



2 Samuel – Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)	Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)
II Samuel	Ch. 14
☐ 2:1-7 ☐ ch. 5 ☐ ch. 6 ☐ ch. 7 ☐ ch. 11 ☐ 12:1-25 ☐ ch. 13 ☐ ch. 14 ☐ ch. 15 ☐ 18:1-18 ☐ ch. 24	☐ Themes of 2 Samuel ☐ God makes a covenant with David

Study Guide for Second Samuel

Chapter 2:1-7

- What happened to David in Hebron? How is this related to promises given in the previous book?
- What did David say to the men of Jabesh Gilead? Why? What do you think this episode foreshadows?

Chapter 5

- What did the people say to David at Hebron? How is this related to the content seen in First Samuel? What was the result of this? How long did David rule?
- What is the first thing David did after being anointed king over all Israel? Why was this important for the later history? What evaluation and reason does the author give for David's success? What should we learn from this?
- What did the Philistines do? How did David respond? How did David prepare for battle? How does this compare with Saul? Why is this significant?
- What happened in the battle? Why?
- How is the second episode of battle with the Philistines similar to the first? How is it different? What is the point of these two episodes? What do they tell about David and His kingship?

Chapter 6

- How is the ark described at the beginning of this chapter? What is the significance of this?
- What did David attempt to do with the ark? How did he attempt to do it? What happened to Uzzah? Why? How did David respond? What lesson can we learn from all this?
- How did David bring the ark to Jerusalem on his second attempt? What did the people do? What did David do? Why?

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- How did Michal daughter of Saul react to what David was doing? Why do you think she reacted in this way? What does that demonstrate about her character?
- What did David do once the ark was in place? What does this demonstrate about the character of David?
- How did David's wife greet him after these events? What specific reasons did she give for her displeasure? Do you think she was right? Why or why not?
- How did David respond to his wife? How does this response fit into the larger narrative of 1&2 Samuel? What does this demonstrate about the character and priorities of David? How should we respond?

Chapter 7

- What did David say to the prophet Nathan? Why? How did Nathan respond (at first)?
- Describe the message that God gave Nathan to give to David. How does it relate to the desire of David to build God a house? What did God promise about the house that would be built for Him?
- What did God say about how He had treated David in the past? What did He promise about the future of David and God's people?
- What did God promise about the "house" He would build for David? What specifics were mentioned about David and his descendants? What time frame does God attach to the promises for David's descendants? How is this different from the way that God treated Saul? Why is this significant?
- How did David respond to this message from God? What did he pray for? What did he say about God? What did He ask God to do? What can we learn from this response? How does it apply?
- How do the promises of this chapter apply to the rest of the Old Testament history? How do they apply to the history of the entire Bible? What difference does this make?

Chapter 11

- How does the first verse foreshadow what would happen in the rest of this chapter? What can we learn from this?
- What were the temptations and causes that led to David's sin? What opportunities did he have to avoid sinning?
- How did David respond to the news of her pregnancy? What was he trying to accomplish by doing this? Why did his plan fail? What does this tell us about the character of David at this time? What does this tell us about the character of Uriah? What does this contrast highlight? Why is this significant?
- What did David write to Joab and why? What was he trying to accomplish? Why? Was this a good thing? Why or why not? What was the result of this?
- How did David react to the news of Uriah's death? How did his wife react?
- How does this chapter end? What evaluation of these events was given at the end of this chapter? Why is this significant? What do you think this foreshadows about the event that will happen later in this story?

Chapter 12:1-25

- What was the point of the story that Nathan told to David? What were the parallels between this story and what David had done?
- How did David react to the story? Why? Was he correct to respond this way?

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- What message from God did Nathan relate to David? How does this help us understand the sinfulness of what David had done? How does this help us understand the non-sinful alternatives David had ignored? What can we learn from this?
- What verdict did God pronounce against David as a result of his sin? What punishments were promised? What does this foreshadow about the rest of the story? What difference does this make?
- How did David respond to the message from God? What does this demonstrate about David's character? What were the immediate results of these things?
- How did David respond to the illness of the child? What reason did he give? How did David respond to the death of the child? What reason did he give?
- What child was born to replace the child that had died? What are the two names given to him? Why? What does this foreshadow about the rest of the story?

