calling for him.
- 9: requesting of guilt so it would not rest upon D & his throne. Punishment is death but seeks pardon.
- 11: not satisfied with D's mere promise, req'd and oath (D granted)
- Avenger of blood: nearest of kin to murdered man (outlined: Num. 35 & DT. 19). Forgiveness of a murderer a violation of God's commandment.
- 12: D had already decided the case. Req'd permission to continue speaking; she has him
- 13: paraphrase: If you have done right as regards my son, how is it that you harbor vengeance against Absalom and keep him an outcast?
- 14: D proves this is a moment when he discerns concerning Joab in the woman's appeal

2. Joab – v. 18-24

- 19: D suspects Joab's hand in all of this; Joab might have tried to accomplish this in other ways previously.
- 20: woman made effective use of flattery – compliment upon compliment
- 21: apparently Joab is present for the whole meeting; "I grant this" not acting as king, fatherly feelings triumphed over kingly ones.
- 21: D was bound by God's Law (Gen. 9:6, Num. 35:30-31, DT. 18:18, Joshua 1:8, 1 Sam. 10:25) to execute Absalom.
- D's consenting was as stupid as it was sinful & contrary to God's Law!
- 24: prohibition hard to explain: maybe Bathsheba exerted influence to keep Absalom in disgrace for Solomon's sake(?)

3. Absalom – v. 25-33

- 25-27: background info for Absalom's death > hair provided Joab the opportunity to kill him.

- Weight of hair? No one exactly knows the shekel [Payne 3.5lbs, Cook 6lbs, Josephus 5lbs, R.P. Smith: “Undoubtedly Absalom’s hair was something extraordinary.” Shekel may be price more than weight.
- 27: 3 sons: later [18:18] set up a pillar & stated he had no sons; no contradiction, all died in infancy [*Coffman*]; daughter Tamar shows the love for his sister, Tamar [may have also gone by Maachah – wife of Rehoboam]
- 28-31: 2-year confinement effective, even Joab is afraid to call on Joab; he was shunned, avoided, people refused to use him
- He would rather die than continue to live this way!
- Kiss indicates a restoration of trust & honor; shameful for D to do.
- Henry: 3 yrs. in Geshur + 2 yrs. in Jerusalem yet he is still not humbled, pride not diminished, not grateful his life has been spared!
- 32: 100% guilty – pre-meditated murder. D a fool to trust him; no feeling of shame – audacious arrogance!
- 33: kiss of treachery, Absalom never intended to keep peace.
- D is an OT type of Christ – Jesus was also betrayed by a kiss.

Lessons:

1. Sin must be punished. Absalom deserved the death penalty; today, Christ paid our ransom on the cross.
2. Lying is never the way to go about getting your way. Joab put the wise woman up to this, yet it was still a lie!
3. We need to be thankful. Of anyone in the story, Absalom should have been the most thankful – he deserved immediate death, yet it was not given. Christians should be the most thankful and happy people on earth because our sins are forgiven!

ABSALOM’S APOSTASY

2 Samuel 15:1-37

- Apostasy: abandonment of religious or political belief.
- Almost immediately after Absalom was restored in D’s favor, he begins his campaign to seize the throne.
- D never seems to be suspicious of Absalom.

1. A Kingly Campaign – v. 1-12

- 1: a group this size should've alerted D to Absalom's intentions. Seeking to usurp power? Hire a bodyguard!
- Unusual for Israelites to ride in chariots drawn by horses – looked down on by prophets. Samuel warned about Saul: 1S 9:11
- Absalom probably learned this from pagan grandfather, king of Geshur.
- 4: he should have been judged for murder, yet he wanted to judge others! He is very arrogant in dealing with others, 14:28-32.
- 5: as a way of feigning equality, he would interrupt them, bow down, kiss their hand
- Rise early: king heard people's suits early
- 6: pretended he was interested in justice for everyone – an insult to gov't > can't do job
- 7: 4 years: more accurate translation than 40; 4 years after he arrived he launched *coup d'état*.
- Hebron: why? Absalom born there, Hebron still holding grudge against D for moving seat of power to Jerusalem.
- 10: many preparations had gone into plans
- 11: 200 men: influential but no co-conspirators; clever: if they object, could become hostages.
- 12: Ahithophel a very wise man; if Absalom had followed his advice, he might have overthrown D. Giloth: 5mi. NW of Hebron.
- Ahithophel must have thought this *coup* would work. If worked, Solomon killed?

2. A New Ally – v. 13-29

- Coffman tied Rev. 13:3 here.
- 14: some have criticized D Leaving Jerusalem, but this move probably saved his life! Being in the open safer than in a walled city.
- 18: 600 skilled soldiers capable of defeating an army 10x their size! Passed before: crossing of brook of Kidron, E of Jerusalem.
- 19-23: D standing at brook seeing who would go with him – none. Their hearts are with Absalom. [*Today, Jesus only takes volunteers.*]
- Ittai's men not the same as v. 18
- 24-29: D appears to have grown in faith: he is relying on God more.
- Realizes God might punish him for his sins – yet he submits to God!
- 28: 2 sons would provide D info on Absalom.

3. Ahithophel – v. 30-37

- 30: Tatum: “One of the saddest passages in the Bible.”
- 31: D responded to sad news with a prayer; God responded immediately: Hushai would return to inform of Absalom’s strategy & also to frustrate Ahithophel.
- 32: DeHoff: “D was in danger of his life, but he stopped on Mount Olivet for prayer.”
- Ps. 41 shows D’s feelings of anguish over Ahithophel’s treachery.
- Ps. 3 & 4 were D’s Morning & Evening songs as he fled from Absalom.
- Ps. 27 a contrast between Jehovah’s abiding goodness & the inconsistency of man.
- Ps. 61 & 62 probably written at Mahanaim when D’s men had been assuaged.

Lessons:

1. Ahithophel was a very wise man – unfortunately there were some people who took his words as if they were God’s words. We must daily search the Scriptures to know God’s Word.
2. D took his safety to heart when he left Jerusalem to fight for his life. We must always do what is needed to protect our safety: physically & spiritually.
3. D was fleeing for his life, yet he stopped to worship. NEVER get too busy to stop & worship God. If the king of God’s people can do it, we have no excuse!

ABSALOM’S ASCENSION OF AUTHORITY

2 Samuel 16:1-23

- This rebellion looks like a great success – D is gone, and the rebellion looks to turn into a revolution!
- D appears to be relying on the Lord even more in this chapter.
- For this study, “3 –ings”: Deceiving, Cursing, Ravaging

1. Deceiving – v. 1-4

- Often in troubling times, people use calamity to get their own gain: Ziba’s timely gift deceived D.
- D acted rashly and will come to regret this.
- 1: 2 donkeys probably for Ziba & Mephibosheth; crippled master conveniently at home; skin: goat skin.

- 3: probably false accusation against master

2. Cursing – v. 5-19

- 5: Bahurim: tiny highway village far E of Mt. Olivet; Phalti turned back here leaving Michal w/ D (3:15-16); sons of priests will hide in a well here (17:18).
- Cook identified this man as “Cush the Benjaminite” from Ps. 7 title.
- 7: man of blood: applied to D by God, 1C 22:8
- 8: House of Saul: Benjaminites blamed D for these deaths: Saul, 1S 31:1-6; Abner, 2S 3:22-24; Ishbosheth, 2S4:5-12; & particularly 7 descendants of Saul, 2S 21:1-14.
- D will follow Jordan river; Shimei follows, cursing D
- 9: interesting distinct recognition: separating 3 nephews, different temperament: violence
- D will leave vengeance to the Lord, Dt. 32:35
- 11: D innocent in crimes Shimei accused him of, yet he is reminded of past transgressions and views this as a chastisement
- 14: 1st leg of flight is completed; D waits here until word returns to him
- 15-19: right here Absalom loses chance to be king; conceited Absalom taken in flattery
- 17: lying not approved of by God: sinful deeds by sinful men are frequently used by God’s providence to accomplish His Eternal Purpose.
- 18: masterpiece of a deception: deliberate flaw is suggesting Absalom was chosen.

