

LESSON 9 - 1st & 2nd Samuel

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

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LESSON 9

1st Samuel

- The book of 1st Samuel begins the record of the rise and fall of the Israelite monarchy, a section that includes 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, and 1st and 2nd Chronicles.
- In the Hebrew manuscripts, 1st and 2nd Samuel were one book, as was 1st and 2nd Kings and 1st and 2nd Chronicles.
- 1st Samuel covers a definite period of about 150 years from the birth of Samuel, the last judge, to the death of Saul, the first king.
- At least part or most of the book was written by Samuel himself, but others probably contributed. *“As for the events of King David’s reign, from beginning to end, they are written in the records of Samuel the seer, the records of Nathan the prophet and the records of Gad the seer, together with the details of his reign and power, and the circumstances that surrounded him and Israel and the kingdoms of all the other lands”* (1 Chronicles 29:29-30).

OUTLINE

- Samuel, the Last Judge (Chapters 1–8).
 - The birth of Samuel.
 - *There was a certain man from... the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah... He had two wives... Hannah and... Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.* (1:1-2)
 - At this time, the tabernacle was permanently set up at Shiloh (Joshua 18:1) and Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas were priests of the Lord (1:3).
 - *Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. Because the LORD had closed Hannah’s womb, her rival kept provoking her... till she wept and would not eat... This went on year after year.* (1:4-7)
 - *Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh... Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD’s house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.” ...Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.” “Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking... I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.” Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”* (1:9-17)
 - *So, in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the LORD for him...” After he was weaned, she took the boy... and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh... they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, “...I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD...”* (1:24-28).

- Corruption in the priesthood.
 - *Eli's sons were scoundrels... it was the practice of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the meat was being boiled and would plunge the fork into the... pot. Whatever the fork brought up the priest would take for himself (see Deuteronomy 18:1-5)... But even before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the person who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw." If the person said to him, "Let the fat be burned first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force." This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt. (2:12-17)*
 - *Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. So, he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the LORD's people is not good... His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke... (2:22-25)*
 - *...a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Did I not clearly reveal myself to your ancestor's family when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh? I chose your ancestor out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest... I also gave your ancestor's family all the food offerings presented by the Israelites. Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?' "Therefore, the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: '...Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained... The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your priestly house, so that no one in it will reach old age... all your descendants will die in the prime of life... what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you—they will both die on the same day. I will raise up for myself a faithful priest...' (2:27-35)*
- God calls Samuel (3).
 - *The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.*
 - *One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was.
Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am."
And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."
So he went and lay down. Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."
"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie*

down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'”

So, Samuel went and lay down in his place. The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

And the LORD said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family...”

Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said, “...What was it he said to you? So, Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

- The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.
- God’s judgement (4).
 - ...the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines... Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield...
 - So, the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant ... And Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark... When the ark... came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook... Hearing the uproar, the Philistines... were afraid...
 - ...the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died...
 - ...a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dust on his head... there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching, because his heart feared for the ark of God. When the man entered the town and [he] told what had happened... “Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses... your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured.” When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken, and he died... He had led Israel forty years. His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant... When she heard the news... she went into labor and gave birth but was overcome by her labor pains. As she was dying... She named the boy Ichabod, saying, “The Glory has departed from Israel...”
- The Philistines and the Ark (5-7).
 - After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. Then they carried the ark into Dagon’s temple and set it beside Dagon. When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained. (5:1-5)

- *The LORD's hand was heavy on the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation on them and afflicted them with tumors. When the people of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, "The ark of the god of Israel must not stay here with us... Have the ark of the god of Israel moved to Gath..." But after they had moved it, the LORD's hand was against that city, throwing it into a great panic. He afflicted the people of the city, both young and old, with an outbreak of tumors. So, they sent the ark of God to Ekron. As the ark of God was entering Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought the ark of the god of Israel around to us to kill us and our people...." So, they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, "Send the ark of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it will kill us and our people..." (5:6-12)*
- *When the ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory seven months, the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? ...They answered, "If you return the ark of the god of Israel, do not send it back to him without a gift; by all means send a guilt offering to him... give glory to Israel's god. Perhaps he will lift his hand from you... get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart... Take the ark of the LORD and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering... So, they did this... (6:1-10)*
- *Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they rejoiced... The cart came to the field of Joshua... and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD. The Levites took down the ark of the LORD, together with the chest containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock... The five rulers of the Philistines saw all this and then returned... But God struck down some of the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they looked into the ark of the LORD... And the people of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? ...Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your town." (6:13-20)*
- *So, the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD. They brought it to Abinadab's house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard the ark of the LORD. The ark remained at Kiriath Jearim a long time—twenty years in all. Then all the people of Israel turned back to the LORD. (7:1-2)*
- **God defeats the Philistines (7)**
 - *Samuel said to all the Israelites, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only... So, the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. (7:3-4)*
 - *Then Samuel said, "Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the LORD for you." When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, "We have sinned against the LORD." (7:5-6)*
 - *...When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them... Then Samuel*

