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# **SG021001**

## **For Week – 5/18 - 5/24**

### **The Whole Counsel of God –II Samuel 1-4**

(Questions about this week's study?  
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## **Book Introduction**

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I and II Samuel were originally one book in the Hebrew Bible known as Samuel and it was part of an even bigger work that includes what we know today as I and II Kings, known as the Book of the Kingdoms. This second part of the book which is now known as Second Samuel, will focus on the life and Kingship of David, the second and greatest King of Israel. As we study the book of II Samuel at the same time we are going to consider the account of I Chronicles. I Chronicles covers the same period of time as II Samuel but from a different perspective. I and II Samuel were written by prophets who lived at the time the events took place. It was written from the perspective of the trenches so to speak. I Chronicles is written by priests years later around the time of Nehemiah. Where as Samuel has the perspective and detail from the moment, Chronicles has the perspective of history that is always helpful as well.

**Author:** I and II Samuel = Samuel and other prophets from The School of The Prophets  
I and II Chronicles = Possibly Ezra from the time of Nehemiah

The Jewish Talmud, the original commentary on the Old Testament says that Samuel wrote the early sections of I Samuel up to the time of his death in I Samuel 25. Then other prophets such as Gad and Nathan wrote the rest of I and II Samuel. The Talmud also ascribes the authorship of I and II Chronicles to the priest Ezra. There is nothing to contradict what the original commentators wrote. Chronicles is written in the same style of Nehemiah and Ezra, which were written by Ezra and II Maccabees 2:13 says that Nehemiah founded a library with source material that Ezra could have used to write I and II Chronicles.

## **Overview of the Section – II Samuel 1-4**

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### **David's rule over Judah in Hebron – II Samuel 1-4**

#### **David learns of Saul's death (II Samuel 1)**

David learns of the death of Saul and Jonathan by the word of an Amalekite who apparently finished Saul off after a botched suicide attempt. The Amalekite was no doubt thinking David would reward him, but instead David puts the man to death and mourns the loss of his King.

#### **David becomes King over Judah (II Samuel 2:1-7)**

God directs David to the city of Hebron, a city in the tribe of Judah. Hebron has military significance in that it sits on a high hill overlooking the land, but Hebron also has great historical significance, as it was the home of Abraham the great patriarch of the nation. There in Hebron the tribe of Judah makes David king. He will not be king over all of Israel for 7 and half years.

#### **David deals with Abner's Rebellion – (II Samuel 2:8-3:39)**

One of the reasons David is not crowned King over all of Israel is Abner, Saul's old general, rebels against the house of David. He does it because he has family ties to Saul and his position as general is now also in question. Eventually Abner goes from fighting to following David.

#### **David's enemies are put down – (II Samuel 4)**

After 7 and half years of just being the leader of the tribe of Judah, David's enemies are finally put down. Ishbosheth, whose name means "shameful man" is killed by two men while he slept in his bed until noon (beware teenagers). But the men who bring the head of Ishbosheth apparently don't know who David is, instead of rewarding them, David has these murders executed.

## **Comparison to I Chronicles – I Chronicles 1-10**

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**I Chronicles 1-9 – a detailed genealogy of the tribes of Israel from Adam to the family of David**

**I Chronicles 10 – the death of King Saul**

Other than the immensely detailed genealogy, the first 10 chapters of I Chronicles doesn't add any detail to the story we are studying in II Samuel. Chapters 1-9 are a lengthy list of names and chapter 10 is the account of the death of Saul. In I Chronicles chapter 12 we do get some detail about David's mighty men that joined him while on the run in the wilderness. I Chronicles then skips over the events of the 7 and half years when David was only King over the tribe of Judah and all that happened in that time frame. Chapter 11 opens up with what is really important in the view of history and that is when David becomes King over all of Israel. We will see what details I Chronicles adds to that part of the story next week.

### **Going Deeper** (think it over or discuss with your family or Home group)

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#1 –How does David's reaction to the death of Saul differ than when we hear something bad has happened to our enemies? What can we learn from the heart of David here?

#2 – Why do you think David instead of taking the throne of Israel by force, waited for 7 and half years being content to be the king of one tribe instead of the king of the nation?

#3 – How does the way David prays in chapter 2 and chapter 5 if you are looking ahead differ than the way you pray? What can we learn from David's prayer life?