3. Ravaging – v. 20-23

- Man who was guilty of murdering his half-brother (and pardoned) is now guilty of ten accounts of incest – a capital offense! Lv. 20:11; 1 Cor. 5:11 – a sin not even named among the Gentiles!
- 20: your: plural, Hushai potentially also asked
- 21: this stopped all attempts at reconciliation!
- Ahithophel, for his own selfish purposes, encouraged Absalom to commit a crime that was irreconcilable!
- 22: greatest deed of insult to D; “wedding tent” used by all Jews still today, Ps. 19:5, Joel 2:16 mention tent.
- Pagan mindset (grandfather king) was to take predecessor’s harem when overthrown.
- Violation – rape – prophesied by Nathan, 2S 12:11!
- 23: Ahithophel was not speaking God’s Word, but it was regarded as such.
- Worldly: wise advice; Biblically: devilish!

- Matthew Henry: “Ahithophel’s cursed counsel was an oracle of the Devil, not of God!”

Lessons:

1. D was deceived when he was in a period of unrest. Satan always tries to catch God’s people off guard, yet we can look to Jesus & resist every temptation!
2. The cursing’s of Shimei were seen as a just chastisement for past sins; today, we are not always punished immediately for sins, **BUT** every sin deserves punishment. Remember: Heb. 12:5-7.
3. When we ask people for advice, we must always be careful to 100% take it without running it through Scripture. Ahithophel was looking out for only himself!

PRECISE PREPARATIONS

2 Samuel 17:1-29

- Absalom’s supporters ready themselves to defeat David.
- No way a conflict of this nature could be resolved without bloodshed.

1. Attack and Defeat – v. 1-14

- 1: 12,000 men: a goal of usurping D then becoming king > only way to keep Bathsheba (grand) & Solomon (g-grand) alive.
- Tonight: night of the day D fled Jerusalem; not certain if Absalom has taken concubines
- 3: if you only kill D there will be no civil war
- 4: ready to kill father shows how far he had fallen
- 5-14 both advice designed to kill D
- 7: this time: Hushai thought the advice for the concubines was good advice. A masterpiece of a speech yet not all correct: D resting with the people.
- 8-10: well-founded statement of D’s bravery & heroism
- 11: riding in royal clothing appealing to Absalom
- 12: victory as great as the dew on the ground
- 14: both plans not perfect but Hushai’s still the best; Divine Providence accounted for the rejection of Ahithophel’s plan.

2. David's Discernment – v. 15-22

- 15: Hushai not a part of the final planning: warned either plan could be followed.
- 17: frequentative verb tense: repeatedly happening. It would have taken time to get army and courage (and defile 10 concubines)
- Woman: going to the well aroused no suspicion as women usually drew the water.
- 19: scattered: Vulgate: like drying barley
- 20: not a reference to Jordan but a small stream
- 21-22: Henry: here is where D penned Ps. 42 and Ps. 43; cf. Ps. 42:6

3. Ahithophel's Suicide – v. 23-29

- 23: 4 suicides in Scripture: King Saul, 1S 31:5; Ahithophel: 2S 17:23; Zimri: 1K 16:18; Judas Iscariot: Mt. 27:5
- 24: Manahaim: well-situated for a temporary capital; very fruitful area and Mephibisheth's capital: easily defending
- 25: Abigail & Zeruriah were D's sisters; Nabash was Jesse's wife. Civil war inevitable.
- Absalom's popularity not as universal as he thought. D had a remarkable power for winning the affections of men.
- 27: Shobi: D had shown him kindness with the capture of Rabbah.
- Amiel: son of Ahithophel, father of Bathsheba, Machi her brother
- Barzillai: ancestor through a family of priests; they returned from Babylonian captivity with Ezra (2:61-63).

