


Note

2 Samuel – Part 1 of 1

Era	Characters	Chapters
In the beginning	God created the world.	Genesis 1
Before 4000 BC	Adam & Eve	Gen 1~5
Before 3000 BC	Cain Abel Seth	Gen 4~5
Before 2500 BC	Noah	Gen 5~10
About 2000 BC Era of Patriarchs	Abraham Isaac & Ishmael Jacob & Esau Joseph	Gen 11~50
About 1500 BC~1000 BC Era of prophets	Moses Aaron Joshua	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy
	Joshua	Joshua
	Judges(Othniel Ehud Shamgar Deborah Gideon Tola Jair Jephthah Ibzan Elon Abdon Samson) Abimelech	Judges
	Ruth Boaz Naomi	Ruth
	Eli Samuel Saul David Jonathan	1 Samuel
About 1000 BC~500 BC Era of princes	Saul Jonathan David Absalom Solomon	1 Samuel 2 Samuel 

Summary

2 Samuel - Part 1 of 13

Second Samuel offers lessons about God's character through King David's reign:

- i. Firstly, the time span that God works in. It took 1,000 years from the time God pledged the Promised Land to Abraham, to David taking control of it.
- ii. Secondly, the parallel between how David took control of the Promised Land only by conquering the last stronghold in Jerusalem; and how we need to conquer the strongholds of sin in our life before attaining peace in our relationship with God.
- iii. Thirdly, how David's downfall began with his act of sin with Bathsheba, eventually leading to the deadly plague that killed 70,000 in Israel.
- iv. Fourthly, David's burnt offerings in repentance to God at Mount Moriah is a foreshadowing of Christ's crucifixion 1,000 years later.

Transcript

2 Samuel – Part 1 of 1

Today we look at the book of Second Samuel. Remember, in the original it was really just one book but because it's such a long book we split it into two parts. Let's do a quick review of First Samuel.

In First Samuel, the Israelites rejected God as their king. They said, we want a king like the other nations. God had been their King all along. They said, we want a king to fight our wars and God had been fighting their wars for them. How in the world did a band of helpless slaves survive 40 years in the wilderness with no water, no food? Who provided? Obviously the King had provided food for them. They entered into the Promised Land across the Jordan.

These people who didn't know how to fight (and there were fortified cities, 31 of them), conquered them one after another - walls fall down, thunder comes, earthquake, sun stood still. Who did all that? It was God. Obviously God fought their war, but no, they say we want a king like the other nations. In other words, we want someone we can see, someone visible, someone impressive - not so much effective, but impressive. This is the nature of man, the folly of men. You like to see something impressive. Most political leaders, and kings look very impressive. Actually, they are all paper tigers. Many politicians look so impressive and everybody looks up to them. Idolatry nowadays-we look up to someone like a sports star, we need someone to idolize. It's idolatry in the modern form, not a graven image, but a person. We all make idols about jobs and make idols of people. We like to have something visible. It could be your job, could be a house, your dream home. These are idolatry of various kinds.

Then God allows them - you want a king like that, so he gives them exactly what they yearn for - the tallest guy in town, the tallest king of all the kings. He was head and shoulders over everybody else, and this king called Saul started very well. He won wars for them, etc. and then in the second half of First Samuel, we see him really coming down. Now from this point in the second half of First Samuel, he's not fighting their wars, he's fighting his war, his war against his personal competitor, David. He feels that he cannot stand anybody competing with him. He spends his entire life focused on this one person called David.

It lasted 40 years. Saul was king for 40 years. Forty years of envy sent him crazy. Literally, he ended up looking for a witch to help him figure out what to do. He couldn't think straight, and he finally committed suicide. The first attempt to get a king after their own idea of a king failed miserably. But the second half of first Samuel shows another king coming up at the time Saul was going down, this good guy called David. As he was being chased left and right he never complained, he never murmured against God, and his faith in God never wavered. He was willing to wait out the promise of God that he would be the next king. He never lifted a finger - 2 clear opportunities to kill Saul and he didn't do it because he trusted that God would fulfil his promise. He didn't have to hurry. He didn't have to help God in that sense.

Doesn't it sound so familiar- when we see new leaders come up-new corporate leaders, new political leaders, new systems come up and think this is the solution to all our problems. That's how it always begins and then it always comes crashing down.