### **Comparison Reading for Next Week**

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**Covering Next Wednesday Night – II Samuel 5-10**

**Parallel Passage in I Chronicles – I Chronicles 11-19**

## **II Samuel 1-4**

### **“David’s Rule Over Judah”**

#### **Introduction**

- Tonight we begin the book of II Samuel
  - And yet as I said in that little preview video at the same time, we are going to be aware of I Chronicles
- And the reason we are tackling these books in this way is they basically cover the same time period and material
  - The only difference is the perspective

#### **II Samuel was written by prophets**

- **Samuel, Nathan and Gad**
- **Written from the perspective of the trenches**
- **Written near the time of the events**
- Conservative scholars believe that Samuel wrote the first part of the book up through his death in chapter 25, then the rest of I and II Samuel were written by prophets in the School of Prophets that Samuel started, men who were there in the trenches, like Nathan and Gad

#### **I and II Chronicles was written by priests**

- **Ezra during the time of Nehemiah**
- **Written from the perspective of history**
- **Does not include the major failings**
- Conservative scholars believe it was written by Ezra who lived at the same time as Nehemiah
  - The Jewish Talmud, the original commentary on the Old Testament says so (Samuel and Ezra) – the writing style of I and II Chronicles is identical to Nehemiah and Ezra which again most believe were written by Ezra

#### **II Samuel is written by prophets**

- so all the gory details are included – David’s sin, Solomon’s sin (I Kings) all the details are there as the prophets want us to see the effects of sin in people’s lives and turn from it ourselves

#### **I and II Chronicles is written by priests**

- so there is a major concern about who you are in a genealogy sense
  - the priests had to be of the tribe of Levi and so they were big into genealogies and that explains why I Chronicles begins with 9 chapters of names, its like the Jewish phone book
  - but it is there for a reason, to tell you the story of who David was and where he came from and many others in the Jewish nation at this time we are studying
- The sins of the leaders are skipped over, not because Ezra didn’t care or didn’t know, but I think we just see the other side of God’s heart
  - Like the prophets God wants you to know that your sin will have consequences
  - But also like Ezra the priest, God also wants you to know that He has separated your sins as far as the East is from the West when Eternity is in view

#### **So two different books, II Samuel and I Chronicles**

- they cover the same story from different perspectives
  - and what we are going to do is we are going to go chapter by chapter through II Samuel
  - but when I Chronicles adds something to the story or a different perspective, we will take a moment to point that out, both here on Wednesday Nights and in your study guide
- your study guide also has a read ahead section so you can know what we are going to cover next week and what those parallel passages in I Chronicles are

## **So back to II Samuel...**

### **II Samuel divides into 3 parts**

#### **II Samuel**

#### **The Rise of David's Throne – II Samuel 1-10**

#### **The Reduction of David's Throne – II Samuel 11-15**

#### **The Restoration of David's Throne – II Samuel 16-24**

#### **- I Chronicles 22-29**

### **This book really divides into 3 parts**

- the first 10 chapters are about the rise of David's throne
  - the first 7 and half years David is just king over Judah, not the whole nation and those events are covered in chapters 1-4
  - then in chapter 5 he becomes King over the whole nation and chapters 5-10 cover about 15 years of David's life from age 37 to just over age 50 – the golden age of David's Kingdom, and we will look at that next week
- Then in chapter 11 – we get to David's great sin with Bathsheba and Uriah and we see the effects of that sin rattle through his entire family and kingdom

### **But then starting in chapter 16 after years of painful effects of his sin, we start to see the process of the restoration of David's throne as he finishes well**

- And we will look at those chapters and a good chunk out of I Chronicles that talks about how David prepared for his son Solomon to build the temple
  - But that is all in the future over the next month or so, tonight we are looking at... (notetakers)
  - 4 events, the last preparing the way for David to become King over all Israel in chapter 5

#### **David's Rule over Judah – II Samuel 1-4**

#### **David learns of Saul's Death – II Samuel 1**

#### **David becomes King over Judah – II Samuel 2:1-7**

#### **David deals with Abner's Rebellion – II Samuel 2:8-3:39**

#### **David's enemies are put down – II Samuel 4**

- we will look at these one at a time tonight

#### **David's Rule over Judah – II Samuel 1-4**

#### **David learns of Saul's Death – II Samuel 1**

- read 1:1-16

- Remember the context of what has just happened with David
  - While Saul and his sons were being killed in the battle in Israel, David comes home to his city at Ziklag and finds it burned with fire, all of their families taken or killed – they don't know
  - But David encourages himself in the Lord (if you missed last week, do yourself a favor and check it out online) but David unlike Saul recovers all
- So he brings back his family and the families of his men back to Ziklag and is there 3 days when word comes from the battle field
  - Saul and his sons, including David's best friend, Jonathan are dead

