

## 2 SAMUEL 1

January 11-12, 2023



1. Before studying 2 Samuel, we will first briefly review 1 Samuel which revolves around Samuel, Saul and David. 1 Samuel begins with Hannah asking God for a son whom she will give to the Lord. God answers her prayer for a son with Samuel. Read Hannah's response in 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and notice the descriptions of God seen in Hannah's prayer. Which characteristic inspires you to praise God?
2. Hannah honors her vow to the Lord and leaves Samuel with Eli the priest. How is Samuel described in 1 Samuel 2:18-19, 26; 3:19-21 and 7:15?

What do the above verses, along with 1 Samuel 7:7-9 reveal about Samuel's relationship with God?

Think of times you felt the presence of God. Share how this affected your relationship with Him.

3. After God ruled Israel through judges for over 300 years, what do the Israelites ask of Samuel in 1 Samuel 8:4-7?  
  
1 Samuel 8:19-22 reveals the real reason the Israelite leaders want a king. What is the reason and what does this say about their relationship with God?
4. God tells Samuel to anoint Saul king over Israel. Early in his reign Saul's actions are based on his own will instead of God's will. Read 1 Samuel 13:13-14; 15:10-12, 26-28. What is God's response to Saul?
5. Next David, the king of God's choosing, will be anointed by Samuel. What do we learn about David in 1 Samuel 13:14 and 16:6-7, 12-13? What do we learn about God?

How does Saul's servant describe David in 1 Samuel 16:17-18? Which description do you think is most important and why?

6. David waits 15 years between his anointing and taking the throne. During this time, Saul is trying to kill him. Yet, David continues to respect Saul's position as Israel's king, and maintains a deep friendship with Saul's son Jonathan. 1 Samuel 31 tells of Saul's eventual death in battle. Read 1 Samuel 31:1-6 along with 2 Samuel 1:1-10. How do the two reports of Saul's death vary?
7. Read 2 Samuel 1:11-12. Imagine you are a bystander when David hears the news of Saul and Jonathan's deaths. What words would you use to describe David's reaction?
8. What more do you learn about David's character from his lament in 2 Samuel 1:19-27?

## 2 SAMUEL 2

January 18-19, 2023

**DAVID**  
THE KING OF GOD'S CHOOSING

1. David's story continues following the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. Now that Saul's rule over Israel has ended, how does David find direction for his future? Read 2 Samuel 2:1.

What instructions does he receive from the LORD?

Compare and contrast David's inquiry of the LORD with Saul's inquiry in 1 Samuel 28:5-7.

What insight do you gain about David's relationship with the LORD as Israel's future king?

Does David's example of dependence on the LORD encourage or challenge you to deepen your dependence on Him? Share your thoughts and insights.

2. Read 2 Samuel 2:1-4a. Hebron is located in Judah, 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem. Who accompanies David as he returns to Judah?

Although David was first anointed king by Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:13, how is the support and loyalty of the people of Judah expressed in 2 Samuel 2:4a?

3. Read 2 Samuel 2:4b-7. Describe what David learns and how he responds.

What does David's gracious response to Saul's loyal followers reveal about David?

What pronouncement does David make in verse 7?

Why do you think it is important for David to make this statement to those who were loyal to Saul?

4. Although David has returned to Judah, Saul's cousin Abner has a plan of his own. Read 2 Samuel 2:8-11 and list what you learn about the following people:

Abner –

Ish-bosheth-

David –

5. Reread 2 Samuel 2:8-9 and record the verbs used to describe Abner's role in Ish-bosheth becoming king.

What insight do these words give you into Abner's character, personality and motives?

What do they tell you about Ish-bosheth?

6. Read 2 Samuel 2:12-17. Abner, the commander of Ish-bosheth's army and Joab, David's nephew and commander of his army, meet in Gibeon. Record the details of the fight that happens between the tribe of Benjamin under the rule of Ish-bosheth and the tribe of Judah under the rule of David.

Who initiates the fighting contest between the two tribes in verse 14?

As you observe Joab's response, how does the phrase "it takes two to tango" also apply here?

7. Read 2 Samuel 2:18-23. Joab, Abishai and Asahel are David's nephews and sons of his sister, Zeruah. Who pursues Abner after his defeat?

How does Abner try to diffuse the conflict? What is his concern according to verse 22?

8. How does the conflict continue to escalate in 2 Samuel 2:24-28?

Who attempts to negotiate a truce? What is his argument to bring the conflict to an end?

What word or words used in verses 26-27 should remind these men that they are all part of God's chosen people, Israel?

Read 2 Samuel 3:1 and then look back over 2 Samuel 2:12-32. What actions and/or motives elevated the conflict between these factions from a possible peace conference to all-out war?

9. Fighting between tribes was never God's plan for Israel, His chosen people. As you think through this unfortunate conflict, how does it remind you of times your own family or friend group has elevated a disagreement into a more serious conflict?

Looking back at 2 Samuel 2, what are some elements of conflict you should guard against to prevent escalating conflicts in your family or relationships?

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

## 2 SAMUEL 3-4

January 25-26, 2023

1. 2 Samuel 3 and 4 tell the story of Israel moving toward unification under David's leadership. Although Saul is dead, his family still rules the northern portion of the Promised Land. David rules the southern portion, known as Judah. Read 2 Samuel 3:1. List everything you learn about the political situation as the chapter opens.
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:1,10-13. What connection do you see between God's plan for David and the current circumstances in Israel in 2 Samuel 3:1?
3. Read 2 Samuel 2:1-2 along with 2 Samuel 3:2-5. How many additional wives has David taken in just a few years in the city of Hebron?

The mention of these many wives and their sons are a foreshadowing of family and political strife to come. Read Deuteronomy 17:17. What was God's command for Israel's king concerning marriage?

What warning does Deuteronomy 17:17 give to the king of many wives?

4. Read 2 Samuel 2:8-10 and 2 Samuel 3:6. Who is Abner? What is his role in Saul's regime?

Who is Ish-Bosheth? What is his role in Saul's regime?

5. Read 2 Samuel 3:7-8. What incident leads to division between Abner and Ish-bosheth?

6. Read 2 Samuel 3:9-11. Summarize Abner's response to Ish-bosheth and his new political plan.

Look again at 2 Samuel 3:9. What does Abner acknowledge about God's plans for David, even though he has deliberately ignored this truth until now?

What might be a reason or two Abner chose to work toward ensuring the rule of Saul's family line instead of David?

7. Read 2 Samuel 3:12-21. What steps does Abner take in his plan to "transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah"?

Although Abner is manipulating political alliances for his own purposes, whose plan is really coming to pass through Abner's selfish actions?

Read Psalm 33:11, Proverbs 19:21 and Isaiah 46:8-10. In your own words, what do you learn about the plans of God and the plans of man?

8. Read 2 Samuel 3:22-25. Why is Abner no longer with David?

Joab is David's nephew and commander over his army. Joab strongly disagrees with the alliance between David and Abner. What does Joab think is Abner's true motive for meeting with David?

Review 2 Samuel 2:18-23. What happened in the past that would cause Joab to distrust Abner?

9. Read 2 Samuel 3:26-30. What transpires between Joab and Abner?

What was Joab's motive?

How does David respond to Joab's actions?

10. Read 2 Samuel 3:31-39. David sets the tone for Abner's funeral. Describe David's response to Abner's death.

Read 2 Samuel 3:36-37 again. Many from the northern tribes observed David's words and actions after Abner's death. What all do you learn about the attitude and understanding of these people toward David?

11. Read 2 Samuel 4:1-7. What is the fate of Saul's son, Ish-bosheth?

12. Read 2 Samuel 4:8-12. Rechab and Baanah think they will garner favor with David when they tell him what they have done. How does David respond to their news?

Why does David respond this way? Look again at 2 Samuel 4:11 along with 1 Samuel 26:7-11.

13. Read 2 Samuel 4:9 once more. In contrast to all others in 2 Samuel 3 and 4, David fully trusts God to protect and provide for him. What is a situation in your life today that you need to work on entrusting to God alone?

What are some practical steps you can take each day to cultivate that trust?

14. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

## 2 SAMUEL 5-6

February 1-2, 2023

1. Think about all the ways God has blessed you. What have you learned about the character of God from these blessings?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Saul's son Ish-bosheth was eventually made king of Israel after his father's death, but his reign was cut short by his murder. In 2 Samuel 5:1-5, we learn about the events that followed Ish-bosheth's untimely death. Read these verses and summarize the actions of Israel.

This is David's third anointing as king. Read 1 Samuel 16:10-13 and 2 Samuel 2:1-4 which describe his first two anointings. List the differences you find in each anointing.

What are the three reasons the tribes of Israel recognized David as their king according to 2 Samuel 5:1-2?

3. Read 2 Samuel 5:6-10. What was the Jebusites' opinion of David?

What didn't they realize about David? Read 5:10.