Lessons:

1. We must all be sure to weigh every option. When dealing with Biblical teaching, we are commanded to test every spirit, 1 John 4:1.
2. Once D heard news he had to move, he moved. Great leaders of the Bible have always been movers.
3. Ahithophel was so upset when his advice was not taken that he took his own life. There is nothing in this life so bad that it warrants us to take our own life. There is always a way out of sticky situations!

DISASTROUS DEFEAT AND DEATH

2 Samuel 18:1-33

- Absalom rides in front of “all of Israel” with 40,000 men.
- Josephus records David had 4,000 men.
- Absalom was not guarded for a surprise attack!

1. Organization – v. 1-8

- 2: common to divide army into 3 bodies (Judges 7:6, 9:43, 1S 11:11, 13:17, 2K 9:5-6)
- Foreigners serve under Ittai; native troops under the nephews, Joab and Abigail
- 3: Absalom’s men were not as kind as D’s
- 5: D has a hard time accepting nothing on Earth could resolve Absalom’s conflict
- 6: Forest of Ehpraim: no one know where
- 7: 20,000 men: surprised by the 3 groups of D’s men; attacked while they were travelling > weapons were packed.
- 8: panic scattered for miles. Woods would’ve aided defeat: falling into pits, starvation.

2. Death – v. 9-19

- 9: Josephus: hair greatly entangled in a knotty oak tree; caught by his head, possibly unconscious as we have no account of trying to dislodge himself.
- 13: man answering was loyal to the king and understood the character of Joab
- 14: darts did not kill Absalom: wooden stakes sharpened and heated in the fire.
- Heart: more middle of the body.
- Not right to kill Absalom; should have been captured and taken to D.
- 17: the pit: well-known
- 18: same as Vale of Shaveh (Gen. 24:19) where King of Sodom met Abraham.
- Monument erected upon the death of his three sons, 1S 14:27

3. Lament – v. 20-33

- Joab the supreme commander of D’s army
- 20-23: D executed the messenger that told him of Saul’s and Ishbosheth’s death (2S 1:15-16, 4:5-12). Joab wanted to spare Ahimaaz. Instead sends slave: “the Cushite” from Ethiopia [*darker*]

- 24-27: dramatic account no doubt from eyewitness
- 29: blatant lie from Ahimaaz, cf. v. 20
- 30-33: Coffman: “No more pitiful a picture of D in the whole Bible than this one.”
- Sad for death and for his agonizing grief over his sins.
- 33: D takes blame for the outrageous crimes of Absalom. Ps. 38 & 40 make the confession it is his own iniquity surging over his head.

Lessons:

1. Absalom was prepared for a fight, but he was not prepared for a surprise attack. As Christians, we are to be on the guard for all attacks as Satan is always ready to attack – 1 Peter 5:8.
2. Absalom was killed when he was stuck; Joab, however, should not have killed Absalom. Due process for sins should have occurred. Today, God is the one that repays, Romans 12:19.
3. Absalom’s death placed grief and guilt upon D as he felt responsible. There is no need for guilt in Christ.

FROM JORDAN TO JERUSALEM

2 Samuel 19:1-43

- Following Absalom’s acts, D could not avoid a period of strife and confusion – D is a part of the problem.
- Joab’s actions saved the kingdom.

5 things about David in this chapter:

1. David’s Cry – v. 1-10

- 2: valiant soldiers were entitled to be appreciated and applauded for their deeds.
- Upon their arrival at Mahanaim, they find D being a crybaby > troops think D is displeased with them > ashamed of their king.
- 4: ostentatious wailing for Absalom was a direct violation of God’s Law: 1S 16:1, Lev. 10:6; D was carried away with his emotions.
- D desired to be alone when grieving.
- 5: true words to a great degree by Joab

- 6: rebuke lacks respect: situation called for drastic action
- 7: Joab was tasked with telling D the truth & D needed to accept that truth
- 8: D realized Joab's wisdom & took his seat
- 9: a great time of grief and perplexity for Israel
- 10: only place Absalom's anointing is mentioned – probably took place in Hebron

2. David is Stupid – v. 11-15

- No need to do a change of leadership: from a loyal supporter to an enemy.
- 12: Amasa's father not even an Israelite, Joab more closely kin to D
- Willis: 1] provide an inducement to Joab; 2] punish Joab for killing Absalom; 3] punish him for his stern rebuke.
- This action sealed Amasa's doom.
- No need to do a change of leadership: from a loyal supporter to an enemy.
- 12: Amasa's father not even an Israelite, Joab more closely kin to D
- Willis: 1] provide an inducement to Joab; 2] punish Joab for killing Absalom; 3] punish him for his stern rebuke.
- This action sealed Amasa's doom.
- 14: D is right in this policy.