### **David asks the man who brings the news, "how do you know?"**

- David has been a leader long enough, he knows to not just trust anyone's word, "so how do you know"
  - And this man begins to tell his story of how he just so happened to be walking through a battle zone – and he stumbled upon King Saul
- And Saul was there fallen on his sword but not dead, and so he asked this Amalekite to kill him

### **Now some scholars say, well that seems to contradict what we just read last week in I Samuel chapter 31**

- where we were told, Saul was injured, he didn't want the Philistines to torture him, so he asked his armor bearer to kill him
  - the armor bearer would not and so Saul fell on his own sword and took his life

**But here is this Amalekite who is telling us another story**

- What is going on?
  - Some Bible scholars think he is lying, just to get in good with David
  - But David doesn't seem to think he is lying
- Personally I don't think the two stories are contradictory but complementary
  - Saul didn't want to be tortured, so he fell on his sword, the Amor bearer did the same and killed himself, but Saul wasn't quite dead
  - You know I found this statistic that should make you think twice about suicide – 80 percent are unsuccessful
- The people are maimed, horribly injured, in a great deal of pain, but not dead
  - And apparently this is what happened to Saul
- Then along comes this Amalekite and he finishes the job and brings to David Saul's crown and arm band

**David says – who are you, and the man answers, an Amalekite**

- man these guys are everywhere
  - don't forget what group of people burned David's city and kidnapped the men's families – Amalekites
  - who was burning towns all around while the Philistines and Israel were at war – the Amalekites
  - and apparently who was plundering the bodies after the battle – again the Amalekites
- These guys are no good and they cause pain everywhere they go
  - Please notice that – because God asked King Saul to kill them all in chapter 15 of I Samuel and Saul didn't obey thinking He knew better

**Oh that seems a little out of character for God to order an extermination of a people group**

- I know better, I will do my own thing
  - And we think along similar lines today
  - But friends – God knew what these people would do – the horrible pain they would cause and he was trying to protect His people

**And I mention that to you, because the Amalekites in the scriptures are always a picture of the flesh**

- because God tells us to put to death the deeds of the flesh, don't let them live
  - but we say – oh Lord – don't you want me to have some joy in my life
  - that really seems out of character for you
- I know better what is good for my life
  - No – no you don't
  - God is not out of character – if that relationship, or activity or venture was going to bring you joy – God would be into it
  - He knows, we don't, he does – that thing will bring pain – so like with King Saul, God says, get rid of all of that
- And wise is the man or woman that says – Amen Lord – I will obey!

**Well this Amalekite rehearses this story in front of David who no doubt thinks David is going to reward him for killing Saul**

- but he obviously doesn't know David
  - and when in verse 11 David rips his clothes and starts to mourn, this guy I bet started to get nervous
  - if he was slow and wasn't getting it yet, what David said in 14 would have really got him – how were you not afraid to touch the Lord's anointed?

## **David has this man executed**

- and before we move on, I just want you to ponder for a moment the reaction of David to Saul's death
  - remember he has been chased by Saul for 10 years through the wilderness
  - the five years before that were no picnic serving under Saul
- for 15 years David has been oppressed by this carnal man Saul
  - you would think, as the Amalekite did, David would rejoice when he heard the news – I know I would be tempted to break a smile and pat this guy on the back

## **But David here is a lot like Jesus who said...**

**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” – Matthew 5:43-45**

- Solomon no doubt learning from his Father David wrote...

**“Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.” – Proverbs 24:17**

- We are never told by our God to rejoice when evil befalls those who are your enemy
  - We are instead to pray for them, to bless them, to be all together different than them
  - And when I see David here I see him doing exactly that

## **Remember David is a man called “a man after God’s own heart”**

- and that troubles some folks, maybe it troubles you, because we know what’s coming – adultery and murder

## **But I think the mistake we make is we compare our weakness with David’s**

- I have never committed adultery, I have never killed anyone, I guess I’m alright
  - But have you ever compared your strengths with David’s
- How long has it been since you defeated a giant, or leaped over a wall, or wrote a Psalm or loved your enemies
  - You see I think we come about this the wrong way

## **David here in chapter one shows a great Christ likeness when he mourns the death of Saul. God help us to be so mature when our enemies falter**

- David mourns, in fact he writes one of the most moving eulogy in all of ancient literature in chapter one
  - And I just encourage you to read through it and see the grace of God in David’s heart

## **Before we move on, I do want to point out one thing from his song of the bow**

- in verse 26, David speaking of Jonathan says “your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women”
  - now maybe you have not been confronted with this yet, and so you are happy being ignorant, but some use this verse to teach that David and Jonathan had a homosexual relationship
- Now the reality is that it is obviously a total misunderstanding of what David is saying – what is He saying?
  - The context of the Hebrew is the love of women is usually unlike the love of men – women’s love is so often selfless, for their kids, for their husbands

## **If a women’s love was based on being earned we would all be in a lot of trouble**

- for we all at one time had a momma that loved us way before we did anything to deserve that love
  - and that is what David is expressing

- Jonathan your love for me was selfless, far beyond anything normal in human relationships

- That is what David is expressing and nothing else

### **David's Rule over Judah – II Samuel 1-4**

### **David learns of Saul's Death – II Samuel 1**

### **David becomes King over Judah – II Samuel 2:1-7**

- **Read 2:1-7**

- So Saul is dead – David knows God has anointed him as the next King of Israel, but what he does next really impresses me – He prays – Lord what do you want me to do next, what city do you want me to go to?

- We will get into this more next week because there is an ever great example of this in chapter 5

- But I have been really challenged, for I would be tempted to say – Oh Lord – thank you for getting me to this day – now I have got it – I know just what to do

- I hope I wouldn't operate that way – but I know my heart and yet I am so thankful for David's example

- He prays

- I remember when Pastor Charlie Campbell said to me when I was new on staff years ago, "prayerlessness shows confidence in your own ability to get things done." And it is really true

- God says clearly in His Word

### **"for apart from Me, you can do nothing." – John 15:5**

- Now that is pretty clear, nothing, means nothing

### **But let's be honest, many times we know that is what the Bible says, but we say in our hearts, well that's not true, I can do \_\_\_\_\_, fill in the blank**

- David, yes a man with flaws, but a man with many strengths and one of his strengths is he seeks the Lord

- What do you want me to do?

### **God sends him to Hebron**

- Hebron was a very significant city both strategically and historically

- Strategically it was right in the middle of the tribe of Judah on a hill that overlooked the surrounding country, so it was a very defensible city

- It was and still is situated on a hill – **Picture of Hebron**

- And the view out to the surrounding area made it very defensible – **View from Hebron**

- But not only was it significant strategically, but it also had a great history, being the city of Abraham, the great patriarch of the nation of Israel

### **So here in Hebron the men of Judah come and make him head of their tribe, this will be the way it is for 7 and half years**

- And the first official act, is David encourages the men of Jabesh Gilead

- Now why would David do this?

- Remember they were the ones who marched all night to get the body of Saul and Jonathan – they risked their lives for their dead King

- Now once they heard David was made King, even just of the tribe of Judah, they would have been thinking how is David going to react to us doing something kind for Saul's body

- You see Saul would have been upset at that

### **King Saul was so petty, that he would have taken offense, and after 40 years of that, that is what the people were preconditioned to expect from royalty**

- but when David encourages them, even though it is still seven and half years until he will be their King, David is setting the right tone of how things are going to change in the nation of Israel

- now why David is not King for another 7 and half years is because of the events we read about next in verse 8

### **David's Rule over Judah – II Samuel 1-4**

### **David learns of Saul's Death – II Samuel 1**

### **David becomes King over Judah – II Samuel 2:1-7**

### **David deals with Abner's Rebellion – II Samuel 2:8-3:39**

#### ➤ Read 2:8-11

- Abner knows that David is suppose to be King, it is clear from chapter 3 he knows this, but in rebellion to the Lord, he rebels against the house of David
- Now why?
- Well number one because he has a family tie to Saul
  - We learned early in I Samuel that Abner was Saul's cousin – so you can imagine the most powerful position in the country in your family, you want to keep it that way, you don't want to just hand it over, that would make Christmas awkward or Passover in Abner's case.
- Secondly Abner's job is in jeopardy – he is the Israeli general
  - But David already has a general in Joab
  - So Abner is not just protecting the family, he is protecting his own job
  - So he is fighting against David – but notice what happens as we keep reading
  - [Verses 12-32](#)

### **Abner is fighting David and the first thing that starts happening is he starts experiencing losses**

- Again he is Israel's general, I'm sure Abner thinks he is going to crush David and his men, but that is not what happens
  - He starts losing men
  - He starts doing things he doesn't want to do, killing people he doesn't really want to kill
  - He is experiencing losses

### **Then in chapter 3, he starts experiencing not just losses, but moral lapses – look at verse 6-7**

- it was a heavy thing in that culture to go into a former kings concubines – it was like saying, I'm glad the King is dead, I am taking his ladies
  - and Abner who was fiercely loyal to Saul, is now doing things he didn't think he would ever do
  - and more than that, verse 8, he starts to experience disgust with his current leader – [verses 8-39](#)

### **Now I focus in on this story of Abner going from fighting to following David, because I think it parallels what happens in each of our lives when we fight against the son of David, Jesus Christ**

- maybe you can remember, maybe it is still going on, but you were fighting a relationship with Jesus – why
  - same reason as Abner
  - you had family concerns – what will my Dad think – oh he is so intellectual – what will my husband think if I start following Jesus
  - you had financial concerns – how will that affect my work life – they will ostracize me if I say I'm a Christian
- and because of these concerns you fought Jesus
  - but what happened – same thing that happened to Abner

### **You start experiencing losses**

- things that used to go well for you didn't anymore
  - what was that – it was God trying to get your attention



- if you can fight against God and nothing happens, that is when you need to worry, but most of us – we knew we were in a battle and we were losing
- We would experience losses, we would experience moral failures
  - I mean we had standard even before we knew the Lord and yet, some of us found ourselves doing things that we thought we would never do

### **And then finally just like Abner – we start to loose faith in our leader**

- the world, the flesh, the devil are horrible masters and eventually we begin to see that
  - Ishbosheth means – shameful man – and that is, we finally realized who we were serving really was – shameful
- So like Abner – we stopped fighting the son of David and started following the son of David

### **Hold on – Jason your illustration breaks down – Abner is killed by Joab**

- sure was – I didn't say once you started following Jesus all your problems would go away, no way
  - there are wicked people in the church just like there are wicked people in the world – and we get stabbed in the back and people hurt us just like Abner was hurt
- but you know what? – I bet when Abner stepped into Eternity he didn't regret one second of following David
  - I'm sure he had great regret for fighting David for years – but no regret for following Him

### **I'm I telling you precious ones**

- you may have people hurt you in the church, it may be difficult to follow Jesus at times
  - but when you step into eternity – you won't regret a thing about following Jesus
  - you will regret fighting Him for so long, but not a thing about following Him

### **Abner is killed and Joab will eventually pay for that sin, but for now David again reacts with class at the defeat of his enemies**

- He mourns for Abner, and again I believe it speaks volumes to the nation of Israel
  - I mean how would David had been received if he spit on Abner's body or spit on Saul's head
  - That was their king, that was their general – no David behaved with a Godly heart and the hearts of the people slowly turned to him
- We see the final obstacle removed in chapter 4

### **David's Rule over Judah – II Samuel 1-4**

#### **David learns of Saul's Death – II Samuel 1**

#### **David becomes King over Judah – II Samuel 2:1-7**

#### **David deals with Abner's Rebellion – II Samuel 2:8-3:39**

#### **David's enemies are put down – II Samuel 4**

- [Read chapter 4](#)
  - Ishbosheth was not a great leader – I mean he is not in battle with his Dad and brothers, even though he is totally old enough, late 30's when they die
  - Now he is laying in his bed at noon
- This guy was nothing without Abner – and two men Baanah and Rechab – they kill Ishbosheth in his bed
  - But then just like the Amalekite, just like Joab who killed Abner, these men come to David thinking he is going to reward them for killing the King – but that is not what happened

### **David has those men executed and just like he had done with Saul and Abner, he also does with Ishbosheth**

- He does not rejoice over the death of his enemies, he mourns
  - Realize those people were someone's child, someone's husband, someone's king and general

- And as David mourns the heart of the people turn to David
- I don't know if it was the time that David spend with the Philistines, if it was the way Saul portrayed him to the nation or just the acts of Abner after Saul's death**
- but for whatever reason we are not told, the nation was not ready for David to be their King
  - and if David would have run in and took the throne, I believe his story would have been much different that we will read next week
  - the first 15 years of David rule is as good as any king that has ever lived – victory where they had never had victory before – you need to be with us next week
- but it came about as David waited on the Lord to do His perfect work
  - as we go our way tonight I just want to read you Psalm 37 (NLT) from David's heart and my it encourage you as you wait on the Lord your God