

2 Samuel

THE PLAN:

1:1 THRU 3:1	May 7
3:2 THRU 4:12	May 14
5 AND 6	May 21
7 AND 8	May 28
9 THRU 11	June 4
12	June 11
13 AND 14	June 18
15 AND 16	June 25
17 AND 18	July 2
19 AND 20	July 9
21 AND 22	July 16
23 AND 24	July 30

2 SAMUEL 1:1 THRU 3:1

1. The first verse of our reading mentions David returning “from the slaughter of the Amalekites.” By way of review, why had David and his men involved themselves in such a “slaughter”? (cf. 1 Samuel 30)
2. A man came to David with news about Saul and his forces’ battle with the Philistines.
 - a. How is the man’s appearance described?
 - b. Of what nationality was he?
3. What additional information (to the account given in 1 Samuel 31) did the man give with regard to the battle?
4. Are there any discrepancies that you see between this man’s account and the one given in 1 Samuel 31?
5. What was the reaction of David and his men to the news of the demise of Saul and Jonathan and their men?
6. What reason did David give as to why he commanded the execution of the man who brought the news?
7. Concerning David’s ‘Song of the Bow’...
 - a. “How the mighty have fallen.” How many times does this line appear in the song?
 - b. What reason did David give as to why the deaths of Saul and his sons should not be told in Gath and Ashkelon?
 - c. In addition to “mighty,” what words did David employ to describe Saul and Jonathan?
 - d. How did David describe Jonathan’s love?

8. To what city did David go to live/reign, and for how long? Who told him to go up to this city?
9. What tribe was the only one who followed David during this time period?
10. Why did David pronounce a blessing on the men of Jabesh Gilead?
11. Who was Abner, and who did he “make” king over “all Israel”?
12. In the “very fierce” battle between the men of Abner and the men of Joab (2:12-32)...
 - a. How many men of Abner’s forces perished?
 - b. How many of Joab’s men died?
 - c. What man did Abner attempt (unsuccessfully) to avoid killing, and whose brother was this man?
13. What is noted about the strength of the ‘house of David’ and the ‘house of Saul’ as the war progressed between them?

2 SAMUEL 3:2 THRU 4:12

1. Concerning David's sons (3:3-5)...
 - a. How many were born to him in Hebron?
 - b. Who was his firstborn son?
 - c. Who was his thirdborn?
2. How many wives/mothers are mentioned in this birth record?

This period of Israel's history was one of civil unrest. The nation was not united under one king.

1. What prompted Abner to seek to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul to David?
2. When Abner sent messengers to David seeking a covenant of peace, what condition did David stipulate as being necessary for such?
3. As he spoke to Israel's elders, what did Abner say the LORD had spoken concerning David?
4. What did David do for Abner and his twenty men?
5. Before he left, concerning what did Abner assure David?
6. Why did Joab rebuke David for sending Abner away in peace? What did he say was the real reason Abner had come to David?
7. What did Joab do to Abner, and why?

8. What curse did David pronounce on Joab for his brutality?
9. List all the things that David did in 4:31-36 that brought all the people to conclude “that it had not been the king’s intent to kill Abner the son of Ner.”
10. What son of Jonathan are we introduced to in chapter 4, and what life-altering accident had happened to him at the age of five?
11. What did Rechab and Baanah do to Ishbosheth?

What did these two men do that showed they apparently thought David would be pleased with their actions?

What *was* David’s reaction to their act of treachery?

12. In these two chapters...
 - a. What is your assessment of David and his actions?
 - b. What is your assessment of Joab and his actions?

2 SAMUEL 5 AND 6

1. In 5:1-5 David is made king over all of Israel.
 - a. Up to this point, over which tribe *had* he reigned, and for how long?
 - b. When all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, they indicated *what* had led them to conclude that David should reign over them?
 - c. For how many years did David reign over all Israel and Judah?
 - d. How old was David when he began reigning?
2. Up to this point (in recent history), who had occupied the city of Jerusalem?

These people were so confident their city could not be taken, that they told David even *who* could “repel” his forces?

3. By what two other terms is Jerusalem called in 5:6ff?
4. What favor did the king of Tyre perform for David?
5. After all these events had occurred (5:1-11), what two things does the author specifically say “David knew”?
6. When the Philistines heard that all Israel had anointed David to be their king, how did they respond?
7. Twice it is said (in 5:17-25) that David did what, before going to battle against the Philistines?
8. Baal Perazim means “Master of Break-throughs.” Why did David name the place of his first victory over the Philistines (in this text) ‘Baal Perazim’?
9. 2 Samuel 6 provides an account of David bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem.
 - a. For the past several years where *had* the ark been? (cf. 1 Samuel 7:1)
 - b. Skim over and reacquaint yourself with chapters 4-6 of 1 Samuel. What led to the ark being placed there?