- took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD... While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But... the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar. (7:7-11)*
- *Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.” (7:12)*
 - *So, the Philistines were subdued, and they stopped invading Israel’s territory. Throughout Samuel’s lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to Israel, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites. (7:13-14)*
 - *Samuel continued as Israel’s leader all the days of his life. From year to year, he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places. But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also held court for Israel. And he built an altar there to the LORD. (7:15-17)*
 - **Saul, the First King (Chapters 8–15).**
 - **The people demand a king.**
 - *When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel’s leaders. The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. (8:1-3)*
 - *So, all the elders of Israel... said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.” ...this displeased Samuel; so, he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king... Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.” (8:4-9)*
 - *But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “...We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.” (8:19-20)*
 - **Saul becomes king.**
 - *...a Benjamite... Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else. (9:1-2)*
 - *Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul’s head and kissed him, saying, “Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance? (10:1)*
 - *Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the LORD at Mizpah and said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.’ But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your disasters and calamities. And you have said, ‘No, appoint a king over us.’ So now present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and clans.” When Samuel had all Israel come forward by tribes, the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan*

by clan, and Matri's clan was taken. Finally Saul son of Kish was taken... They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!" (10:17-24)

- Saul defeated the Ammonites at Jabesh Gilead (11:1-11).
- Saul was confirmed as king at Gilgal (11:12-14).
- Samuel's farewell speech as Israel's judge.
 - *Samuel said to all Israel, "I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you. Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day. Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the LORD and his anointed... "You have not cheated or oppressed us," they replied... Samuel said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and also his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." "He is witness," they said. (12:1-5)*
 - *"Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do... I will call on the LORD to send thunder and rain. And you will realize what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the LORD when you asked for a king." Then Samuel called on the LORD, and that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain. So, all the people stood in awe of the LORD and of Samuel... "Pray to the LORD your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king." "Do not be afraid," Samuel replied. "You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD but serve the LORD with all your heart. Do not turn away after useless idols... For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people... far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right..." (12:16-25)*
- King Saul's reign.
 - *Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty- two years. (13:1)*
 - War with the Philistines (13-14).
 - *Under Saul's leadership, Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba (13:3). The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore... When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical... they hid in caves... Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter... And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived... "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure..." Then Samuel left Gilgal... and Saul counted the men who were with him. They numbered about six hundred. (13:3-15)*
 - *Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp... Not a blacksmith could be found in the whole land of Israel... So, all*

Israel went down to the Philistines to have their plow points, mattocks, axes, and sickles sharpened... not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them. (13:17-22)

- *One day Jonathan... said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father. Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah... With him were about six hundred men, among whom was Ahijah (a priest)... Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "...Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." ...his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul." ...So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost... The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson." So, Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel." ...The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him. In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men... Then panic struck the whole army... and the ground shook. It was a panic sent by God. Saul's lookouts at Gibeah... saw the army melting away in all directions. Then Saul said to the men who were with him, "Muster the forces and see who has left us." When they did, it was Jonathan and his armor-bearer who were not there... Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords... So, on that day the LORD saved Israel, and the battle moved on... (14:1-23)*
- *Now the Israelites were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, "Cursed be anyone who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!" So, none of the troops tasted food. The entire army entered the woods, and there was honey on the ground. When they went into the woods, they saw the honey oozing out; yet no one put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath. But Jonathan had not heard that his father had bound the people with the oath, so he reached out the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb. He raised his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened.*

Then one of the soldiers told him, "Your father bound the army under a strict oath, saying, 'Cursed be anyone who eats food today!' That is why the men are faint." Jonathan said, "My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened when I tasted a little of this honey. How much better it would have been if the men had eaten today some of the plunder, they took from their enemies..." That day, after the Israelites had struck down the Philistines... They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle, and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood.

Then someone said to Saul, "Look, the men are sinning against the LORD by eating meat that has blood in it." ... Then he said, "Go out among the men and tell them, 'Each of

you bring me your cattle and sheep, and slaughter them here and eat them. Do not sin against the LORD by eating meat with blood still in it.” ...Then Saul built an altar to the LORD...

Saul said, “Let us go down and pursue the Philistines by night and plunder them till dawn and let us not leave one of them alive.” ...But the priest said, “Let us inquire of God here.” ...But God did not answer him that day. Saul therefore said, “Come here, all you who are leaders of the army, and let us find out what sin has been committed today. ...Then Saul prayed to the LORD, the God of Israel, “Why have you not answered your servant today?” Jonathan and Saul were taken by lot, and the men were cleared... And Jonathan was taken. Then Saul said to Jonathan, “Tell me what you have done.” So, Jonathan told him, “I tasted a little honey with the end of my staff and now I must die!” ...But the men said to Saul, “Should Jonathan die? ...Never! ...for he did this today with God’s help.” So, the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death. Then Saul stopped pursuing the Philistines, and they withdrew to their own land.

After Saul had assumed rule over Israel, he fought against their enemies on every side: Moab, the Ammonites, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines... All the days of Saul there was bitter war with the Philistines, and whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service. (14:14-52)

- Saul’s rejection (15).
 - *Samuel said to Saul, “...This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels, and donkeys.’”*
 - *...Then Saul attacked the Amalekites... But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle... everything that was good... (15:1-9)*
 - *Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.” When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”*

But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

“Enough!” Samuel said to Saul... “Although you were once small in your own eyes... The LORD anointed you king over Israel. And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy ...the Amalekites... Why did you not obey the LORD?’”

“But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted-

ed to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD...

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD." But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!"

...And Samuel put Agag to death before the LORD at Gilgal. Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah... Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

(15:12-35)

- David, the Anointed Successor (Chapters 16–31)
 - God chose David to replace Saul. *The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." ...Samuel did what the LORD said. ...he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ...Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these.... Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered... So, he sent for him... He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah. (16:1-13)*
 - Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him... So, Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me." ...David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers... Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. (16:14-23)
 - David defeated Goliath (17).
 - *Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah... Saul and the Israelites assembled... and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines... A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span (about 10 feet). He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels (about 125 pounds); on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels (about*

15 pounds)... Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "... Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us... This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ... Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

- ...Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war... but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem. For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand. Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers... Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them... David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed... Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear...

David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" ... What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him. David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "... Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God..." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around... "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So, he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine... He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!" David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head..." As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground... He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath... he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines... Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp. David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put

- the Philistine's weapons in his own tent... (17)*
- Saul became insanely jealous of David and tried to kill him multiple times (18-19).
 - *...From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family.*
 - *...Jonathan became one in spirit with David... And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself...*
 - *Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well. When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." Saul was very angry... And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.*
 - *The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand, and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul...*
 - *...David led the troops in their campaigns. In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David because he led them in their campaigns....*
 - *...Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. "I will give her to him," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." ...Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage. When Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days.*
 - *...Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard... go into hiding and stay there... I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out." ...Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death." So, Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.*
 - *Once more war broke out, and David went out and fought the Philistines. He struck them with such force that they fled before him. But an evil spirit from the LORD came on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the lyre, Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape. Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed." So, Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped...*
 - *When David had fled and made his escape, he went to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him...*
 - David spent years running from Saul (20-27).

- David's friendship with Jonathan (20).
 - *...Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD call David's enemies to account." And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself...*
 - *...Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan... "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!" "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" Jonathan asked his father. But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David...*
 - *Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.*
- *David went to Nob, to Ahimelek the priest... "...what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find." ...So, the priest gave him the consecrated bread... David asked Ahimelek, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon..." The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one." David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."*
- *David pretended to be insane. That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath. But the servants of Achish said to him, "Isn't this David, the king of the land?" ...David... was very much afraid of Achish... So, he pretended to be insane in their presence... making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard. Achish said to his servants, "...Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me?"*
- *David gathered an army (22). David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him. From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?" So, he left them with the king of Moab... But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So, David left and went to the forest of Hereth.*
- *Saul ordered the murder of the priests of Nob (22). Saul heard that David and his men had been discovered... Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelek... Ahimelek inquired of the LORD for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine." Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelek... and all the men of his family, who were the priests at Nob... "Why have you conspired against me, you*

and the son of Jesse, giving him bread and a sword and inquiring of God for him, so that he has rebelled against me and lies in wait for me, as he does today?" Ahimelek answered the king, "Who of all your servants is as loyal as David, the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard and highly respected in your household? Was that day the first time I inquired of God for him? Of course not! Let not the king accuse your servant or any of his father's family, for your servant knows nothing at all about this whole affair." But the king said, "You will surely die... you and your whole family." Then the king ordered the guards at his side: "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because they too have sided with David..." But the king's officials were unwilling to... strike the priests of the LORD. The king then ordered Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests." So, Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men... He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys, and sheep. But one son... Abiathar, escaped and fled to join David...

- David saved Keilah (23). When David was told, "...the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors," he inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" The LORD answered him, "Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah." ...So, David and his men went to Keilah, fought the Philistines, and carried off their livestock. He inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah...

Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah, and he said, "God has delivered him into my hands, for David has imprisoned himself by entering a town with gates and bars." And Saul called up all his forces for battle, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men... So, David and his men, about six hundred in number, left Keilah and kept moving from place to place. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he did not go there. David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands... The Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hakhilah, south of Jeshimon? ...come down whenever it pleases you to do so, and we will be responsible for giving him into your hands." ... David and his men were in the Desert of Maon, in the Arabah south of Jeshimon. Saul and his men began the search, and when David was told about it, he went down to the rock and stayed in the Desert of Maon. When Saul heard this, he went into the Desert of Maon in pursuit of David. Saul was going along one side of the mountain, and David and his men were on the other side, hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his forces were closing in on David and his men to capture them, a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Come quickly! The Philistines are raiding the land." Then Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines... And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of En Gedi.

- David spared Saul's Life (24). After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So, Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men... He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave... David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-

stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, "...This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, '...he is the LORD's anointed.' ...look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you... Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?" And he wept aloud. "You are more righteous than I... You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly... May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today... I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family." So, David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

- David and Nabal (25). While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. So, he sent... ten men and said to them... Say to him: '...When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing... Therefore, be favorable toward my men... Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.'" Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? ...Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?" David's men turned around and... reported every word. David said to his men, "Each of you strap on your sword!" ...About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies. One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. Yet these men were very good to us..." Abigail acted quickly. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs (about 60 pounds) of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband... As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them... She fell at his feet and said: "Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you... Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal... his name means Fool, and folly goes with him... let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you... David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day..." Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said,

“Go home in peace...” When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So, she told him nothing at all until daybreak. Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him, and he became like a stone. About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.. Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife... Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five female servants, went with David’s messengers and became his wife. David had also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both were his wives. But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David’s wife, to Paltiel... who was from Gallim.

- David spared Saul’s life a second time (26). Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand select Israelite troops, to search there for David. Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the wilderness... Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner... the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him... David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

Abishai said to David, “Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won’t strike him twice.” But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless? ...the LORD himself will strike him, or his time will come, and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go.”

So, David took the spear and water jug near Saul’s head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep. Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away... He called out to the army and to Abner... Abner replied, “Who are you who calls to the king?” David said, “...Why didn’t you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king. What you have done is not good. As surely as the LORD lives, you and your men must die, because you did not guard your master, the LORD’s anointed. Look around you. Where are the king’s spear and water jug that were near his head?”

Saul recognized David’s voice and said, “Is that your voice, David my son?” David replied, “Yes it is, my lord the king... Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of?” Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again...” “Here is the king’s spear,” David answered. “... The LORD delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed...” Then Saul said to David, “May you be blessed, David my son; you will do great things and surely triumph.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

- David lived among the Philistines (27). David thought to himself, “One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand.” So, David and the six hundred men with him left and

went over to Achish... king of Gath. David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.

When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him. Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?" So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since. David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.

Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites... Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys, and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish... He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, "They might inform on us... And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory. Achish trusted David and said to himself, "He has become so obnoxious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant for life."

In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, "You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army." David said, "Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do." Achish replied, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

- Saul consulted a sorceress at Endor (28).

*Remember, Exodus 22:18, "Do not allow a sorceress to live."

The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him... Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her." "There is one in Endor," they said. So, Saul disguised himself... and at night he and two men went to the woman... Then the woman asked, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" "Bring up Samuel," he said. ...The woman said, "I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth... An old man wearing a robe is coming up..." Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" "I am in great distress," Saul said. "The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So, I have called on you to tell me what to do." Samuel said, "...The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to... David. Because you did not obey the LORD... [he] will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me... Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear..."

- David went back to Ziklag (29) The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel. As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish... the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not

go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting... So Achish called David and said to him, "...get up early, along with your master's servants who have come with you and leave in the morning as soon as it is light." So, David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag... When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. So, David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep... But David found strength in the LORD his God... David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind... They found an Egyptian in a field... David asked him, "...Where do you come from?" He said, "I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago. We raided the Negev... And we burned Ziklag." David asked him, "Can you lead me down to this raiding party?" ...He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah. David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled. David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives... He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, "This is David's plunder." Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Valley... As David and his men approached... all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered..." David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us... The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." ...When David reached Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, "Here is a gift for you from the plunder of the LORD's enemies."

- Saul took his own life (31). Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines were in hot pursuit of Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically. Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me." But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it. When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him... When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that

Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them.

