



**"THE LORD IS
MY ROCK,
MY FORTRESS,
AND MY
DELIVERER...."**

2 SAMUEL 22:2

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2 SAMUEL

INTRODUCTION

Background:

1. The books of First and Second Samuel cover a period of more than 100 years.
2. The two books were originally known as the “Book of Samuel” or simply “Samuel.”
3. The Greek Septuagint (250 B.C.) divided Samuel into two books: “First Kingdoms.”
 - a. Second Samuel and First and Second Kings were called “Second, Third, and Fourth Kingdoms.”
 - b. The Latin translations referred to First and Second Samuel simply as “Samuel.”
 - c. Samuel and Kings were eventually divided into four parts; First and Second Samuel and First and Second Kings in A.D. 1448.
4. The name “Samuel” has been variously translated “The Name of God,” “His Name is God,” “Heard of God,” and “Asked of God.” ¹

Authorship and Date:

5. It is difficult to know who wrote First and Second Samuel since no one is credited as the author in the books.
 - a. Samuel’s death is recorded in Chapter 25:1 before the end of First Samuel which contains thirty-one chapters; however, he is last mentioned in 15:34
 - b. This probably means that Samuel wrote over half of First Samuel.
 - c. It has been proposed that the prophets Nathan and Gad wrote the rest of First Samuel and Second Samuel since these men accompanied David during his life time.
6. The time these books were written would be between 1050 to 950 B.C. ²

¹ *Holy Bible. New King James Version*: “Introduction” to 1 and 2 Samuel. Broadman & Holman Publishers; Nashville, Tenn. 1996.

² Tenney, Merrill C. Editor: *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Vol. V. Zondervan Publishing House; Michigan. 1975.

Background History:

7. First Samuel bridges the historical gap between the judges and the monarchy.
8. Second Samuel is a record of the reign of King David.
 - a. It describes the conquests of David over Israel's enemies.
 - b. It records the various aspects of the history of Israel during his reign.

Messages:³

9. First Samuel records David's preparation while Second Samuel records his service, namely: his reign.
 - a. There are three aspects of David's life in First Samuel: as shepherd, as courtier, and as "outlaw" as he escapes the sword of King Saul.
 - b. In Second Samuel we see those aspects of his preparation put to work.
 - c. He became the shepherd of his people, the center of his court, and the strong ruler of his nation.
- 10 David fulfilled the office of king successfully under God's leadership.
11. The message of Second Samuel is that man's attitude toward God creates an opportunity for God, and God's attitude toward man creates an opportunity for man.
 - a. First, man's attitude toward God creates an opportunity for God (2 Samuel 22:26-28).
 - 1) Compare Hannah's prayer of praise in 1 Samuel 2:1-10, the other bookend that frames First and Second Samuel.
 - 2) God is to each person what that person is to God (cf. James 2:13).
 - b. Second, we find the principle illustrated in David's attitudes toward God in that he had four convictions about God (2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18).
 - 1) David believed that God was Israel's supreme Ruler, and he never doubted this or presumed to elevate himself to God's place as Head of the nation (22:2-16).

³ Constable, Thomas. <http://soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/2smuel.pdf>

- 2) David believed that God was consistently and completely righteous in His Dealings, and he confessed his sin when he was charged with it, rather than trying to deny it (22:17-27). NOTE: Contrast this with Saul, who made excuses.
- 3) David believed that God was always merciful, and he was willing to let God determine His punishment, because he believed God would be merciful (22:28-46). NOTE: Contrast this with Saul, who sought control.
- 4) He believed that God's will was always best, and his greatest desire was for God's will be done in his life and in Israel (cf. 22:47-51). NOTE: Contrast this with Saul, who believed that his will was best.

12. David's convictions created opportunities for God.

- a. David really believed in God's sovereignty because God could and did set David over the throne of Israel, and could direct him to govern God's people (22:2-3).
- b. David acknowledged God's righteousness; therefore, God was able to bless David for his righteousness (22:21-28).
- c. David appreciated God's mercy; therefore, God was able to be merciful with him (cf. 22:35-36).
- d. David viewed God's will as superior; therefore, God was able to bring His will for David and Israel to pass (22:51).

