

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #15

2 SAMUEL

04-09-23

Monday - 2 Samuel 1-5

Wednesday - 2 Samuel 12-15

Friday - 2 Samuel 20-24

Tuesday - 2 Samuel 6-11

Thursday - 2 Samuel 16-19

Second Samuel continues on with the history of Israel's monarchy that was begun in First Samuel. In fact, what we know as 1 & 2 Samuel were undivided in the Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures and instead consisted of a single writing referred to as Samuel. It was not until the Septuagint, in about 250 B.C., that the single volume was separated into two books as we have them today.

In Second Samuel, with the deaths of Samuel and Saul having already taken place, David is made king of Judah and one of Saul's sons, Ishbosheth, is made king of the rest of Israel. This results in civil war and the death of Ishbosheth and the commander of his army, Joab. After that David becomes king of all of Israel. The rest of the book follows David's life as king, revealing his strengths and his weaknesses.

The author and date of writing of Second Samuel is unknown. Since the death of Samuel is recorded in 1 Samuel 25:1, someone else was obviously responsible for the writing of the remaining portion of First Samuel and all of Second Samuel. Because of what is said in 1 Chronicles 29:29 about two prophets that lived during David's time, Nathan and Gad, it is thought by some that they could have been involved in the writing of these books. However, we do not have any other information to confirm that possibility. In regard to when the book was written, as was mentioned in last week's material, the reference to "the kings of Judah to this day," in 1 Samuel 27:6, would indicate a time of writing after the death of Solomon and the division of the kingdom for that material not written by Samuel himself.

A major theme of Second Samuel is David's success as a faithful king of God's people, in contrast to Saul's failure to serve God properly in First Samuel. One of the keys to David's success, and an important distinction between David and Saul, was that when David was rebuked for his sin he admitted it and repented. His heart was touched and he was sorry for his sin and willing to be disciplined by the Lord. Saul, on the other hand, allowed his heart to be hardened and refusing to repent, plunged deeper and deeper into unrighteousness. Through Nathan the prophet, the Lord told David that his throne would be established forever in 2 Samuel 7:8-17, a prophecy that was to be fulfilled in Jesus.

An outline for the book: 1.) David's triumphs 1-10
2.) David's sins 11
3.) David's punishment, problems and later years 12-24

Questions for 2 Samuel 1-24:

- 1.) How did David react when he learned of the death of Saul and Jonathan in 1:11-12?
- 2.) What important event took place in 5:1-5?

3.) In chapter twelve, who rebukes David and for what?

4.) Who gave Absalom good advice and who gave him bad advice in the first part of chapter seventeen?

5.) What sin did David commit in chapter twenty-four?

Answers to questions for Week #14 – 1 Samuel 1-31:

1.) Until he was weaned.

2.) That the ark of God had been taken by the Philistines.

3.) Hiding himself by the baggage.

4.) That Saul was angry with David and he should leave.

5.) Because David had spared Saul's life that day.