Chapter 13

- What did Amnon want from Tamar? How did he arrange to get it? Why do you think the author included all of these details? How is this connected to David and what he had done in prior chapters?
- How did Tamar try to dissuade Amnon from doing what he wanted to do? What can we learn from this advice? Why do you think he didn't listen to her good arguments?
- What did Amnon do to Tamar? How did he treat her afterward? What does this demonstrate about the character of Amnon? What does this demonstrate about the state of David's family at that time? Why is this significant?
- How did Absalom respond to the news about Tamar? How did David respond? What happened as a result? How much time elapsed before the next events in this story? Why is this significant?
- What did Absalom do to Amnon? How did he arrange to do it? Why do you think the author included all of these details? How is this connected to David and what he had done in prior chapters?
- How did David respond to the news? What did Jonadab say to him? How did he know this? How is this connected to what Jonadab had said earlier in this chapter?
- How does this chapter end? What does this demonstrate about Absalom's character? What does it demonstrate about David's character? What do you think will happen next?

Chapter 14

- What story did the woman from Tekoa tell to King David? How is this similar to another story told to David earlier in this book? How did David respond? How did the woman continue to press the issue with David? Why?
- How did the woman confront David about his own actions? How was this related to the story she had told and David's response? How was David acting inconsistent with the verdict he had given about someone else? What principle did the woman cite about God and how does this apply to David's situation?
- How did David respond to the woman's challenge? How did Joab respond to David's response? What was the result of this situation?

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- How does this chapter describe Absalom? Why do you think this information was included? What do you think this foreshadows? How is this related to episodes seen earlier in 1&2 Samuel?
- Why was Absalom dissatisfied with the situation at that time? What did he do to resolve that situation? What does this demonstrate about Absalom's character? What was the result at the end of the chapter? What do you think will happen next?

Chapter 15

- What did Absalom do to ingratiate himself to the people of Israel? Do you think this was upright behavior fitting for a king of God's people? Or do you think it more closely resembles the behavior of a slimy modern politician? Why do you think he did this?
- How did Absalom conspire to proclaim himself king? Was he right to do this? Why or why not?
- How did David respond to the news about Absalom? Why?
- How did David's men (such as Ittai) respond to this situation? Why? How did the people respond? What does this demonstrate about David's character?
- How did Zadok the priest and the Levites respond? What did David say to them? What did David do regarding Zadok, Abiathar, Hushai, and Ahithophel – all wise counsellors? What do you think this foreshadows for the rest of the story?

Chapter 18:1-18

- How did David prepare for battle with Absalom? What part of his plan did his troops reject? Why? What did David command regarding Absalom? Why? What does this demonstrate about David's character?
- How did Absalom die? How did Joab respond when he heard about Absalom hanging in a tree? How did the man respond to Joab's statements? Why? What did Joab do as a result? What does this demonstrate about Joab's character?
- What does the end of this section mention about Absalom? What does this demonstrate about Absalom's character?
- What does this larger episode tell us about how God was dealing with Israel and David's family at this time? How was this related to things that happened earlier in the story? What lessons should we learn from this? How do they apply?

Chapter 24

- Why did David take a census, according to this chapter?
- How did Joab respond to this request? Why do you think this is significant? How was the census taken?
- How did David respond to the report of the census? What options did God give David? Which option did David choose? What reason did he give?
- Why did the plague stop? How did David respond?
- What happened at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite? How did David come to acquire that place? What is significant about this particular place?
- What is significant about the way that 2 Samuel ends? What questions does it leave unanswered and what issues are left unresolved? What do you expect will happen in the rest of the story of Israel's people? How does this prepare for the next historical book?

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Study Guide for Textbook chapter 14

Background of 2 Samuel

Themes of 2 Samuel

- Review how David came to be king, instead of Saul.
- How did David establish Jerusalem as his capital? What would be the significance of this city through the rest of the Old Testament?
- Describe the promises God gave to David. What is the culmination of these promises, according to the textbook?
- What does the textbook say is the turning point of 2 Samuel? What were the consequences of this?

Message of 2 Samuel

God Makes a Covenant with David

- Describe David's motivation for building a house for God, according to the textbook. Was this a good motivation? Why or why not?
- How did God respond to David's request? Describe each of the promised blessings in your own words. What is the significance of each of these for David's life at that time? What is the significance of each of these for the larger Biblical story? What does this all demonstrate about God's character and plans? How should we respond?
- How did David respond to God's promises? How is this a model for all believers, according to the textbook? How does the textbook suggest we respond?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter