

From the Garden to Glory

2 Samuel & 1 Chronicles

Since 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles are parallel texts, we will be studying these books together.

2 Samuel

Author: Unknown

Timeline: c. 1011 - 973 B.C.

Location: Hebron and Jerusalem

Category: Historical

Theme: The Reign of King David

Overview:

The book of 2 Samuel records the history of David's reign as king, first over Judah and then over the whole nation of Israel. It gives us an account of David's triumphs: over the house of Saul, over the Jebusites and Philistines, at the bringing up of the ark, over the neighboring nations that opposed him. It also gives an account of David's troubles and the causes of them: his sin with Bathsheba, his sin in the matter of Uriah, trouble with the sin of Amnon, the rebellion of Absalom, the rebellion of Sheba, and the plague in Israel for his numbering the people.

1 Chronicles

Author: Possibly Ezra

Timeline: c. 1011 - 971 B.C.

Location: Israel

Category: Historical

Theme: Spiritual Perspective

Overview:

1 Chronicles is thought to have been put together by Ezra the scribe somewhere between 450 - 430 B.C. It provided a spiritual perspective of the events of David's reign emphasizing God's grace and forgiveness, in order to encourage the Jews who had just returned from captivity.

The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles are given to genealogies. The rest of the book records the history of David's reign as king. 1 Chronicles is not merely a repetition of 2 Samuel but rather a parallel text with a different perspective.

Introduction:

Before beginning your study of 2 Samuel & 1 Chronicles consider the following questions and write your responses.

- 1.** David was Israel's second king. What are some advantages of being the second person to occupy a position? What are some disadvantages?
- 2.** David's life was filled with many triumphs as he followed and obeyed the Lord. List at least five "triumphs" in your life which have been the result of obedience.
- 3.** David's life was characterized not only by great triumphs but also by great failures when he turned from the Lord and followed the dictates of his flesh. How do you protect yourself from succumbing to the "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life"?
- 4.** Disobedience has consequences and often these consequences result in chastisement from the Lord. Think of a time when your disobedience resulted in being disciplined by the Lord. Read Hebrews 12:5-11. List five things you have learned from the Lord's chastening in your life. Thank Him for loving you enough to chasten you.

David Mourns for Jonathan and Saul

Read 2 Samuel 1

Read 1 Chronicles 10

1. Summarize 1 Chronicles 10:1-6 and 2 Samuel 1:6-10. What was David's response in 2 Samuel 1:15? What do you think motivated the Amalekite to tell David that he had killed Saul? List one way you could be tempted to behave in a similar manner.
2. Look at 2 Samuel 1:11-12, 17-27. What was David's response to the death of Saul and Jonathan? Think about Saul's persecution of David. What does David's response to Saul's death tell you about his character?
3. Look at 1 Chronicles 10:13-14. Why did Saul die? Who was ultimately responsible for Saul's death? List one specific way that you can "keep the word of the Lord" today.

David, King of Judah

Read 2 Samuel 2:1-3:1

1. Look at 2 Samuel 2:1. What did David do? Who do you consult when you need direction? Write out Jeremiah 33:3 in the first person: I will _____ to You, and You will _____ me, and _____ me _____ and _____ things, which I _____ . *Selah*
(Pause and think of that!!!)
2. Read 2 Samuel 2:4-7. The Hebrew word for "anoint" is *masah*. According to Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, it means "a special setting apart for an office or function." For what "office or function" have you been "anointed"? What is one thing you are doing today to fulfill this call on your life?

3. Look at 2 Samuel 3:1. What word is used to describe the war between Ishbosheth and David? What was the outcome? What character traits have been strengthened in your own life during long trials?

David, King of All Israel

Read 2 Samuel 5

Read 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 and 1 Chronicles 14

1. Look at 2 Samuel 5:2. What characteristics and abilities would be necessary for a shepherd? Why would these traits also be important for a godly ruler? How are these manifested in your own life?
2. Look at 2 Samuel 5:10, 12. Who was the "source" of David's greatness? Pastor Damian Kyle said, "Greatness requires great character to handle it...Humility and dependence on God kept David great." Why can greatness be so dangerous? How can you remain humble and dependant on the Lord in the midst of greatness? Be specific.
3. Record all that you learn about David's relationship with the Lord in 1 Chronicles 14:8-17. What is one characteristic of this relationship that you would like to emulate? What will you do to make this a reality?

David's House Established

Read 2 Samuel 7

Read 1 Chronicles 17

1. Summarize 2 Samuel 7:1-3. Although this seemed like a God-honoring plan, neither David nor Nathan had consulted the Lord. When have you done something *for* the Lord without consulting Him? What was the result?

2. What did the Lord reveal to Nathan in 2 Samuel 7:4-16?

3. Look at 1 Chronicles 17:16-27 and summarize David's response to the Lord. How do you usually respond when the Lord tells *you*, "No"?

David's Sin

Read 2 Samuel 11

1. What does verse 1 say that David did? Pastor Damian Kyle said, "David ceased to be busy about the Lord's business. David takes a break from warfare; he's now out of the battle. He was in more danger at ease in Jerusalem...than on any battlefield of God's choosing." What are possible reasons you might "take a break from warfare"? Why is a life of "ease" more dangerous than God's battlefield? Think of a time when you "remained behind." What were the consequences? What does James 4:17 say about this?

2. Note the progression of David's sin from the following verses:
 - Verse 1
 - Verses 2-3
 - Verse 4
 - Verses 6-10
 - Verses 14-17

3. Although Uriah was a Hittite, he had a Hebrew name which meant "the Lord is my light," indicating that he was a worshipper of the Lord. As you read verses 6-17 note what you learn about Uriah's character. Which of his character traits would you like to cultivate or strengthen in your own life? How will you do this?

David's Repentance

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25

Read Psalm 51

1. Summarize 2 Samuel 12:1-12. David had to make a choice; he could confess and repent of his sin or he could continue to cover it up. Comment on this quote from Pastor Damian Kyle, "Option number one always seems more difficult at the time, but it is right and the far easier choice in the long run." How has this been true in your own life?
2. Look at 2 Samuel 12:13-14. The Lord graciously forgives sin, but forgiveness does not always remove the consequences of sin. Pastor Damian Kyle said, "David's life would never be the same, but there is grace (from God) for the consequences." Share a time in your own life when God's grace was sufficient for the consequences of your sin. How did this impact your relationship with Him?
3. Psalm 51 is David's prayer of repentance. Read it aloud slowly. What do you think David was feeling as he wrote it? Which is your favorite verse? Why?

David Numbers the People

Read 2 Samuel 24

Read 1 Chronicles 21

1. Look at 2 Samuel 24:9; only the military was counted. According to Pastor Damian Kyle, "David had subtly believed that the security of Israel was in the military rather than in the Lord." Do you view material things as God's blessing or as your security? Ask the Lord to search your heart. Where is your security? Is it in some material thing, some ability, some talent, some relationship, some position or is it truly in the Lord?
2. Summarize 2 Samuel 24:10-17. What do you learn about David from verses 14 and 17?

3. Look at 2 Samuel 24:24 and 1 Chronicles 21:24. Look up the word *sacrifice* in a dictionary, and write the definition. What has your worship and service to the Lord cost you? Why is it important that you not present offerings that cost you nothing?

Summary

As you conclude your study of the books of 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of these books? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?
2. What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?
3. List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord: