

Reading: Psalm 103

2nd Samuel Overview

1. 1st & 2nd Samuel was originally one book which was later separated.
 2. Written around 1,100 BC, initially by Samuel himself then after his death it was completed by the prophets Nathan and Gad.
 3. Samuel was the initial subject of the book, transitioning to Israel's first king, King Saul, then onto Israel's greatest king, a man after God's own heart, King David.
 4. 2nd Samuel is simply a history book. 2nd Samuel is primarily about King David and unifying the nation.
 5. The first 10 chapters describe David's victories, as God establishes the nation of Israel under David's leadership. The rest of the book records the decline in his kingdom as a result of his failures.
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- **1 Samuel Chapter 31:** Saul and Jonathan are killed in battle with the Philistines, their bodies are abused and desecrated, put on public display, being hung on the walls of Beth-Shan.
- The men of Jabesh-Gilead courageously take down their bodies and take them back to Jabesh-Gilead and bury them there.

Chapter 1:1-4 God had protected and spared David from being in any way associated with this battle in which Israel was defeated and Saul killed.

Jeremiah 10:23 "Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

Psalm 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way."

- David goes on to kill the messenger who brought news of Saul's death, being an Amalekite who claimed to have killed Saul.
- David laments Saul and describes him in very positive terms, having been God's anointed.

Chapter 2:1 David starts off on the right foot – inquiring of the Lord.

V: 4 The men of Judah anointed David to be king over the house of Judah.

V: 5-6 David blesses the men of Jabesh-Gilead for their kindness to the house of Saul.

V: 14-end Joab & Abner are entertained by the deadly contest of their respective soldiers that leads to a war in which Abner kills Asahel, Joab's brother who didn't know when to quit.

Chapter 3:1 There is conflict between the house of David and the house of Saul, but David waxes stronger and stronger.

- David begins to collect wives in disobedience to God's word, displaying a weakness that will eventually be his ruin.

Addressing kings:

Deuteronomy 17:17 "Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away..."

- David works out a peace agreement with Abner who is now Ishbosheth's general, but Joab intervenes and murders Abner.
- David publicly curses Joab and grieves for Abner.

Chapter 4: Following the murder of Abner, Ishbosheth who more or less assumed the throne of his father Saul and all the Israelites were troubled, fearing retribution from David – but David never had any of that in mind.

- Two of Ishbosheth's captains murdered him in his bed, then came to David thinking he would be pleased, but David had them put to death.

Chapter 5:1-3 David is anointed king over all of Israel

V: 7 David takes the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and makes it the capital of Israel.

V: 10 God's favor is upon David.

V: 18-19 As the Philistines attack, David inquires of the Lord – and God gives David victory.

Chapter 6:12b-14 David brings the Ark of God from in the house of Abinadab in Kirjath-Jearim, 3 months in the house of Obed-Edom, then to Jerusalem after two attempts:

- Michal mocks David and ends up being set aside and childless as a result.

Chapter 7:1-3 God's promise to David.

V: 12-17 No Temple but...

Chapters 8-9-10 David's victories:

V: 1-3 "Methegammah": Chief city / mother city.

V: 5 Syrians

V: 6b “**And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.**”

- David wasn't allowed to actually build a Temple for God, but that wouldn't stop him from collecting the materials needed to built it, to prepare for his son who would build the Temple.
- Philistines to the west, Ammonites & Moabites to the East, Amalekites & Edomites to the South, and the Syrians and various tribes to the North – to the Euphrates River. (Map)

Chapter 9:1 David's kindness to Mephibosheth. (Machir / Lo Debar)

Chapter 10:1 Nahash the king of Ammon died.

- David sends a delegation to pay their respects to Nahash's son, Hanun.
- Hanun foolishly humiliates the entourage by shaving off half their beards and cutting off the lower half of their clothing and sending them packing.
- This starts a war in which the Ammonites are eventually conquered and 2/3 of their men are killed.

Chapter 11:1-3 (Turning point for David's kingdom) David's sin with Bathsheba.

- David tarried, he lingered – when he should have been with the army.
- **When David laid aside his armor he took the first step toward moral defeat.**
- The same principal applies to us today:

Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the full armor of God:

1. Without the helmet of salvation, we don't think like saved people.
2. Without the breastplate of righteousness, our heart is un-protected.
3. Without the belt of truth, we begin to believe the lies. (Lies like I can get away with this...).
4. Without the sword of the Spirit, the Word or God, and the shield of faith we are helpless before the enemy.
5. Without prayer we have no power.
6. Unless our feet are shod with the Gospel of peace, we'll know no peace.