3. David Spares – v. 16-23

- 16,17: attended by so many men is proof he was a great influence. Ziba represents all of Saul's house.
- 18: some valuable assistance given.
- 20: house of Joseph: Amos 5:6: Ten Northern Tribes; Shimei was a weak and selfish hypocrite
- 21: serious crime to kill God's anointed, 1S 24:6, 10, 26:9
- 22: In Hebrew: "*that ye be to me for a satan.*" D a forerunner of Christ, cf. Mt. 4:4ff, 16:23.
- 23: D kept his oath to Shimei, 1K 2:8-9, 36ff; at the end of his life, he instructs Solomon to kill Shimei.

4. David Leaves – v. 24-30

- 24: literally grandson; Jonathan is father
- Only proof D needed that Mephibosheth was telling the truth is mourning since D left Jerusalem.

- D has a dilemma: he already gave all of Mephibosheth's property to Ziba. Answer very reminiscent to Solomon, 1K 3:16-28.
- 30: M's answer similar to harlot w/ Solomon.

5. David Returns – v. 31-43

- D's offer was for the whole family to come with him.
- Barzillai's decline was due to his age. He knew his life was nearing its end & he could not enjoy all the king's blessings.
- 37: Josephus says Chimham was B's son, cf. 1K 2:7
- 40: Ominous words indicate separation
- Separation present since the time of the Judges.
- 41: each part jealous of the king's favor. Tribal jealousy & bitterness marred what should've been a happy end to a rebellion.
- 43: Judah annoyed the Northerners. Sheba sees an opportunity for a rebellion.

Lessons:

1. D spent a period loudly mourning Absalom. There is a time for us to mourn for our loved ones, Eccl. 3:4. We need to be careful to not let this period of mourning keep us from being faithful to God.
2. D was mad at Joab and because of this he made a stupid decision. We need to never let our anger get the best of us – Eph. 4:25-27.
3. The tribes of God's people were not unified behind D. Jesus said it best: "if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25. Unity!

THE KING RETURNS

2 Samuel 20: 1-26

- The happiness of D's homecoming is overshadowed by a new rebellion.
- We see the results of D's rash and unwise decisions.

1. Homecoming – v. 1-3

- 1: trumpet: here blown to start a rebellion; later (22) to end hostilities. Today: reveille and taps.

- Sheba's actions result of the events at the end of Ch. 19. Sheba's mercy lasted longer than his rebellion.
- 2: all the men: Northern Ten Tribes that complained. Lit. from following D to Sheba.
- D returned with his Judean escort to find all of Israel in open rebellion.
- 3: providing here nothing more than that of the average prisoner.

2. Murder – v. 4-13

- Nephew of D, son of D's sister Abigail, father was an Ishmaelite, 1C 2:13-17. Should be an easy first assignment for Amasa.
- 5: why the delay? Willis: 1] did not see need to hurry; 2] did not know how to summon troops; 3] men of Judah lost confidence in him; D sends Abishai to get Sheba.
- 6: an insult to Joab; servants = bodyguards
- 7: Abishai is commander, but Joab was the real leader: soldiers had all trust in Joab.
- 8: Joab prepared for this meeting; possibly let a sword fall to trick, let him think nothing is wrong & then grabbed another sword.
- 9,10: sword in left hand, probably concealed in sleeve until needed.
- 10: Joab 1st mentioned, in control of army.
- 12: no wonder they all stopped; the leader of the army lay there in a pool of blood.