13. David became God's instrument through whom God accomplished His larger plans and purposes.

14. Even though David sinned greatly, his deepest convictions lay in these truths.

- a. God based His dealings with David on David's deepest convictions.
- b. He was the man after God's own heart.
- c. The direction one is heading is more important than how far he or she has advanced in Christian growth.

15. We find the principle illustrated in God's attitudes toward David.

- a. God purposed for David to be king (23:1); therefore, his knowledge affected David's attitude toward God.
 - 1) He just needed to consent to God's purpose for him.
 - 2) God has purposed to bless every believer.

- b. God's power would be adequate for David's needs (23:2).
 - 1) The power for all of David's life, including the inspiration for his words, came from God.
 - 2) David could simply cooperate with it (Gal. 5:25).
- c. God's pattern for David's kingship was God's own rule (23:3-4).
 - 1) David could conform to God's example as Sovereign to fulfill his destiny.
 - 2) We have Jesus Christ's example as well as God's pattern (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- d. God's persistence would result in the fulfillment of all His promises to David (23:5).
 - 1) This gave David confidence in God in the present.
 - 2) God has promised never to leave us (Matthew 28:20), and He has proved Himself faithful (Phil. 1:6).

Comparing First Samuel with Second Samuel:

- 16. In First Samuel, we saw that God's ultimate victory does not depend on people's attitudes toward Him.
 - a. His people can be loyal or rebellious, and this will not affect His ultimate victory.
 - b. This demonstrates the providence of God; He will carry out His plans no matter what man thinks or does.
- 17. In Second Samuel, we learn that our ultimate victory in life depends on our attitude toward God.
 - a. Conformity to the will of God creates fitness for service.
 - b. Conformity to the will of God depends fundamentally on our attitude toward God.
 - c. It does not depend primarily on our ability, or on our ability to persuade God to do something.
 - d. It depends on our delivering ourselves to Him, and on our willingness to let God persuade us to do something.
 - e. It depends on our commitment to Him and our faithfulness to Him.

- f. David was a man after God's own heart, because he really wanted what God wanted.
18. First Samuel stresses primarily negative examples of behavior from Saul's life as God's anointed.
19. Second Samuel stresses primarily positive examples from David's life as God's anointed.
- a. Christians are the Lord's anointed. NOTE: the name Christ means anointed, and we wear His name.
 - b. Christ has “loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father...” (Revelation 1:5b-6a)

DAVID AND HIS REIGN ARE TYPES OF CHRIST AND HIS REIGN. ⁴

The New Testament speaks of the Old Testament containing persons, objects, and principles in type, copy, or shadow. That is to say, they were physical or mental forms that represented the real or actual in the New Testament. For instance, animal sacrifices were a type of Christ. The temple of Solomon was a type of Christ's temple, the church, which He purchased with His blood. The reign of David the king was a type of Christ and His kingdom. Here are a few verses in the New Testament that reflect on these facts.

Hebrews 8:3-6---³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore *it is* necessary that this One also have something to offer. ⁴For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵who serve the **copy** and **shadow** of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See *that* you make all things according to the **pattern** shown you on the mountain.” ⁶But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

Hebrews 9:23-24---²³ Therefore *it was* necessary that the **copies** of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the **heavenly things** themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are copies* of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Hebrews 10:1---For the law, having a **shadow** of the good things to come, *and* not the very **image** of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year.

⁴ Hall, N. http://biblehub.com/sermons/auth/hal/king_david_a_type_of_christ.htm

Revelation 5:5---⁵ But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the **Root of David**, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

Jesus’ last words: "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star," Revelation 22:16.

1. David becomes the second king of Israel. (His is a type of Christ’s reign in His kingdom.)
2. There are mysteries and intrigues behind the throne. (God’s providence is at work.)
3. David takes care of the Ark of the Covenant. (Christ sits on the throne of God in heaven.)
4. God makes a covenant with David. (Christ has made a new covenant with us.)
5. David defeats the enemies of Israel. (Christ will defeat our final enemy, death.)
6. David’s sins are revealed. (Christ reveals our sins, and He died for our sins.)
7. David confesses his sins to Nathan. (We confess our sins to Christ.)
8. David faces the consequences of his sins. (There are consequences to our forgiven sins.)
9. Solomon is born. (His temple becomes a type of Christ’s temple.)
10. There is rebellion in the House of David. (Not all in Christ’s Family will be faithful.)
11. David is saddened at the loss of his son. (God is saddened to lose any of His children.)
12. David praises God for his deliverance. (We praise God for our deliverance.)
13. David gives words of encouragement to Israel. (Christ gives words of encouragement to us.)
14. David’s final words are recorded, “I will not offer sacrifices to the Lord, which cost me nothing.” (Christ paid the ultimate sacrifice to bring us salvation and the hope of heaven.)

