

Second Samuel 1-1 Kings 11

Second Samuel takes up right where First Samuel left off. It will cover the period from Saul's death (about 1010 B.C.) to the time just prior to David's death (about 970 B.C.).

Second Samuel tells the story of David's reign as king. We have seen him as a young shepherd, as Saul's personal musician, as a brave soldier, and as a man running for his life; but now we will read about his life as king. As you might expect, there will be some high moments and some low moments.

One of the key passages in Second Samuel is 7:12-13 where these words are spoken to David: "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." The reason these words are so significant, of course, is that they eventually find their fulfillment in Christ.

Another key passage is the entire eleventh chapter. This is the chapter that records David's adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah. The remainder of Second Samuel will show just how bitter the consequences of sin can be.

Here are two outlines to help us see what will be covered in the book:

The **Triumphs** of David (chs. 1-10)

The **Transgressions** of David (ch. 11)

The **Troubles** of David (chs. 12-24)

Steps to the Throne After the Battle of Gilboa (1:1-5:5)

David's Reign Over All Israel (5:6-9:13)

The Kingdom of Israel in Decline (chs. 10-20)

Appendix to the Reign of David (chs. 21-24)

Our study will then continue through the first eleven chapters of 1 Kings. David's reign as king will end and his son, Solomon, will then become the third king of Israel. His death will end the period we refer to as the United Kingdom.

Lesson 1

2 Samuel 1-2

Report of Saul's Death to David; David's Reaction (ch. 1)

1. Who brought the news of Saul's death to David?
2. Did he tell David the truth about what happened?
3. How did he expect David to react to the news? See 1:10 and 4:10. How did David react?
4. In his lamentation over Saul and Jonathan, did David have anything good to say about Saul?
5. What statement did David make about Jonathan's love?

Civil War—David, King of Judah versus Ishbosheth, King of Israel (ch. 2)

6. What did David do before he returned to Judah?
7. What message did David have delivered to the men of Jabesh-Gilead?
8. Who was made king of Israel? Who was mainly responsible for making him king? How long did he reign?
9. How long did David reign in Hebron over Judah?
10. How did this civil war get started? (2:12-16).
11. How did this particular battle come to an end? (2:24-32).

Lesson 2

2 Samuel 3-5:5

Abner Goes Over to David's Side (3:1-21); Abner Is Killed (3:22-30); David Mourns for Abner (3:31-39)

1. How many sons were born to David in Hebron? How many wives did David now have?
2. Why did Abner leave Ishbosheth and go over to David's side?
3. What did Abner promise to do for David? What condition did David put into the agreement?
4. Who killed Abner? What was David's reaction to Abner's death?

Ishbosheth Is Murdered (ch. 4)

5. What effect did Abner's death have on Ishbosheth and the people of Israel?
6. Who killed Ishbosheth?
7. What was David's reaction when they presented Ishbosheth's head to him?

David Anointed King Over All Israel (5:1-5; 1 Chronicles 11:1-3; 12:23-40)

8. What reasons did the tribes of Israel give for accepting David?
9. How old was David when he began his reign and how long did he reign?
10. According to 1 Chronicles 12:23-40, what kind of assembly was present when David was anointed king of Israel?

Lesson 3

2 Samuel 5:6-6:23; 1 Chronicles 11:4-9; 13:1-16:3

Conquest of Jerusalem (5:6-10; 1 Chron. 11:4-9); David's Palace (5:11-12; 1 Chron. 14:1-2); David's Family (5:13-16; 1 Chron. 14:3-7); Two Victories Over the Philistines (5:17-25; 1 Chron. 14:8-17)

1. Who were the inhabitants of the city of Jerusalem? How confident were they that their city could not be taken?
2. What kind of offer did David make during this battle and who took him up on it? (1 Chron. 11:6).
3. What did the city of Jerusalem come to be called?
4. Who sent men and supplies to Jerusalem to build David a house?
5. What did David do while at Jerusalem that was in conflict with the law? Compare 2 Samuel 5:13 with Deuteronomy 17:14-17.
6. What did David do before he went into battle against the Philistines?
7. What did David and his men do with the images of the Philistines, besides carry them away? (1 Chron. 14:12).
8. When David inquired of the Lord before the second battle, what did the Lord tell him?
9. What did these two victories over the Philistines do for David's reputation? (1 Chron. 14:17).