10. How is God referred to in 6:2?

11. What preparations were made to transport the ark to Jerusalem?

Consult Exodus 25:12-15. How *was* the ark to be transported?

12. What were David “and all the house of Israel” doing as the procession made its way with the ark?

13. What happened at Nachon’s threshing floor that led to Uzzah touching/steadying the ark?

Why do you think the LORD struck him dead?

14. What was David’s initial emotional response to Uzzah’s death, and what did he ask?

15. After three months David again sought to move the ark to Jerusalem. **Please read 1 Chronicles 15:11-15** in connection with the reading in 1 Samuel 6.

a. David told the priests and Levites that God had “broken out against” them for what reason?

b. How did the Levites transport the ark on this occasion?

16. What did David do when the ark of the LORD had gone six paces?

17. What was David doing as the ark entered Jerusalem?

Who despised him for this, and what reason did she give for such?

2 SAMUEL 7 AND 8

1. What reason did David give Nathan the prophet as to why he had thought to provide the ark of God a more permanent dwelling place?

What counsel did Nathan *initially* give David concerning this matter?

2. In 7:5-7, what reason(s) did the LORD give as to why He hadn't (up to this point) sought a different dwelling place?
3. In 7:8-11 what did the LORD say He had done for His 'servant David'?
4. David wanted to build the LORD a house, but the LORD expressly forbade him (1 Chronicles 17:4). Why, according to 1 Chronicles 28:3 and 1 Kings 5:3?
5. Amazing: The LORD used this occasion to declare that *He* would build *David* a house! List all the promises made by the LORD to David concerning this? (7:12-16)

6. As David “sat before” and spoke to the LORD, what words did he use in describing the LORD? (7:18-29)
7. In 7:18-29, what things did David say the LORD had done for Israel?
8. List all the nations/peoples David was victorious over (as mentioned in 8:1-14).
9. What was the position of the following in David’s administration (8:15-18)?
 - a. Zadok and Ahimilech.
 - b. Benaiah.
 - c. Joab.
 - d. Seraiah.
 - e. Jehoshaphat.

2 SAMUEL 9 THRU 11

1. Who was Ziba, and for what reason did David send for him?
2. Whose son was Mephibosheth?

Why was he “lame in his feet”? (see 4:4)

3. When Mephibosheth initially came before David, “he fell on his face and prostrated himself.” Considering the events of the first few chapters of 2 Samuel, why do you think David’s first words to him were, “Do not fear”?
4. What did David promise Mephibosheth he would do for him, and how did Mephibosheth respond?
5. How many sons and servants did Ziba have, and with what responsibilities did David charge them?
6. What prompted/motivated David to send some of his servants to Hanun, king of Ammon?
7. What bad advice/slander did Hanun receive pertaining to these servants of David?

Consequently, what shameful things did Hanun do to these visitors?

8. The Ammonites hired how many mercenary soldiers on this occasion?

9. “In the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle” (11:1), where was David?

10. In your estimation, what step(s) could/should David have taken (in chapter 11) to avoid yielding to the temptation to commit fornication.

11. List the steps David took to cover up his sin with Bathsheba.

12. Name at least one lesson you believe we could/should learn from the record contained in chapter 11.

2 SAMUEL 12

1. Be able to give the main details of the parable Nathan told David.
2. How are David's emotions described as Nathan concluded his story?

What punishment did he quickly determine should be meted out for this man who "had no pity"?

3. In one phrase or sentence, summarize what the LORD said in vss. 7-8.
4. From vss. 9-15, list all of the things David was charged with having done in this matter?
5. **PLEASE READ PSALM 32.** While this psalm's superscription doesn't say David wrote it with regard to his sins of 2 Samuel 12, I still feel it would be instructive to consider it at this time.
 - a. How did David describe his condition during the time he "kept silent" about his sin?
 - b. What led to the LORD forgiving the iniquity of his sin?
 - c. As David "instructed" others to do as he did (in confessing their iniquities), what did he tell them to not be "like"?

(LESSON CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

6. PLEASE READ THE 51st PSALM. (Notice the superscription above the text.)

- a. What did David cry out for (v. 1)?
- b. Against who did David say he had sinned?
- c. David pled for God to “create” what in him, and to “renew” what within him?
- d. What did David promise if the LORD would “restore to [him] the joy of Your salvation,” if He would “deliver [him] from bloodguiltiness”?
- e. What type of sacrifices does the LORD really desire?

7. How did David react when his and Bathsheba’s child became ill?

How did he react when the child died, and what reason did he give his servants for his reaction?