V: 9-11 Uriah proves more faithful and true than David – so David has Uriah killed to cover his sin.

V: 27b “**But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.**”

- God would not allow David's sin to go unnoticed or un-punished.

Chapter 12:1-6 Nathan the prophet rebukes David.

V: 9-13 God's pronounced judgment upon David and his house.

- David confesses and is forgiven:

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

V: 24-25 The child produced by this sin dies, but their next son is blessed:

Chapters 13-21 David's troubles / repercussions of his sin.

Chapter 13:1-5 Amnon, David's first born rapes his ½ sister Tamar – and sets off an ugly chain of events.

- After 2 years, Absalom, Tamar's full brother then kills Amnon, and flees to the North.

Chapter 14 Joab helps Absalom return from exile.

Chapter 15:1-6 Absalom's conspiracy and rebellion.

- David is forced to flee Jerusalem. While many are loyal to David and are willing to die for him, Ahithophel, Bathsheba's grandfather rebels against David and helps Absalom.
- David leaves the Ark of the Lord, the priests, and a few faithful friends who acts as spies in Absalom's court.

Chapter 16 Things are still going down hill for David: Ziba the rat, Saul's steward slanders Mephibosheth and Shimei of the house of Saul curses David as he flees Jerusalem.

- Meanwhile back in Jerusalem, Ahithophel counsels Absalom to go in unto David's concubines, asserting his leadership – and committing an abominable act taking all of them beyond the point of return.

Chapter 17:7-10 Hushai's counsel accepted over that of Ahithophel.

V: 23 Ahithophel figures out what is up, that all is lost – and hangs himself.

- David is comforted by Mahalim, Machir, Barzillai – three wise men who knew who would eventually prevail.

Chapter 18:5 The death of Absalom.

- David still loves his son – Joab disobeys David's orders and kills Absalom who is hung up in a tree by his fair hair.

- David grieves over Absalom greatly.

Chapter 19 David re-groups and prepares to return to Jerusalem.

V: 7-8 Joab rebukes David for his excessive and untimely grieving over Absalom.

V: 18b-20a David forgives Shemei for his cursing

Chapter 20:1-3 David returns to Jerusalem, but his homecoming is marred by Sheba's rebellion.

- As David sends Amasa to deal with Sheba, Amasa delays in reporting for duty, Abishai is then sent, but in the process Joab shows up and kills Amasa.
- Joab then pursues after Sheba to a city of Dan and negotiates a deal with the inhabitants of the city who kill Sheba, and the rebellion dies with him.

Chapter 21:1-2 There is a famine in the land for 3 years, this ends up being part of Saul's legacy with the Gibeonites.

- David enquires of the Lord, and the Lord answers.
- David meets the requirements of the Gibeonites and takes the two sons of Saul's concubine Rizpah, and he takes the 5 adopted sons of Michal (sons of Merab) – who are all killed by the Gibeonites.

V: 14b "... after that God was entreated for the land."

- David is older now and not as strong in battle as he once was. The chapter ends with a summary of some of the battles, most notably the ones involving giants who are slain.

Chapter 22:1-4 David's song of deliverance.

V: 50-51

Chapter 23: 1-5 David's last words

- The listing of the mighty men of valor who served with David:

Chapter 24:1 The numbering of the people.

V: 10, 17 David and the elders humbled and broken before the Lord.

V: 25 David making an offering to the Lord, and ends up purchasing the land upon which the Temple would later be built.

Last picture of David: Not ending on a “high” note, but a humble note.

- We see David broken, and humble before God: “I have sinned, I have done foolishly...”

Psalm 34:18 “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”

- David goes out the same way he came in, humbly.

Defining David:

1 Samuel 16:13 “Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.”

- David was the anointed of the Lord; a predecessor of the Anointed Lord, the Messiah!
- A perfect man? No, but still a man after God's own heart.
- David inquired of the Lord, David was obedient to the Lord, David repented of his sins, David trusted the Lord and His goodness.

As we've studied through 1st & 2nd Samuel, it has primarily been about David and his adventure, trials, pitfalls, and restoration – David the man after God's own heart.

David would later write:

Psalm 103:8 “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.”

The real message in these books is how God responds to all these things; we see that God is wise, that God is gracious, merciful, and forgiving – we see God's person and character shine, His steadfastness and goodness thoroughly on display. What a wonderful God!