

2. Samuel

Factual study for GLEF 2025

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Key word: 2 Samuel 12:13

"Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."



Outline 2 Samuel

1-4	Ish-Bosheth's kingship
5-7	David becomes king in Jerusalem
8-10	David's wars
11-12	David's adultery
13-18	Absalom's rebellion
19-21	Further wars
22-24	Final chapter

Chapters 1-4: Ish-Bochet's kingship



1. David learns of the death of Saul and Jonathan

- 1-4 A messenger comes to David and reports Israel's defeat and the death of Saul
- 5-10 He claims to have killed Saul and taken his crown
- 11-12 David and his men mourn for Saul and Jonathan
- 13-16 David has the messenger killed because he claimed to have killed Saul
- 17-27 David's lament over Saul and Jonathan:
 - their death is bad news (19-20)
 - the mountains of Gilboa are cursed (21)
 - Saul and Jonathan are great heroes, unconquered (22-25)
 - Jonathan's special friendship (26)

V.26: "I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women."

⇒ David's genuine grief for Saul and Jonathan

2. Ish-Bosheth becomes king Brother war between Judah and Israel

- 1-4 David moves to Hebron and is anointed king over Judah
- 5-7 David blesses the men of Jabesh
- 8-11 Abner crowns Ishbosheth king over the rest of Israel
- 12-13 But Abner and Joab go to war against each other
- 14-16 There is a preliminary battle with 12 soldiers each, who all die
- 17 Israel is defeated by David's men
- 18-23 Asael pursues Abner without giving up and is killed by him
- 24-28 Abner asks Joab to stop the battle
- 29-32 Abner returns to Mahanaim, Joab to Hebron

V.17: "The battle that day was very fierce, and Abner and the Israelites were defeated by David's men."

⇒ Fratricidal war over personal ambition

3. Abner goes over to David and is murdered by Joab

- 1 The conflict continues and Judah is superior
- 2-5 David's sons born in Hebron
- 6-11 Ishbosheth rebukes Abner for having an affair with one of Saul's concubines
- 12 Abner offers to make David king
- 13-16 David demands his first wife Michal from Abner and Ishbosheth
- 17-21 Abner speaks to the elders and comes to David to prepare for the change of government

V.12: "Then Abner sent messengers on his behalf to say to David, "Whose land is it? Make an agreement with me, and I will help you bring all Israel over to you."

3. Abner goes over to David and is murdered by Joab

22-25 Joab suspects a ruse behind Abner's coming and rebukes David

26-27 Joab sends for Abner and murders him deceitfully

28-30 David declares that this murder is Joab's fault alone

31-34 David buries Abner

35-39 David fasts and honors Abner. But he warns of Joab's anger.

V.39: "And today, though I am the anointed king, I am weak, and these sons of Zeruah are too strong for me. May the Lord repay the evildoer according to his evil deeds!"

⇒ David sought peace, but Joab sought revenge

4. Ish-Bosheth is murdered

1-4 Baanah and Rechab are captains of Ish-Bosheth

5-8 They kill the king in his sleep and bring his head to David

9-12 David has the two captains executed for their murder

V.11: "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!"

⇒ David does not act opportunistically, but punishes the murderers

Chapters 1-4: Ish-Bosheth's kingship

Interpretation:

- David does not act opportunistically according to his own advantage, but according to the truth. (He takes Abner, punishes the murderers)
- Davids trust in God and his guidance

Application:

- Trust in God's guidance, not seeking career or opportunity
(„You can become a professor“, receive spiritual recognition)

4:11: "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!"

Chapters 5-7: David becomes king in Jerusalem



5. David becomes king and conquers Jerusalem

- 1-3 The elders come to Hebron and anoint David king over all Israel
- 4-5 David's reign is 40 years (7 ½ years over Judah, 33 years over all Israel)
- 6-7 David besieges Jerusalem, an impregnable Jebusite fortress
- 8 Joab conquers the city and is appointed commander of the army
- 9-10 David makes Jerusalem a royal city
- 11-12 Hiram of Tyre supports David with building materials and workers
- 13-16 Sons of David born in Jerusalem
- 17-21 The Philistines go to war and are defeated by David
- 22-25 Further victories of David over the Philistines by obeying God's instructions

V.10: "And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him."

