



“REASONS TO REJOICE”

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

I and II SAMUEL ***Lesson 14***

Today we will begin our adventure through II Samuel. The Books of I and II Samuel were originally placed together in one continuous account in the Hebrew Bible. They were later divided into two separate books. Let’s briefly look at some of the history behind this book before we jump in.

First, Second and Third Day

Who is the author?

This book is thought to have been a combination of writings from various prophets, such as Nathan and Gad (I Chronicles 29:29). “The Book of Jasher” (II Samuel 1:18) appears to have been used as another source. The author, thought to be an unknown prophet from the prophetic school that Samuel established (I Samuel 19:20), compiled these written chronicles together to form II Samuel. (Most likely it is the same prophet that finished the writing of I Samuel after Samuel’s death.) The book was named after the famous prophet that anointed David for special service to the Lord.

When was it written?

These books had to be completed after Solomon’s death (931 B.C.) since there is a reference to a divided monarchy in which Judah is separated from Israel (I Samuel 27:6). Because it also included the death of David, it must have been after 971 B.C., but before the destruction of Samaria and the Assyrian captivity of the northern kingdom in 722 B.C. Most believe it was written approximately 900 B.C.

Why was it written?

There was more than one purpose for the writing of this book. Many will unfold as you study the chapters each week. Some of what are considered the “main” purposes for this book include:

(1) To record the highlights of David’s reign. (2) To teach important spiritual truths. (3) To show David’s triumphs and troubles. (4) To demonstrate effective leadership under God. (5) To show that one person can make a difference. (6) To depict David as an ideal leader of an imperfect kingdom, and to foreshadow Christ, who will be the ideal leader of a new and perfect kingdom (chapter 7).

II Samuel picks up where I Samuel ends, which is at the tragic death of Saul and his sons. We will be reading some of the highlights of David’s reign, but you can read some of the other events that are not given here, but are recorded in 1 Chronicles 11-29.

As we study this book together, allow the Holy Spirit to speak directly to your heart. Ask Him daily to show you what you can learn from each chapter and then how to apply it to your own life. Even though this book was written long ago, it is still relevant to you and me. There is much to learn. Teach us, Holy Spirit!

- 1. Let’s begin by trying to get a good understanding of this book as a whole. Of course that requires a little reading. (Okay, a lot of reading!) Read the whole book of II Samuel, all 24 chapters. **As you read, list some of the main characters you meet in each chapter. Also list any spiritual lessons that you immediately see.** (Don’t spend too much time on this. The point is to see the book as a whole before we begin looking at it chapter by chapter.)*

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4:

Chapter 5:

Chapter 6:

Chapter 7:

Chapter 8:

Chapter 9:

Chapter 10:

Chapter 11:

Chapter 12:

Chapter 13:

Chapter 14:

Chapter 15:

Chapter 16:

Chapter 17:

Chapter 18:

Chapter 19:

Chapter 20:

Chapter 21:

Chapter 22:

Chapter 23:

Chapter 24:

Did your reading give you a good grasp of what's happening? Can you already see David's victories? What about his tragedies? How about the consequences of his sin? Just as in I Samuel, we see that obedience to God brings blessings, and disobedience brings trouble. A person's disobedience or obedience to God has direct consequences for that person's life. Nelson says that "although that is true, we also see that despite those consequences, God will rule and overrule so that His long-term purpose of blessings and redemption may occur." I pray that we, like David, will seek to obey all of His will!

I've included a graph from Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts which shows how the plot develops in II Samuel. This may help in our quest to understand this book as a whole. See you tomorrow!

Memory Verse of the Week: *"For I know that the Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in Heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places." Psalm 135:5-6*

Fourth Day

Spend time on your memory verse. Isn't the Lord great?

As you read through the book of II Samuel, I'm sure you were once again reminded that God is in control of everything. So often we forget that. A man named Larry Eisenberg said, "For peace of mind, resign as general manager of the universe." I think that's good advice, don't you?

Many commentators break down II Samuel this way:

- (1) The triumphs of David (1:1-10:19)*
- (2) The transgressions of David (11:1-27)*
- (3) The troubles of David (12:1-24:25)*

As we study, remember that although David was a man of great accomplishments, who loved the Lord with all his heart, he was a man who made mistakes. Irving Jensen said, "Though David's career was marred by sin, he was honest and contrite enough to acknowledge his sins and seek God's forgiveness. No man in the Bible gives a more instructive example of confession than David." Acts 13:36 tells us that David served his own generation by the will of God. I pray that the same will be said about us.

1. *Read II Samuel 1:1-27. List the facts that you find. What is the main point of this chapter? Give it a title.*

Chapter 1 is considered a transitional chapter. It connects I Samuel 31, which records the death of Saul, to II Samuel 2, which puts David on the throne. It also gives us a glimpse into David's heart before he begins to serve as the new King of Israel.

2. *What had David just returned from doing? Review I Samuel 30.*

3. *How did David find out about Saul's death?*

4. *How did he react?*

5. *Compare the Amalekite's story with the record of Saul's death in I Samuel 31:1-5. How is it different?*

6. *How do you think the Amalekite thought David would react?*

There are actually two opinions that attempt to explain the difference in the stories. Some believe that when Saul fell on his sword, he didn't die. When the Amalekite came by, Saul asked him to finish the job, and he did. Although that is possible, most believe that this was a vain attempt to gain some glory by claiming to kill Saul. When he discovered Saul and his sons dead, he took his crown and bracelet to present them to David, hoping that David would be happy that his enemy had been killed. He was probably looking for some kind of reward. David surprised him, I'm sure, by his reaction.

7. *Why was David so horrified that this man would kill Saul? Why did David mourn for Saul? After all, hadn't Saul wanted him dead?*

8. *What does David's reaction tell us about his character?*

9. *Is there anyone in your life that you dislike, or would consider an enemy? How do you respond to their success? To their failures? List some Scriptures that tell us how we should treat our enemies.*

10. *How does this chapter reveal David's deep reverence for God?*

Rev. W. G. Blaikie said this about David: “What a marvelous reverence he had for God! To place him on a throne was no favor, if it involved doing anything against ‘the Lord’s anointed!’ To him God’s will was all in all.”

- 11.** *Did David seem to harbor any bitterness or hatred in his heart for Saul? Why not? What can we learn from David here?*

We’ll end here for today. May we, like David, have the highest respect for God and His will.

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory. How did it minister to your heart?

- 1.** *Read II Samuel chapter 1 again, concentrating on verses 17-27.*

David’s soul was in anguish. His heart was wrenched; his emotions stirred. He writes one of the most beautiful lamentations in the Bible. It is a wonderful example of Hebrew poetry.

- 2.** *How would you describe this song? What is the tone?*
- 3.** *Does David point out any of Saul’s faults? What does he say about Saul? About Jonathan?*

4. *Who is David referring to in verse 19?*
5. *Knowing that Gath is the capital of Philistia, and Ashkelon is one of the five major Philistine cities, explain what David is saying in verse 20.*

David's words were fulfilled in Israel, as the mountains of Gilboa in Israel are barren today. In verse 22-23, David seems to be heralding the fact that Saul and Jonathan were not cowards! They didn't run from adversity; they were strong warriors. In verse 24, David reminds Israel that Saul had brought prosperity to the land. He wanted all Israel to mourn the loss of these men. David saw the death of Saul and Jonathan not only as a personal loss, but as a great national loss as well.

6. *This song made no allusion to Saul's faults. Are you quick to point out the faults of others, or do you look for that which is commendable? Why do you think we are so tempted to put others down?*

7. *Read Proverbs 24:17-20. What does this tell us?*

8. *How can you practically apply Matthew 5:43-48? What changes do you need to make?*

9. *We were once "enemies of God." What does that mean? Read Romans 5:9-11; Ephesians 2:13; and 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. How were we reconciled?*

“Saul condemned himself by refusing to be reconciled to David, just as condemnation rests on those who reject the Lover of their Soul, Jesus.” (William Blaikie) Have you been reconciled to God? Have you committed your life to the Lover of your Soul?

10. David “chose” not to hate Saul. How is hatred a choice?

11. How did David feel about Jonathan? What did he mean that his love “surpassed that of women”?

We can be sure that David was not implying that he had a sexual relationship with Jonathan. Homosexuality was absolutely forbidden in Israel (Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13). Although churches that support homosexuality use this relationship as an example to prove their position, that is the farthest thing from the truth. Using this story to prove that homosexuality is approved by God is an example of “twisting” the Scripture to support personal desires.

12. What is the greatest lesson that you learned from this chapter? How can you apply it to your life?

We’re going to end our lesson here for this week. We’ve included an outline of II Samuel, and a map titled “The Life of David.” I hope that they are helpful and informative.

May God give us a love for those in our life that are difficult. May we “choose” to love, rather than hate. And may we help those who are lost see their need to be “reconciled” to God. Use us Lord, for your glory!

Part One: The Triumphs of David (1:1—10:19)

- I. The Political Triumphs of David**1:1—5:25
 - A. The Reign of David in Hebron over Judah1:1—4:12
 - B. The Reign of David in Jerusalem5:1—25
- II. The Spiritual Triumphs of David**6:1—7:29
 - A. The Transportation of the Ark6:1—23
 - B. The Institution of the Davidic Covenant7:1—29
- III. The Military Triumphs of David**8:1—10:19
 - A. The Triumphs of David over His Enemies8:1—12
 - B. The Righteous Rule of David8:13—9:13
 - C. The Triumphs of David over Ammon and Syria10:1—19

Part Two: The Transgressions of David (11:1—27)

- I. The Sin of Adultery**11:1—5
- II. The Sin of Murder**11:6—27
 - A. Uriah Does Not Sleep with Bathsheba11:6—13
 - B. David Commands Uriah's Murder11:14—25
 - C. David and Bathsheba Marry11:26, 27

Part Three: The Troubles of David (12:1—24:25)

- I. The Troubles in David's House**12:1—13:36
 - A. Prophecy by Nathan12:1—14
 - B. David's Son Dies12:15—25
 - C. Joab's Loyalty to David12:26—31
 - D. Incest in David's House13:1—20
 - E. Amnon Is Murdered13:21—36
- II. The Troubles in David's Kingdom**13:37—24:25
 - A. Rebellion of Absalom13:37—17:29
 - B. Absalom's Murder18:1—33
 - C. David Is Restored as King19:1—20:26
 - D. The Commentary on the Reign of David21:1—24:25

The Life of David

