

2 Samuel

MEANING: Samuel means “The name of God,” “His name is God,” “Heard of God,” or “Asked of God.”

AUTHOR: Jewish Talmudic tradition says it was written by Samuel. He may have written a portion of the book, but his death is recorded in 1 Samuel 25:1 making it clear that he did not write all of 1 & 2 Samuel. 1 Chronicles 29:29 refers to “The Book of Samuel the Seer,” “the Book of Nathan the prophet,” and “the “Book of gad the Seer.” All three may have contributed to 1 & 2 Samuel.

TIME WRITTEN:

- 10th Book in the Bible
- 10th book in the Old Testament
- 5th of 12 books of history
- 9 have preceded it. 56 to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 24

VERSES: 695

WORDS: 20,612

KEY WORD: David

1. David is the central character of 2 Samuel.
2. The entire book is centered around him.

TWO KEY PASSAGES:

1. **2 Samuel 7:12-13** - "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
2. **2 Samuel 22:21** - "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.

KEY CHAPTERS: 2 Samuel 11

1. 2 Samuel 11 is pivotal for the entire book.
2. It records the tragic sins of David regarding Bathsheba and her husband Uriah.
3. All of the widespread blessings on David and his family and his kingdom are quickly removed as God chastises him.
4. Sin mars potential.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT 2 SAMUEL:

1. The story of David begins in 1 Samuel 16 and ends in 2 Kings 2.
2. David is the halfway point between Abraham and Christ.
3. 2 Samuel records the highlights of David's forty year reign.
 - a. His 7½ years of reigning from Hebron (1011 B.C. to 1004 B.C.) 2 Samuel 1 - 5:5
 - b. His 33 years of reigning over Judah and Israel. (1004 B.C. to 971 B.C.) 2 Samuel 5:6 - 24:25
4. 2 Samuel continues the account of the life of David at the point where 1 Samuel concludes.
5. The nation enjoys God's blessings when David is obedient to God and suffers hardship when David disobeys God.
6. 2 Samuel may be divided into three major divisions:
 - a. The Triumphs of David. (1-10)

- b. The Transgressions of David. (11)
 - c. The troubles of David. (12-24)
7. Concerning David the man:
- a. He sometimes fails in his personal life, but he never fails in his relationship with God. Even when he fails in his personal life, he is penitent and returns to God.
 - b. Unlike most kings who succeed him, he never allows idolatry to become a problem during his reign.
 - c. He is a true servant of God.
 - 1. He is obedient to God's law.
 - 2. He is an ideal king.
 - 3. His rule is usually characterized by:
 - a. Justice
 - b. Wisdom
 - c. Integrity
 - d. Courage
 - e. Compassion
8. The closing chapters of 2 Samuel summarize David's words and deeds
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SUMMARY OF 2 SAMUEL

INTRODUCTION:

- A. 2 Samuel continues the account of the life of David at the point where 1 Samuel concludes.
- B. Soon after the death of Saul, the king-elect becomes the king enthroned.
 - 1. First over Judah when he reigns in Hebron for 7 and one-half years.
 - 2. And finally over all Israel when he reigns in Jerusalem for 33 years.
- C. 2 Samuel reviews key events in the forty-year reign of David, the man who is the halfway point between Abraham and Christ.
- D. There are three divisions to 2 Samuel.
 - 1. The Triumphs of David. (1-10)
 - 2. The Transgressions of David. (11)
 - 3. The troubles of David. (12-24)

THE TRIUMPHS OF DAVID. (1-10)

- A. Chapters 1 through 4 record the seven-year reign of David over the territory of Judah.
 - 1. Even though Saul is David's murderous pursuer, David does not rejoice in his death because he recognizes that Saul has been divinely anointed as king.
 - 2. Saul's sons Ishbosheth is installed by Abner as a puppet king over the northern tribes of Israel. (2:17; 3:1)
 - 3. David's allies led by Joab defeat Abner and Israel. (2:17; 3:1)
 - 4. Abner defects and arranges to unite Israel and Judah under David, but Joab kills Abner in revenge.
 - 6. The powerless Ishbosheth is murdered by his own men, and David is made king of Israel. (5:1)
- B. David soon captures and fortifies Jerusalem and makes it the civil and religious center of the now united kingdom
 - 1. Under David's rule, the nation prospers:
 - a. Politically.
 - b. Spiritually.
 - c. Militarily.
 - 2. David brings the Ark to Jerusalem and seeks to build a house for God, (7)
- C. His obedience at placing the Lord at the center of his rule leads to great national blessings. (8- 10) "And the Lord preserved David wherever he went" (8:14)

THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF DAVID. (11)

- A. David's sins of adultery and murder mark the pivotal point of the book.
- B. Because of these transgressions, David's victories and successes are changed to the personal, family, and national troubles that are recorded throughout the rest of 2 Samuel.

THE TROUBLES OF DAVID. (12-24)

- A. The disobedience of the king produces chastisement and confusion at every level.
 - 1. David's glory and fame fade, never to be the same again.
 - 2. Nevertheless, David confesses his guilt when confronted by Nathan the prophet and is restored by God.
 - 3. A sword remains in David's house as a consequence of the sin.
 - a. The baby born to David and Bathsheba dies.
 - b. His son Amnon commits incest.
 - c. His son Absalom murders Amnon.
- B. The consequences continue with Absalom's rebellion against his father.
 - 1. He shrewdly "stole the hearts of the men of Israel" (15:5).
 - 2. David is forced to flee from Jerusalem, and Absalom set himself up as king.
 - 3. David would have been ruined, but God keeps Absalom from pursuing him until David has time to regroup his forces.
 - 4. Absalom's army is defeated by David's, and Joab kills Absalom in disobedience of David's orders to have him spared.
- C. David seeks to amalgamate, but conflict breaks out between the ten northern tribes of Israel and the two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin.
 - 1. Israel decides to follow a man named Sheba in a revolt against David, but Judah remains faithful to him.
 - 2. This leads to war, and Joab defeats the rebels.
- D. The closing chapters are actually an appendix to the book because they summarize David's words and deeds.

1. They show how intimately the affairs of the people as a whole are tied to the spiritual and moral condition of the king.
2. The nation enjoys God's blessing when David is obedient to the Lord, and it suffers hardship when David disobeys God.