

BOOK OF SECOND SAMUEL

The books of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel were originally one book in the Hebrew version of the Bible. Due to its length, this book was divided into two in the English version of the Bible.

Review of the Book of First Samuel

1. In the book of 1 Samuel, the Israelites rejected God as their King.
 - a) They wanted a king like other pagan nations - a human king to fight their wars.
 - b) All this while, God had been fighting for them. He had enabled them to conquer 31 fortified cities. He had caused thick fortified walls to tumble down, thunder to roar, earth to quake and the Sun to stand still.
 - c) But the Israelites wanted someone they could see - someone impressive rather than effective. This is the folly of men.
 - d) Many political leaders look impressive but are paper tigers. Idolatry causes us to look up to men instead of God. We make idols of people, jobs and material things. We love idolatry of various kinds.
2. God gave Saul, who was an impressive man, to the Israelites as their first king.
 - a) Although Saul started well, he declined in the 2nd half of the book of 1 Samuel. He was no longer fighting the wars of Israel but was fighting his own war against his imaginary "competitor", David due to envy. He became crazy and even consulted a medium before he committed suicide.
 - b) He was king for 40 years. Israel's first king failed miserably.
3. In the 2nd half of the book, while Saul was falling, David was rising.
 - a) David did not murmur against God. His faith was unwavering and he was willing to wait for the promise of God that he would be the next king. There were two clear opportunities in which he could have killed Saul but he did not because he trusted that God would fulfill His promise. He did not have to hurry or try to help God.
 - b) David seemed promising as Israel's new leader (as it often does when a new promising leader emerges).

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1. This book focuses on the reign of King David. David started to reign at age 30 and he reigned for a period of 40 years.
2. The first 3 kings of Israel, namely, Saul, David and Solomon, each reigned for a period of 40 years. The number 40 is significant. It signifies a time of testing, for example, the Israelites wandered 40 years in the wilderness, Moses fasted 40 days and 40 nights when he went up to Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).
3. 2 Samuel 2:11 says that David spent his first 7½ years as king in Hebron because a large part of Israel was still loyal to King Saul and his son, Ishbosheth was still alive. Hebron was a city of the tribe of Judah, which is David's tribe.
4. In the next 33 years, David reigned over a unified Israel from Jerusalem.
 - a) He became king at age 30 years, just as Jesus started His public ministry at the age of 30.

- b) David was by far the greatest king Israel ever had. He expanded the borders of Israel to its biblical boundaries; to all the Land promised by God. His reign was the Golden Age of Israel.
 - c) Up till today, the Jews are still waiting for another king like David. They do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah and the King of the Jews.
5. Up to the time of David, it had been 1000 years since God gave Abraham the promise of the Land.
- a) Abraham had to go to Egypt to await the fullness of the sins of the Amorites as prophesized in Genesis 15:16. God patiently allowed their wickedness to reach a point of no return before He blotted out the Amorites.
 - b) To us, 1000 years is a long time. Singapore did not exist 1000 years ago. We have to understand the time span of God. One day with God is as 1000 years for us (2 Peter 3:8). This is because we live in a very short time span relative to God who lives in eternity.
 - c) This gives us an understanding not only of the character of God but the time frame that He works in.
6. How did David become a great king?
- a) David did this by conquering the last stronghold in the Promised Land, known as Jerusalem.
 - i. The Jebusites continued to live in the city of Jebus before it was called Jerusalem.
 - ii. Prior to David, no Judge or Israelite could ever conquer the city. The mountain on which this city is built has 3 steep sides. It is an amazingly strategic location and therefore very difficult to conquer.
 - iii. When David was trying to conquer it, the Jebusites laughed and said that even the blind and lame in Jebus could defend the city. (2 Samuel 5:6)
 - iv. 2 Samuel Chapter 5 records that David's men entered the city through an underground water tunnel.
 - v. David conquered it and renamed it Jerusalem, the City of David, which is also called Zion. Salaam (to the Muslims) or Shalom (to the Jews) means peace. Jerusalem basically means City of Peace. Finally, after 400 years in the Promised Land, the Israelites conquered the last stronghold.
 - b) The Promised Land is where we are in the will of God but there are strongholds (sins) in our lives that we need to conquer to get total peace in God. Jerusalem speaks of the last stronghold so when it was captured, the kingdom was at peace. Israel now possessed the peace in the Promised Land as promised by God.
7. David felt guilty that he lived in a beautiful palace but God's "home" was still the Tabernacle, an old tent that was 400 or 500 years old.
- a) 2 Samuel 7:2 tells us that David wanted to build a house for God but God refused. Only his son, Solomon (whose name means peace) was allowed by

God to build the Temple. David was a man of war and not peace. The Tabernacle is a symbol of God having peace with men.

