

2 Samuel

"King David's Reign"

Background Information

Originally the second part of one book of Samuel, 2 Samuel was made a single division clearly because it is dominated by one figure: David.

As with 1 Samuel, we do not know the human author, but Samuel, Nathan, and Gad are possible writers.

2 Samuel 7 is a key chapter, because in it, God gives to David a clear picture of His plan to bring about a king from his line (see also 1 Kings 2:4; 1 Chronicles 22:8-10; 2 Chronicles 7:17-18)

Time Covered and Outline

The rise and reign of David provide almost all the material for the book, which covers about 40 years.

Outline

- I. David's Rise to King of Judah (1:1-3:5)
- II. David's Rise to King of Israel (3:6-5:16)
- III. David's Powerful Reign (5:17-9:13)
- IV. David's Troubles (10-20)
 - A. Bathsheba (10-12)
 - B. Family turmoil (13-14)
 - C. Rebellion, including Absalom (15-19)
 - D. Rebellion of Sheba (20)
- V. Epilogue: Other national matters (21-24)

Four Well-Known Accounts from 2 Samuel

The ark comes to Jerusalem (6)
David and Bathsheba (11)
The mighty men (23)
David numbers the people (24)

Major Themes

Covenant with David (7:12-16)
Sin and consequences, personal and national
Leadership, both good and bad
Family failures
Grace

2 Samuel 7:22-23 provides a type of "marker" for where we are in studying the history of God's people:

"Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be His people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?"

God's Character in 2 Samuel

Kindness (2:6)

True (2:6)

Wrathful (6:7; 21:1; 24:1-17)

Faithful to a promise (7:12-13)

Wise (7:20)

Providence (17:14-15)

Jesus in 2 Samuel

David's royal line leads to Jesus. The promise given in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 also promises the coming Messiah. David's life is also a type of Christ as shepherd-king.

Key Words in 2 Samuel

Ark (Hebrew *aron*); 6:2; 6:4; 6:10; 6:12; 6:17; 7:2; 11:11; 15:24

Jerusalem; related to the word for "peace."

Mighty men (Hebrew *gibbor*); 1:25; 10:7; 16:6; 17:8; 20:7; 23:8; 23:22

Elsewhere in the World...

The Ayran empire expands all the way to the Ganges Valley in India.

Large construction projects expand the city of Nineveh.

Elsewhere in Scripture...

1. Much of 2 Samuel is also recorded in 1 Chronicles, starting mainly with the beginning of David's reign in 2 Samuel 5 and 1 Chronicles 11. From that point on, there is a great deal of both supplementary material and explanation.
2. Since David wrote many of the Psalms, a large number fall into the time frame of 2 Samuel, as do those written by Korah and Asaph.

DAVID:

Psalms 15, 24, and 60

2 Samuel 8

Psalms 51

2 Samuel 12

Psalms 63

2 Samuel 16

Psalms 41 and 55

2 Samuel 17

Psalms 108

2 Samuel 23

KORAH: Psalms 42, 43, 44, 84, 85, 87, and 88

ASAPH: Psalms 50, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, and 89