

## 2 Samuel 2 – 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.

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.

### **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; Zeruiah is D's sister; Abishai was with D when he found S asleep and wanted to kill S; both were 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

© 2021 Justin D. Reed  
 P. O. Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190  
[thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources](http://thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources)  
 PowerPoint № 173 accompanies this lesson

September 19, 2021 AM Arlington Church of Christ