The Ark is Brought to Jerusalem (ch. 6; 1 Chron. 13; 15:1-16:3)

10. Where was the ark at this time? See 1 Samuel 7:1-2 for when the ark was first placed there.
11. What tragedy took place as the ark was being moved to Jerusalem?

12. Was Uzzah's error the only thing the Lord was angry about? For example, see Exodus 25:12-15 for how the ark was to be carried, Numbers 4:1-15 for who was to carry it, and Numbers 4:15, 17-20 for the penalty for touching the holy things. See also the comment made in 1 Chron. 15:13.
13. What was David's reaction to Uzzah's death?
14. What changes were made when they got ready to move the ark again? See 1 Chron. 15:1-15.
15. What did Michal get so upset about? What did she mean when she said David "uncovered himself"? Does 2 Samuel 6:14 give us a clue?
16. What was David's attitude toward his rule as king? (2 Samuel 6:22).
17. How was Michal punished for her outburst against David?

Lesson 4

2 Samuel 7-9; 1 Chronicles 17-18

David's Proposal to Build a House for the Lord (7:1-3; 1 Chron. 17:1-2); God's Word Comes To David Through Nathan (7:4-17; 1 Chron. 17:3-15); David's Prayer (7:18-29; 1 Chron. 17:16-27)

1. What was it that began to bother David?
2. What instruction did the prophet Nathan give David? Based on 1 Chron. 17:4, did this instruction come from the Lord?
3. Why was David not permitted to build a house for the Lord? See 1 Chron. 22:8; 28:3; 1 Kings 5:3-4.
4. What two uses of the word house are found in 2 Samuel 7:11-16?
5. Who was God referring to when he said, "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son"? Was he referring to only one person? See 1 Chron. 22:9-10; Hebrews 1:5.

6. How would David's kingdom be established forever? See Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:30-33; Acts 2:29-36; Acts 13:22-23.
7. What house did Christ build? See Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 3:15.
8. What was David's reaction after Nathan had delivered the word of the Lord to him?

David's Wars (8:1-14; 1 Chron. 18:1-13); General Character of David's Reign (8:15; 1 Chron. 18:14); David's Cabinet (8:16-18; 1 Chron. 18:15-17)

9. How did David manage to come out of all these battles unharmed? (2 Samuel 8:6, 14).
10. What did David do with all the treasures he collected from various nations? See 1 Chron. 22:6-16 for what this would later be used for.
11. What were some of the top positions in David's government?

David Looks After Mephibosheth (ch. 9)

12. What covenant had David made with Jonathan earlier? See 1 Samuel 20:12-16; 23:17-18.
13. What kind of handicap did Mephibosheth have? How did he get that way? (2 Samuel 4:4).
14. What promises did David make to Mephibosheth?
15. Who was to work this land that was given to Mephibosheth?

Lesson 5

2 Samuel 10-12; 1 Chronicles 19:1-20:3

The Cause of the War (10:1-8, 1 Chron. 19:1-9); The First Conflict (10:9-14, 1 Chron. 19:10-15); Syria's Defeat (10:15-19; 1 Chron. 19:16-19)

1. What incident triggered the beginning of this war?
2. Whom did the Ammonites hire to help them fight against Israel?

3. Which one of the two did Joab evidently consider to be the stronger, the Ammonites or the Syrians?
4. Who was the commander of the forces fighting against the Ammonites?
5. What was the result of this first battle?
6. The Syrians didn't take defeat too well, so they gathered up their forces to fight Israel again. How did things turn out this time?

David and Bathsheba Commit Adultery (11:1-5); The Cover-Up (11:6-27)

7. Where was David when he saw Bathsheba bathing?
8. Did it slow David down when he found out that Bathsheba was married?
9. What happened to really complicate this situation? (v. 5).
10. When David could not get Uriah to lie with Bathsheba, what did he then decide to do?
11. How did David get word to Joab to make sure Uriah was killed in battle?
12. How did Bathsheba react to her husband's death?

Nathan Exposes David's Sin (12:1-9); Consequences of David's Sin (12:10-23); Birth of Solomon (12:24-25); Conquest of Rabbah (12:26-31; 1 Chron. 20:1-3)

13. At least how much time had passed since David's adultery? (11:27).
14. Why was this parable so effective in helping David see his guilt?
15. David did repent and he was forgiven, but what were the consequences he would have to face? (12:10-14). You should be able to pick out four.
16. What effect did David's sin have on the enemies of the Lord?

17. How did David explain his calm reaction to his son's death? (12:22-23).
18. What good characteristic did Joab show in the battle against the Ammonites?

Lesson 6

2 Samuel 13-14

Incest in David's House (13:1-18); Absalom Kills Amnon and Then Goes Into Exile (13:19-39)

1. Verse 1 says that Amnon was in love with Tamar. Judging from what happens between them, would you say he was really in "love" with her?
2. Did Tamar encourage Amnon at all?
3. Who convinced Amnon to use this plan of pretending to be sick and having Tamar prepare him some food?
4. Did David take any action against Amnon? According to Leviticus 18:9, 29, what was the punishment for this offense?
5. What plan did Absalom come up with to kill Amnon?
6. How much time had passed since Tamar had been raped?
7. To whom did Absalom flee? Why to this man? See 2 Samuel 3:3.
8. How long did Absalom stay there?

Return of Absalom (ch. 14)

9. Who came up with a plan to bring about Absalom's return? Whom did he get to help him?
10. What point was this "wise woman" trying to make with the story she told David?
11. Under what condition did David allow Absalom to return?

12. What description is given of Absalom? (14:25-26).
13. What did Absalom name his only daughter?
14. How long was Absalom in Jerusalem before he finally got to see his father's face?

Lesson 7

2 Samuel 15-17

Absalom Makes His Move (15:1-12)

1. Samuel 15:6 says that "Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel." How was he able to do that?
2. What did Absalom already have going for him? (14:25).
3. Where did Absalom intend to set up his kingdom at first?
4. What valuable person in David's cabinet went over to Absalom's side? How highly was he regarded? (16:23).

David Leaves Jerusalem, But Makes Plans to Defeat Absalom (15:13-16:15)

5. What reason did David give for leaving Jerusalem so quickly?
6. What statement of loyalty did Ittai the Gittite make to David?
7. What instructions did David give to Zadok?
8. What was David's prayer concerning Ahithophel?
9. Whom did David send to help defeat the counsel (or advice) of Ahithophel?
10. How did Ziba explain Mephibosheth's whereabouts? Was he telling the truth? See 2 Samuel 19:24-30 for help.

11. What charges did Shemei make against David?

The Counsel of Ahithophel (16:16-17:23)

12. What two actions did Ahithophel recommend be taken?

13. Who else did Absalom go to for advice? What advice did he give?

14. Whose advice was accepted? Was this the answer to David's prayer in 15:31?

15. Whom was sent to warn David?

16. What happened to Ahithophel?

Absalom's Army (17:24-26); Supporters of David (17:27-29)

17. Whom did Absalom make the captain of his army?

18. Name the three men who helped David at Mahanaim. In what way did they help?

Lesson 8

2 Samuel 18-20

Defeat and Death of Absalom (ch. 18)