8. When Bathsheba conceived again by David and gave birth to a son, what did David name the child?

2 SAMUEL 13-14

1. “But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab” (13:3).
 - a. What counsel did this ‘friend’ give?

 - b. Think. What lesson(s) do you feel we could learn from this ‘friendship’?

2. Our text says that Amnon “loved” Tamar.
 - a. How would you describe/define the ‘love’ for her he exhibited in this text?

 - b. How are Amnon’s feelings for Tamar described *after* he’d done his terrible deed?

3. How are David’s emotions described (upon hearing of what Amnon had done)?

Do we read of the king punishing Amnon in any way, over the next two years, and what do you make of this? (I.e., What are your thoughts about such?)

4. What 'punishment' did *Absalom* mete out for Amnon's crime?
5. What initial rumor, about "all of [his] sons," reached David's ears?
6. For the next three years, to what city/country was Absalom self-exiled?
7. After reading the text of 13:39 THRU 14:33, how would you describe David's feelings/emotions re. Absalom and their estranged relationship?
8. Hoping to bring Absalom and David to reconciliation, Joab secured the services of a wise woman of Tekoa and had her go before David with a fictitious story. We aren't told, but why do you *think* Joab did things this way?
9. Absalom was allowed to come back to Jerusalem. What things are noted about his and David's relationship over the next two years?
10. What things does the writer note about Absalom's looks?

2 SAMUEL 15-16

1. “So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.” (15:6) In the events leading up to this...
 - a. What (and who) did Absalom provide for himself to “run before him”?
 - b. T or F When Absalom heard one side of a lawsuit’s case, he would wait until he heard the other side before making judgment.
 - c. What did Absalom say he would do if he were “judge in the land”?
 - d. What did Absalom do to those who “came near him to bow down to him?”
2. What reason did Absalom give his father as to why he desired to go to Hebron?

What was the actual reason for his going?

3. What did David fear would happen to the city of Jerusalem should Absalom’s forces suddenly overtake himself and his men?
4. How did Ittai respond when the king urged him to stay behind?
5. What did “all the country” do as David and his men left the city and crossed over the brook Kidron?

6. What reason(s) did David give as to why he wanted the following to go back and remain in Jerusalem:
 - a. The ark of the covenant of God?
 - b. Zakok the priest?
 - c. Hushai the Archite?
7. When Ziba came out to meet David with several provisions, what information did he give the king about his master, Mephibosheth?
8. As Shimei cursed David, what reason(s) did he give the king as to why all this had befallen him?
9. How was the counsel of Ahithophel viewed “in those days”?

As Abasalom entered Jerusalem, what counsel did Ahithophel give him, and why?
10. In our next quarter (on Sundays) several of the men will be teaching selected Psalms, one of which will be the 3rd Psalm (taught by brother Daniel). The superscription to this psalm reads, “A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son.” Please read this psalm in connection with tonight’s reading.

2 SAMUEL 17-18

It will help you to reacquaint yourself with the events recorded in chapters 15 and 16. As you do, remember that what we are reading about is part of the sad fulfillment of Nathan's prophecy in 2 Samuel 12:10-12.

1. What counsel did Ahithophel give Absalom re. the use of 12,000 men?

How was Ahithophel's counsel viewed in Israel? (16:23)

2. Who was Hushai (15:37; cf. 1 Chronicles 27:33), and what had David hoped he could do if he stayed in Jerusalem with Absalom? (15:34)
3. In just 2 or 3 sentences summarize the reason(s) Hushai gave as to why he thought "the counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good." (17:7-10)
4. In 2 or 3 sentences summarize the counter-proposal/counsel Hushai gave Absalom (17:11-13).
5. What did Ahithophel do when he saw that his counsel had not been accepted?
6. Hushai (it appears) wasn't sure at first whose counsel Absalom would accept (17:15ff). Consequently, what advice did he send to David via Zadok and Abiathar (and via Jonathan and Ahimaaz, their couriers)?

7. After David and his entourage crossed the Jordan, to what city did they come, who brought provisions to them?
8. As David's forces prepared to do battle against Absalom's, the people demanded that the king not go out with them. What reason(s) did they give for such a demand.
9. What command concerning Absalom was given by David (in the hearing of all the people) to his three commanders, Joab, Abishai, and Ittai?
10. Concerning the battle between David's forces and the rebels:
 - a. How many Israelites were "slaughtered" that day?
 - b. What "devoured" more people that day than "the sword"?
 - c. How did Absalom come to be killed?
11. Two messengers carried news of the battle to David. The Cushite said that he wished the enemies of the king would be as who?
12. How did David react upon hearing of the death of his son?