3. Wisdom – v. 14-22

- 14: Sheba rallied no on but kinfolk; Abel (city): extreme N boundary of Israel; DeHoff: supposed to be capital of Abilene in Lk. 3:1.
- 16: woman: probably prophetess and a witch; she is credited with ending the rebellion and saving the city from destruction.

4. List – v. 23-26

- This closes the history of D's reign. Ch. 21-24 form an appendix.
- 23: Joab seized control through murder. D knew the kind of man Joab was, but he needed that kind of leader right then.
- Forced labor is not used in 8:16-18 but it is used here.
- 26: priest: an official in gov't, not an actual priest
- D never forgave Joab for Absalom's murder; yet Joab must be recognized as the military architect and for sustaining D's throne.

Lessons:

1. D finally had a wonderful homecoming to Jerusalem when the coast was clear. Christians can always have the opportunity to “return home” by repenting of their sins.
2. Joab was angered at Amasa for being the new commander of the Army; to fix his problem, he murdered Amasa. Murder never fixes a problem!
3. Joab acted like a friend when he saw Amasa. Jesus was betrayed by a friend. Today, Satan will try any way to deceive and destroy us.

LIVES SQUANDERED AND SALVAGED

2 Samuel 21:1-22

- 3rd part of the book:
 - Ch. 1-10 – successes
 - Ch. 11-20 – sins
 - Ch. 21-24 – things pertaining to the reign of D
- These chapters form an appendix if you will – not necessarily in order.

1. Famine – v. 1-9

- 1: another shameful section: why wait 3 years? Saul thought Joshua 9:24 still in effect regarding eradicating Gibeonites; Saul wantonly violated
- 2: D made the same mistake Joshua made by not seeking the Lord, Joshua 9:14. Pagans never give a correct answer.
- 3: not doing God’s command on this answer.
- 6: hang: not exactly known: some brutal, inhuman punishment common among the heathen; left bodies exposed (Coffman:) from March 21st to autumn rains, violating Dt. 21:22-23.
- Very stupid request as they were in a period of perpetual slavery – why not request that to end? Only 7 (complete) signifies a token.
- 8: Rizpah: one of Saul’s concubines (2S 3:7-11); had a son also named Mephibosheth.
- Merab instead of Michal.
- Different Barzillai.
- 9: mercifully not given details; God never requested these 7 to be killed. Clarke identified this as the Vernal Equinox wheat harvest. Begins at Pentecost.

2. Guarding – v. 10-14

- No greater example of motherly love found on any page of literature. Rudyard Kipling:
- If I were hanged on the highest hill,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!
I know whose love would follow me still,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!
- 10: rains usually came late Nov./early Dec., a 6-month vigil over the bodies.
- “The bones of the hanged” may mean actual bones or a euphemism for the decaying bodies.

3. Safety – v. 15-22

- Exact timing is unknown. Josephus said D was covered by the shield as Abishai slew the giant.
- 16: 300 shekels of bronze: 7.5-8lbs
- Giants: people who inhabited Canaan in pre-Israelite times.
- 19: contradiction? NO. 1] 1C 20:5 states that Elhanan slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath; 2] Elhanan & D could be the name of the same people [Solomon/Jedidiah]; 3] Goliath could be a name worn by more than one giant or the name of a certain type of soldier.
- 22: significant D is mentioned as the one who killed giants – in harmony with 1S 17.

Lessons:

1. When trying to figure out what to do, the thing to never do is consult the enemy. We should always enquire with God's commands.
2. Rizpah's love teaches us today the true extent of a mother's love. Do we love anyone to this degree?
3. “Scholars” are looking for any excuse to claim the Bible contradicts itself. Yet under careful examination there is no contradiction. No other book could be written over 1600 years, with 40 authors on 3 continents and never contradict itself!

VERSE OF VICTORY

2 Samuel 22

- Almost word-for-word recounting of Psalm 18 – a few changes.
- The Psalms are a great personal look at OT events.

- Let us look at the Psalm for this lesson!

1. 2 Samuel 22 || Psalm 18

- 1-3: praise and acknowledgment of divine protection, strong military language; 8 metaphors praise God's sufficiency.
- 4-5: remembering times when he was in great danger; think of Jonah (2:2)
- Prayed – temple of God in the heavens
- 7-15: God coming to his rescue like an earthquake, volcano, storm from Heaven.
- 16-19: D's deliverance; channels of water: reminiscent of the Exodus
- 20-24: D's part; he was a man of God; Js. 5:16
- Constantly on guard from a particular sin.
- 25-27: D sings of the just nature of God
- 28-42: what D had done with God's help; initially mostly defiance & deliverance from danger; D mostly on offence.
- 28: cf. 2S 21:17
- Hind: roe: sure-footedness & swiftness
- 35: God has taught D the skills & abilities to wage war; and has saved him, upheld him, and made him great.
- 36: enlarged steps to keep him from falling
- 41: enemy cried out to the Lord & He did not hear!
- 43-45: because of his military success, he was able to reign over the heathen.
- 46-50: ends as it began with praise to God
- His seed: Messianic.

2. Interesting Parallels

- Like D, Christ put confidence in God & God delighted in Him.
- Like D, Christ faced impending death with prayer.
- D tells of a storm; on the cross when JC cried with a loud voice the sky was darkened.
- D speaks of his righteousness & Christ was without sin.
- D took the offense, prevailed, and ruled; Christ prevailed when He rose from the dead, He took offense when He sent the Gospel into all the world, and rules in His Kingdom.

3. Lessons

1. D knew when to give God the credit. Today, we should always give God the credit when it is due.
2. There is no doubt that D could not have succeeded the way he did without God's help. We should never get too proud to seek the Lord's help (through the Word).
3. Even the enemies of God's people will call upon God for help in a pinch; however, He doesn't hear those who are contrary to Him. We must live our lives where He hears us.

REVELATION AND ROSTER

2 Samuel 23:1-39

Adam Clarke: "the words of this song contain a glorious prediction of the Messiah's kingdom and conquests, in highly poetic language."

1. Revelation – v. 1-9

- 1: statement rests upon the last sayings of Balaam, Num. 24:3,15; a further explanation of Balaam's prophecy of the Star out of Jacob & scepter of Israel.
- 2: prophetic declaration by D concerning the true King of the Kingdom of God.
- 3: "must be" is supplied; who is the just ruler over men? The Messiah Himself!
- 4: like the light of the morning, Malachi 4:2.
- 5-9: everlasting covenant – not a Davidic line but the coming Messiah.
- Not the clearest Messianic prophecy but still of value.

2. Roster – v. 10-39

- 9,12: great victory: it was the Lord Himself who protected, blessed, and gave the victory!
- 800 at one time: wish we had more details.
- 11: purpose of Philistine raid was to rob Israel of their crops that were ready for the harvest.
- 13-17: not 100% certain same 3 of v. 9-12
- Beautiful story of D: doesn't want to risk his men; changes after his fall {Uriah}
- 18-19: Abishai is a great soldier: accompanied D into Saul's camp when D took Saul's spear; once saved D's life; was ready to execute Shimei if D had allowed it.
- 20-23: Benaiah: a great soldier; ariels of Moab – maybe lion-like men.
- 20: fun fact: only mention of snow as actual snow and not a representation of purity.