1. What three men did David put in charge of his army?

2. What special instruction did he give them concerning Absalom?

3. What was so unusual about the way many died in this battle? (18:8).

4. Describe what happened to Absalom.

5. What had Absalom done during his lifetime to keep his name alive?

6. How did David take the news of Absalom's death? How does Absalom's death relate to 2 Samuel 12:10.

David's Return (19:1-39)

7. What effect did David's mourning have on his followers?
8. What did Joab tell David he better do?
9. Who made the first move to bring David back to Jerusalem, Israel or Judah?
10. Whom did David appoint as the new commander of his army? Why was this such an unusual choice?
11. What promise did David make to Shimei?
12. What evidence is there that Mephibosheth had remained loyal to David during Absalom's rebellion?
13. Why was David so nice to Barzillai the Gileadite?

Sheba's Rebellion (19:40-ch. 20)

14. What were Israel and Judah arguing about?
15. How was Sheba's rebellion brought to an end?
16. What happened to Amasa during this rebellion?

Lesson 9

2 Samuel 21-22

Appendix to the Reign of David (chs. 21-24)

Famine in the Land (21:1-14); Heroic Feats in War (21:15-22, 1 Chron. 20:4-8)

1. What was the cause of the famine?

2. What covenant had been made between the Israelites and the Gibeonites? (v. 2, also Joshua 9).
3. How was Saul's sin punished?
4. Why was Mephibosheth spared? (v. 7, also 1 Samuel 20:12-16).
5. What did David do when he found out what Rizpah was doing?
6. What happened after all this had been taken care of? (v. 14).
7. Four Israelite heroes of battle are mentioned in vv. 15-22. Name them.

David's Psalm of Deliverance (ch. 22)

8. List some of the things God is called or compared to.
9. In what kind of circumstances did David call upon God? (vv. 4-7).
10. Did anything happen when David called upon God? (vv. 8-16). Did all this literally happen?
11. David faced enemies who were too strong for him (v. 18). But who was stronger than David's enemies? (v. 19).
12. What kind of life do we need to be living to have God as our helper and deliverer? (vv. 21-30).
13. What does David do in response to all that God has done for him? (v. 50).
14. To whom did David's enemies sometimes look for help? (v. 42). Did they receive help from him?

Lesson 10

2 Samuel 23-24

Last Words of David (23:1-7); David's Mighty Men (23:8-39, 1 Chron. 11:10-47)

1. How does David describe himself?
2. What was a good king supposed to be like?
3. What covenant was David referring to in v. 5? See 2 Samuel 7:11-16.
4. What did three of David's men do on one occasion that really showed their loyalty to David?
5. Which one of his mighty men did David have killed?
6. What were some of the heroic deeds done by Benaiah?

The Numbering of Israel (ch. 24, 1 Chron. 21)

7. Who moved David to number Israel, Satan or God?
8. What was Joab's reaction when David told him to count the people?
9. How long did it take Joab to complete this count?
10. How did David feel after the census was completed? (v. 10).
11. What three choices for punishment was David given?
12. Which one did he choose and why?
13. What had to be done before the plague could be stopped?
14. What was later built on the site where David offered the sacrifices? See 2 Chron. 3:1.

15. What was David's objection to taking the threshing floor free?

Lesson 11

1 Kings 1-5; 1 Chronicles 29:22-2 Chronicles 1

Rebellion of Adonijah (1:1-53; 1 Chron. 29:22b-25)

1. What was David's condition in his old age?
2. What did his servants suggest as a remedy for his condition?
3. What important people were supporters of Adonijah? What important people were not?
4. What was Nathan's plan to put down this attempt by Adonijah?
5. What action did David order after Bathsheba and Nathan told him what was going on?
6. What was Adonijah's reaction when he found out that Solomon had been anointed king?