2 SAMUEL 19-20

1. David's commanders had just won a great victory over the treasonous Absalom and his forces (18:6-18). But 19:3 says that "the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle." Why do you think the people returned in such a manner?
2. When Joab saw that David continued to mourn over Absalom's death, what did he say would happen that night if the king did not go out to "speak comfort" to his men?

A number of incidents transpired (most of them political) as David sought to return to Jerusalem.

3. About what were "all the people in a dispute throughout all the tribes of Israel"?

What tribe did David apparently think ought to have led the way in this matter?

4. What position did David promise Amasa?

What position had this man formerly held? (17:25)

5. Shimei was one of the first to greet David once he crossed back over the Jordan. Why did he present himself before the king and beg forgiveness? What had he done? (cf. 16:5-14)
6. Who suggested that Shimei be executed, and what was David's response to him?

7. Mephibosheth came to Jerusalem to meet David.
 - a. What had Mephibosheth not done since the day David departed from Jerusalem?
 - b. What wrong did Mephibosheth claim his servant had done to him? (cf. 16:1-4)
 - c. At the beginning of his reign, what had David originally given Mephibosheth? (9:9-10).
 - d. But what had the king given Ziba as he departed Jerusalem? (16:4)
 - e. What was Mephibosheth's response when David said, "You and Ziba divide the land"?
8. For what kindness did David seek to repay Barzillai? (19:31ff)
9. What did the men of Israel charge the men of Judah with, and what did they say gave them "more right to David"? (19:40-43)
10. Taking personal advantage of this political infighting, a Benjamite named Sheba used the occasion to lead a rebellion against David. Who followed him? (20:1ff)
11. Who saw to it that Amasa wasn't long in his position in David's army?
12. When Joab laid siege to Abel, a certain "wise woman" charged him with seeking to destroy what?

What terms of peace did Joab offer the woman and her city?

2 SAMUEL 21-22

1. What reason did the LORD give as to why there was a famine in the land for three straight years?
2. What had the Israelites sworn to the Gibeonites some 400 years before? (cf. Joshua 9:3-15)
3. What did the Gibeonites request from David as “atonement” for what Saul had done to them?
4. In fulfilling their request, who did David “deliver to” the Gibeonites?

Who did David “spare”?

5. What did Rizpah the daughter of Aiah do upon the taking of her sons?

(LESSON CONTINUED ON BACK)

6. Concerning the four “sons of the giant” (21:15-22)...
 - a. What happened that led the men of David to swear to him that they would not allow him to go out to battle anymore?
 - b. Elhanan killed a man whose spear had a shaft like what?
 - c. What was unusual about the son of the giant that Jonathan the son of Shimeah killed?
7. Concerning David’s Psalm of praise in chapter 22 (which also appears as Psalm 18)... In just a few words sum up how God is pictured in...
 - Verses 2-3.
 - Verse 7.
 - Verses 8-16.
 - Verses 32-35.
8. Summarize how David describes himself (22:21-28).
9. What does David do as a result of all God has done for him? (22:50-51)

2 SAMUEL 23-24

1. What four phrases did David use to describe himself? (23:1)
2. What had “the Spirit of the LORD” said to him about the one “who rules over men”?

What do you think is the general meaning of the descriptive words used in vs. 4?

3. What did David say would become of “the sons of rebellion” (“worthless men,” ESV)?
4. Concerning David’s mighty men (23:8-39):
 - a. For what feat was Josheb-Basshebeth renowned?
 - b. Who is singled out for the credit for Eleazar’s and Shammah’s victories over the Philistines?
 - c. When the Philistines were stationed in Bethlehem, what had David (verbally) longed for, and what did he do with it when his wish was fulfilled?
 - d. What was Abishai noted for?
 - e. What three deeds was Benaiah noted for?
 - f. Who was the last of the mighty men listed?
5. Please read 1 Chronicles 21:1 in connection with 2 Samuel 24:1. What possibilities can you think of in explaining why they read so differently?
6. What people were counted in the numbering of Israel?

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

7. David obviously sinned in connection with the numbering of the people? But there'd been numberings done in the past (cf. Numbers 1 and 26.) What do you believe David specifically did that was wrong?
8. The LORD (through Gad) offered David the choice of what three punishments for his sin?

Which of the three did David especially not want?

What did David acknowledge about the LORD, in the face of such a decision?

9. How many men of Israel perished in the plague?
10. What did Gad instruct David to erect on the threshing floor of Araunah?
11. What did Araunah seek to give to David, and what reason did David give for rejecting the offer?
12. For your consideration:
 - a. The threshing floor of Araunah later became the building site for what structure, and on mountain was this? (2 Chronicles 3:1-2)
 - b. Interesting: What was another sacrifice that was offered on one of these mountains? (Genesis 22:1ff)
 - c. More than interesting: What other incomparable sacrifice was offered in this vicinity?