The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. They cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and they sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news... They put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan. When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all their valiant men marched through the night to Beth Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them. Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

2nd Samuel

- The Book The book of 2nd Samuel is the “Book of David’s Reign.”
- It covers 40 years beginning with David’s ascension after Saul’s death and ending just before David’s death.
- The book was most likely written by Nathan and Gad. *As for the events of King David’s reign, from beginning to end, they are written in the records of Samuel the seer, the records of Nathan the prophet and the records of Gad the seer, together with the details of his reign and power, and the circumstances that surrounded him and Israel and the kingdoms of all the other lands. (1 Chronicles 29:29–30)*

OUTLINE

- David’s Triumphs (Chapters 1–10).
 - At first, David only reigned over Judah with Hebron as his capital (1-4).
 - The report of Saul’s death. *After the death of Saul, David returned from striking down the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days. On the third day a man arrived from Saul’s camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor... “I have escaped from the Israelite camp... The men fled from the battle... Many of them fell... Saul and his son Jonathan are dead.” Then David said to the young man... “How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?” “I happened to be on Mount Gilboa,” the young man said, “and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and their drivers in hot pursuit. When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me... Then he said to me, ‘Stand here by me and kill me! ...So, I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew ...he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord.’”*

Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and for the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. David said to the young man who brought him the report, “...Why weren’t you afraid to lift your hand to destroy the LORD’s anointed?” Then David called one of his men and said, “Go, strike him down!” So, he struck him down, and he died... David had said to him, “Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, ‘I killed the LORD’s anointed.’”
 - ...David inquired of the LORD. “Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?” The LORD said, “Go up.” David asked, “Where shall I

go?” “To Hebron,” the LORD answered. So, David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam... and Abigail... David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah...

- David reigned over Judah from Hebron seven years and six months because the other tribes would not accept him as Saul’s successor. It was a period of civil war between the house of Saul and the house of David (2).

- Abner... the commander of Saul’s army, had taken Ish-Bosheth son of Saul... He made him king over Gilead, Ashuri and Jezreel, and also over Ephraim, Benjamin and all Israel. Ish-Bosheth... was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he reigned two years. The tribe of Judah, however, remained loyal to David...

- Abner... together with the men of Ish-Bosheth... went to Gibeon. Joab... and David’s men went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. One group sat down on one side of the pool and one group on the other side.

Then Abner said to Joab, “Let’s have some of the young men get up and fight hand to hand in front of us.” “All right, let them do it,” Joab said. So, they stood up and were counted off—twelve men for Benjamin and Ish-Bosheth... and twelve for David. Then each man grabbed his opponent by the head and thrust his dagger into his opponent’s side, and they fell down together... The battle that day was very fierce, and Abner and the Israelites were defeated by David’s men. The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai and Asahel. Asahel was as fleet-footed as a wild gazelle. He chased Abner, turning neither to the right nor to the left as he pursued him... Then Abner said to him, “Turn aside to the right or to the left... But Asahel would not stop chasing him. Again, Abner warned Asahel, “Stop chasing me! ...How could I look your brother Joab in the face?” But Asahel refused to give up the pursuit; so, Abner thrust the butt of his spear into Asahel’s stomach, and the spear came out through his back. He fell there and died on the spot. And every man stopped when he came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died. But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner... Then the men of Benjamin rallied behind Abner... Abner called out to Joab, “Must the sword devour forever? ...How long before you order your men to stop pursuing their fellow Israelites?” ...So, Joab blew the trumpet, and all the troops came to a halt... They took Asahel and buried him in his father’s tomb at Bethlehem.

- The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

- Abner turned to David, but Joab murdered Abner (3)

Now Saul had had a concubine named Rizpah... And Ish-Bosheth said to Abner, “Why did you sleep with my father’s concubine?” Abner was very angry because of what Ish-Bosheth said... Then Abner sent messengers on his behalf to say to David, “...Make an agreement with me, and I will help you bring all Israel over to you.” “Good,” said David. “I will make an agreement with you. But I demand one thing of you:

Do not come into my presence unless you bring Michal, daughter of Saul when you come to see me.” Then David sent messengers to Ish-Bosheth... “Give me my wife Michal...” So, Ish-Bosheth gave orders and had her taken away from her husband Paltiel... Abner conferred with the elders of Israel and said, “For some time you have wanted to make David your king. Now do it!” ...Abner also spoke to the Benjamites in person. Then he went to Hebron to tell David everything that Israel and the whole tribe of Benjamin wanted to do... Then Abner said to David, “Let me go at once and assemble all Israel for my lord the king, so that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may rule over all that your heart desires.” So, David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

Just then David’s men and Joab returned from a raid and brought with them a great deal of plunder... When Joab and all the soldiers with him arrived, he was told that Abner... had come to the king and that the king had sent him away and that he had gone in peace. So, Joab went to the king and said, “What have you done? You know Abner... he came to deceive you and observe your movements and find out everything you are doing.” Joab then left David and sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back... when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into an inner chamber, as if to speak with him privately. And there, to avenge the blood of his brother Asahel, Joab stabbed him in the stomach, and he died...

...when David heard about this, he said, “I and my kingdom are forever innocent before the LORD concerning the blood of Abner... May Joab’s family never be without someone who has a running sore or leprosy or who leans on a crutch or who falls by the sword or who lacks food.” ...Then David said to Joab and all the people with him, “Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and walk in mourning in front of Abner.” King David himself walked behind the bier. They buried Abner in Hebron, and the king wept aloud at Abner’s tomb. All the people wept also...

- The death of Ish-Bosheth (4).

When Ish-Bosheth... heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel became alarmed. [Ish Bosheth] had two men who were leaders of raiding bands... Baanah and... Rekab... Rekab and Baanah... set out for the house of Ish-Bosheth, and they arrived... he was taking his noontday rest. They went into the inner part of the house as if to get some wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach... they cut off his head... they traveled all night... [and] brought the head of Ish-Bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, “Here is the head of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, your enemy, who tried to kill you...” David answered... “As surely as the LORD lives... when someone told me, ‘Saul is dead,’ and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and put him to death in Ziklag. ...How much more—when wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed—should I not now demand his blood from your hand and rid the earth of you!” So, David gave an order to his men, and they killed them. They cut off their hands and feet and

hung the bodies by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-Bosheth and buried it in Abner's tomb at Hebron.

- David was crowned king over all Israel at Hebron (5:1-4).
- David conquered Jerusalem, taking it from the Jebusites 5:6-12).

The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. ...They thought, "David cannot get in here." Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David... David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David... Hiram king of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David. Then David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

- David defeated the Philistines (5:17-25).

When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold... So, David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them... Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; so David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the poplar trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the poplar trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army." So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

- The Ark was brought to Jerusalem (6).

David ...and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God... They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab... Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD... When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled... God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God. Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah... David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?" He was not willing to take the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The ark of the LORD remained [for three months].

David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So, David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David... When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal... watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD. After he had finished

sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty. Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!" David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this..." And Michal ...had no children to the day of her death.

- The Davidic Covenant (7).
 - David wanted to build a permanent temple in Jerusalem, but God told him, *When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you... He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (7:12-13)*
 - God promised David:
 - *I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.*
 - *I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed.*
 - *I will also give you rest from all your enemies.*
 - *Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.*
- David defeated the *Philistines, Moabites, Arameans, Amalekites, and Ammonites*; and established a government *doing what was just and right for all his people* (8).
- David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, restoring all Saul's land to him and giving him a permanent place at the king's table (9).
- David defeated the Ammonites again (10).
 - *... the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun succeeded him as king.*
 - *...David sent a delegation to express his sympathy to Hanun concerning his father... Hanun seized David's envoys, shaved off half of each man's beard, cut off their garments at the buttocks, and sent them away.*
 - *...When the Ammonites realized that they had become obnoxious to David, they hired twenty thousand Aramean foot soldiers... as well as the king of Maakah with a thousand men, and also twelve thousand men from Tob.*
 - *David sent Joab out with the entire army of fighting men. The Ammonites came out and drew up in battle formation at the entrance of their city gate, while the Arameans of Zobah and Rehob and the men of Tob and Maakah were by themselves in the open country. Joab saw that there were battle lines in front of him and behind him; so, he selected some of the best troops in Israel and deployed them against the Arameans. He put the rest of the men under the command of Abishai his brother and deployed them against the Ammonites... Then Joab and the troops with him advanced to fight the Arameans, and they fled before him. When the Ammonites realized that the Arameans*

were fleeing, they fled before Abishai and went inside the city. So, Joab returned from fighting the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.

- After the Arameans saw that they had been routed by Israel, they regrouped. Hadadezer had Arameans brought from beyond the Euphrates River; they went to Helam, with Shobak the commander of Hadadezer's army leading them. When David was told of this, he gathered all Israel, crossed the Jordan and went to Helam. The Arameans formed their battle lines to meet David and fought against him. But they fled before Israel, and David killed seven hundred of their charioteers and forty thousand of their foot soldiers. He also struck down Shobak the commander of their army, and he died there. When all the kings who were vassals of Hadadezer saw that they had been routed by Israel, they made peace with the Israelites and became subject to them. So, the Arameans were afraid to help the Ammonites anymore.
- David's Tragedy (11-12).

- Sin (11:1-5).

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba... the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her... The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

- Coverup (11:5-27).

So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." ...When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So, Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

David was told, "Uriah did not go home." So, he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!" Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So, Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." So, while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died. Joab sent David a full account of the battle... "Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead."

When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

- Confrontation (12:1-12).

The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup, and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own... Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

- Repentance (12:13)

**See Psalm 51.*

Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

- Consequences (12:13-25).

Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die.”

After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them. On the seventh day the child died. David’s attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, he wouldn’t listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate.” David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked. “Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.”

Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions, and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate. His attendants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!” He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” Then David

comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

- David's Troubles (Chapters 13–24).

**As a result of David's sin, God said, "Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel." (12:11-12)*

- Absalom killed Amnon for raping Tamar. *Amnon son of David (with Ahinoam – 3:2) fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David (with Maacah – 3:3). Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill... Amnon had an adviser named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." "Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.'"*

So, Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand." David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him." So, Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying down... "Send everyone out of here," Amnon said. So, everyone left him... Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom. But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister." "No, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me! Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing..." But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred... He called his personal servant and said, "Get this woman out of my sight and bolt the door after her."

...Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornate robe she was wearing. She put her hands on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went...

Two years later, when Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king's sons to come there... Absalom ordered his men, "Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, 'Strike Amnon down,' then kill him..." So, Absalom's men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered... Then Absalom fled...

- After a time, Joab finally persuaded David to let Absalom return to Jerusalem (14:23-33).

Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. But the king said, "He must go to his own house; he must not see my face." So, Absalom went to his own house... In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom... he used to cut his hair once a year because it became too heavy for him—he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels (about 5 pounds)... Three sons and a daughter were born to Absalom. His daughter's name was Tamar, and she became a beautiful woman.

Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face. Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come to him. So, he sent a second time, but he refused to come. Then

he said to his servants, "Look, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire." So, Absalom's servants set the field on fire. Then Joab did go to Absalom's house, and he said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?" Absalom said to Joab, "Look, I sent word to you and said, 'Come here so I can send you to the king to ask, Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there! ...I want to see the king's face, and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death.'" So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

- Absalom attempted to overthrow David (15-19).

...Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him. He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, "What town are you from?" He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you." And Absalom would add, "If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice." Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel...

At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD... 'If the LORD takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the LORD in Hebron.'" The king said to him, "Go in peace." So, he went to Hebron. Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" ... And so... Absalom's following kept on increasing.

A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom." Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom... The king set out, with his entire household following him; but he left ten concubines to take care of the palace... The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by... David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot... As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul... came out... Shimei... He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!" Then Abishai... "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head." But the king said, "...My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today." ...The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted.

...Meanwhile, Absalom and all the men of Israel came to Jerusalem... and Ahithophel was with him... Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give us your advice. What should we do?" Ahithophel answered, "Sleep with your fa-

ther's concubines whom he left to take care of the palace. Then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself obnoxious to your father, and the hands of everyone with you will be more resolute." So, they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and he slept with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel...

...Ahithophel said to Absalom, "I would choose twelve thousand men and set out tonight in pursuit of David. I would attack him while he is weary and weak. I would strike him with terror, and then all the people with him will flee. I would strike down only the king and bring all the people back to you. The death of the man you seek will mean the return of all..." But Absalom said, "Summon also Hushai the Arkite, so we can hear what he has to say as well." Hushai replied to Absalom, "The advice Ahithophel has given is not good this time. You know your father and his men; they are fighters, and as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs. Besides, your father is an experienced fighter... Even now, he is hidden in a cave or some other place... So, I advise you: Let all Israel... be gathered to you, with you yourself leading them into battle. Then we will attack him wherever he may be found, and we will fall on him as dew settles on the ground..."

...David and all the people with him set out and crossed the Jordan. By daybreak, no one was left who had not crossed the Jordan. When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and set out for his ...hometown. He put his house in order and then hanged himself... Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel... David mustered the men who were with him and appointed over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. David sent out his troops, a third under the command of Joab, a third under Joab's brother Abishai... and a third under Ittai the Gittite. ...The king commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, "Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake." ...David's army marched out of the city to fight Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim. There Israel's troops were routed by David's men... Absalom happened to meet David's men. He was riding his mule, and as the mule went under the thick branches of a large oak, Absalom's hair got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in midair, while the mule he was riding kept on going. When one of the men saw what had happened, he told Joab... [Joab] took three javelins in his hand and plunged them into Absalom's heart while Absalom was still alive in the oak tree. And ten of Joab's armor-bearers surrounded Absalom, struck him, and killed him. Then Joab sounded the trumpet, and the troops stopped pursuing Israel... They took Absalom, threw him into a big pit in the forest and piled up a large heap of rocks over him. Meanwhile, all the Israelites fled to their homes.

Then Joab said to a Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed down before Joab and ran off. ...Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain and outran the Cushite... Ahimaaz called out to the king, "All is well!" He bowed down before the king with his face to the ground and said, "Praise be to the LORD your God! He has delivered up those who lifted their hands against my lord the king." ...Then the Cushite arrived and said, "My lord the king, hear the good news! The LORD has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you." The king asked the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" The Cushite replied, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to harm you be like that young man." The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!" Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on

that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son."

Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead... Meanwhile, the Israelites had fled to their homes."

- Sheba's rebellion (19:9-43).