A COMPARISON OF THE THRONES OF DAVID AND CHRIST:

DAVID: A TYPE OF CHRIST⁵



David on his throne

Christ on His throne

1. David, as king, was a **type of Christ**; "I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" (Psalm 2:6); "All Israel shall be saved: as it is written; 'There shall come out of Zion the deliverer.'" (Romans 11:26). Jesus was recognized as, "The Son of David"; He is "King of the Jews"; "King of kings," and "of His kingdom there shall be no end." (See Luke 1:30-35 then compare to 2 Samuel 7:12-17). Such statements are known as immediate and ultimate prophecies. The "**immediate**" fulfillment was the building of a material temple by David's son Solomon. The "**ultimate**" fulfillment was when Jesus built His Temple, the church (Hebrews 3:1-5).
2. David was king by **Divine ordination** (2 Sam. 5:12). Christ was elected from eternity to be the Monarch of mankind, as predicted of old. "His kingdom is **an everlasting kingdom**." (2 Samuel 7: 12-17; Daniel 2:44-45; 4:3, 34). It was asserted by Himself when He said to Pilot, "My kingdom is not of this world." Jesus claimed a kingship of Divine origin and authority.
3. David was ordained to be king for **two purposes**: "You shall feed my people Israel, and shall be a **captain** over Israel" (2 Samuel 7:9). It is the function of a **shepherd** to feed; of a captain to guide and protect. So Christ is the good Shepherd and the Captain of our Salvation. He supplies the need of His people, and leads them to victory (See Acts 20:28-32; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 2:10).
4. David was qualified by **kindred relationship**. "We are your bone and your flesh" (2 Samuel 5:1; 19:40-42). So Jesus took our nature, "in all things was made like His brethren." "He is not ashamed to call us **brethren**" (Hebrews 2:10-11). His humanity, linked with His deity, qualified Him to be the "Mediator between God and men"; The **Shepherd-King** of His people; "the Man, Christ Jesus."

⁵ Ibid.

5. David was king by **mutual covenant**. The Son of David is proclaimed from heaven as King of men; and He engages to rule in equity, and to guard His people from harm. We, on our part, accept Him as our Lord: we declare that we desire Him to rule over us; there is a mutual covenant. He says, "You are My people"; and we say, "You are our King." (See 2 Samuel 7:1-17 regarding the covenant between God and David; See Hebrews 8:6 regarding the new covenant God has made with us and Christ)
6. David **assailed the strong fortress of his foes**. David's greater Son lays siege to the human heart, fortified against Him by unbelief and sin. Through His written word He summons it to surrender; He brings the battery of truth against its walls, and He promises pardon if the heart will open its gates and follow His instructions (See 2 Samuel 5:6-25; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Hebrews 12:22-29---"Mt. Zion...new Jerusalem").
7. David **conquered the fortress and lived in it**. So Jesus has entered many a heart by its opened doors, and has proved the power of His word to subdue the most determined resistance. He then makes it His abode (2 Samuel 5:6-16; John 14:23; Revelation 3:20-22).
8. David **enlarged the captured city**. "He built round about," (2 Samuel 5:6-16). Thus the kingdom of David's Son is constantly being enlarged. Faith within the soul grows as seeds. The heaven leavens the whole lump. Every part of our nature progressively owns the sway of its Lord through His written word (2 Samuel 5:17-25).
9. The **King of Tyre sent cedar-trees and carpenters to help to build David's house**. So the Gentiles built up the church of Christ (Isaiah 60:3, 5b-7, 11). Earthly wealth is consecrated to His service. Not only Tyre, but many nations will help in raising up spiritual Jerusalem, and making spiritual Zion a praise throughout the earth (Hebrews 12:22-24).
10. **David reigned** in Hebron and Jerusalem **forty years**. David's Son reigns everywhere, and His kingdom shall have no end. "He shall reign forever and ever" (2 Samuel 23:5-6; Luke 1:30-35). Forty years represents a generation in the Bible. Jesus' kingdom shall reign over all generations (2 Samuel 5:1-5).
11. **David had the joy** of being assured that **God had exalted His throne**. "He perceived that the Lord had established him king over Israel." And David's Son "shall see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied." LESSONS: — Let us individually enter into covenant with Christ as our King. Let us open our lives for Him to live in us. Though "blind and lame," He will heal us, and help us to fight His battles and share His triumph (See 2 Samuel 5:1-6; 7:1-17; and 1 Corinthians 15).

Outline of the Book of Second Samuel⁶

I. David Experiences a Good Number of Triumphs: (Chapters 1-8)

A. The beginning of David's kingdom is described: (1:1-3:5)

1. David is informed of Saul and Jonathan's deaths.
2. A young man, an Amalekite, claimed to have found Saul alive who requested that he end his life.
3. The young man followed Saul's request.
4. David and his men mourned, wept, and fasted.
6. Because the young man killed God's anointed, he had him put to death.

B. David inquired of the Lord where he should go and God informed him that he was to go to Hebron: (2:1-4a)

1. David is anointed king over the house of Judah in Hebron.
2. David makes overtures to the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul.
3. Abner, the commander of Saul's army, made Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, king over Israel.
4. Conflict arises between Abner, the commander of Saul's army and Joab, the commander of David's army: (2:12-32)
5. Joab and his men go to Hebron to be with David.
6. A civil war ensues between the house of Saul and the house of David, but David's house and army grew stronger while Saul's house grew weaker: (3:1-5)

C. The kingdoms become unified: (3:6-5:16)

1. David bears six sons: Amnon, Chileab (Daniel), Absalom, Adonijah, Shephatiah, and Ithream.
2. Abner joins forces with David: (3:6-39)

⁶ Constable, Thomas. <http://soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/2smuel.pdf>

- a. Joab murders Abner: **(3:22-30)**
 - b. David mourns for Abner: **(3:31-39)**
 - c. Ishbosheth is murdered: **(4:1-12)**
 - d. David punishes those who murdered Ishbosheth.
- 3. David is accepted by all of Israel: **(5:1-12)**
 - a. David conquers the city of Jerusalem
 - b. He called it the “City of David.”
- 4. David has additional children: **(5:13-16)**
 - a. The king of Tyre sent messengers and skilled workers to David.
 - b. David took on more wives and concubines from Jerusalem.
 - c. Among his children are Nathan and Solomon.
- D. The establishment of the kingdom becomes firm: **(5:17—8:18)**
 - 1. David has victories over the Philistines: **(5:17-25)**
 - 2. David relocates the Ark to Jerusalem: **(6:1-22)**
 - a. David experienced problems in the move.
 - b. The oxen that pulled the cart which held the ark stumbled and Uzzah reached out to save it.
 - c. God struck Uzzah dead because he disobeyed God in this regard.
 - d. David was upset because of his death, and he was afraid.
 - e. David took the ark to the house of Obed-Edom for three months, and because the family was blessed from this, David was made glad to move the ark to Jerusalem.
 - f. The ark is placed in the tabernacle that David had built for this purpose.
 - g. David embarrasses and makes mad his wife Michal because of his dancing in the streets of Jerusalem with nothing to wear but a linen cloth.

3. The Davidic Covenant is established: **(7:1-29)**
 - a. David wanted something better for the ark of God than a tent with curtains.
 - b. The word of the Lord came to Nathan the prophet to build a more permanent house for the LORD to indwell.
 - c. God promised to establish David's throne forever.
 - d. Nathan gave David a double prophesy because these words not only applied to David immediately in a physical sense but they also applied to Jesus in an ultimate spiritual sense in that Jesus was the "son of David" and the "Son of God" for whom God built an everlasting house and kingdom that would eventually dwell in heaven (See Luke 1:31-33 for the ultimate fulfillment).
 - e. David expresses thanksgiving for the Lord's promises and blessings.
4. David's kingdom is made secure by more successful conquests: **(8:1-18)**.
 - a. He attacked and eventually subdued the Philistines.
 - b. He established and built more garrisons and fortified cities around and beyond Jerusalem.
 - c. Joab was made commander of David's army.
 - d. Jehoshaphat was made recorder and Zadok and Ahimelech were the priests.

II. David Experiences Good Times and Bad Times: (Chapters 9-20)

- A. David demonstrates faithfulness early in his reign, but as already observed, he still demonstrates the desires of an eastern potentate with his family: **(chapters 9 and 10)**
 1. He demonstrates kindness to the house of Saul for Jonathan's sake by taking care of his lame son, Mephibosheth, who was crippled in his legs.
 2. He commanded that Ziba and his sons who were servants of the house of Saul now serve Mephibosheth by taking care of all that belonged to Saul's house and that Mephibosheth would now eat at King David's table.
 3. David sent servants to king Hanun of the Ammonites to express sympathy and give comfort, because his father had died, and his father had shown kindness to him in the past.

4. The princes of Ammon accused them of coming to spy out the city and overthrow it; therefore, they shamed them by shaving off half of their beards and cutting off parts of their clothing, which humiliated them.
 5. The Ammonites saw that David was very upset; therefore, they hired the Syrians to fight against David.
 6. When David heard about it, he had Joab to gather his armed forces to do battle.
 7. Some of the Syrians fled and others joined the fight; however, David killed many of their soldiers and thus the rest of the Syrians fled.
 8. The servants of the defeated surrendered and made peace with Israel; therefore, they were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore.
- B. David is unfaithful to God by breaking four of the Ten Commandments: (**chapter 11**) [You shall not kill; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not lie or bear false witness].
1. David ordered Joab to go out and destroy the people of Ammon and besiege the city of Rabbah, but David remained in Jerusalem.
 2. As king, David should have been with his army but was instead staying in his palace enjoying the comforts of home.
 3. He came out on his roof and saw a woman bathing.
 - a. She was beautiful to behold, and David inquired about her.
 - b. She was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.
 4. David sent messengers and took her, and he lay with her before she returned home.
 5. She conceived and informed David that she was with child.
 6. David ordered Joab to send Uriah the Hittite to him.
 - a. David tried to persuade Uriah to take a break and go home to be with his wife.
 - b. Instead, Uriah stayed outside the king's house with all of the servants.
 - c. When David asked why he didn't go to be with his wife, he responded that his fellow soldiers were dwelling in tents and open fields; therefore he could not in good conscience go to his home and sleep with his wife.

- d. David got Uriah drunk hoping he would go and sleep with his wife, but he stayed with the servants of David instead.
 - e. David sent to Joab by way of Uriah that when they were in the heat of the battle withdraw his men leaving Uriah exposed to the enemy that he may be killed.
 - f. Joab arranged a battle near the walls of the city so that Uriah was killed.
 - g. Joab sent messengers to David to let him know that Uriah was dead.
 - h. David encouraged the messengers and instructed them to go back into the battle and overthrow the enemy.
7. Bathsheba heard about her husband's death, and she mourned.
8. David sent and brought her to his house: she became his wife and she bore him a son.
9. The thing that David had done displeased the LORD.
- C. Nathan the prophet presents a parable to David and he confesses his sins: (**chapter 12**)
- 1. The Lord sent Nathan to David to face him with his sins.
 - a. He told a parable about two men in a city, one poor and the other rich.
 - b. The rich man, who had many sheep, took the poor man's one sheep, which was like a daughter to him, and used it to prepare a meal for himself and a traveler.
 - c. David's anger was aroused, and he told Nathan that the man deserved to die.
 - d. David also said that the rich man should first restore to the poor man fourfold for the lamb because he did this thing and had no pity.
 - e. Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"
 - f. God reminded David through Nathan of the blessings, victories, and successes He has given to David as king.

- g. Because of his unfaithfulness to God, the sword would not depart from his house, adversaries will rise up against him, his wives would be taken from him and used in public, and his son would die.
 - 2. David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”
 - a. Nathan informed David that God would put away his sin and he would not die.
 - b. Nathan then departed for his house.
 - 3. David and Bathsheba’s son dies after seven days of an illness.
 - a. He arises from his bed after having fasted day and night to wash, to anoint himself, receive nourishment, and worship the Lord.
 - b. When his servants asked him why he had responded this way after the child had died he said, ‘I cannot bring him back again. I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.’”
 - 4. Bathsheba gives birth to Solomon and the Lord loved him.
 - 5. Joab fights more battles and the royal city of the Ammonites is captured.
 - a. The crown of the Ammonite king is placed on David’s head.
 - b. The people of Ammon become the servants of David and Israel.
- D. Problems arise in David’s home: (**chapters 13-14**)
- 1. There are events that led up to his son Absalom's rebellion: (**chapter 13**)
 - a. Amnon, a brother of Absalom, has illicit desires for his sister, Tamar.
 - b. He pretends to be sick, and asks that she bring him some food.
 - c. While everyone was outside and being stronger than she, he forced himself upon her and was intimate with her.
 - d. Amnon hated her and she was ashamed.
 - e. David was very angry.
 - f. Absalom plotted to have Amnon struck dead by his servants.

