

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1-22-12 PM NOTES
2 SAMUEL
#12 in Series, "The Glory of God in the Old Testament"

"He did nothing halfheartedly. If there ever was a Renaissance man, it was King David. He was multifaceted, extremely complex—a wild bunch of contradictions. He threw himself into life with reckless abandon. His success was beyond limits. His failures were atrocious. But his repentance was unabashed and desperately sincere."
—R. C. Sproul

2 Samuel 8:6b (ESV) "And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went."

2 Samuel 8:15 (ESV) "So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people."

2 Samuel 12:10 (NKJV) "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."

I. David's Triumphs (Chapter 1-10)

A. David Is King Over Judah (Chapter 1-4)

B. David Is King Over All Israel (Chapter 5-10)

1. The Establishment of David's Kingdom (Chapter 5-7)

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Genesis 22:18a (NKJV) "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed..."

Genesis 49:10 (NIV) "The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his."

Luke 1:30-33 (NKJV) "³⁰ Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; 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 of His kingdom there will be no end.'"

Revelation 11:15b (NKJV) "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

2. The Extension of David's Kingdom (Chapter 8-10)

II. David's Troubles (Chapter 11-24)

A. David's Sin (Chapter 11)

Numbers 32:23b (NKJV) "...be sure your sin will find you out."

2 Samuel 11:27b (HCSB) "...the Lord considered what David had done to be evil."

B. David's Sorrow (Chapter 12)

Psalms 32:3-4 (NKJV) “³ When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. ⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah”

Psalms 51:1-4 (NKJV) “¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin *is* always before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in Your sight-- that You may be found just when You speak, *and* blameless when You judge.”

C. David's Suffering (Chapter 12-24)

1. Trouble in the Family (Chapter 12-18)

2 Samuel 12:6 (NKJV) “And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

2 Samuel 12:10 (NKJV) “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.”

2. Trouble in the Nation (Chapter 19-24)

III. Lessons Learned

- ❖ Your Christian testimony is no stronger than your weakest moment

1 Peter 5:8b (NKJV) “...like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

1 Peter 5:8a (NKJV) “Be sober, be vigilant...”

Ephesians 5:15 (HCSB) “Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise.”

- ❖ Christian leaders are attacked especially hard
- ❖ Genuine repentance does not nullify the earthly consequences of sin
- ❖ David did not have the indwelling Spirit of Christ as do all Christians today

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2 SAMUEL
#12 in Series, “The Glory of God in the Old Testament”

The central human character in 2 Samuel is David. This is certainly not the only book of the Bible where much is said about David. There are some 1,127 mentions of his name in the Bible! We are pretty sure that at least 73 of the 150 Psalms were written by David (probably a few more than that). Sixty one chapters in 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 1 Chronicles tell the story of David. There is no more interesting and winsome character in the Bible than David. Listen to how R. C. Sproul described him: “He did nothing halfheartedly. If there ever was a Renaissance man, it was King David. He was multifaceted, extremely complex – a wild bunch of contradictions. He threw himself into life with reckless abandon. His success was beyond limits. His failures were atrocious. But his repentance was unabashed and desperately sincere” [R. C. Sproul and Robert Wolgemuth, *What’s in the Bible*, Page 88].

The book of 2 Samuel opens with David’s ascension to the throne of Judah after Saul’s death. It closes not long before David’s death. The book falls into two main parts. In chapters 1-10 we see David’s triumphs, and in chapters 11-24 we see David’s troubles. If we had to come up with a sentence summary of the book it would be, “Triumphs turned into troubles through sin”. Two verses summarize the first part of the book. **2 Samuel 8:6b (ESV)** “And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went.” The other verse is **2 Samuel 8:15 (ESV)** “So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people.” Perhaps the best summary of the second section of the book is **2 Samuel 12:10 (NKJV)** “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.” What a contrast!

