

10. II Samuel

1. Writer: Unknown – Possibly the prophet Nathan and/or Gad based on Chronicles 29:29. *Now the acts of David the King, first and last, behold they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer.*
2. Time Period – II Samuel picks up the narrative where I Samuel ended with the events immediately after the death of King Saul and continues through David's rise to be King, initially over just the tribe of Judah and eventually over all of Israel. While the book covers most of the 40 years that David reigned, it stops short of his death; instead, it ends with the disastrous fallout of the David numbering the people, which was his second great error.
3. Key Figures:
 1. David, King of Judah (7 ½ Years) and King of Israel (33 Years)
 1. Joab, Captain over all of David's Army.
 2. Asahel, Joab's brother. (Killed by Abner in battle)
 3. Abishai, Joab's brother.
 4. Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son. (He was five years old when Saul and Jonathan were killed and his nurse dropped him causing him to be lame).
 1. Ziba- Mephibosheth's unfaithful servant.
 5. Bathsheba, wife of Uriah the Hittite. (David impregnates her and murders her husband, then marries her)
 6. Nathan, a prophet.
 2. David's Enemies
 1. Ishbosheth, King of Israel (7 ½ Years) – Saul's son. (Murdered by his servants)
 1. Abner, Captain over all of Ishbosheth's Army. (Murdered by Joab)
 2. Absalom, David's Son. (Kills his brother and tries to overthrow David, Killed by Joab)
 1. Ahithophel (David's trusted counsel who betrays him and joins with Absalom)
 2. Amasa (Absalom's General and later, David's General before being killed by Joab)
 3. Sheba- A Benjamite, who attempts to become king of Israel after Absalom is killed, but he doesn't live long.

4. Chapter by Chapter:

Chapter 1 - An Amalekite brings news to David in Ziklag of how he killed Saul at Saul's request because he was badly injured. David judges the man by his own admission that he had slain the Lord's Anointed and has him killed. David wrote a lamentation (a song of mourning) for Saul and Jonathan. (See verses 19-27)

Chapter 2 – David asks God (i) if he should return to Judah and (ii) if so, to what city? God responds: Yes, he should go to Hebron. David with his band of men and their families leave Ziklag in the land of the Philistines, which had been their home for a year, and travel to the City of Hebron. The men of Judah anoint David as the King over the tribe of Judah and he reigns there 7 ½ years. Abner, the Captain of Saul's Army, takes Saul's son Ishbosheth and makes him to be King over all the other tribes of Israel. Later, there is small battle between the forces of Israel and Judah and as Abner is fleeing, he kills Asahel (Joab's brother).

Chapter 3 – During the 7 ½ years, David has six sons from six different wives, while the war with Israel drags on. David arranges for his 1st wife Michal to be returned to him. After Ishbosheth insults his Captain Abner, Abner attempts to defect to David's side and promises to bring the result of Israel to David's side with him, but before he can return home to execute his plan, David's Captain, Joab murders Abner as revenge for the death of his brother Asahel. David very publicly mourns for Abner so the people know that he did not have a hand in his death.

Chapter 4 – Ishbosheth’s position was greatly weakened by the death of Abner. Two of his servants, middle level officers, sneak in and kill him upon his bed and escape with his head to show David. They, like the Amalekite that killed Saul, hoped to receive a reward from David by bringing tidings that his enemy was slain, but David judges them for their wickedness of slaying a righteous man upon his bed and has them slain.

Chapter 5 – With Ishbosheth dead, all the elders of the other tribes come to Hebron and desire for David to be the King over all Israel. David moves to Jerusalem, builds a house of cedar and there reigns 33 years. David’s kingdom grows stronger and he marries more women and has another 11 sons. Upon hearing that David is king of Israel, the Philistines invade and God providentially guides David and delivers them into David’s hands.

Chapter 6 - David attempts to bring ark to Jerusalem from Gibeah (See 1 Samuel 14), but instead of the Levites carrying it, he puts it on an ox cart. When the driver of the cart (Uzzah) touches the ark to steady it after the ox stumbles, God kills him. After three months, David tries again to bring the ark and this time he is successful. Michal, David’s 1st wife and Saul’s daughter, sees David dancing before the Ark during the procession and despised him and as a result she is barren for the rest of her life. (She already had at least five sons- See II Samuel 21:8)

Chapter 7 – When David has a period of peace from his enemies, he tells Nathan, the prophet that he would like to build a house for God (the ark is still in the tabernacle/tent), who initially encourages him. God, however, does not authorize David to build it; instead, God promises that David’s kingdom shall be established forever and his son (Solomon) will build the house (later called the Temple). David prays that the Lord’s words would all come to pass. (See Key Verse #1)

Chapter 8 – David goes on to conquer and subdues the Philistines, Moabites, Edomites, Ammonites, Amalekites, and Hadadezer, the king of Zobah (a region in Syria). These all became tributaries to David and he dedicated vast amounts treasure unto the Lord (later to be used by Solomon in building the Temple).

Chapter 9 - For Jonathan’s sake, David shows kindness to Jonathan’s lame son, Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth will remain with David and eat at the king’s table and David returns Saul’s lands to him. Ziba, a servant of Saul, is instructed to manage the lands for Mephibosheth.

Chapter 10 - Ammonites provoke David by shamefully treating the comforters he sent after their king’s death and join with the Syrians to battle Israel, but they are soundly defeated

Chapter 11 – David’s first Great Sin. Rather than going off to battle with his army, David stayed home and walking upon the roof seeing a beautiful woman bathing- Bathsheba, who is the wife of one of David’s mightiest soldiers-Uriah. David sends for her, lays with her, and afterwards she becomes pregnant. David attempts to cover his sin by calling for Uriah back from the war so it can look like he is the father, but Uriah refuses to go to his house. Finally, David arranges with Joab to have Uriah killed by setting him at the hottest battle spot and having the other troops withdraw, which works. As soon as her period of mourning was over, David took Bathsheba to be his wife and she bare him a son.

Chapter 12 – God sends Nathan the prophet to call out David’s sin with a parable. A rich man with many flocks once refused to kill of his own flocks to feel a visitor at his house; instead, he took his poor neighbors only lamb and killed it for the visitor. Nathan reveals that because David has despises the commandment of the Lord, God will cause the following: (i) the sword will never depart from his house; (ii) God will raise up evil against David from his own children (Absalom); (iii) God will take of David’s wives will be taken by another publicly; and (iv) the son that Bathsheba bore shall die. David humbles himself, confessing his sin and pleads for God to spare the child, but the child dies. After comforting Bathsheba, she bares Solomon.

Chapter 13 - David's son, Amnon, forces his half-sister Tamar and then casts her out. Two years later, Absalom (Tamar's brother) takes his revenge and kills Amnon and he flees to Geshur and remains three years in banishment.

Chapter 14 – Perceiving that David longed to bring Absalom home, Joab instructs a wise woman to pretend to be a widow to tell the king a sad story to try to convince him to bring Absalom home from banishment. David sees through the ruse, but he still David consents that Absalom may come home, but only on the condition that he may not appear before David. Two more years pass, Absalom impatient with being ignored by Joab sets his field on fire to get his attention and demands that he arrange for Absalom to appear before David, which he does.

Chapter 15 – After this restoration to the favor of the King, Absalom begin a campaign to turn the hearts of the people to him and away from David. After a period of time, Absalom goes to Hebron (David's first base) and gathers many people unto him, including David's trusted counselor-Ahithophel. Seeing the conspiracy was so strong, David has to flee Jerusalem with those loyal to him except for ten concubines which he left behind to keep the house, Hushai to act as a counter counselor to Ahithophel, and the priests, Zadok and Abiathar, who agree to be spies for David.

Chapter 16 – Ziba meets David as he flees and slanders Mephibosheth's loyalty in order to obtain his property. Shimei, a kinsman of Saul, curses and throws rocks at David and his party as they pass. At Ahithophel's counsel, Absalom sets up a tent on the roof of the house and goes into all of David's ten concubines so all the people will know that Absalom is abhorred in David's eyes (they are past the point of no return in the conspiracy).

Chapter 17 - Ahithophel next advised Absalom to quickly gather their small forces and follow David, while he is weary and weak handed and kill him only. Hushai, who is still loyal to David, advises the opposite and remind Absalom that his father and his mighty men are fierce fighters and right now they are as angry as a bear who cubs have been stolen. It would be better to gather a vast army with everyone in Israel and go destroy everyone still loyal to David. Absalom agrees with the counsel of Hushai, and Ahithophel is so insulted that his counsel is ignored that he goes home and hangs himself. Hushai sends word to David through the priest's sons to make haste and pass over Jordan. David quickly arose and passed over the river Jordan and traveled to the city of Mahanaim.

Chapter 18 - The armies of David and Absalom battle in fields and woods outside Mahanaim. Despite David's instructions not to kill Absalom, Joab does kill Absalom as he was dangling from an oak tree with his head caught in a branch. Though his army is victorious, David loudly mourns the news of Absalom's death.

Chapter 19 - Joab rebukes David for grieving his son and shaming his armies. Israel desires for David to be their King again, but the tribe of Judah hesitates and is the last to call for his return. David fires Joab (for killing his son) and replaces him with Amasa, who was Absalom's general. David returns over the river Jordan. He is met by Shimei (Saul's kinsman who cursed him), who pleads for his life, and Mephibosheth who reveals Ziba's treachery. There is a strife ensues between Judah and Israel over where David should reign.

Chapter 20 – During this strife, Sheba (a nobody) blows a trumpet and shout that Israel has no part in David and all of Israel left following Shebea's lead except Judah. David returns to Jerusalem and orders his new general Amasa to assemble all of Judah with three days and they pursue Sheba. During the trip, Joab murders Amasa. They find Sheba hiding in a city of Abel and begin to lay siege to the city, but a wise woman of the city upon hearing what they were after has Sheba's head thrown down to end the siege. who is slain at the counsel of the wise woman of Abel

Chapter 21 - God sends a three-year famine for Saul's treachery against the Gibeonites (The men of Gibeon had tricked Joshua into making a league with them. See Joshua 9) by seeking to destroy them completely out of Israel (these events do not appear to mentioned in I Samuel). The Gibeonites tell David that to make an atonement, they request that seven Saul's sons be hanged. David agrees turns over seven men: two were Saul's actual sons: Armoni and Mephibosheth (not Jonathan's son

who was lame) and five were Saul's grandsons (and David's stepsons whom his first wife Michal had borne while she was given to that other man). David nearly dies in battle against the Philistines and is no longer permitted to go to war. Accounting of the slaying of the four giant brothers born of the same giant.

Chapter 22 - David's speak a psalm of thanksgiving to the Lord in day of his deliverance from all his enemies.; See Key Verses #2, 3, & 4

Chapter 23 - David's last words are recorded (Verses 1-7). He describes what it was like to write scripture: *The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.* The remainder of the chapter is a list of the mighty men that served David and some of their feats. There were three groups of men. The first group of 3 men at the top, a second group of 3 men after them, and then a group of 30 men. Among the 30 men was Uriah, Bathsheba's murdered husband.

Chapter 24 - The Lord is angry with Israel and he moves David to send Joab to count all of Israel and Judah. Joab partially completes the job and comes back with figure of 1.3 million fighters David is convicted of his sin and requests that God take away his iniquity. God sends the prophet Gad to tell David he has a choice between three years of famine, three months of military defeats, or three days of a plague. David selects the three day pestilence and in that time 70,000 men die. The Lord stops his angel from destroying Jerusalem and the angel remained at the threshing floor of a Jebusite name Araunah. Gad tells David that he must build at alter there on the threshing floor, which he did and the plague was stayed. (This threshing floor of Araunah will be the future site of temple.)

5. Key Verses:

1. *And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.* 2 Samuel 7:16
2. *And he said, The LORD is my rock and fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior, thou savest me from violence.* 2 Samuel 22:2-4
3. *For who is God, save the Lord? And who is a rock, save our God?* 2 Samuel 22:32
4. *The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my Salvation.* 2 Samuel 22:47

6. How does II Samuel point to Jesus Christ?

1. King David is type of Christ. David is described a 'man after God's own heart' and he faithfully seeks the Lord throughout his days (with two notable exceptions). All of his decedents in their reigns as king will fall short of David's standard, until Jesus comes and lives a perfect life of submission to the Father's will unto the laying down of his own life. When Jesus was resurrected, God put all things under his feet. He lives and reigns today as the perfect King over the Lord's heritage- his people. (See 1 Timothy 6:15- *Which in his times he shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;* and See Revelation 17:14 and Ephesians 1:20-23)
2. - 2 Samuel 7:16 (Key Verse #1) is a Messianic Prophecy that the Messiah will come from the seed of David and he will reign on David's throne forever. (See Also Isaiah 9:7, Luke 1:32-33, and Romans 1:3)