- g. David was told that Absalom had killed all of the king's sons, but was later informed that only Amnon was killed because he forced himself upon Tamar.
 - h. Absalom fled to Geshur and David mourned for his son every day.
 - i. Absalom returned to Jerusalem through Joab's use of a wise woman who went to the king and told a story that convinced David to let him return: (**chapter 14**)
 - j. David gave permission but he did not want Absalom to see his face.
2. Absalom was very good looking, and he married and had three sons and a daughter named Tamar.
- a. Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem but did see his father David.
 - b. Absalom sent for Joab to see him but he would not come; therefore, he had his servants to set fire to his field.
 - c. Joab asked him why he set his field on fire, and Absalom said that he did so in order to get his attention so that he could see the king's face.
 - d. Joab told David about this; they met one another, and the king kissed Absalom.

E. Problems Arise in David's Kingdom: (**chapters 15-20**)

1. Absalom's attempts to usurp David's throne: (**chapter 15**)
- a. Absalom provided himself with chariots, horses, and men.
 - b. Absalom sat at the gate of the city and promised that if he were made judge he would give them justice for their case.
 - c. Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.
 - d. Absalom sent out spies in the land and had it announced that he reigns in Hebron.
 - e. Absalom sent for Ahithophel, David's counselor, and the conspiracy grew strong.
 - e. Word came to David about Absalom's plot to take away the kingdom from him.

- f. David came out of the city with all of his family and servants, crossed over the Brook Kidron and came to the top of the Mount of Olives toward the wilderness.
 - g. Zadok and the priests brought with them the ark of God.
 - h. David persuaded them to return to Jerusalem and remain there until he hears from the Lord.
 - i. David continued his exit with his head covered, his feet bare, and weeping.
 - j. David was told that Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.
 - k. David prayed that the counsel of Ahithophel would be turned into foolishness.
 - 1) David convinced Hushai the Archite to return to Jerusalem and pretend that he had joined Absalom's side in order to defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.
 - 2) Hushai was instructed to give whatever information he had from the king's palace to Zadok and Abiathar the priests who would in turn send it to David.
2. Some bless David and others curse him: (**chapter 16**).
- a. Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth brought David and his men provisions.
 - b. Shimei, a man from the house of Saul, greeted David continually with cursing.
 - 1) He threw stones at David, kicked up dust, and accused him of being bloodthirsty man.
 - 2) David's men wanted to kill Shimei, but David said no because he thought the message came from God as a reminder of his past sins.
 - c. Hushai came to Absalom and told him that he was now on his side.
 - d. Absalom asked his counselor Ahithophel what he should do next about David.
 - 1) He told Absalom to go into the concubines that David left behind and do as he wills in order to shame David.
 - 2) Ahithophel's advice was followed as if it came from God Himself.
3. The plan to completely defeat David and his people continues to move forward: (**chapter 17**).

- a. Ahithophel counseled Absalom to allow him to take 12,000 men to find David and kill him; however, the people would be spared so that they could return to Jerusalem and serve Absalom.
 - b. Hushai gave a different recommendation:
 - 1) He reminded Absalom that David is very angry, his men are mighty and fierce, and he was probably hidden in an unknown place.
 - 2) He advised Absalom to gather all the men of Israel and pursue David wherever he may be.
 - 3) Absalom follows Hushai's advice to pursue David and destroy the people.
 - c. Hushai tells Zadok about Absalom's plans to go after David and the people with him.
 - d. After hearing the plan, David and his people crossed to the other side of the Jordan River.
 - e. When Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he hanged himself.
4. Absalom and his army are defeated, and Absalom is killed: (**chapter 18**)
- a. David divided his army up into three sections each led by Joab, Abishai, and Ittai.
 - b. David was ready to go with them into battle but the people said, "No. You are more help to us in the city."
 - c. Therefore David remained in the city but he instructed his men to treat Absalom gently for his sake.
 - d. The people of Israel were overthrown in the wilderness of Ephraim and the woods devoured more people than the sword.
 - e. Absalom escaped on a mule but his head (hair) got caught in a tree, and there he hung alive.
 - f. A certain man saw what happened and reported it to Joab.
 - 1) The man told Joab that he could not kill the king's son.
 - 2) Joab threw three spears through Absalom's heart.

- 3) Afterwards, Joab's men struck him dead and he was buried in a pit in the woods.
- g. David is informed of his son's death and says, "O my son Absalom---my son, my son Absalom---if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!"
5. David completes his time of mourning and begins to make his return to Jerusalem: (**chapter 19**)
 - a. Joab reminded David that Absalom was not only his son but his enemy as well.
 - b. Joab encourages David to go to the people and publicly show his gratitude for their loyalty to him.
 - c. The house of Judah escorted David back across the Jordan River and back into the city of Jerusalem.
 - d. David offers mercy to Shimei.
 - 1) Abishai wanted to put Shimei to death because he cursed his lord the king.
 - 2) David replied that he did not want to see any more death in Israel today.
 - e. David shows kindness to Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, and the aged Barzillai, who help provide provisions for David and his people.
 - f. The men of Israel quarrel with the men of Judah as to why they were privilege to escort the king.
 - 1) The men of Judah proclaimed they were close relatives because they were of the house Judah as David was.
 - 2) The men of Israel argued that they had a greater share of the kingdom because they represented ten tribes of the twelve tribes.
6. Sheba, a Benjamite, tried to lead a rebellion because he believed that he and his tribe would have no share in the rule of the kingdom's affairs: (**chapter 20**)
 - a. Every man of Israel deserted David and followed Sheba, but the men of Judah remained faithful to David.

- b. David commanded Abishai to pursue after him because he would be more harmful than his own son Absalom.
- c. Joab and his men went after David's enemies and killed Amasa, a rebel.
- d. Sheba held up in the city of Abel but he was beheaded by its citizens so that Joab would not battle again them for the life of Sheba.
- e. Joab and his men left the city alone and returned to the king at Jerusalem.
- f. Joab is appointed over all the army; Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; Adoram was in charge of revenue; Sheva was appointed scribe; Jehoshaphat was made recorder; Zadok and Abiathar were the priests; and Ira was a chief minister (or David's priest) under David.

III. The Last Years of David's Life Are Summarized: (Chapters 21-24)

A. A great famine lasted for three years in the days of David, and he killed a number of Philistine giants: (chapter 21)

- 1. David inquired why this was happening.
- 2. The Lords explained that Saul had made a covenant with the Gibeonites but he broke the agreement and killed many of them in his zeal to conquer.
- 3. David asked them how he could make it right, and they requested that be allowed to hang seven of Saul's decedents.
- 4. Several giants of the Philistines were destroyed.
- 5. King David agreed but he spared the life of Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, because of David's promise to Jonathan that he would care for him.

B. David gives praise for God's deliverance of him and the kingdom: (chapter 22)

- 1. David said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; The God of my strength, in whom I will trust."
- 2. He also said, "For You are my lamp, O LORD, the Lord shall enlighten my darkness."
- 3. David describes God as his shield and tower of salvation, and He shows mercy to His anointed.

C. David's last testament is recorded: (**chapter 23**)

1. He claimed that the Spirit of God, the Rock of Israel, spoke to him.
2. He claimed that God made with him an everlasting covenant and ordered all things secured and sure.
3. He made it clear that those who rebel against God will be destroyed.
4. David's thirty-seven mighty men are listed and honored.

D. David sinned by ordering a census taken of the people: (**chapter 24**)

1. David ordered Joab to number the people in the land.
2. Joab questioned David but carried out his command and numbered the people as follows: 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword and the men of Judah were 500,000.
3. Afterwards, David admitted that he had sinned before God.
4. God told Gad the prophet one of three punishments: David chose that the Lord would send a plague upon the land.
5. Seventy thousand men of the people died as a result.
6. David pleaded with God that the angel would cease his destruction because the people were innocent of the deed he had done.
7. God commanded David to go up and build an altar in order to offer up sacrifices.

“And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.”

2 Samuel 24:25

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