David's Last Charge to Solomon (2:1-12; 1 Chron. 29:26-30); Solomon Secures His Kingdom (2:13-46)

7. What did David tell Solomon about his duties toward God?
8. David gave Solomon instructions concerning three individuals. Who were they and what were the instructions for each one?
9. Why was Solomon so upset about Adonijah's request?
10. What action was taken toward Abiathar?
11. What were some things Joab had done to merit a death sentence?
12. In what way did Shimei bring about his own death?
13. Who carried out the three executions recorded in this chapter?

Solomon Makes a Treaty with Egypt (3:1; 2 Chron. 8:11); Solomon Asks for Wisdom (3:2-15; 2 Chron. 1:1-13); Two Women and a Baby (3:16-28)

14. Whom did Solomon marry?
15. What was Solomon's attitude toward God in the early years of his reign?
16. What did Solomon ask for? Why did he need this so badly?
17. How did God respond to Solomon's request?
18. How did Solomon later demonstrate his wisdom?

Lesson 12

1 Kings 4-7; 2 Chronicles 2-4

Solomon Organizes His Kingdom (4:1-28); Solomon's Wisdom (4:29-34)

1. Who provided food for King Solomon and those who ate with him?
2. What were some of the different areas in which Solomon showed his wisdom and understanding?
3. How did Solomon rank among the world's wisest men?

Solomon Arranges to Build the Temple (5:1-18; 2 Chron. 2:1-18)

4. Why was David not able to build the temple during his reign?
5. Why did Solomon ask for Hiram's help in building the temple?
6. How was Hiram going to get the timber to Solomon?
7. What was Solomon's end of the bargain? What was he going to give Hiram?
8. What were some of the different jobs involved in building the temple? (5:13-18)

Construction of the Temple (chs. 6-7; 2 Chron. 3-4)

9. What were the dimensions of the temple?
10. On what date did work begin on the temple?
11. With what was the whole temple overlaid?
12. How long did it take to build the temple?
13. How many years did it take Solomon to build his own house?
14. What was the hall called where Solomon's throne was located?
15. Who was hired to do the metalwork on various articles of the temple?
16. What did Solomon do with all the things "which his father David had dedicated"?

Lesson 13

1 Kings 8-11; 2 Chronicles 5-9

Dedication of the Temple (ch. 8; 2 Chron. 5:2-7:10)

1. Where was the ark placed in the temple?
2. What was in the ark of the covenant?
3. Read 1 Kings 8:13. Did God actually dwell in the temple?
4. What is God's temple today?
5. What does Solomon pray for over and over again? (1 Kings 8:22-53).
6. What effect was Israel's conduct supposed to have on the other nations? (vv. 57-61).

God's Answer to Solomon's Prayer (9:1-9; 2 Chron. 7:11-22); Solomon's Relations With Hiram (9:10-14; 2 Chron. 8:1-2); Building of Cities (9:15-23; 2 Chron. 8:3-10); Solomon's Offerings (9:24-25; 2 Chron. 8:11-16); Solomon's Navy (9:26-28; 2 Chron. 8:17-18)

7. In what sense would God dwell in the temple? (9:3).

8. What strong warning did God give Solomon?

9. How did Solomon reward Hiram for his services? Was Hiram pleased with what he got?

10. What were some of Solomon's other building projects? Who made up the work force for these projects?

Visit of the Queen of Sheba (10:1-3; 2 Chron. 9:1-12); Solomon's Wealth and the Uses of It (10:14-29; 2 Chron. 9:13-28)

11. Why did the Queen of Sheba come to visit Solomon? How did Solomon handle her questions?

12. She was impressed with what two things about Solomon? (10:7).

13. What uses were made of the gold Solomon acquired?

Solomon Becomes Unfaithful (11:1-8); Consequences of Solomon's Unfaithfulness (11:9-40); Solomon's Death (11:41-43; 2 Chron. 9:29-31)

14. What led Solomon to start worshiping other gods?

15. What made Solomon's unfaithfulness inexcusable? (11:9-10).

16. What did the Lord say He was going to do to Solomon?

17. Name three adversaries God raised up against Solomon?

18. How long did Solomon reign over Israel?