Let's look at Second Samuel. We see the reign of David. David was 30 years old, Saul had committed suicide in the past book of First Samuel. David is 30 years old and the Bible tells us he reigned for 40 years too. The first three kings of Israel reigned for 40 years. Saul, David and Solomon all reigned for 40 years. The number 40 is quite significant in biblical numbers. Forty is usually a time of testing - 40 years in the wilderness, 40 days of fasting when Moses went up to Mount Sinai. The kings are given 40 years to test whether they are of a good quality or bad quality, whether they will

pass or whether they would fail. In his 40 year reign, the first seven years of his reign was in the city of Hebron, because a large part was still loyal to Saul. Saul's son, Ishbosheth was still alive, and so the first seven years he reigned in Hebron, a city of the tribe of Judah, which is David's tribe. Then the next 33 years he reigned over a unified Israel and that was from the city of Jerusalem. He's 30 years old, just as Christ started his public ministry at age of 30. David started his Kingdom as King at age 30 and he lasted for 40 years. By far David is the greatest king that Israel ever had. He brought the borders of Israel to it's biblical boundaries. God had said, this is your land, this promise land. The rest of the kings never had the faith to claim it all. God said This is your land that is given to you, go and possess it, possess it by faith, take a step of faith to conquer the land. And David did that. His kingdom was like the golden age of Israel. Up to today, the Jews are still waiting for a king like David. It's quite funny. The King like David we are going to read is not really that King that I would want. But anyway, they don't know any better. They don't believe that Jesus is the King. So they are still waiting for a coming King.

David finally rises up, and the kingdom becomes the kingdom that seems to be the kingdom God has promised - It took 1000 years, from the time God told Abraham, Walk through this land, this is the land I will give you and your descendants, but before that you have to go into Egypt to await the fullness of the sin of the Amorites. In other words, you don't conquer the land yet, Abraham. First, you are too few. You need to go to Egypt grow a bit more. But number two, you have no right to conquer them now, though they're evil at the time of Abraham, Lot and Sodom. You know how evil the land was already -homosexuality and temples full of sex, but God said Not yet. God allowed their wickedness to reach a certain point of no return, so to speak.

It was 1000 years from the promise given to Abraham until finally David's kingdom comes up. That's a long time. We are now in the year 2000. Imagine back to the year 1000. Who was there? Which kings were there in England, Singapore didn't exist, Philippines didn't exist as a nation. We're talking about a long time ago.

First, let's understand the time span of God. One day with God is as 1000 years for us. For us, it's like, God, why so long? It's because we live in a

very short time span as opposed to the God who lives in eternity. This gives you not only the character of God, but the time span, the time frame that God works in, so to speak. David became this great king. How did he become a great King? By conquering the last stronghold in Canaan called Jerusalem. The Jebusites continued to live in the city of Jebus before it was called Jerusalem. No judge, no Israelite could ever enter the city. It was on this amazing location. In the days of the past, a strong fort was not on its walls alone but on its location, because on the mountain on which it is built, 3 sides were steep. So Jebus or Jerusalem was built right at the top of this amazing strategic place, and nobody could conquer it. They laughed when David was trying to conquer it. They said even the blind and lame in Jebus will defend the city but one of the men of David found a water tunnel that went into the city. You can read that in second Samuel of chapter 5. They entered the city and conquered it and renamed it Jerusalem - the City of David, sometimes called Zion. There are names that more or less mean the same thing but there are subtle differences. Jerusalem or anything that sound like Salaam (if you're Muslim), Shalom (if you're Jewish). Even the name Solomon is actually all from the word peace. Jerusalem basically means city of peace. Finally after 400 years in the Promised Land, they conquered the last stronghold. Remember, you understand the Promised Land is a place where we are in the will of God but there are strongholds in our lives, sins that we need to conquer to get the peace, the total peace with God. Before that we have peace but not total because some sins keep popping up and troubling our relationship with God. Some sins that we cannot get rid of, they are strongholds in our life, maybe a certain sin we won't let go-pride, a certain ego, certain things in our life. We can give everything to God except that.

Jerusalem speaks of the last stronghold and when that last stronghold was captured, his kingdom was at rest, the kingdom was at peace. They were now in the Promised Land that was given to them, and now they possessed the peace that they should have had much earlier if they had conquered these strongholds. When David had conquered Jerusalem, this is what he did. He built himself a beautiful home and then he felt so guilty that he lives in this beautiful home and God's place is still a tent, a tabernacle. This tent is 400 years old or 500 years old and I'm sure it looked pretty shabby and worn out. The tabernacle looks so bad, and David said, God, I want to build a house for you. The Prophet said him, Of course you can build a house but later God said to the Prophet, No, David cannot build a house. He's a

man of war, blood. Later Solomon, whose name is peace will build a tabernacle, the temple. David wants to build God a house-Second Samuel chapter seven and 11 verse 13, he said, I will make you a house but in second Samuel seven verse 16, God says something quite unusual You don't build me a house. I'm happy to live in tents. That's really the character of God. When Jesus came, he didn't have a house. Foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests, and the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head – no permanent address. The tabernacle was moved here, moved there, and moved to so many places. But this is what God said to David, you want to build me a house? That's nice, that's good, but your son will do it. You're a man of war, you have blood in your hands you can't build this tabernacle, which is a symbol of God having peace with men. But I will build you a house. Second Samuel seven verse 16-I will build you a dynasty and your throne will be established for ever.

A throne that can be established. You know Chinese dynasties 500 years, 600 years - that's very long already for dynasty for ever. Then later you see, the royal line of David goes off into exile, what happened to the Royal line of Israel. Where is God's promise - the throne shall be established forever, I'll build you a house for ever, a dynasty forever? But you and I know 1000 years later, a humble couple called Joseph and Mary, both of whom are descendants of David appeared. The genealogy is given. Both Joseph the legal father of Jesus (not biological, because Jesus had no father except the Holy Spirit) and Mary, the biological mother (because Jesus is 100% God from the Holy Spirit and 100% human from Mary) were the descendants of David. Jesus will be king of the Jews first, the king of the church today, and king of the world, in the new heaven and the new earth.

I hope you see the promise was fulfilled 1000 years after David was told your throne will be established forever, in the form of Jesus, the king that we are talking about. God wanted us to be redeemed by a king, but his version of a king was very different from their version of a king, but nonetheless he allowed it. God is so wise, in the end he just works it back into his redemption plan. We see here, David now has this promise from God that His throne will be established forever. I don't think he probably grasped it as Oh okay Solomon will be there and then after Solomon, Solomon's son, and you know just physically go on. After this beautiful

promise given to David, something happens. In chapter 11 it says when at the time when kings go forth to war, it's a time for war. In winter, they didn't go to war. They go to war when the weather is better because they fought a different style from us-their war was one army line up against another army and then-bloodshed. What happened is David didn't go to war. It is really kings who led the fight. Up to today it's really army generals who lead in the front. Our generals are very different. We sit and draw the plans then we tell the men to go and fight. The Bible tells us that David didn't go for some reason, he got complacent. He is the big King now. He's got a huge kingdom, everything seems to be at rest. He sends Joab and his army to go out. He stays home and when he stayed home, he was out of God's will. He saw a woman, a beautiful woman taking a bath on the roof. It was normal on those days and from his roof he could see her and he lusted after this woman. Then we know the rest of the story, Bathsheba and David. In the sin with Bathsheba we see he committed five sins at one time in the 10 commandments. There are 10, he committed five in one go. This one woman he covets her, he steals another man's wife, he commits adultery with her, then he lies and then he kills. He kills Uriah her husband. Here we see the downfall of David. After this, one problem after another. One of his sons rapes a stepsister, one of his daughters and then the brother of this girl who got raped, Absalom, says I will get revenge then he kills his stepbrother, Amnon.

Then afterwards Absalom rebels against David and David had to flee like a fugitive. This great king of Israel runs like a fugitive, runs barefoot with head covered. That's the downfall of David all the way down. One sin - but you see the good part about David - the moment he was confronted by Nathan, David said I have sinned against the Lord. Immediately, unlike Saul who keeps giving excuses, (David could have said I was there, why does she bathe on the rooftop, she knows my roof is higher than her roof. He could have given 100 excuses) he confessed his sins straightaway and God forgave him. David writes a lot of the Psalms that expresses his repentance and the forgiveness, the sweetness of God's forgiveness. Actually David is more remembered as a psalmist than as a king for us. As a king he is more like a failure, as a psalmist, he's still the top psalmist or the song writer of the Bible.

Now the last part of this book is very amazing. David is still proud. All people who rise to the top struggle with this thing called pride. He wanted to count census of his mighty military men so he ordered a census of his mighty men and Joab said, Don't do it, don't do it. When David insisted, God punished his pride. God brought him up from being a shepherd, God made him king of the greatest Kingdom ever that will ever be in Israel and yet, he forgot. He thought he made himself great. You can't help it when you're rich. You think it might be my smartness that made me wealthy, you just can't help it. You like to steal the glory from God. So what happens? God sends a pestilence and 70,000 people died. David sees 70,000 people die because of his stupid sin of pride, and he doesn't know what to do, and Gad the prophet tells him go offer an offering on the threshing floor of Araunah. What is the significance of David's burnt offering on the threshing floor of Araunah? The plague ends, the pestilence ends.

All of it is one amazing lead-up of thousand years to the threshing floor of Araunah. If you go to Second Chronicles 3:1, it says it is Moriah. Hope you see the trend now. Moriah - when did you first hear that. Remember we heard Moriah in Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. He brought Isaac up to sacrifice on Moriah. Now 1000 years later, David sacrifices a burnt offering, an animal, a substitute, to save the lives of the people of Jerusalem. And then 1000 years after this, Jesus Christ is sacrificed on Mount Moriah. I hope you see the story. Otherwise, it's just a bundle of somewhat unrelated and disjointed stories.

Until you see that there is a trend that God is telling us that one day, the King, not David, but the son of David, the King will give a sacrifice at this same place-not an animal, but Himself. I hope you see Second Samuel as God's beautiful redemption story. The beautiful book-a love story of how God loves us, patiently hangs in with us, teaches us lessons along the way, all of it leading to us having that eternal relationship, a final romance with God for all eternity. The beautiful book. God bless you.