I. David’s Triumphs (Chapter 1-10)

One way to get insight into the character of David is to observe his response to Saul’s death. Saul had been mortally wounded in battle and then took his own life. When David heard of this disaster in battle, far from gloating and rejoicing that his time to be king had finally come, he is distraught [Read 1:11-12]. David composes a lament to honor Saul and Jonathan in 1: 17-27 [Read 1:23-27].

A. David Is King over Judah (Chapter 1-4)

After seeking God’s approval, David was anointed the king over Judah in Hebron. The rest of Israel followed Saul’s “Secretary of Defense” Abner in setting up one of Saul’s sons, Ishbosheth, to be king over the remainder of Israel. David just patiently waited for God to act. He doesn’t try to manipulate or work intrigue behind the scenes. He knows that God has chosen him to be king over all of Israel and he is content to let God work it out in His time. There was civil war for a time, but eventually Abner, Ishbosheth’s military leader switched sides and then Ishbosheth was murdered by some of his own people.

The total time that David was king over Judah was 7 years and 6 months.

B. David Is King over All Israel (Chapter 5-10)

[Read 5:1-5] During the time covered in chapters 5-10 we see first the establishment of David’s kingdom and the extension of David’s kingdom.

1. The Establishment of David’s Kingdom (Chapter 5-7)

In these chapters we simply see David carrying out God’s commands. Let me zero in on two very important things in these chapters. First we see David capturing the city of Jerusalem in 5:6-16. Hebron, where David ruled as King over Judah, was too far south to make it the capital city. He needed a more central city [5:6-7]. Jerusalem became the nation’s capital and came to be known as “The City of David”. God had told Abraham that this city of the Jebusites would be given to his descendents hundreds of years earlier in Genesis 15:18-21. In chapter 6 we see David bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. The first attempt ended in disaster because David didn’t transport the ark according to God’s instructions. He learned his lesson and a few months later transported it according to God’s instructions.

The second important event in this section was the Davidic Covenant. The Davidic Covenant is one of the most important passages in 2 Samuel [Read 7:12-16]. This covenant finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ who was a descendent of David according to the flesh. This prophecy is the fourth major prophecy of a coming Messiah / deliverer. First we see God prophesying to Adam that a deliverer would be from the human race in **Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)** “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” Secondly, God tells Abraham that the deliverer would be a descendent of Abraham in **Genesis 22:18a (NKJV)** “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...” Through Jacob God tells us that the deliverer will be of the tribe of Judah in **Genesis 49:10 (NIV)** “The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.” To Adam God says that the deliverer will be of the human race; to Abraham he tells us that the deliverer will be of the nation Israel (a descendent of Abraham). To Jacob, the Lord says that the deliverer will be of the tribe of Judah. To David He says that the Messiah, the deliverer will be of the house or descendents of David. Listen to the prophecy given the angel to Mary in **Luke 1:30-33 (NKJV)** “³⁰ Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; 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 of His kingdom there will be no end.’” This is why Matthew and Luke go to great lengths to show that Jesus was a descendent of David. Some try to “spiritualize” these verses in Luke and apply them to the church today, but that is a real stretch. There is no good reason to not take them literally. The ultimate fulfillment of this Davidic covenant will be when Christ returns to set up His millennial kingdom and rule on the throne of David. How long will He rule? Remember the Hallelujah chorus in Handel’s Messiah as it quotes **Revelation 11:15b (NKJV)** “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

2. The Extension of David’s Kingdom (Chapter 8-10)

This section of 2 Samuel records for us a list of David’s achievements. Through military conquest and great administration and leadership David ruled over an empire that stretched from the Euphrates in the north to the Gulf of Aqaba in the south. This section also gives us a very personal look into David’s heart as we see how he treated Jonathan’s son named Mephibosheth [Read 9:1-13]. There is a tremendous picture of what Jesus does for us, but we don’t have time to develop it. The custom of the day was to gather up all the descendents of the previous king and kill them so that they would not be rivals for the throne. David finds one of Saul’s descendents and shows kindness to him for the sake of David’s friend and Saul’s son, Jonathan. David was a man of faith. He knew that God had given him the kingdom and God could protect it and keep it for him. Knowing God’s promise and God’s preservation freed David to show kindness toward even those who could be seen as rivals for the throne.

