

Intro to II SAMUEL

Author: The Book of 2 Samuel does not identify its author. It could not be the Prophet Samuel, since he died in 1 Samuel. Possible writers include Nathan and Gad (see 1 Chronicles 29:29).

Date of Writing: Originally, the books of 1 and 2 Samuel were one book. The translators of the Septuagint separated them, and we have retained that separation ever since. The events of 1 Samuel span approximately 100 years, from c. 1100 B.C. to c. 1000 B.C. The events of 2 Samuel cover another 40 years. The date of writing, then, would be sometime after 960 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: 2 Samuel is the record of King David's reign. This book places the Davidic Covenant in its historical context.

David's Triumphs		David's Troubles			Appendix
Reigning in Hebron Over Judah	Reigning in Jerusalem Over All Israel	With Himself	With His Family	With His Nation	Miscellaneous Narratives
David's lament (1) David's crowning (2) David's increase (3-4)	A new capital (5) A new worship center (6) A new dynasty (7) A new boundary (8) A new son (9) Another new boundary (10)	David's sin (11) Nathan's denunciation (12)	Amnon's immorality (13) Absalom's crime and flight (14) Absalom's revolt (15) Absalom's counselors (16-17) Absalom's death (18)	David's return (19) Sheba's revolt (20)	A famine (21) A song (22) A prophecy (23) A failure (24)
CHAPTERS 1-4	CHAPTERS 5-10	CHAPTERS 11-12	CHAPTERS 13-18	CHAPTERS 19-20	CHAPTERS 21-24
Christ in 2 Samuel Foreshadowed in David's reign, which, though imperfect, is characterized by justice, wisdom, and integrity; the Messiah, the Son of David, is promised as an offspring of the Davidic line and One who will sit upon David's throne forever					

- Chapter Summary of I Samuel

Chapter 1: David receives the news that Saul and Jonathan have been killed in battle, and laments over their deaths.

Chapter 2: David is anointed King over Israel and settles in Judah. Saul's chief commander, Abner, takes Ish-Bosheth, the son of Saul, and makes him King over the northern tribes of Israel. War breaks out between the two houses, and David's men defeat Abner and Israel.

Chapter 3: Ish-Bosheth falsely accuses Abner of having relations with one of the royal concubines, and Abner defects to David's court, and David welcomes his support. Abner calls upon the other tribes to support David and his rightful claim to the throne. Joab kills Abner for murdering his brother. David denounces the murder by Joab and mourns for Abner, and by doing so, wins the respect of the Israel.

Chapter 4: When two men kill Ish-Bosheth in his sleep and presents the severed head to David, he is horrified that an innocent man has been killed, and he publicly executes the murderers.

Chapter 5: All of the tribes of Israel unite around David and anoint him as the new King of Israel. David leads the Israelite army to Jerusalem and defeat the Jebusites, proclaiming the city as "Zion, the City of David." When the Philistines hear that David has been anointed King, they go up against him, but David leads the army to victory.

Chapter 6: The ark is returned to Jerusalem in ceremonial fashion. Uzzah is struck down for touching the ark, and David's wife, Michal, criticizes him for disgracing the ark by dancing in front of it.

Chapter 7: Through the prophet, Nathan, God commissions David to build a temple in Jerusalem. David responds by making a vow to God that he would do it.

Chapter 8: Chapter 8 lists all the military victories won by the army of Israel with David as their King.

Chapter 9: David finds that Jonathan has a son, Mephibosheth, who is lame in both legs. David vows to take care of Mephibosheth and has him come to Jerusalem.

Chapter 10: When he attempts to make peace with the Ammonites, his gestures are misinterpreted as military advances. When the Ammonites attack the men of Israel, David and Israel fight back, defeating the Ammonite army.

Chapter 11: David has relations with Bathsheba, then conspires a cover-up, which eventually leads to the death of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband.

Chapter 12: Nathan confronts David concerning his sin, and David repents. The child conceived out of wedlock dies, David takes Bathsheba as his wife and they have another son, Solomon.

Chapter 13: David's son, Amnon, forces his sister, Tamar, into illicit relations with him. When David heard, he was furious. Absalom, while remaining silent, harbored a hatred for his brother, Amnon. Absalom arranges for the murder of Amnon, then flees when he is killed.

Chapter 14: David allows Absalom to return to Jerusalem, after being in exile for three years.

Chapter 15: Absalom forms a conspiracy to take over the throne and set himself as King of Israel. When David hears of the plot, he takes his men and flees Jerusalem.

Chapter 16: As David and his men march near Bahurim, David gets pelted with rocks by some of the household of Saul. David chooses not to punish the attacker and continues on. Absalom returns to Jerusalem and is greeted by David's former loyal servants, who pledge their allegiance to Absalom. As an act of disgrace and dishonor to David, Absalom lies with one of David's concubines.

Chapter 17: Absalom garners the support of the men of Israel and plots an attack on David and his men.

Chapter 18: In pursuit of David, Absalom's hair gets caught in a tree, and he is struck to death by Joab. David mourns the death of his son.

Chapter 19: To the frustration of Joab, David mourns for Absalom and offers grace and forgiveness for the allies of Absalom, including Amasa, the commander of Absalom's army.

Chapter 20: Sheba, a troublemaker, rallies the men of Israel to desert David and to follow him. Joab takes out vengeance against Amasa by stabbing him to death. Joab traps the remaining rebels in the city of Abel, and Sheba is beheaded by the residents their in exchange for Joab and the army to leave them alone.

Chapter 21: The nation experiences a three year famine. Believing that it was a curse brought on by Saul and his slaughter of the Gibeonites, David seeks to make things right with them by giving up the conspirators to be put to death. David and the army of the Israelites engage and defeat the Philistine army one more time.

Chapter 22: David offers up a song of praise to the Lord for his deliverance of David out of the hands of Saul

Chapter 23: David offers some last words, and the names of David's best fighting men are listed by the Author.

Chapter 24: David is determined to engage in a census to count all of the able bodied fighting men in Israel and Judah. He is convicted that what he has done is sinful, and as an act of repentance, builds an altar to the Lord.

Practical Application: Anyone can fall. Even a man like David, who truly desired to follow God and who was richly blessed by God, was susceptible to temptation. David's sin with Bathsheba should be a warning to all of us to guard our hearts, our eyes and our minds. Pride over our spiritual maturity and our ability to withstand temptation in our own strength is the first step to a downfall (1 Corinthians 10:12).

God is gracious to forgive even the most heinous sins when we truly repent. However, healing the wound caused by sin does not always erase the scar. Sin has natural consequences, and even after he was forgiven, David reaped what he had sown. His son from the illicit union with another man's wife was taken from him (2 Samuel 12:14-24) and David suffered the misery of a break in his loving relationship with his heavenly Father (Psalms 32 and 51). How much better to avoid sin in the first place, rather than having to seek forgiveness later!