

2nd Samuel Chapter 1

1. 2nd Samuel doesn't need too much by way of introduction. 1st & 2nd Samuel was originally one book which was later separated.
2. Written around 1,100 BC, initially by Samuel himself then after his death it was completed by the prophets Nathan and Gad.
3. Samuel was the initial subject of the book, transitioning to Israel's first king, King Saul, then onto Israel's greatest king, a man after God's own heart, King David.
4. 2nd Samuel is primarily about King David and unifying the nation.
5. For 10 years David was exiled with a price on his head, running from Saul and waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises to him, placing him on the throne of Israel.
6. 10 years of spiritual growth, testing, preparation – development, being equipped for God's appointed ministry.
7. When that day arrives David is not too quick to assume anything, being careful not to force himself upon a people some of whom are still loyal to Saul and grieving for him.
8. David takes his time patiently winning the affection and allegiance of the people. Like our Lord Jesus he is a gentle shepherd.

Psalm 78:72 “So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.”

V: 1-4 God had protected and spared David from being in any way associated with this battle in which Israel was defeated and Saul killed.

Jeremiah 10:23 “Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

Psalm 37:23 “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way.”

- It was a similar message in **1 Samuel 4:16**; a man had escaped the battle and fled to Shiloh to report to Eli that the battle had been lost, that Eli's sons were killed, and that the Ark had been captured. Then Eli fell over backwards and broke his neck.
- God cleared the slate and Samuel became the judge and prophet over Israel.
- Here we have a similar thing, Saul and most of his leadership and his heirs are killed clearing the way for David to assume the throne.

V: 5-10 25 years earlier Saul had been commanded to wipe out all the Amalekites, which he did not do, he was disobedient. Now an Amalekite is holding his crown and trying to profit on his death.

- The Amalekites are always analogous to sin and the flesh, if we don't deal with it, kill it, it will always come back to haunt us.
- Had Saul been obedient to God's word, this Amalekite would not be standing there. Saul lost the kingdom because he didn't understand that Amalek had to be dealt with.

Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

- There are no excuses for sin; only a cure. There are only two responses to sin; repentance or rationalization.
- We're not to explore it, explain it, or excuse it – we're to kill it, we're to deal with it in a Biblical way.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- We're to simply acknowledge it, confess it, repent of it, and go our way free of it.

The woman caught in adultery, cast at Jesus feet "where are your accusers, has no man condemned you?"

John 8:11 "She said, no man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

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- The Amalekites were a nomadic people, very much like the Bedouins of today. Happened by chance? When there were battles like this which in particular moved onto another area, they would come in to strip the dead and take whatever they could find of any value which is probably what happened in this case.
 - This description of Saul's death seems to contradict what we read in 1st Samuel 31 which describes and states clearly that Saul was dead, that he died when Saul fell upon his own sword.
 - 1st Samuel states what actually happened as opposed to what this Amalekite "said" happened.

1 Chronicles 10:1-6 Describe the same exact story as **1 Samuel 31**.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14 "¹³So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; ¹⁴and inquired not of the Lord: therefore He slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse."

V: 11-12 David grieves for Saul, Jonathan, and all the men of Israel fallen in battle, as do David's men.

- To his credit he did not rejoice. David truly grieved, as did his men.

Ezekiel 33:11 "... as I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked: but that the wicked turn from his way and live:..."

- They tore their clothes, they wept, and mourned, and fasted – would not eat until the even, until the next day.

V: 13-16 David turns his attention back to the young Amalekite: and investigates further.

"How is it that you weren't afraid to put your hand on God's anointed?"

- David then had the man killed, noting that his own words condemned him, that his blood is upon his own head, he brought it upon himself.

Psalms 105:15 "Saying, touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."

V: 17-27 The lament of David, a song that extols the virtues of Saul and Jonathan, commemorating their lives.

V: 18 Teach the children the use of the bow: Saul had been a very capable warrior, his sword had been effective, yet he was taken down with arrows. Jonathan was an archer; David could see this as a weapon of the future and a fitting memorial to both men to have the children taught in the use of the bow – preparing for future wars.

- This too, is a season, like many that soon will pass.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ¹"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: ²A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; ³A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."

- Recorded in the book of Jasher: "right", "righteous", or "straight".
- The book of Jasher is mentioned 2X's in the Bible, here and **Joshua 10:13**.

- One of the many factors that prove the authenticity of the Bible is the miracle of its survival; God has miraculously preserved His word for us to read and hear the voice of God.
- In His divine wisdom and according to His perfect will, the book of Jasher was not preserved – we must presume from this fact that it was not necessary for our faith or edification. Existing at one point but allowed by God to fall into obscurity, removed from our bookshelf so to speak.

V: 19-20 The beauty of Israel: speaking figuratively and graciously.

- Don't let them brag about it in Gath or Ashkelon: Philistine cities that the uncircumcised should rejoice.

V: 21-23 Dew and rain are blessing from the Lord that brings life, may the mountains of Gilboa bring forth no fruit, may they be barren – because that is where Saul died.

- When the Jews re-gained the land in 1948 they began a program of re-forestation throughout the whole country. They have planted literally millions of trees including the area of Mt. Gilboa. But there is one part on the Northern most part of Mt. Gilboa that was left without any trees – in honor of David's pledge. It is also an area with little rainfall so that it is barren to this day
- Jonathan's arrows hit their mark, he did not flee – but he stood and fought the good fight.
- Saul's sword did not come away empty – he took many with him in his death.
- They were not divided; they died together – faithful to the end.

