



2 SAMUEL

MAY 2018

Read on your own or with others,
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of this book. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to them than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

2 SAMUEL – INTRODUCTION

In 1 Samuel we saw the difference between Saul, Israel's first king, and David. Saul was the king that the people wanted and he failed to follow God. David was a man after God's own heart. How would he get on?

2 Samuel gives us the answer as it tells us about David's reign from approx. 1010 – 970 BC. In many ways David was a godly king. Yet, much of this book also shows us that he was an imperfect king. His mistakes would echo through history and we are left waiting for David's greater son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

OUTLINE

THE PATH TO THE THRONE: 2 SAMUEL 1-4

David has waited many years for God to remove Saul from the throne of Israel. It may strike us as strange then to read of his reaction when he hears the news. David shows us that the death of Saul, despite his mistakes, was a sad occasion. Israel's king is dead and Israel has lost the battle. David grieves with the nation rather than celebrate his own personal victory.

From here David's path to the throne doesn't get easier. These chapters contain a story of political and physical battles with all the intrigue and back stabbing that goes with it. David is uncomfortable with these events (2 Samuel 3:38-39) and surely they aren't needed because God had promised to make David king.

ESTABLISHING THE THRONE: 2 SAMUEL 5-8

These chapters contain two key moments in David's reign. The first is the defeat of Jerusalem, a city that had proved difficult to conquer up to this point (Joshua 15:63). David makes it the capital city and it will become the future location of the temple that Solomon, David's son, will build. David also transports the 'Ark of the Covenant' into Jerusalem although this doesn't go quite according to plan.

The second key event. And perhaps the most important event in 2 Samuel is found in chapter 7. Here God sends Nathan the prophet to

David with a prophecy from God. In it God promises that he will establish David's throne and that someone from his line will always be king. This promise is finally fulfilled in Jesus, David's greatest son (Luke 2:4).

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY: 2 SAMUEL 9–19

David's reign is characterized by contrasts. At times he is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ as he shows grace, generosity and wisdom. His dealing with Mephibosheth (chapter 9) is an example of this.

Yet, at other times we are left gasping at David's foolishness and the wickedness of his actions. His lack of self-control with Bathsheba and then his treatment of her husband Uriah, one of his best soldiers (2 Samuel 23:39), are a blot on his rule. However, even here there is encouragement as his repentance (see Psalm 51) followed by God's forgiveness show us the wonder of God's grace to us as sinners.

The second half of this section contains one of the saddest moments of David's reign. It begins with a failure on David's part to deal with a family problem and ends with David being driven out of Jerusalem by one of his sons. God is faithful though and the old king is re-established on the throne.

HEROES & VILLAINS: 2 SAMUEL 20–24

In this last section of the book we find some heroes and some villains. For the villains, we see Sheba, a troublemaker, and we see how David deals with him. Saul also gets a mention, as David has to deal with the fallout of one of Saul's many mistakes. The last villain is David himself as he disobeys God and takes a census of his men. The book ends with David pleading with God to turn from his anger at his sin.

In contrast we also see some of Israel's heroes. The warriors in chapter 23 are honoured for their bravery, courage and accomplishments; some of which were extremely impressive. However, the greatest hero is God himself. David acknowledges this in chapter 22 as he praises God his rock, fortress and deliverer.

ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life (Matthew 7:24-27)