

Single Kingdom Period: The Reign of King David
II Sam 1:1-24:25; I Chronicles 10:1-29:30

Saul is dead and the reign of King David is the next milestone in the history of Israel. The books of ***II Samuel*** and ***I Chronicles*** archives the reign of King David. These two must be read together to understand the history of David's reign. (For the early years of David please see *I Samuel*)

We stated in the last STEP that ***2 Samuel*** was probably written by Nathan and Gad. ***I Chronicles*** does not mention an author but many say it was probably Ezra.

David was a great man of faith and it was said of him by God that, "***he was a man after God's own heart.***" On the other hand, David's life is a study in the results of sin in ones life. A study in contrasts of how great a man can be and how low the greatest can stoop.

I will basically use the book of ***II Samuel*** for this study but I encourage you to read the events of ***I Chronicles*** with this STEP. I offer the following outline for our study of David.

I- A Time of Civil War- *II Sam 1-4*

II- David Reigns in Victory- *II Sam 5-10*

III- David's Sin- *II Sam 11-21*

IV- His Later Years- *II Sam 22-24*

V- The Davidic Covenant- *I Chron 17 & II Sam 7:8-17*

I- A Time of Civil War- *II Sam 1-4*

After the death of Saul we often wrongfully assume that David began to reign over Israel immediately. This is not true however. After the death of Saul and Jonathan we have a period of lament for them (***II Sam 1***) and then a period of civil war.

At this time David is anointed King but it is over only the tribe of

Judah. (***II Sam 2:1-7***) David will reign for seven and one half years at Hebron over only one tribe. (***II Sam 5:7***).

Saul's son Ishbosheth would succeed his father on the throne of the other eleven tribes. This was possible because Saul's general Abner placed him in this position and was probably only a puppet king for Abner. This is a period of fighting between the forces of David and his general Joab and the forces of Abner. Abner after a falling out with Ishbosheth over a concubine joins forces with David. Abner however would be killed by Joab to avenge the death of his brother who died at the hands of Abner. This civil war depleted the nation's resources and showed the first signs of what would in a few years become a divided nation again.

II- David Reigns in Victory *II Sam 5-10*

David will be anointed as king over the entire nation after the death of Ishbosheth. He died by the hands of the sons of Rimmon while he lay on his bed. (***II Sam 4:5-6***). David is anointed king in Hebron. (***II Sam 5:3***) He will then move his capital to the city of Jerusalem after a military victory over the Jebusites. (***II Sam 5:7***). This city will become known as the City of David.

During the time of David we must remember the temple had not been built and the Ark of the Covenant, after being captured by the Philistines, did not have a permanent dwelling place. ***II Sam 6*** records the events of the Ark of the Covenant being brought to Jerusalem. The first attempt failed because it was not done according to God's instructions. It is finally brought to Jerusalem with a great celebration.

David was at peace from his enemies and at rest in his house when he gets to thinking of the Ark dwelling only in the tent of the tabernacle.

2 Sam 7 records the desire of David's heart was to build a temple for God. David was not allowed to build the temple because he was a man of war with blood on his hands. However, if not for the efforts of David it would not have come to pass.

(**II Sam 9**) We see the heart of David by his relationship to a little cripple boy by the name of Mephibosheth. He was the son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul, a potential rival for the throne. But David shows his character and what a great man he is by bringing him to the palace to live and eat at the king's table.

III- David's Sin **2 Sam 11-21**

It seems inconceivable that the writer of the 23rd Psalm could do the gross sins recorded in **II Sam 11**. However if we carefully look at the life of David we see that he had a problem with women all along. David as a matter of fact had a total of eight wives not counting his concubines. David's first problem in the story of David and Bathsheba was not being satisfied with God's plan of one woman for one man. His next problem was he stayed home and did not go with his troops when he should have.

2 Sam 11 records Bathsheba coming out in view of David to bath. She was the wife of an army officer who was at war. David looks upon her and inquires who she was and then sends for her. He commits adultery with her and from this adulterous relationship a child is conceived. David sends to bring her husband home so he can cover his sins by blaming the child on Uriah. Uriah

came but refused to go to his wife while his troops are in the battle. David saw this would not work so he send Uriah back to the battle with a note telling Joab to put him in the front of the battle. Uriah is killed and David is as guilty of murder as if he pulled the trigger.

David is now not only guilty of the sin of adultery but of murder to cover it up. Sin will take us farther than we want to go and keep us longer than we want to stay.

After Uriah's death Bathsheba moved into the palace and bears a son, which died. In **2 Sam 12** the prophet Nathan confronted David with his sin and David repented. However, God is very displeased with David and his sin caused him trouble until his dying day. Trouble will come into the house of David and his children.

2 Sam 13 records the event of Tamar one of David's daughters and the sister of Absalom, being tricked and raped by her half brother Amnon. Absalom for this killed Amnon to revenge his sister. Absalom is estranged from the palace and David. Absalom is allowed to return and sets in the gate of the city and turns the heart of the people toward himself and revolts against his father and in fact overthrows his father for a time. (see **II Sam 14-17**). David becomes a fugitive from his own son during this time. Joab kills Absalom as he hangs in a tree by the hair of his head. David wanted his son's life spared even after all he had done to David. Another thing that sticks out in David's life is the way he treated his enemies. He was a man of character in this regard.

2 Sam 20-21 records David return to power in his Kingdom. All of Saul's offspring are killed except for

Mephibosheth. The events of this move David to bring the bones of Saul and Jonathan back home for burial.

IV- His Later Years II Sam 22-24

2 Sam 22 records a praise to the Lord. (also see **Ps 18**). David praised God for his Exaltation over his foes. **2 Sam 23** records a list that has been called David's heroes. This is a roster of his men.

2 Sam 24 records a sad event not only in David's life but also in the nation of Israel. David was moved by Satan to number the people. (**I Chron 21:1**). David sinned against God by doing this and not trusting in God for protection. God asked David what his punishment should be according to three choices. David chooses a plague that killed 70,000 men. David bought the threshing floor of Araunah and built an altar and offers up a sacrifice and the plague stopped. This is the sight where the temple would be built.

V- The Davidic Covenant

I Chron 17 & II Sam 7:8-17.

The last things concerning David are the Davidic covenant as well as the picture of Christ kingdom to come in David. The Davidic Covenant will only be fulfilled when the Son of David, as Christ was called many time, comes to reign.

The Davidic Covenant stated:

a- David is to have a child, yet to be born, who will succeed him and establish his kingdom.

b- This son (Solomon) shall build the Temple instead of David.

c- The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever.

d- The throne will not be taken away from him (Solomon) even though his sins justify chastisement.

e- David's house, throne and kingdom shall be established forever.

We see something about Messiah, the Son of David, from the pictures of David. The king who would ultimately reign over Israel was not allowed to reign at first. David was rejected for 7 1/2 years. As you will recall and Christ was rejected by Israel.

Application to Life:

- 1- To be a man or woman after God's own heart should be our goal.
- 2- Patience is required at times as God's will for our lives unfolds.
- 3- We can be certain that our sins will find us out.
- 4- We need to be careful to not compound our sins as we try to cover them.
- 5- Sin will not only harm us but those around us.
- 6- God is faithful in His promises not only to David but to us. We simply need to trust Him.

Review of Session:

- 1- Who reigned as king over the Northern eleven tribes while David reigned over the tribe of Judah?

- 2- Where did David make the capital after he was anointed king over the entire nation? _____
- 3- Who was the crippled son of Jonathan that David shows his character by the treatment of?

- 4- What is the Davidic Covenant?

- 5- Who is the Son of David that will sit on the throne of David in the future?
