

READING 2 SAMUEL TOGETHER

MAY 2025

"He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." 2 Samuel 7:13

INTRODUCING 2 SAMUEL

2 Samuel continues the account of David's life and reign, following the death of Saul. It has three main parts.

Chapters 1–9 describe David's rise to the throne of Israel, establishing Jerusalem as the capital. He wants to build a temple, but the Lord has a greater plan. From David's royal line will come a king (the Messiah) who will reign forever.

Chapter 10–20 recount a tragic series of events. David sins grievously, taking advantage of Bathsheba and plotting her husband's murder. When confronted, David repents of his sin, but his actions have lasting consequences for his family. This includes his son, Absalom, rebelling against him.

The final chapters of 2 Samuel include two poems from David. He reflects on the Lord's work in his life, and brings to mind God's promises of the greater King who would come. As we read, we rejoice that this King has now come: his name is Jesus!

FIVE KEY THEMES

- **The promise of a Messiah.** In chapter 7, God promises a king from David's line (the Christ, or Messiah) who will reign forever. Through all the messiness of 2 Samuel, God is keeping this promise.
- **The need for a righteous king.** When David reigns justly, he brings hope and blessing, "like the light of morning at sunrise" (23:3). When he fails, it leaves us longing for the perfectly righteous king, Jesus.
- **The tragedy of sin.** At a time of great blessing, David sins grievously against the Lord. His sin has tragic consequences, both for himself and others. This serves as a sober warning for us.
- **The importance of repentance.** David's story does not end with sin. In God's mercy, he is forgiven and is led to repent. David shows us what it looks like to confess our sin and turn to God in repentance.
- **The Lord is our Rock.** In his song in chapter 22, David repeatedly calls the Lord "my Rock". In all of the ups and downs of our lives, we can find safety and stability as we trust in the Lord and his promises.

SOME EXTRA RESOURCES

 **BibleProject** has several helpful resources, including a video introduction and podcast episodes:
bibleproject.com/guides/books-of-samuel

 ***2 Samuel for You*** by Tim Chester. A helpful Bible study guide, available as a paperback or eBook from The Good Book Company (thegoodbook.co.uk)

 ***2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity*** by Dale Ralph Davis. A very readable commentary, with helpful insights. Available from 10ofThose.com

 **Moorlands Church, Lancaster** have recordings of sermons going through the whole of 2 Samuel. Find them at moorlands.org.uk/talks

A SUGGESTED READING PLAN

You can read or listen to the whole book across the month with one chapter a day. This leaves 7 extra days. You could use these to re-read passages that particularly encouraged you, or to look at the extra readings on the back.

You may not be able to read the whole book this month – don't worry! However much you read, the Lord can still bless you, and give you words to encourage others!

SEVEN OTHER PASSAGES

Here are some passages related to 2 Samuel, which you could read on the extra days of May, or at another point:

1. **Psalm 51** – This psalm was written after Nathan rebuked David for his sin. How does understanding the background help us appreciate this psalm?
2. **Psalm 89** – God's people remember the Lord's promises to David, and long for him to bring them to completion. How is God's character described here?
3. **Isaiah 9** – This prophecy tells us that the Messiah will reign on David's throne forever. How do you think Isaiah's first hearers felt about these words?
4. **Isaiah 11** – Another prophecy of the Messiah, from the stump of Jesse (David's father). How far did David match this description? What was lacking in his reign?
5. **Matthew 1** – This genealogy describes Jesus as "the son of David", and includes Bathsheba as "the wife of Uriah". What is significant about both of these things?
6. **Luke 1:26–56** – The words of Gabriel and Mary should remind us of 1 and 2 Samuel. How does reading these books help us see the importance of these words?
7. **Acts 13:13–43** – In this sermon, Paul mentions David and shows how God kept his promises by sending Jesus. How has reading 1 and 2 Samuel helped you see God's faithfulness?