- b) In 2 Samuel 7:4-11, God rejected David's request to build the house for Him as God is willing to live in a tent. That is the character of God. When Jesus came, He did not have a house. He said in Matthew 8:20, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Jesus moved around just like how the Tabernacle was moved from place to place.
8. In 2 Samuel 7:16, God, instead, promised David that He would build him a dynasty and his throne would be established forever.
- a) No human dynasty can last forever, even Israel was eventually scattered. So what happened to the royal line of Israel? Where is God's promise that David's throne will be established forever?
 - b) Then, 1000 years later, Jesus was born of Joseph and Mary, both of whom were descendants of David.
 - i. The genealogy are given in Matthew 1:1-17 (Joseph's side) and Luke 3:23-38 (Mary's side).
 - ii. Joseph was the legal father of Jesus (not biological because Jesus had no earthly father except the Holy Spirit) and Mary was the biological mother (because Jesus is 100% human from Mary).
 - iii. Jesus would be the King of the Jews first; then the King of the Church today and; in the future, the King of the Universe in the New Heaven and New Earth.
 - c) God fulfilled this promise to David 1000 years later in the form of King Jesus. God wanted us to be redeemed by a King. His version of a King was very different from the Israelites' version of a king but He allowed nonetheless. God is so wise and He just works it back into His redemption plan.
9. 2 Samuel Chapter 11 records the sins committed by David.
- a) 2 Samuel 11:1 tells us that it was the time when kings went out to war. However, David did not go. In those days, wars were fought by each side sending a representative to challenge each other, so as to reduce bloodshed. Usually, it was the king who would lead the army. David sent Joab and his army but he himself stayed at home. This was outside of God's will.
 - b) 2 Samuel 11:2-27. Then, while staying at home, David saw a beautiful woman taking a bath on the roof across where he was standing and he lusted after her. In his sin with Bathsheba, he committed 5 sins at one go of the 10 commandments given by God. He coveted her, stole the wife of another man (Uriah), committed adultery with her, lied and killed Uriah. We start to see the downfall of David. Subsequently many more problems arose, one after another.
 - c) 2 Samuel 13:1-38. One of David's sons (Amnon) raped his step-sister. Then Absalom, her brother, killed his step-brother Amnon and fled.
 - d) 2 Samuel 15:1-37. Following that, Absalom rebelled against David and David had to flee like a fugitive. The great king of Israel had to run bare-footed, with his head covered and in torn clothes. David fell all the way down. As we can see, one sin leads to more sins.

- e) BUT the key turning-point came when David was confronted by Prophet Nathan in 2Samuel 12:13 and he replied "I have sinned against the LORD."
 - i. Unlike King Saul who kept giving excuses, King David immediately confessed and repented, and God forgave him.
 - ii. David wrote a psalm (Psalm 51) that expressed his repentance and many other psalms about the sweetness of God's forgiveness.
 - iii. He was the top psalmist in the Bible.

10. 2 Samuel Chapter 24 tells of David's Census.

- a) David was proud and he wanted to count his mighty military men. Joab advised him against it. When he insisted, God punished him for his pride. God had raised him up from being a shepherd to being the king of the greatest kingdom in the history of Israel. Yet he thought he had made himself great.
- b) People who rise to the top must be careful not to be proud and think that their own abilities have made them great. We must not try to steal the glory from God.
- c) 2 Samuel 24:15 tells us that God sent a pestilence on Israel and 70,000 men died. When David saw that 70,000 people died because of his sin of pride, he did not know what to do. God sent Prophet Gad to tell David to make a burnt offering on the threshing floor of Araunah in 2 Samuel 24:18.
- d) What is the significance of David's burnt offering on the threshing floor of Araunah?
 - i. This is the same Mount Moriah mentioned in 2 Chronicles 3:1 ("Ornan" is the same as "Araunah").
 - ii. 1000 years earlier, Abraham had brought Isaac to Mount Moriah to be sacrificed.
 - iii. 1000 years after that (here in 2 Samuel 24:18), David sacrificed a burnt offering of an animal, a substitute, to save the lives of the people of Jerusalem.
 - iv. 1000 years after David's burnt offering, Jesus Christ was sacrificed on the Cross at Mount Moriah.
 - v. All these happenings at Mount Moriah looked so disjointed but there was a trend. God was pointing us to that day, when the King (not David but Jesus, the Son of David) would give a sacrifice at this same place, not of an animal but of Himself. If we can see the connections of the various events, we can see the beauty of God's redemption story.

11. This redemption story tells of how God loves us, patiently hangs in with us, and teaches us lessons along the way. All of it leads us into an eternal relationship, a final romance with Him for all eternity!