

1 Samuel : 2 Samuel

1 – 1 Samuel 1:1-2:26—Samuel’s Birth

Why did Elkanah have 2 wives? (see Judges 17:6) What was the result? How does the birth of Samuel pre-figure the birth of Jesus? What example does the birth of Samuel give to Godly parents today? What is the comparison with Samuel and that of Eli’s sons?

2 – 1 Samuel 2:27-3:26—Samuel’s Calling

How was Eli breaking the 1st commandment? Why was this so significant? Who will be the faithful priest promised in v.35? What was special about the way that God called Samuel? How does God call people today? What does it mean (v.19) that Samuel “let none of God’s Words fall to the ground”? How can that also be said of us today?

3 – 1 Samuel 4–7—Ark Taken And Returned

What was the purpose of the ark? (review [Exodus 25:1-22](#), especially v.22) How had it become an idol? What happens to idols? Why did Eli and his 2 sons die? (review [1 Samuel 2:27-36](#)) What can God do with “idols”? (Ch. 5) What superstition was involved in returning the ark? What tragedy also happened? (6:19) What false idea did they develop concerning the ark?

4 – 1 Samuel 8—Request For A King

Why did Israel want a king? How does this happen all the time today? How were Samuel’s sons similar to Eli’s sons? Why did God give the Israelites their desire for a king?

5 – 1 Samuel 9:1–10:16—Saul Anointed Privately

What events led up to Samuel’s anointing of Saul? Why do this privately? What was Saul’s initial reaction? Why did he react this way? How does God call His leaders in His kingdom today? How might there be similarities? Differences? (Note the clear directions Samuel gives to Saul – we’ll read about this in Ch. 13)

6 – 1 Samuel 10:17-27—Saul Anointed Publicly

Why the harsh words Samuel used to summon all of Israel to the public anointing of their king? Why was Saul hiding? What was God’s desire through Saul’s life?

7 – 1 Samuel 11:1-13—Victory Over The Ammonites

Note what caused Saul to respond so valiantly (v.6) – this is the same phrase used throughout the time of Judges! What message does this have for us in the church today? How was Saul publicly proclaimed as their king?

8 – 1 Samuel 11:14–12:25—Covenant Renewal Ceremony

Which king were the Israelites reaffirming – Saul or God – or both? What difference does it make? What happens when we forget or lose the focus on Who is really ruling? How did Samuel remind Israel of this need to remember the God is their true King? Why the thunder and rain on their wheat harvest? See 12:22 – why will the LORD not reject His people? How is this also true in our lives today?

9 – 1 Samuel 13—Saul’s Failure As King

Review the warning from yesterday’s reading (12:25) Why did Saul offer the sacrifice? (v.8-12) How serious was Saul’s sin? What does this say to those whom God calls to be leaders?

10 – 1 Samuel 14—Saul & Jonathan

How does Jonathan compare to his father, Saul? (review also 13:3, who initiated the battles? Who should have?) Why didn’t Jonathan tell his father? How much leadership did Saul give? Why did Israel defeat the Philistines? When the “lot was cast” (v.42) why was Jonathan taken and not Saul? Who had sinned against the LORD? Note the 2nd foolish oath that Saul made (v.44). Who “deserved” to die?

11 – 1 Samuel 15—Saul Rejected As King

Again, how does Saul openly disobey the LORD? Again, what message did God give to Samuel to speak to Saul? Did Saul repent? Why didn’t Samuel go back with Saul at first? What did Samuel have to do when he did go back with Saul? How serious is it to “grieve the LORD”?

[12 – 1 Samuel 16 —David Anointed Privately](#)

How is this similar to the anointing of Saul? Why was Samuel afraid of Saul? Why would the elders of Bethlehem “tremble” when Samuel came there? (v.4) How did Jesse feel about his son, David? (v.11) Why was David “anointed in the presence of his brothers”? (v.13) Compare “the Spirit of the LORD” with David and with Saul. How did God prepare David to be king of Israel? Note: “the Spirit of the LORD” and “the spirit from God” – v.14-23. What a warning!

[13 – 1 Samuel 17—David & Goliath](#)

Who was the one soldier from Israel who was the tallest – to fight Goliath? Why didn’t he fight him? Why was Eliab, David’s oldest brother, so angry with David? (v.28) Why was David so confident about fighting Goliath? Why did David choose 5 smooth stones? How was “the battle is the LORD’s”? (v.47) How can we confidently say the same in our daily “battles”?

[14 – 1 Samuel 18-19—Saul’s Jealousy](#)

Again, compare Jonathan and his father, Saul – especially in their relationship with David. Why the difference? How does Saul’s seeking of self-glory cause him, David, Jonathan and others such grief? How is that true for us also? How many ways and times does Saul try to get rid of David? Why couldn’t he do it?

[15 – 1 Samuel 20—David & Jonathan](#)

How was Jonathan torn between loyalty to his father and to David? What oath do Jonathan and David take with one another? Why did Jonathan stand up for David, even risking his life? (v.33) With such a good friendship, why weren’t Jonathan and David able to bring this blessing to all of Israel? Why does God allow wicked kings like Saul to continue to rule (ruining so many potential blessings)?

[16 – 1 Samuel 21-23—David Runs For His Life](#)

Why did David go to Ahimelech? (see also 22:10) What was the result? (22:18-23) Why did God allow this to happen? Why did David go to live in Philistine territory? (Gath) How could David “inquire of the LORD”? (23:2 – see 22:20 and 23:6) Why could David and Jonathan meet but Saul could not find David?

[17 – 1 Samuel 24–25—David Spares Saul’s Life – Part 1](#)

Why didn’t David kill Saul? Why did David give his oath to Saul? Why did David kill Nabal? Did David sin by making the oath (25:22)? How does Abigail show Godly wisdom? How did God prevent David from carrying out his rash oath? Why did David take Abigail as another of his wives?

[18 – 1 Samuel 26—David Spares Saul’s Life – Part 2](#)

Again, when David had the opportunity to kill Saul, why didn’t he kill him? (Did David learn a lesson with Nabal?) Was Saul repentant? What about his words to David (v.21)? Why did David return Saul’s spear?

[19 – 1 Samuel 27–31—End Of Saul’s Life](#)

Again, why does David try to escape to the land of the Philistines? Why didn’t the LORD answer Saul by dreams or Urim or prophets? (Where were the Urim and Thummim, and where were the true prophets?) What does it mean that Saul swore by the LORD to the witch of Endor (28:10)? How was it that Samuel, who was dead, talked to Saul? How did God give David wisdom in dealing with the Amalekites? (note also Samuel’s words to Saul – 28:18) How did Saul’s life end? Why was Jonathan also killed? (see again 28:19)

[20 – 2 Samuel 1–3—David Becomes King – Part 1](#)

How was another Amalekite involved in David’s life? Did Saul “fall on his own sword” (31:4) or did this man kill Saul (1:9-10)? Why did David have this man killed? Why the song “how the mighty have fallen”? Why did David go to Judah? Compare [1 Samuel 16:11-13](#) with 2 Samuel 2:4 – which one was “official”? Why was there still “war between the house of David and Saul”? What tragedies were the results? How did David show his loyalty to Saul even after his death, and to Abner, even though Abner was seeking to continue the house of Saul?

[21 – 2 Samuel 4–5—David Becomes King – Part 2](#)

What terrible wickedness opened the way for David to be king over all of Israel? What part did David play in this intrigue? How did God continue to give to David wisdom and leadership? Why was David anointed a third time? (5:3) How was David able to conquer Jerusalem / the “City of David”? What a contrast in David’s life from the years he was a fugitive running from Saul! Note how often David “inquired of the LORD” – watch for the time when he didn’t... !

22 – 2 Samuel 6—The Ark Brought To Jerusalem

How was the ark to be moved? (review [Exodus 25:12-14](#); and [1 Samuel 6:7f](#)) Whose fault was it that Uzzah touched the ark? Why did God strike down Uzzah? What is the answer to David's question in v.9? How was the ark finally brought to Jerusalem? Why did Michal, daughter of Saul die childless?

23 – 2 Samuel 7—God's Promise/David's Prayer

Why build a temple? Why not build a temple? How does God show David (and Nathan) that He has much greater plans for us than we can even imagine? Note how this continues the covenant promise of [Genesis 3:15](#). How is David's prayer a model prayer for us today?

24 – 2 Samuel 8-10—David's Victory And Kindness

What is important about David's victories and officials (especially following Ch. 7)? Note the repetition: 8:6, 14 – why is it not mentioned in Ch. 10? Why is David's kindness to Mephibosheth so important?

25 – 2 Samuel 11-12—David & Bathsheba

Why didn't David go out to war? What was the first of the long chain of sins that David committed? Did Uriah know what was going on? What did David deserve? How did God show His great grace? What was the consequence of David's sin(s)? How does this also show that our sins have a wide effect too? Why did God send word through Nathan to name Solomon – "Jedidiah"? What is the wonderful message from God to us?

26 – 2 Samuel 13—Family Troubles

Did Amnon really "love" his half-sister Tamar? Why didn't David (dad) do something about this incest? What was the result of David doing nothing? Why didn't David (dad) go to Absalom after his murder of his ½ brother Amnon in retaliation? What happens when wickedness is allowed to go unpunished?

27 – 2 Samuel 14-15—Absalom's Rebellion

How did Joab try to get David to do what he should've done long ago? How was this similar to Nathan's message to David in Ch.12? Why was David's response very different this time? How did David (dad) "add insult to injury" and continue his lack of leadership in his family?

28 – 2 Samuel 16-18—Absalom's Death

How did Absalom "steal the hearts of the men of Israel"? How does this still happen today? Why didn't David do something about this? Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather – why would he align himself with Absalom? Why did David run rather than defend himself and his family? How did God protect David through the advice of Hushai? Why did Absalom die? Why did David mourn? Why so much sin? Are things better or worse today?

29 – 2 Samuel 19-20—David Returns To Jerusalem

How did Joab act like the father that David should've been? Why were the people confused about who was king? Why did Joab murder Amasa? Once again, what should David have done in this situation? Why didn't he do anything?

30 – 2 Samuel 21-23—David's Song And Last Words

What is the meaning and purpose of the Gibeonites avenged? What is the purpose of David's song of praise and his last words? Why are David's mighty men listed?

31 – 2 Samuel 24—David's Sin/Plague/Altar

Why was it a sin for David to count his fighting men? What did Joab know that David refused to take his counsel? Why did God give David 3 choices? Who received the punishment because of David's sin? What lesson does this teach us? Note how David gets the future sight of the Temple in Jerusalem (the threshing floor of Araunah).