



2 Samuel

2 Samuel 24:24 *“But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”*

Somehow, I feel that God has other intentions with Bible books. Intentions we don't see very well. Yet, there they are. These two books are called Samuel 1-2. Why? Samuel is barely in this narrative. Yet, his story, rise, and anointing is told. The story, rise, and anointing of David is also told. We also read about King Saul: his rise and fall are on display. God is evident in all three of these men. The point might be found beyond the stories of these men. How is God navigating the waters of a nation hell bent on not following Him?

Narrative

In Samuel 2, our story opens with the death of King Saul. A king that men chose, not God. The character of David is on full display in the first four chapters. I would even go further that the first 10 chapters show us David and Israel as they really are. I am amused at those who say the Bible is skewed towards the Jews. The character flaws and mistakes of David and Israel are on full display. David is a great king and fine man but his choices in life made his life a living hell at times. Israel (as a nation) couldn't get out of its own way.

The first ten chapters set up the kingdom of David. That includes the city of Jerusalem. Mount of olives and mount Zion. The final 14 chapters tell of a rocky reign. David had hit a

great height in chapter 10 but from chapter 11 on David and his kingdom struggled. It is amazing to me that King David is held in such high regard. At times he was not a good leader, father, or king. I suppose I am used to historical figures being white washed. It means we generally only know what they did well. 2 Samuel depicts the ugly side of the nation of Israel. King David has a complicated relationship with almost everyone. What we really learn is that God will use who He will use.

Intent

There are lessons to be learned in 2 Samuel. King David had to learn how to be a good man and a good king. God did not just hand the kingdom over to him. The people wanted Saul regardless of his flaws. God could have given us David and all his immaturity and flaws. Instead, we get the best David possible. Yes, flaws and all. From Samuel to Nathan the Prophet is a morality check for the leadership. I have wondered if the priesthood fell apart after Samuel died? We have Saul and David both sacrificing to God in their place.

The intent of this book is to show human leadership. God demonstrates that without Him intervening (at times) the whole Jewish nation and religion would have perished. There were no good kings in the Jewish history. The Messiah was the only one who could save them apart from God. Each king has their strengths and weaknesses. That includes the mighty David. He could kill a giant but he could not rule his family. David struggled to keep his own men in line. Yet, this man had character. A heart after God. In many ways, 1-2 Samuel point out that it only took two kings for things to go wrong in the nation. Only God could truly save them

Characters

David, Abner, Bathsheba, Nathan, Tamar, Amnon, Absalom, Joab,

Who wrote this book?

Tradition says Nathan the Prophet wrote it. 1 & 2 Samuel were one book originally.

Famous verses

1. 2 Samuel Chapter 7:16 the Davidic Covenant
2. 2 Samuel 11:1 David's great fall
3. 2 Samuel 18:33 wailing for his son
4. 2 Samuel 22:2-3 Lord is my rock and salvation prayer
5. 2 Samuel 22:32 who is God
6. 2 Samuel 24:24 cost me nothing

Controversies, issues, and Questions

1. 2 Samuel 1, 1 Samuel 31 The death of Saul

There are two accounts of the death of Saul. Other commentators have concluded that the death of Saul and his sons at the end of 1 Samuel is accurate. It's more likely that the Amalekite in 2 Samuel 1 is lying. However, could Saul have fallen on his sword but was not yet dead? Was this Amalekite trying to gain favor with the winning side?

ii. 2 Samuel 11 David's great sin

I have questions about this event. Yes, it says at this time kings went to war yet David stayed home. Had David planned to sleep with Bathsheba? Had he seen her before? Some say that she bathed in a place to be seen and it's here enticing David. Did David rape her or was this an affair? God punished David mightily for his sin. Yet, David's kingdom slowly fell out of his grasp after this event.

Connections

2 Samuel 7: 12-16 The Davidic covenant connecting him to Jesus Matthew 9:27 (They meant Messiah)