What two other names for Jerusalem can you find in 5:7?

Who is the divine cornerstone of this holy city? Read Isaiah 28:16 along with Acts 4:10-12.

4. Read 2 Samuel 5:11-12. What two realities did David understand as he watched a home being built for him in Jerusalem?

Why do you think his heart was struck with these realizations at this particular time?

What truths about God ring true in your heart when you take the time to watch Him build wonderful things in your life?

5. In 2 Samuel 5:13-16 we read that David increased the number of his wives and concubines. Read these verses. What does Deuteronomy 17:14-17 teach about this issue?

What might be some of the consequences of this kind of behavior in David's kingdom?

6. Read about David's battles with the Philistines in 2 Samuel 5:17-25. What can we admire about David in these verses?

Though the battles we face today are different than David's battles here, how can we apply some of his battle strategies to the conflicts that confront us?

7. The ark of God represented the glorious presence of God among His people, and so David desired to bring it to Jerusalem. What had God commanded about transporting the ark in Exodus 25:14 and Numbers 4:5-6 and 4:15?

Read 2 Samuel 6:1-5. As the ark was being moved, what did not line up with God's earlier commands?

Read 6:6-11. What do you think might have been some of David's specific fears after Uzzah's death?

8. David approached the ark differently when he retrieved the ark three months later. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-15. What action did David take that demonstrated his reverence for God?

What word would you use to describe David in these verses?

Psalm 150 speaks into this kind of worship and praise. Read this psalm. Why do we praise God according to Psalm 150:2?

9. Every party has a pooper, and in this story, it is David's wife Michal. Read 2 Samuel 6:16-23. What might be the underlying issues that led her to respond to this joyous occasion in such a negative way?

Read 6:17-19 again and list the intentional actions of David to honor God and God's people.

How is David's humility displayed throughout this story?

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

## 2 SAMUEL 7

February 8-9, 2023

1. Define promise in your own words.

Why is it important to you that people keep their promises?

2. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-7. What does David want to do and why?

Nathan, a prophet, is first seen in verse 2 and he will be the prophetic voice of God in David's reign. What is Nathan's initial response to David?

What is God's response to David's idea to build Him a house? Read also 1 Chronicles 22:7-10.

3. Read 2 Samuel 7:8-9a where God reminds David what He has done for David in the past. Of the blessings God mentions, which one stands out to you and why?

Reflect on your life and write down a few things that God has done for you.

4. God makes specific promises to David and his descendants in 2 Samuel 7:9b-17. Write God's promises next to the following verses.

7:9b

7:10-11a

7:11b-13

7:14

7:15

7:16

Imagine hearing these words from the Lord. What might you have thought and felt while hearing these promises?

5. Chapter 7 of 2 Samuel fulfilled and built on God's previous promises in the Abrahamic Covenant found throughout Genesis. Read part of that covenant God made to David's ancestor Abraham in Genesis 17:6-7, 15-16. How does God fulfill those words in 2 Samuel 7:8, 12?
  
6. Some of the prophecies of 2 Samuel 7 are fulfilled in the *near* future. Reread 2 Samuel 7:12-13 along with King Solomon's words in 1 Kings 8:17-21. What specific promises did God fulfill in the near future?
  
7. The words of 2 Samuel 7 serve as the foundation of the Davidic Covenant and the house, or dynasty, God gives to David. What promises do these psalms confirm from 2 Samuel 7:15-16?

Psalms 89:1-4, 28-36

Psalms 132:11

What are some benefits you have experienced while remembering and repeating the promises of God?

8. Some promises of 2 Samuel 7 are fulfilled in the *distant* future. Read Matthew 1:1, Luke 1:31-33 and Hebrews 1:5, 8. Who is the ultimate King and Son promised in 2 Samuel 7?

Reread 2 Samuel 7:15-16 along with Revelation 11:15. What gives you confidence that Jesus, the Son of David, has a Kingship and Kingdom that last forever?

9. Read 2 Samuel 7:18-24. What qualities of David do you see in his response to God's promises?

List all of the descriptions of God you find in David's prayer.

10. Read 2 Samuel 7:21. What does David point to as the reason for God's actions?

Reflect on God's promises and heart toward you. Using David's prayer as inspiration, write a prayer of gratitude, awe and humility to God.

Why are gratitude, awe and humility important responses to God?

11. Read 2 Samuel 7:25-29. What requests does David make of God in this prayer?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.