

2 Samuel

This summary of the book of 2 Samuel provides information about the title, author(s), date of writing, chronology, theme, theology, outline, a brief overview, and the chapters of the Book of 2 Samuel.

Title

1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book (see Introduction to 1 Samuel: Title).

Literary Features, Authorship and Date

See Introduction to 1 Samuel: Literary Features, Authorship and Date.

Contents and Theme: Kingship and Covenant

2 Samuel depicts David as a true (though imperfect) representative of the ideal theocratic king.

David was initially acclaimed king at Hebron by the tribe of Judah (chs. 1 - 4), and subsequently was accepted by the remaining tribes after the murder of Ish-Bosheth, one of Saul's surviving sons (5:1-5).

David's leadership was decisive and effective.

He captured Jerusalem from the Jebusites and made it his royal city and residence (5:6-13).

Shortly afterward he brought the ark of the Lord from the house of Abinadab to Jerusalem, publicly acknowledging the Lord's kingship and rule over himself and the nation (ch. 6; Ps 132:3-5).

Under David's rule the Lord caused the nation to prosper, to defeat its enemies and, in fulfillment of his promise (see Ge 15:18), to extend its borders from Egypt to the Euphrates (ch. 8).

David wanted to build a temple for the Lord -- as his royal house, as a place for his throne (the ark) and as a place for Israel to worship him.

But the prophet Nathan told David that he was not to build the Lord a house (temple); rather, the Lord would build David a house (dynasty).

Ch. 7 announces the Lord's promise that this Davidic dynasty would endure forever. This climactic chapter also describes the establishment of the Davidic covenant (see notes on 7:1-29,11,16; Ps 89:30-37).

Later the prophets make clear that a descendant of David who sits on David's throne will perfectly fulfill the role of the theocratic king. He will complete the redemption of God's people (see Isa 9:6-7; 11:1-16; Jer 23:5-6; 30:8-9; 33:14-16; Eze 34:23-24; 37:24-25), thus enabling them to achieve the promised victory with him (Rom 16:20).

After the description of David's rule in its glory and success, chs. 10- 20 depict the darker side of his reign and describe David's weaknesses and failures.

Even though David remained a king after God's own heart because he was willing to acknowledge his sin and repent (12:13), he nevertheless fell far short of the theocratic ideal and suffered the disciplinary results of his disobedience (12:10-12).

His sin with Bathsheba (chs. 11 - 12) and his leniency both with the wickedness of his sons (13:12-39; 21; 14:1,33; 19:4-6) and with the insubordination of Joab (3:28-39; 20:10,23) led to intrigue, violence and bloodshed within his own family and the nation.

It eventually drove him from Jerusalem at the time of Absalom's rebellion. Nonetheless the Lord was gracious to David, and his reign became a standard by which the reigns of later kings were measured (see 2Ki 18:3; 22:2).

The book ends with David's own words of praise to God, who had delivered him from all his enemies (22:31-51), and with words of expectation for the fulfillment of God's promise that a king will come from the house of David and rule "over men in righteousness" (23:3-5).

These songs echo many of the themes of Hannah's song (1Sa 2:1-10), and together they frame (and interpret) the basic narrative.

Chronology

See Introduction to 1 Samuel: Chronology.

Outline

Below is an outline for 2 Samuel. For an outline of both 1 and 2 Samuel see Introduction to 1 Samuel: Outline.

(see Introduction to 1 Samuel: Outline)

(see Introduction to 1 Samuel: Outline)

(see Introduction to 1 Samuel: Outline)

The Consolidation of Kingship in Israel (2Sa 1-20)

David's Lament over Saul and Jonathan (ch. 1)

David Becomes King over Judah (chs. 2-4)

David Becomes King over All Israel (5:1-5)

David Conquers Jerusalem (5:6-25)

David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem (ch. 6)

God Promises David an Everlasting Dynasty (ch. 7)

The Extension of David's Kingdom (ch. 8)

David's Faithfulness to His Covenant with Jonathan (ch. 9)

David Commits Adultery and Murder (chs. 10-12)

David Loses His Son Amnon (chs. 13-14)

David Loses His Son Absalom (chs. 15-20)

Final Reflections on David's Reign (2Sa 21-24)

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2 Samuel Summary

The book of 2nd Samuel is a Narration of David as he becomes the King of Israel and the time during his reign, yet it also includes two psalms in hymns of praise in the final chapters.

Its author is Samuel the prophet who wrote it at about 930 B.C.

The key personalities are David, Joab, Bathsheba, Nathan, and Absalom.

It was written to record the history of David's reign and to demonstrate effective leadership under the submission of God.

Approximately half of the book tells of King David's success and the other half shows his failures.

In chapters 1-10, we find that David becomes the king of Judah while the Northern part of the nation (Israel) rejects God and chooses to go with the dynastic tradition, by selecting Saul's son Ish-Bosheth to rule.

Ish-Bosheth eventually was executed and the northern tribes asked David to rule the entire nation of Israel.

King David chooses to establish a new capital, Jerusalem, and through a tragic process, brings the Ark there.

In chapters 11-24, we observe the sinful side of King David during his reign, and how it affected the nation of Israel.

First, David commits adultery with a married woman named Bathsheba and she becomes pregnant.

Afterward, he has her husband murdered in an attempt to repair things.

The prophet Nathan confronts him and David repents and soon after the child dies.

Bathsheba later gives birth to Solomon, who will be the next king of Israel.

Absalom, David's other son, plots a rebellious takeover and the nation approves.

David flees for his life, yet ultimately raises enough troops and a strong backing to take back his seat and restore order; in the process, his rebellious son was killed.

The genre of the book of Amos is Narrative and Prophetic Oracle.

The prophet Amos wrote it around 760-750 B.C.

This was shortly before the fall of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria, which took place in 722 B.C. Key personalities are Amos, Amaziah, and Jeroboam II.

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Remember: Keep Jesus 1st Place in your life and HE will take you places that you've never dreamed of ... The Late Great Pastor John O'steen (RIP)

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Friends, you can be a very nice and good human being, but THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN, IS BY REPENTING OF YOUR SINS, AND ACCEPTING CHRIST JESUS, AS LORD AND SAVIOR.