II. David’s Troubles (Chapter 11-24)

When chapter 10 ends, Israel is at its zenith. They were a powerful nation and a godly nation. From a human perspective it would have been better if David’s life had ended at this point. From God’s perspective, it was not time and from all the pain and suffering and troubles we learn so many lessons about the devastation of sin, the beauty of repentance and the amazing grace of God. One of the evidences that the Bible is inspired by God is that even the heroes of the Bible are presented “warts and all”. Aren’t you glad that you learn from the heroes of the faith that God uses sinful men and women to bring glory to Himself? God’s saints struggle with sin – all of them. That gives me great comfort.

A. David’s Sin (Chapter 11)

[Read 11:1-5] When this incident takes place, David is not a young man. He is probably about 50 years old. Let’s analyze why this happened. We should all look at this account without a sense of moral superiority to David. There should be a sense of proper fear that says, “Dear Lord, that could be me – only by your grace am I delivered.” First, David was not with his men at the battlefield where he probably should have been. David neglected his duty and decided that he deserved some idle time. Have you heard

the old human proverb, “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop”? There is a lot of truth to that. David had grown self confident and stayed at home when he should have been at battle. Second, David should have known that sin is the culmination of a process. He was where he should not have been and in that state of disobedience, “he saw” (11:2). Here was a way of escape. He could have turned away and not continued the process. Next, he sent and inquired (11:3). Third, he took (11:4). At any point he could have turned away, but he did not. From there, things spiraled out of control. From that one encounter, she conceived a child. Her husband was one of David’s most loyal soldiers. Since he was off at war, the child could never be said to be his so David concocted a scheme to bring the husband (Uriah) home from the battle. David told him to go be with his wife, but Uriah refused [Read 11:8-11]. David then stooped lower than I am sure he ever thought he could stoop. He sent orders by Uriah himself to the commander Joab to put Uriah in a place in the battle where he would be killed. David’s plan worked and after a short mourning period, he took Bathsheba to be his wife. Nobody knew the whole story. David had gotten by with his evil deed. But God knew! **Numbers 32:23b (NKJV)** “...be sure your sin will find you out.” God sees to it that what is in the darkness comes to the light. God will not be mocked. Think about all the commands that David broke. He broke the 10th commandment by coveting his neighbor’s wife. He broke the 7th commandment committing adultery with another man’s wife. He broke the 8th commandment by robbing Uriah of his wife and Bathsheba of her dignity. He broke the 9th commandment by trying to cover up his sin. He broke the 6th commandment by having Uriah killed when he refused to spend the night with his wife. God’s attitude toward this is summarized very succinctly in **2 Samuel 11:27b (HCSB)** “...the Lord considered what David had done to be evil.”

B. David’s Sorrow (Chapter 12)

We are not sure how long David tried to hide his sin. A best guess of Bible scholars is several months. It was not a good time for this man who had been counted righteous by faith. Psalm 32 was written after David’s repentance. Listen to how he explained what was going on in him during the cover-up. **Psalms 32:3-4 (NIV)** “³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah” God chose a unique way to confront David with his sin. God sent the prophet Nathan to David with a story [Read 12:1-7a]. Like a dagger to his heart, David was struck with the gravity of his sin and the futility of ever trying to hide it. God’s words of judgment were hard and harsh [Read 12:9-14]. Possibly with the tears still on his face, David wrote **Psalms 51:1-4 (NKJV)** “¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin *is* always before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in Your sight-- that You may be found just when You speak, *and* blameless when You judge.”