Throughout the tribes of Israel, all the people were arguing among themselves, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies; he is the one who rescued us from the hand of the Philistines. But now he has fled the country to escape from Absalom; and Absalom, whom we anointed to rule over us, has died in battle..." King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests: "Ask the elders of Judah, '...why should you be the last to bring back the king?' ...He won over the hearts of the men of Judah so that they were all of one mind. They sent word to the king, "Return, you and all your men." Then the king returned and went as far as the Jordan.

Now the men of Judah had come to Gilgal to go out and meet the king and bring him across the Jordan. Shimei... the Benjamite... hurried down with the men of Judah to meet King David. With him were a thousand Benjamites... They rushed to the Jordan, where the king was... Shimei... fell prostrate before the king and said to him, "May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem... For I your servant know that I have sinned..." Then Abishai... said, "Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this? He cursed the LORD's anointed." David replied, "...Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Don't I know that today I am king over Israel?" So, the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die."

...Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, also went down to meet the king. He had not taken care of his feet or trimmed his mustache or washed his clothes from the day the king left until the day he returned safely. When he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, the king asked him, "Why didn't you go with me, Mephibosheth?" He said, "My lord the king, since I your servant am lame, I said, 'I will have my donkey saddled and will ride on it, so I can go with the king.' But Ziba my servant betrayed me. And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king... so, do whatever you wish... The king said to him, "Why say more? I order you and Ziba to divide the land." Mephibosheth said to the king, "Let him take everything, now that my lord the king has returned home safely."

...So, all the people crossed the Jordan, and then the king crossed over... All the troops of Judah and half the troops of Israel had taken the king over. Soon all the men of Israel were coming to the king and saying to him, "Why did our brothers, the men of Judah, steal the king away and bring him and his household across the Jordan, together with all his men?" All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "We did this because the king is closely related to us. Why are you angry about it? Have we eaten any of the king's provisions? Have we taken anything for ourselves?" ...Now a troublemaker named Sheba... a Benjamite, happened to be there. He sounded the trumpet and shouted, "We have no share in David, no part in Jesse's son! Every man to his tent, Israel!" So all the men of Israel deserted David to follow Sheba... But the men of Judah stayed by their king all the way from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

...When David returned to his palace in Jerusalem, he took the ten concu-

bines he had left to take care of the palace and put them in a house under guard. He provided for them... Then the king said to Amasa, "Summon the men of Judah to come to me within three days and be here yourself." But when Amasa went to summon Judah, he took longer than the time the king had set for him. David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba... will do us more harm than Absalom did. Take your master's men and pursue him, or he will find fortified cities and escape from us."

So, Joab's men and the Kerethites and Pelethites and all the mighty warriors went out under the command of Abishai. They marched out from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba... Amasa came to meet them. Joab was wearing his military tunic, and strapped over it at his waist was a belt with a dagger in its sheath. As he stepped forward, it dropped out of its sheath. Joab said to Amasa, "How are you, my brother?" Then Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. Amasa was not on his guard against the dagger in Joab's hand, and Joab plunged it into his belly, and his intestines spilled out on the ground. Without being stabbed again, Amasa died. Then Joab and his brother Abishai pursued Sheba... One of Joab's men stood beside Amasa and said, "Whoever favors Joab, and whoever is for David, let him follow Joab!" Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the middle of the road, and the man saw that all the troops came to a halt there. When he realized that everyone who came up to Amasa stopped, he dragged him from the road into a field and threw a garment over him. After Amasa had been removed from the road, everyone went on with Joab to pursue Sheba...

Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel Beth Maakah and through the entire region of the Bikrites, who gathered together and followed him. All the troops with Joab came and besieged Sheba in Abel Beth Maakah. They built a siege ramp up to the city, and it stood against the outer fortifications. While they were battering the wall to bring it down, a wise woman called from the city... "...We are the peaceful and faithful in Israel... Why do you want to swallow up the LORD's inheritance?" ...Joab replied "Far be it from me to swallow up or destroy! ... A man named Sheba... from the hill country of Ephraim, has lifted up his hand against the king... Hand over this one man, and I'll withdraw from the city." The woman said to Joab, "His head will be thrown to you from the wall." Then the woman went to all the people with her wise advice, and they cut off the head of Sheba... and threw it to Joab. So, he sounded the trumpet, and his men dispersed from the city, each returning to his home...

- David gave the Gibeonites seven of Saul's descendants because of what Saul had done to them. Even though the Joshua made a covenant with the Gibeonites (see Joshua 9:15-21), Saul in his zeal for Israel and Judah had tried to annihilate them. (21:2)
- David attempted to lead Israel against the Philistines, but age was beginning to take its toll on him (21:15-22). Then David's men swore to him, saying, "Never again will you go out with us to battle, so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished."
- David's Mighty Men (23:8-39).
- David decided to take a census out of pride and arrogance. He realized his folly and repented (24).

Next week: 1st & 2nd Kings.