

THE BOOK OF II SAMUEL

The Book of II Samuel is the "Book of David's Reign". It begins with David reigning in Judah right after Saul's death. The Book closes just before David's death when he "was old and stricken in years" (1 Kings 1:1 and 2:10-11). David reigned for 40 years and this Book covers that time.

The authorship of II Samuel is far from certain, though it seems the indication is that it the work of Nathan and Gad (1 Chronicles 29:29-30).

THE STRUCTURE

1. David's Triumphs - Chapters 1 - 12.
2. David's Troubles - Chapters 12 - 24.

You will notice that the Book divides itself right in the middle of the narrative and in the middle of David's 40 year reign (12 Chapters in each part).

THE CENTRAL MESSAGE

We must not miss this: TRIUMPHS TURNED TO TROUBLES THROUGH SIN !

DAVID'S TRIUMPHS CHAPTER 1 - 12

This is not a Chapter by Chapter study, but we will call attention to key facts and truths. Many of these and other details will come to light in our study of Kings and Chronicles.

DAVID AT HEBRON - CHAPTERS 1 - 4 (CIVIL WAR PERIOD)

1. David reigned at Hebron 7 years and 6 months, over Judah only, because the other tribes would not accept him as Saul's successor. Israel (all the tribes other than Judah) had decided to have their own king (2:8-11). Also see 3:1.

DAVID, KING OF ALL ISRAEL, AT JERUSALEM - CHAPTERS 5 - 11 CONQUEST PERIOD

1. David is declared to be king of all Israel and he transferred the seat of government to Jerusalem. All of the tribes acknowledge his right to be king (5:1-5).

2. Jerusalem at this time was called Jebus after the Jebusites. Read 1 Chronicles 11:4 and then read II Samuel 5:6-10.

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT - CHAPTERS 7:8-16

1. This is one of those profound passages in Scripture for here we find God's plan for the Messiah to come from David's lineage. This is confirmed by other prophets:

- a. Isaiah 11:1
- b. Jeremiah 23:5
- c. Ezekiel 37:25
- d. The angel Gabriel made his announcement to Mary in accord with these prophecies concerning Jesus: Luke 1:32-33.

2. There are several significant things we should remember about the Davidic Covenant.

- a. Divine confirmation of the throne in Israel (7:13).
- b. The perpetuation of the Davidic rule (7:11-16).
 1. "house" or posterity: 11 and 13.
 2. "throne" or royal authority: 13
 3. "kingdom" or sphere of rule: 13 and 16.

All three are secured forever.
- c. Psalm 89 gives an exposition of this (especially vs. 3, 4, 20-37).
- d. It is unconditional because it will be fulfilled in the Messiah. Acts 2:29-31 and 15:14-17.
- e. It is a sure prophecy of Christ.
 1. The first such prophecy was made to Adam: Genesis 3:15.
A promise to the "race" in general.

2. The second was given to Abraham: Genesis 22:18.
This was given to a "nation" in the "race" in general - Israel.
3. The third was given to Jacob: Genesis 49:10.
Given to one "tribe" in that nation - Judah.
4. The fourth given to David: One "family" in that tribe.

DAVID'S REIGN AT ITS HIGHEST - CHAPTERS 8 - 10

1. He is victorious on every hand.

DAVID'S GREAT SIN - CHAPTER 11

1. His first sin: 11:3-4.
2. His first sin led to a worse second sin: 11:15-17.

DAVID'S CONFESSION - CHAPTER 12:13-18 AND 23.

Then Solomon is born to David - vs. 24.

DAVID'S TROUBLES - CHAPTERS 13 - 24

The rest of the Book of II Samuel has nothing to do with triumph and everything to do with trouble. The last recorded victory is at the end of Chapter 12 when he conquers the royal city of Ammon. The rest of the Chapters record all of David's troubles in his family and in the nation.

Especially of note are Chapters 15-18 concerning Absalom, David's son, and his rebellion against his father. This was a part of the bitter fruit of David's sin according to Chapter 12:11-12. All of this led to Absalom being killed by Joab, David's captain (18:14). When David was told, he cried those familiar words found in the last part of Chapter 18:33.

David was restored to the throne in Jerusalem followed by more experiences of retribution from the hand of God. The Book closes with David's purchase of the threshing floor on Mt. Moriah which became the site of the Temple. It was here, hundreds of years earlier that Abraham offered Isaac.

FOR NEXT WEEK:
READ I AND II KINGS