⇒ God blesses David's obedience and makes Israel strong

6. The ark of the covenant is brought to Jerusalem

- 1-5 David has the Ark of the Covenant brought from Baalah in a great procession
- 6-8 Uzzah dies while trying to hold the ark.
- 9-11 David stops the procession and the ark remains with Obed-Edom
- 12-13 David has the ark brought with the fear of God, bearers and sacrifices.
- 14-16 David himself dances before the ark and music
- 17-19 The ark is solemnly set up in the tent
- 20-23 Michal rebukes David for humbling himself. David wants to be lowly before God, who has chosen him. Michal remains childless

V.14: "Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might."

⇒ Humility and fear of God

7. God's promise to David

- 1-3 David plans to build God a beautiful temple.
- 4-7 Nathan receives God's instruction that David should not build a house.
- 8-10 He reminds David of the blessing he has given him
- 11-16 God promises to build David's house and preserve his kingship. Promise of the descendant who will reign forever and build God's house.
- 17-24 David thanks God with reverence and praises him.
- 25-29 David believes in the great and wonderful promises of God.

V.12.13: "When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

⇒ Not what we do for God, but what God does for us

Chapters 5-7: David becomes king in Jerusalem

Interpretation:

- God is with David and blesses his obedience
- David lives with the fear of God and seeks God's glory

Application:

- We may do all things for the glory of God (dancing, music, special singing, factual study)

6:14: "Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might."

Chapters 8-10: David's wars



8. David's victories

- 1-2 David subdues the Philistines and Moabites
- 3-8 David defeats the king of Zobah and the Arameans of Damascus
- 9-10 Toi, king of Hamath, sends him gifts
- 11-12 David dedicates all the treasures to the Lord
- 13-14 David subdues the Edomites
- 15-18 David's officials

V.1: "In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Metheg Ammah from the control of the Philistines."

⇒ God's miraculous help for David

9. Mefi-bosheth comes to David's court

- 1-4 Daniel asks Ziba whether anyone else from the house of Saul has survived
- 5-8 David has Mefi-Bosheth brought to his court
- 9-11 Ziba is to serve Mefi-bosheth
- 12-13 Mefi-bosheth lives in Jerusalem and eats with David

V.1: "David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

⇒ David keeps his promise and takes care of Jonathan's son.

⇒ Keeping promises we have made, even if it does not bring any advantage

10. Battle with Ammonites and Arameans

- 1-3 David sends messengers with condolences to the king's funeral
- 4-5 Hanun dishonors the messengers and sends them back
- 6-8 Hanoun recruits many mercenaries to fight against Joab
- 9-12 Joab is surrounded and divides the army to fight against the Arameans and Ammonites
- 13-14 Joab is victorious, so that both armies flee
- 15-19 David defeats a large army of Arameans and they make peace with him

V.19: "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."

Chapters 8-10: David's wars

Interpretation:

- God is giving victory o David
- David remembers his promise and practices mercy.

Application:

- I may also remember God's mercy on my life and with God's mercy serve the young people on campus and raise them up to be Jesus' disciples.

9:1: "David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"



Chapters 11-12: David's adultery



11. David's adultery with Bathsheba

- 1 The next year David sends the army against Rabbah, but he stays in Jerusalem
- 2-5 David has an affair with Bathsheba, who becomes pregnant
- 6-8 David lets Uriah come to him and then sends him home
- 9-13 But Uriah refuses and does not go to his wife, but stays with the soldiers.
- 14-17 David instructs Joab to manage it so that Uzziah falls in battle.
- 18-21 Joab sends a messenger to David with the news that Uzziah has fallen in battle
- 22-25 When David hears of this, he encourages Joab to fight on
- 26-27 Uzziah's widow becomes David's wife after the mourning period

V.2: "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."

⇒ Do not give up the spiritual battle, do not be tempted by sin

12. David's repentance and forgiveness

- 1-4 Nathan tells David the story of a rich man who slaughtered his poor neighbor's sheep
- 5-6 David reacts angrily and demands the death penalty
- 7-12 Nathan rebukes David's murder of Uriah and his adultery with his wife. As punishment, he will always have war and his wives will lie with his neighbor.
- 13-14 David confesses his sin. Nathan grants him God's forgiveness, but his child is to die.
- 15-17 David prays for the child for 7 days with fasting
- 18-23 When the child dies, he worships God and eats again.
- 24-25 Solomon is born and brought up by Nathan
- 26-28 Joab conquers part of the city of Rabbah. He calls David into battle
- 29-31 David conquers Rabbah. Wins the crown and turns the inhabitants into forced laborers.

V.13: "Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. "

⇒ David's greatness in repenting of his sin

⇒ Repentance is the way to life and blessing

Chapters 11-12: David's adultery

Interpretation:

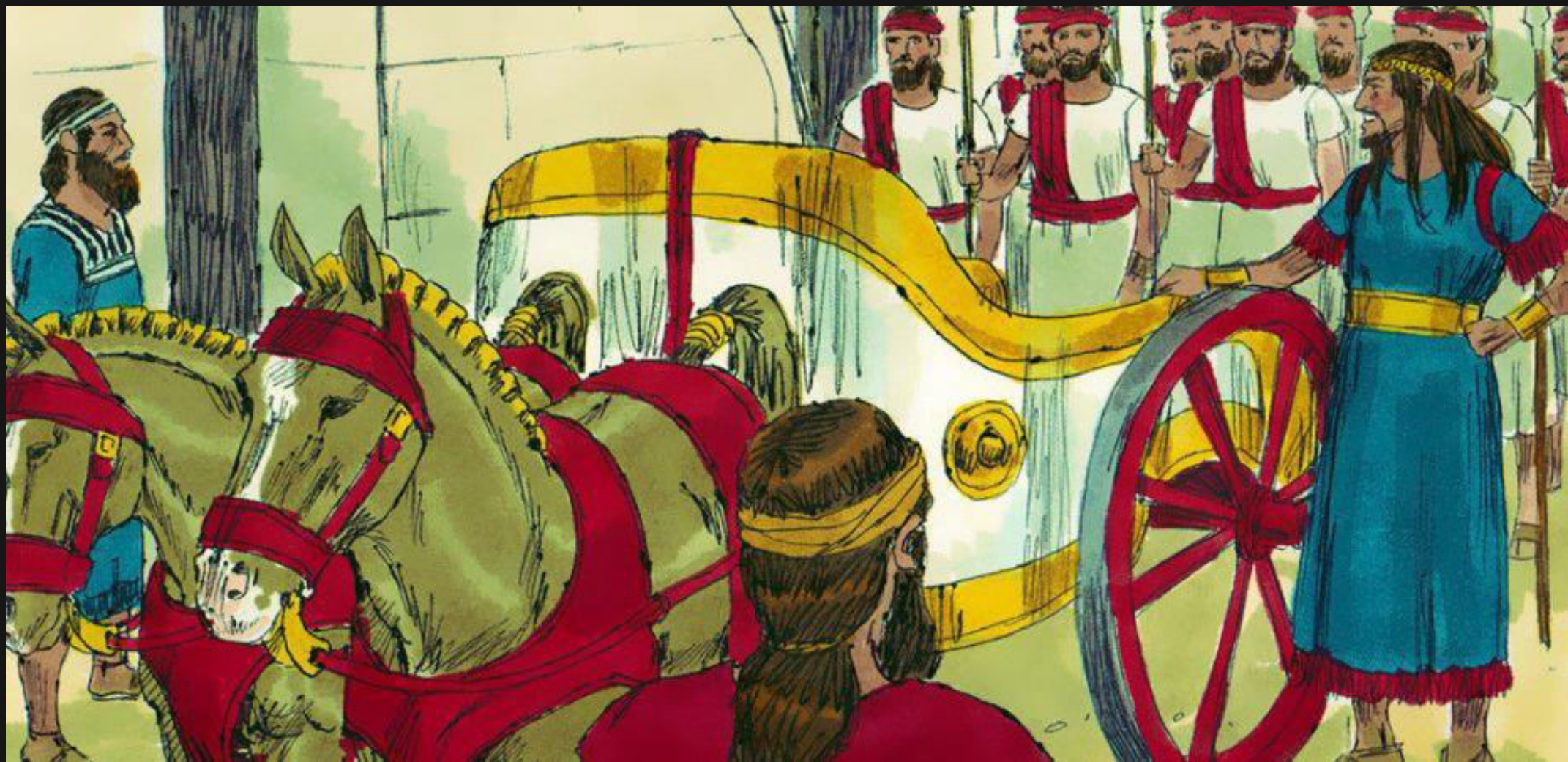
- Giving up the spiritual struggle causes us to fall into lust and sin
- God is gracious to accept and forgive our repentance

Application:

- We may also come to God by taking a stand with repentance and absolutely trust in His forgiveness and renewal.

12:13: "Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."
Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. "

Chapters 13-18: Absalom's rebellion



13. Amnon rapes Tamar. Absalom kills Amnon in revenge.

- 1-2 Amnon falls in love with his half-sister Tamar.
- 3-5 Jonadab recommends that he pretend to be ill so that Tamar can feed him.
- 6-10 Tamar cooks cakes for Amnon. Then he lures her into the bedchamber.
- 11-14 Amnon rapes Tamar, despite her resistance.
- 15-17 Afterwards, his love turns to hate and he throws her out of the house.
- 18-21 Absalom advises her to keep silent about the rape.

V.19: "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."

⇒ Desire causes sin and a chain reaction

⇒ Do not follow worldly wisdom, but obey God's word

13. Amnon rapes Tamar. Absalom kills Amnon in revenge.

- 21-22 David takes no action and Absalom develops hatred.
- 23-27 After 2 years Absalom organizes a great celebration and invites all the king's sons.
- 28-29 Absalom deceitfully kills Amnon at the feast.
- 30-33 At first there is a rumor that all the king's sons are dead. But Jonadab already knows that Absalom only hated Amnon
- 34-37 Absalom flees to Talmai in Geshur (his grandfather)
- 38-39 Absalom remains in exile for 3 years.

V.36: "As he finished speaking, the king's sons came in, wailing loudly. The king, too, and all his attendants wept very bitterly."

14. Absalom is vindicated

- 1-3 Joab interacts with David through a woman.
- 4-7 She pretends that her son has killed the other and should now atone for it.
- 8-11 David grants her protection for her son.
- 12-17 The woman asks for Absalom's rehabilitation because God wants to save his life.
- 18-20 David recognizes that Joab is behind this story.

V.1: "Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom."

14. Absalom is vindicated

- 21-24 David allows Absalom to return, but is not allowed to see David in person.
- 25-27 Absalom was a handsome man with a great head of hair.
- 28-32 Absalom calls Joab to intercede with the king on his behalf.
- 33 Absalom is received by David

V.33: "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."

⇒ Restoration without repentance is no restoration

15. Absalom's rebellion and David's flight

- 1-6 Absalom presents himself as a compassionate leader, so that he quickly becomes popular.
- 7-9 Absalom goes to Hebron under the pretext of holding a thanksgiving service.
- 10-12 Absalom has himself proclaimed king in Hebron.
- 13-16 David decides to leave Jerusalem.

V.10: "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.'"

⇒ In his ambition, Absalom even wants to eliminate the king

15. Absalom's rebellion and David's flight

- 17-18 Many people want to flee with David, including all the Gathites.
- 19-23 Everyone is very sad when David flees into the desert.
- 24-29 David orders the priests Zadok + Abiater to stay in the city
- 30-32 David goes up the Mount of Olives barefoot and cloaked.
- 33-37 David sends Hushai back to Jerusalem to spy on Absalom.

V.30: "But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up."

⇒ True loyalty and friendship of people who went with David

16. David's flight. Absalom takes David's house.

- 1-4 Ziba brings David provisions. David therefore gives him the property of Mefi-bosheth.
- 5-8 Shimei throws stones at David and insults him as a "bloodhound"
- 9-12 Abishai wants to kill him, but David prevents it.
- 13-14 Absalom comes to Jerusalem. Hushai serves as his advisor.
- 20-23 On Ahithophel's advice, Absalom goes to David's concubines and thus makes the final break with his father.

V.12: "It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today."

⇒ He does not help himself but, like David, trusts in God who judges.

17. Ahithophel's advice is ignored.

- 1-4 Ahithophel proposes to pursue and kill David now.
- 5-6 Absalom calls Hushai to hear a second counsel.
- 7-10 Hushai points out that David's warriors are very strong.
- 11-13 Therefore Absalom should gather the whole army and make a great campaign against David and defeat all his people.
- 14 Absalom and all the others like Hushai's advice more (a bloody battle instead of a secret operation)

V.14: "Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel." For the Lord had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom."

17. Ahithofel's advice is ignored.

15-16 Hushai sends the warning about the secret operation to David

17-20 The messengers Jonathan + Ahimaz are seen, but hidden by a woman in the well.

21-22 David and his men receive the warning and cross the Jordan that night.

23 Ahithophel recognizes the disaster because his advice has been ignored. He therefore commits suicide.

24-26 David comes to Mahamaïim and makes Amasa captain of the army.

27-29 Shabi + Machite + Barzillai bring provisions and equipment to Mahanaim.

V.23: "When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and set out for his house in his hometown. He put his house in order and then hanged himself. So he died and was buried in his father's tomb."

18. Battle and death of Absalom

- 1-2 David raises 3 armies: Joab, Abishai + Ittai
- 3-4 David stays in the city on the advice of the generals
- 5 David orders Absalom to be treated gently
- 6-8 There is a battle in the forest of Ephraim, in which David's men win
- 9 Absalom gets his hair caught in an oak tree
- 10-13 A man recognizes Absalom but refuses to kill him

V.9: "Now 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."

18. Battle and death of Absalom

14-15 Joab goes himself and kills Absalom

16-18 The battle ends and Absalom is buried in the forest.

19-23 Joab sends a black man as a messenger, but Ahimaaz also runs.

24-27 David waits eagerly for a message from the battlefield

28-30 Ahimaaz brings the message of victory, but does not know Absalom's fate

31-32 The black messenger confirms Absalom's death

V.14: "Joab said, "I'm not going to wait like this for you." So he took three javelins in his hand and plunged them into Absalom's heart while Absalom was still alive in the oak tree."

Chapters 13-18: Absalom's rebellion

Interpretation:

- Acting according to lust and pride leads to destruction.
- Without true repentance there is no change
- Trust in God's salvation

Application:

- We may absolutely trust in God to give us victory even without taking revenge.

16:12: "It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today."

Chapters 19-21: More wars



19. David's return to Jerusalem

- 1 David mourns Absalom instead of rejoicing
- 2-5 There was no rejoicing, but great trepidation
- 6-7 Joab rebukes David because he is only interested in Absalom and has ignored his people.
- 8-9 On Joab's advice, David receives his people and thanks them
- 10-11 The Israelites discuss making David king again
- 12-16 The priests see to it that the elders of Judah bring David back first

V.1: "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." The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle. The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

⇒ David's trust and love for his renegade son

19. David's return to Jerusalem

- 17-21 Shimei + Ziba also come to fetch David. Shimei repents
- 22-24 David pardons Shimei, although Abishai demands his death
- 25-26 Mefi-Bosheth comes to meet David.
- 27-31 David accepts Mefi-Bosheth's apology and shares his property with Ziba
- 32-41 David wants to thank Barzillai, but he turns back and sends Kimharen
- 42-44 The people of Judah + Israel argue about who is closer to the king

V.23: "So the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king promised him on oath."

⇒ David is full of reconciliation and forgiveness when he is reinstated

20. Sheba's rebellion is ended

- 1-2 Sheba makes a rebellion. Everyone follows him except Judah.
- 3 David takes the 10 concubines to a special house
- 4-5 Amasa is to gather the army, but does not arrive in time.
- 6-7 David sends the army under Abishai to stop Sheba.
- 8-10 On the way they meet Amasa. Joab kills Amasa with a dagger.
- 11-12 Amasa's body is rolled off the road to avoid further publicity

V.2: "So all the men of Israel deserted David to follow Sheba son of Bikri. But the men of Judah stayed by their king all the way from the Jordan to Jerusalem."

⇒ Joab is full of unbridled envy and rage against any competitor

20. Sheba's rebellion is ended

13-15 Joab's victory over Sheba in the city of Abel-both-maasha.

16-19 A clever woman negotiates with Joab to spare the city of Abel.

20-22 The woman persuades the inhabitants to kill Sheba and throw his head over the wall.

23-26 David's officials.

V.22: "Then the woman went to all the people with her wise advice, and they cut off the head of Sheba son of Bikri and threw it to Joab. So he sounded the trumpet, and his men dispersed from the city, each returning to his home. And Joab went back to the king in Jerusalem."

⇒ The woman's wisdom prevents many deaths.

21. More wars + burial of Saul

- 1-2 There was an unpaid debt because Saul had tried to exterminate the inhabitants
- 3-6 the Gibeonites demand that 7 men from Saul's family be hanged as atonement
- 7-9 David gives 7 men from Saul's family as atonement.
- 10-11 Rizpah, the mother, guards the hanged men
- 12-14 David has the hanged men buried with Saul + Jonathan in the tomb of Kish

V.10: "Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds touch them by day or the wild animals by night."

21. More wars + burial of Saul

15-17 Abishai saves David from a Philistine giant during the war.

David does not to go to war again.

18-19 Two Philistine giants are slain

20-22 A giant with 6 fingers is slain.

V.17: "But Abishai son of Zeruah came to David's rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him. 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."

Chapters 19-21: Further wars

Interpretation:

- David was full of forgiveness and sought restoration
- Joab was full of hatred and envy

Application:

- Having God's forgiveness even for those who have done wrong to us or insult us

19:23: "So the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king promised him on oath."

**Chapters 22-24:
Final chapter**



22. David's song of thanksgiving

1-4 God is rock and fortress.

5-7 David was in trouble.

8-16 God appeared to him with mighty signs.

17-20 God rescued him from disaster.

21-25 David endeavored to live a righteous life.

26-31 God is the helper.

32-37 God makes David a strong hero.

V.2: "He said: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer."

⇒ David's trust in God as his savior.

22. David's song of thanksgiving

38-43 God gives him victory over his enemies.

44-49 God gives him victory in rebellion and over other neighbors.

50-51 Thanksgiving for God's grace

V.35: "He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze."

⇒ God is also the teacher for spiritual warfare

⇒ We always have reason to thank God

23. David's heroes

- 1-6 David's last song. Thanks that he is allowed to speak God's word.
God is the salvation of his people.
- 8-12 The 3 heroes of David and their deeds.
- 13-17 The 3 heroes draw water in Bethlehem.
- 18-19 Abishai is the captain of the 30.
- 20-23 Benaiah is chief of the guard. His heroic deeds.
- 24-39 Other heroes

V.16: "So the three mighty warriors broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the Lord."

- ⇒ Cooperation and dedication of David's heroes
- ⇒ David's respect for their fight

24. Census and punishment

- 1-4 David sends Joab to take a census against his resistance.
- 5-9 Joab passes through for 9 months and counts the soldiers: 800,00 + 500,000
- 10 David recognizes his sin and repents.
- 11-13 God sends prophet Gad, David is allowed to choose between 3 plagues.

V.10: "David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

⇒ Census is a sin out of doubt in God's help

24. Census and punishment

14-15 David chooses the plague. 70,000 deaths.

16-17 The angel is just outside Jerusalem when David sees him and prays

18-25 David buys Araunah's threshing floor and sacrifices burnt offerings there.
The plague stops.

V.25: "David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped."

⇒ God is merciful and stops the plague early.

⇒ At the same time, this is the beginning of Solomon's building of the temple

Chapters 22-24:

Final chapter

Interpretation:

- Living a life of thanksgiving and trust
- Absolute cooperation of the heroes
- God is full of grace and forgiveness

Application:

- I may also thank God at all times and remember his wonderful guidance and help.

22,2: "He said: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer."

CONCLUSION

David could be used as a leader by God

- Because he trusted God absolutely and sought God's direction
- Because he was humble before God
- Because he repented of his sin

2 Samuel 12:13: "Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."