Here is a hard question. How could a man break 5 of the 10 commandments and still God calls him “a man after my own heart”? It is because of two things. First, sin was not the pattern of David’s life. There were incidents of sin (devastating sin) but the pattern of his life was to love and obey God. God summarizes our lives by the pattern of them and not the incidents of sin. That is why the 1 John tests as to whether or not one has eternal life is always referring to the pattern of one’s life. There were certainly consequences for these incidents (I am in no way saying that they are “no big deal”), but they did not define David. He is “David, a man after God’s heart” and not “David the adulterer” or “David the murderer”. Second, David was a sincere “repenter”. There was a true brokenness for his sin. He recognized that his sin was primarily against God. There was no excuse for his sin – only brokenness.

C. David’s Suffering (Chapter 12-24)

Like throwing a pebble into a pond and watching the ripples keep going out from where the rock hit to the shore, even so the consequences of David’s great sin just kept going further and further.

1. Trouble in the Family (Chapter 12-18)

When Nathan had told David the story of the wealthy man who took the poor man’s lamb, David (not knowing that the story was about him) in a sense predicted the temporal consequences of his sin. He said in **2 Samuel 12:6 (NKJV)** “And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and

because he had no pity." Also God said in **2 Samuel 12:10 (NKJV)** "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." Let's see what happened. First, God said through Nathan that the baby conceived of this immoral union will die (2 Samuel 12:14). We read in 2 Samuel 12:18-19 that this happened just as God said. Second, in chapter 13 David's eldest son Amnon rapes his half sister Tamar. David was furious, but did nothing, perhaps because of the guilt over what he had done. Third, in retaliation, Absalom, David's son and Tamar's full brother kills Amnon for what he did. Fearing for his life Absalom goes into hiding with his mother's family in another country. David has lost the baby, his daughter has been disgraced, his oldest son has been murdered, and another son has left the country and is in hiding. It's not over yet! In chapter 14 David is persuaded to bring Absalom home but in chapter 15, Absalom leads a revolt against his father and David has to flee from Jerusalem. Fourth, in chapter 18 we read of the battle to re-take Jerusalem and Absalom is killed. David's grief is deep [Read 18:33]. David said the man who stole the poor man's lamb would repay four-fold. David lost his newborn baby, David's daughter was raped by David's son, one of his sons killed another of his sons, and finally, what seems like his favorite son Absalom leads a rebellion against his father and is killed. Yes, there was trouble in David's family.

2. Trouble in the Nation (Chapter 19-24)

In chapter's 19-20 we see David re-establishing his kingdom after Absalom's rebellion. There was a short civil war that was put down when the leader was killed. Gone is the atmosphere of triumph, confidence, and joy that we find in David's kingship before the great sin.

Chapters 21-24 are like an epilogue or an appendix to the book. There is the record of another sin of David as he takes a census of the land for what seems to be prideful purposes. Again there is genuine repentance, but there is a sad consequence of a plague that killed some 70,000 people in Israel.

III. Lessons Learned

Let me conclude with some lessons we learn from the book of 2 Samuel.

1. Your Christian testimony is no stronger than your weakest moment. We can never let up. The devil is compared to in **1 Peter 5:8b (NKJV)** "...a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Because of that, we are given instructions in the first part of **1 Peter 5:8a (NKJV)** "Be sober, be vigilant..." Our life here on earth is a life of constant warfare. Don't let up. **Ephesians 5:15 (HCSB)** "Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise".

2. Christian leaders are attacked especially hard. Set fences in your life around the three areas temptation typically comes in: silver, sex, and self. I am speaking of becoming consumed with money, being drawn into sexual immorality, and in pride that results in abuse of authority. Set fences around your life and accountability relationships.

3. Genuine repentance does not nullify the earthly consequences of sin. David was forgiven, but oh the consequences. Therefore never minimize sin but always remember that it has consequences here on earth.

4. David did not have the indwelling holy Spirit. Christians today do. David was without excuse, but how much more are we without excuse when we have the very Spirit of Christ in us to enable us to live in obedience.

David's life was summarized by God as being a man after God's own heart. May that be how he describes us. (3158)