

**Week 32**  
**2 Samuel 1-12**

**Key Verse: How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. 2 Samuel 7:22**

King David is one of the most important figures in Jewish history. Born in 907 BC, he reigns as king of Israel for 40 years, dying at age 70 in 837 BC.

There is so much that can be said about him. Some people like to focus on the warrior aspect — the chivalrous warrior fighting for God — but when his accomplishments are considered as a whole, it is his spiritual greatness that shines most of all.

David's first and foremost drive is to have a relationship with God. We get the glimpse of the beauty of his soul when we read the Psalms, most of which he wrote. Who doesn't know?

*The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want ... (Psalm 23)*

*The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear ... (Psalm 27)*

*I lift my eyes to the mountains — from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth ... (Psalm 121)*

Even when we consider his military conquest, we see that the driving force behind them was his attachment to God. The hereditary bloodline of King David will become the only legitimate royal bloodline in Jewish history. From David will come all the future kings of Judah and the Messiah.

The scripture this week is 2 Samuel 1-12, but as you will notice in the daily scripture reading we will only be doing an overview of these scriptures.

In 1 Samuel we saw David had been on the run from King Saul. Now that Saul has died, David was able to take his rightful place on the throne over all of Israel, but only after he emerges triumphant from a political power struggle. Surrounding nations, especially the Philistines, still pose the threat of war; however, Israel is militarily strong under David's victorious reign.

**Day 1 - 2 Samuel 2-3:5 Civil War Divides a Nation**

David knew without a doubt that God had anointed him as a seventeen year old boy to reign over Israel as their king. For about thirteen years he ran from Saul with that knowledge, but before that day arrived, David learned a lot about God and about leadership. He learned what not to do as he observed Saul rule over Israel. David had several opportunities to kill King Saul and take the kingdom for himself but he refused to act on his own behalf. He waited on God to fulfill that promise to him.

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1. How did the Amalekite's account of Saul's death vary from the biblical author's (see 1 Samuel 31:1-5)? Why do you think the Amalekite lied and what would he hope to gain by winning David's favor? How did David and the Amalekite differ in their view of mercy killing?

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2. What do you think motivated David to so publicly and permanently record his lament for Saul and Jonathan? (2 Samuel 1:11-12)

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3. Where did the Lord tell David to move and why this city in Judah of all places to relocate? (2 Samuel 2: 1-4; 1 Samuel 30:26-31; Joshua 15:13-15)

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David's first act as king of Judah was to send word to Jabesh-Gilead expressing his admiration of their noble loyalty to Saul. Now that their king was dead, David hoped for their possible allegiance as king over the house of Judah. The support of such men was well worth seeking. Besides, Jabesh-Gilead was the capital of that district; and already the standard had been set up for a possible rivalry.

4. Who did the commander of Saul's army (Abner son of Ner) make king over all Israel? How long did he reign? \_\_\_\_\_

Tensions were high in Israel because of the presence of two rival kings in the land. The tensions soon sparked a civil war.

5. What happened when Abner decided to pick a fight with Joab and David's men? (2 Samuel 2:12-17) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Who then turned on Abner and what happened during that altercation? (2 Samuel 2:18-28)

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**Prayer Focus: In what ways are you like the house of David in growing stronger and stronger or are you “missing in action”? Ask God to show you areas of your life that are weak and need to be made stronger in Him.**

**Day 2 - 2 Samuel 3:6 – 5:14 Judah and Israel United**

7. What did Abner begin to understand about his position under Ish- Bosheth? What did Ish-Bosheth accuse Abner of doing? What happened as a result of this accusation? (2 Samuel 3:6-12)

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8. Why did Joab kill Abner? (2 Samuel 3:26-27 & 2 Samuel 2:22) Why do you think David declined to punish Joab now (2 Samuel 3:38-39) when later David will command Solomon to do so (1Kings 2:5-6).

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9. Has there been a time when you have been innocent but looked very guilty in a situation? How did you prove your innocence?

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10. What happened to set the stage for the tribes of Israel to come to David and anoint him as king over Israel? (2 Samuel 4-2 Samuel 5:1-3)

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Sometimes it’s hard to read about all the killings that are recorded in Biblical history but it is important to understand that death is the reality of not only war but punishment for taking a life out of revenge.

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11. Why was David so successful in conquering the city of Jerusalem? For whose sake was it taken? (2 Samuel 5:9-13)

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**Prayer Focus: Knowing that the Lord is with you just as He was with David... what fears need to be dissipated...what new mission do you need to take on...what old habits do you need to break? God is there to help you. Ask Him.**

**Day 3 - 2 Samuel 6-7:17 David and the Ark/God's Promises to David**

David desired to make Israel's new capital city the nation's religious center as well. David mobilized thirty thousand special troops for the purpose of bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

12. Who disobeyed God's guidelines for moving the ark, the throne of God and how did they disobey? What was the result of their disobedience? (2 Samuel 6:3-7) (Exodus 25:9-16; Numbers 4:19-20)

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Only an Aaronic priest was permitted to view the Ark of the Lord. When being transported publicly, it had to be covered with cloth and leather hides. (Numbers 4:5-7)

This tragedy both angered David and made him afraid. He immediately halted the procession and ordered that the Ark of the Lord be placed in the home of Obed-Edom. God blessed Obed-Edom's household and the Ark remained there three months.

13. What steps did David take to move the Ark after three months? (2 Samuel 6:12-13; I Chronicles 15:2-15)

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14. What are some of the promises God made to David through the prophet Nathan? (2 Samuel 7:1-17) (For further reading 1 Chronicles 17:1-27)

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The New Testament writers and Jesus Himself understood the promises God made to David in 2 Samuel 7 to be fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the ultimate Son of David and eternal King. (Matthew 1:1; 2:2; 27:11, 37)

**Prayer Focus: 2 Samuel 7:18-29 –use David’s prayer as a model to thank God for His care for you and to offer Him praise.**

**Day 4 - 2 Samuel 9 A Promise Kept**

A gruesome tradition in ancient western Asia was for the new royal dynasties to murder every member of the previous ruling family. (2 Kings 10:1-11; 11:1) David chose not to do this however. Keeping a promise he had made to two dead friends David gave Mephibosheth, a descendent of Saul, a position of privilege at the royal palace in Jerusalem. Questions however arise later about Mephibosheth’s loyalty to David, but no one would question David’s loyalty to Jonathan and Saul.

15. What does David’s kindness to Saul’s lineage underscore about covenants? (1 Samuel 20:14-15, 42)

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16. What might Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 4:4) have felt as he is escorted back to Jerusalem and why? (2 Samuel 9:6-8)

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17. In what ways are you like Mephibosheth as you “stand” before God’s throne? As you break bread at the Lord’s Table? As you are an heir to your heavenly Father’s spiritual kingdom?

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Prayer Focus: Psalm 8

**Day 5 - 2 Samuel 11 David and Bathsheba**

It seems today that no celebrities can do anything in secret. Their activities are posted on the internet, television and tabloids. Rulers, however, seem to get away with their deeds because their power protects them.

David thought he too had power enough to protect him but as we see in this portion of scripture sin will always eventually be exposed. The One who matters sees all and uncovers sin in His time. Proverbs 5:21-23

18. What significance do you see in the timing of David’s sin? (2 Samuel 11:1)

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19. What progression of thought do you think David entertained upon the sight of Bathsheba and what was the result?

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20. David sought to cover his sin by bringing Uriah the Hittite back from the battle, but Uriah frustrates David’s schemes at every turn. What qualities did Uriah display that every follower of the Lord ought to have?

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21. In what ways did one sin lead to another in this story? What Commandments had David broken? (Exodus 20:1-17)

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22. Sin brings with it a cost. What did it cost David? How could he go on with his life after his sin? Read Psalm 51

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According to the Torah, the penalty for adultery is death. (Leviticus 20:10) The fact that the repentant David did not have to die for his sin with Bathsheba is a testimony to God's mercy and grace. Have you experienced God's forgiving grace in your life?

**Prayer Focus:** Is there a sin in your life that needs to be brought before God with godly sorrow as David did? Psalm 51

**You can know Him, Righteousness comes through faith**

All have sinned: Romans 3:23;

The penalty for sin: Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23;

God demonstrated his love for us: Romans 5:8;

We must respond to His love: Romans 10:9-10;

God's promise: Romans 10:13