V: 21 David describes the strength, the might, and dignity of Saul & Jonathan.

V: 22-23 David describes their military prowess and skill, their courage.

V: 24 David describes Saul's economic leadership and prosperity that they enjoyed under King Saul.

Philippians 1:10 “That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.”

- Not focusing on the faults / his faults, looking for the good.

Philippians 4:8 “Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

- When it came to Saul, that is what David did, he chose to see the good.

V: 24-27 Weep for Saul who blessed you.

V: 26 Jonathan's love exceeding the love of women – speaking figuratively of the phileo love between comrades in war – men who have fought together, a love that transcends physical love.

- To imply a homosexual relationship from this passage is to do violence to the scriptures.
- First the Bible clearly condemns such behavior; secondly David is a man after God's own heart and would not be involved in such behavior.
- Had David kept to God's ideal and restricted himself to only one wife for life he might have had a different perspective; David short changed himself having 8 wives – not truly knowing the blessing of a marriage relationship as God had intended it.

2 Samuel Chapter 2

V: 1-3 After mourning Saul, David is in what next mode – now what do I do?

- David wisely seeks God's counsel – shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?

Psalm 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

- God answers specifically – and says go up into Hebron.

Isaiah 30:21 “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

- Hebron = “communion” – Abraham dwelled between Mamre & Hebron – in Richness and Communion with God.
- As David goes to Hebron, God is drawing David into communion and fellowship with Himself. David was coming home.

V: 4-7 The men of Judah recognized God's anointing upon David, and they affirmed that by joining in with what God was doing and anointed David to be king over Judah.

- David didn't seize or take the throne, the elders came to him; David waited on the Lord.

Psalm 37:9 “For evil doers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.”

Psalm 37:34 “Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.”

- David’s first act as king was to acknowledge the kindness and courage of the men of Jabesh-Gilead for their treatment of Saul, and to bless them.

V: 6 David blesses them with Kindness and truth: need both – need balance.

- He also makes mention of the fact that their previous king was dead, and that Judah had anointed him to be king – intimating that he was available to kingly service if they were interested.
- Just as the previous king came to their rescue in time of need; so too would King David.

V: 8-11 “*But Abner...*” – On the contrary.

- Why was Abner even there? Why didn’t he die protecting Saul? Seemingly Jonathan was faithful to the end but Abner drew a line somewhere and eventually bailed on Saul.
- Abner “took” Ish-bosheth, Abner the king maker and power behind this throne.
- Abner = “My Father is a Lamp”
- Ish-bosheth = “Man of Shame” (Wasn’t at the battle / possible illegitimate son)– (1 **Chronicles 8:33**) his original name was “Ish-baal” – “Man of Baal”.
- Abner took Ish-bosheth to Mahanaim (two camps) – (East of Jordan across from Shechem, just South of Peniel / River Jabbok).
- There Abner makes Ish-bosheth king over Gilead, Ashur, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin, and over all Israel.
- Ish-bosheth was 40 years old when was made king, and he reigned for 2 years. Ish-bosheth is a figurehead, Abner is the real power behind the throne as we’ll see.
- In the mean time Judah followed David, and he reigned 7 ½ years in Hebron before becoming king over all Israel.
- In the same way there is presently a small minority that believe in the true King of kings and Lord of lords, yet there is a time coming when the whole world will recognize Jesus as LORD.

Philippians 2:10-11 “¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

V: 12-17 One of the dumbest stories in the Bible:

- Abner and his men, and Joab and his men; probably both out on patrol meet up at the pool of Gibeon.
- Identified with El Jib, about 6 miles NW of Jerusalem. Excavation has uncovered the pool of Gibeon, 36 ft. in diameter and 30 ft. deep, cut through solid rock.
- Helkath-hazzurim = field of swords.
- What started out as a contest between sets of 12 men escalated to a “very sore battle” in which Abner and his men were beaten.

V: 18-24 Joab, David’s chief general was the son of Zeruah, and two of his brothers were there with him in this battle, Abishai (the man that went with David into Saul’s camp) and Asahel – who was a good runner.

- As the battle ends with Abner’s men being defeated and fleeing, Asahel, Joab’s brother takes off after Abner.
- When chasing a tiger one must consider what will happen if you catch it...
- Abner doesn’t want to kill Asahel, doesn’t particularly want to make an enemy of Joab or his family.
- Abner warns Asahel a couple of times then finally stops briefly and quickly kills Asahel.
- Joab and Abishai continue the chase until the sun goes down.

V: 25-31 As the men of Benjamin gather around Abner and are preparing to face Joab and his men it is shaping up to be a real war when Abner calls out to Joab and asks how long, how far he wants this to go?

- Joab who was seemingly caught up in the battle comes to his senses and stops the battle.
- They take the count and discover that David’s men had lost 20 men including Asahel, and that Abner’s men had lost 360 men.
- God’s favor is still greatly with David and his men.

V: 32 Joab and his men take up Asahel, burying him in Bethlehem in his father’s tomb, which is an honorable burial, and then reporting back to Hebron.

Summary / lessons learned from 2 Samuel Chapters 1 & 2

1. God guides us and protects us, even when we don’t know it.
2. We need to deal with our sin, mortifying the deeds of the flesh.

3. Like David we need to look for the good.
4. Ask God, we will direct us.
5. Like the men of Judah we need to look for and come along side of what God is already doing.
6. David's blessing to Jabesh Gilead "The Lord show kindness and truth" unto you.
7. We need to properly discern friend from foe, our brethren are not the enemy.