- 24: Asahel: D's nephew; lost his life when he tried to kill Abner, 2S 2:18-23.
- Elhanan: different Dodo than Eleazar, 23:9
- 25: Shammah: two named this (33), possibly the one that brought water in v. 11.
- Elika: *nothing known*.
- 26: Helez: 1C 11:27, captain over 7-month course, 1C 27:10
- Ira: 1C 11:28, *nothing known*
- 27: Abiezer: 1C 27:12, Benjaminite with 24K in his division
- Mebunnai: also Sibbechai, 2S 21:18, and Sibbecai, 2S 11:29
- 28: Zalmon: means shady or ascent, a "mountain of a man"
- Maharai: cf. 1C 11:30; 1 of 12 monthly captains, served in 10th month
- 29: Heleb: Heled in 1C 11:30, 12th month
- Ittai: means *plowman or living*
- 30: Benaniah: *Jehovah hath built/is intelligent*; served 11th month
- Hiddai: *joyful*; Gaash is in Ephraim
- 31: Abialbon: Abiel in 1C 11:32; *father of strength*
- Azmaveth: *counsel*; may have been treasurer, 1C 27:25
- 32: Eliahba: *whom God hides*
- Jonathan: *the gift of God*
- 33: Shammah: 5th month commander
- Ahiam: little is known
- 34: Eliphelet: D must've loved him, named a son after him, 1C 3:8.
- Eliam: father of Bathsheba, father-in-law of D; adds to D's shame for violating Bathsheba
- 35: Herzo: *enclosed, beautiful*
- Paarai: devotee of Peor
- 36: Igal: Zobah was a part of Syria, a foreigner that supported D; also, a name of a Canaan land spy
- Bani: not in Chronicles list but still a good soldier
- 37: Zelek: another foreigner
- Naharai: from a Hivite city destroyed by Joshua

- Armor-bearer: Joab mentioned 3x (18, 24, 37)
- 38: Ira: Ithrites from Kiriath-jearim; D's bodyguards from here
- 39: Uriah: *now deceased* husband of Uriah

Lessons:

1. God made a promise that Jesus would come through D. This chapter serves as a great reminder of His fulfillment.
2. There are some odd names on this list and some names we know nothing about, yet they were important. Today, it is only important if our names are in the Lamb's Book of Life.
3. The listing of Uriah and Eliam just illustrate the depraved extent to which D sinned with Bathsheba. Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go, cost you more than you wanted to pay, and keep you longer than you wanted to stay.

PUNISHMENT OF PESTILENCE

2 Samuel 24:1-25

This chapter's events were near the end of D's reign.

1. Numbering – v. 1-9

- 1: the problem of this chapter begins in v. 1. Why was it a problem? 1C 21:1 – written the same time as 1S/2S.
- God does not make man do things to get punished; man does them on his own!
- Why was God angry? Probably for the rebellions under Absalom and Sheba.
- Why was this a sin? Moses numbered the people twice (Numbers). The Shepherd numbers his sheep. The Bible doesn't record why but the Bible records it as sinful – and Joab know it! (And D admits it in v. 10!)
- 2-9: not a complete list of cities
- 3: Joab's protest was backed by all the army. The people didn't want to be enlisted again.
- 5: DT. 2:36: forms the Southern boundary of the territory taken by Israel from Sihon.
- 6: did not fully obey D's orders. Levi & Benjamin not in the numbering.
- 9: Chronicles gives different numbers; Hebrews numbered things inconsistently.

2. Acknowledgement – v. 10-17

- D was going to proudly boast in his numbering
- God would punish by reducing their number by famine, war, or pestilence.
- Not immoral on God’s part to punish both the sinful king and the sinful people.
- 15: appointed time: ambiguous; possibly a reference to three days.
- 70,000: worst destructive plague upon Israel; 14,700 lost in the rebellion of Korah; 24,000 lost at Baal-Peor.
- Barnes: “Even in this pestilence was seen the mercy of God.”
- Araunah: just N of D’s capital, this place well remembered as Solomon’s temple soon erected nearby.

3. Purchase – v. 18-25

- 24: threshing floor bought for 50 shekels of silver; 1C 21:25 states 600 shekels of gold. People say this is a discrepancy, but the 600 was for the whole site.
- Araunah had a large estate – would want to build the temple on a large area.
- Remarkable insight to the nature of worship: too many give as little as they can to God!

Lessons:

1. D listened to Satan instead of God; even Joab opposing him did not change his mind. Today, no matter how tempting Satan’s offer may be, it never works out as well as we hope it will!
2. A true characteristic of D was he was always willing to acknowledge when he had sinned. 1 John 1:9.
3. It speaks volumes to the character of D that he was willing to pay full price for the location of his altar. A true Christian will never allow others to pay his share – he will give more than the minimum!

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