

## A Study Outline of First Samuel

*"The books of Samuel contain the history of the kingdom of God in Israel, from the termination of the age of the judges to the close of the reign of king David, and embrace a period of about 125 years, from about 1140 to 1015 BC."* Keil & Delitzsch Commentary

First Samuel covers three periods of history:

1. The judgeship of Samuel – 1-7.
2. The election and rejection of Saul – 8-15.
3. The decline of Saul and the rise of David – 16-31.

### Chapter 1

1:1-3 – An introduction to Samuel's parents, Elkanah and Hannah.

- Elkanah had two wives (v. 2). God has never approved of polygamy. His design of the home is for a man to leave his parents and be joined to his wife (Matt. 19:3-6). Here is an example of the unhappiness and strife that exists in marriage when people do not follow God's plan.
- The law of Moses required that all males appear in Shiloh for 3 feasts: Passover (Lev. 23:4-14), Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-21), and Tabernacles (Lev. 23:33-44).
- We learn more of Hophni and Phinehas in chapter 2.

1:4-8 – The wives of Elkanah.

- Deuteronomy 12 shows that when a sacrifice was offered, the offering one received a portion back and was to eat it with his family.
- For whatever reason Elkanah's favor for Hannah was evident when he gave her a "double portion." This, no doubt added fuel to the fire between Hannah and Peninnah.
- Peninnah was obviously a very cruel and arrogant woman (v. 6).
- There was no way for Elkanah to make up for Hannah's inability to have children. Not being able to have children was considered a "reproach" or "affliction" (v. 11).

1:9-18 – Hannah's actions at Shiloh.

- Her solution to the problem was prayer and a vow to God (v. 10-11).
- Verses 12-14 gives insight to the moral conditions of the day. She was standing in prayer (v. 26) and speaking to God silently.
- She explains her situation and Eli blesses her (v. 15-18). Notice Hannah's description of a person who drinks (v.16).
- Verse 18 shows her response to the prayer and the blessing from the priest of God.

1:19-23 – Hannah’s prayer is answered.

- Samuel (*asked of God*) is born and it appears that Elkanah made a vow along with Hannah (v. 21).
- She would bring him to the tabernacle when he was old enough to leave home, even though he was still a child (3:1).

1:24-28 – Hannah keeps her vow to God.

- Numbers 15:1-10 discuss the offering to be brought when fulfilling a vow.
- This is a good example of doing things the way God says do them.

## **Chapter 2**

2:1-11 – Hannah’s second recorded prayer.

- She “poured out her soul” (1:15) to God requesting a son (1:11).
- *Horn* (v. 1) was a symbol of power and rank. It is the figure of an animal carrying its head high.
- *Rock* is first applied to God in Deut. 21:4 and has the idea of strength and stability. Christ is the Christian’s rock (1 Pet. 2:6-7).
- Verse 3 points to how Penninah had treated her in the past. God knows what happened between the two women and He acted in mercy for Hannah.
- The remainder of the prayer (v. 4-10) focuses on God’s power to act and His power.

2:12-17 – An introduction to Hophni and Phinehas, Eli’s sons.

- *Sons of Belial* – (NKJV – corrupt). Belial is not a proper name. It is a Hebrew word that means “worthless.”
- Deuteronomy 18:3 reveals what portion of the sacrifice was to go to the priest. Hophni and Phinehas took whatever they wanted.
- Leviticus 3:3-5 reveals that the fat was to be burned and offered to the Lord. They refused to do that as well.
- If things did not go their way, they would act by force (v.16-17).

2:18-21 – Samuel’s ministry with Eli.

2:22-36 – Prophecy against the house of Eli.

- Verse 22 – “and heard all that his sons did.” The verb states that he was constantly hearing about the abuses of his sons. His response seems pretty weak and insufficient (v. 23-25).
- In comparison, Samuel continued to grow in a good way before the Lord (v. 26).
- Verses 27-29 – God revealed how the priesthood was to be handled (Ex. 28). They were “kicking” (despising, treating disrespectfully) the service of God’s house. When we allow our children to do things that are contrary to God’s will we honor them more than we honor God!

- Verses 31-36 prophesy that Eli's arm (strength) would be cut off. The events are described in 4:10-11.
- God would raise up a "faithful priest" (v. 35). This is a reference to Samuel in that day (3:19-21). Many believe it is also prophetic of Christ.
- Verse 36 is prophetic of what would happen in the days of Solomon (1 Kg. 2:27). Abiathar the priest had conferred with David's son, Adonijah, to usurp the throne when David died.

### **Chapter 3**

God's communication with Samuel about the house of Eli.

- In verse 1 the KJV reads, "And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision."
- The NKJV reads, "And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; and there was no widespread revelation."
- The priesthood was unfaithful and every man was doing what was right in his own eyes. Why should God openly communicate with man?
- Verses 2-10 record the three times that God called to Samuel and Samuel thought it was Eli.
- God reveals to Samuel that He is going to judge the house of Eli for the sins of Hophni and Phinehas (v. 13). The father was just as guilty as the sons because he did not stop them from sinning.
- Verses 15-18 - Samuel tells Eli what God told him. Eli's response in verse 18 is interesting!
- Verses 19-21 - Samuel grows into his role as the next priest/judge of Israel.

### **Chapter 4**

Israel is defeated by Philistia and the Ark of the Covenant is taken.

- Verses 1-2 - Philistia kills 4,000 Israelites in battle.
- Verses 3-11 - Israel gets the Ark and returns to fight again. Verse 3 shows Israel's problem: they thought possessing the Ark would bring the victory instead of relying on God and living faithfully for Him. Christians can think this way today too. "Because we go to church, nothing bad should happen." "We teach that people need to be baptized, therefore we are okay." This is a dangerous line of thinking!
- 30,000 Israelites die in the battle (v. 10), the Ark was stolen, and Hophni and Phinehas were killed (2:34).
- Verses 12-18 - the report is brought to Eli and three things are mentioned specifically (v. 17). Eli's response is to the Ark of the Covenant (v. 18).
- Verses 19-22 - Phinehas' wife has a son and names him "The glory is gone."

## **Chapter 5**

The Philistines take the Ark of the Covenant to Ashdod.

- 5:1-5 – God strikes down a god of the Philistines. The Ark was placed in the temple of Dagon (god of corn; upper body like a man, lower body like a fish).
- 5:6-9 – God strikes the people of Ashdod with emerods (KJV), tumors (NKJV).
- 5:10-12 – Ashdod sent the Ark to Ekron.

## **Chapter 6**

The Ark is returned to Israel.

- 6:1-3 – The “religious authorities” decided, after seven months, to return the Ark to Israel with a trespass offering.
- 6:4-12 – The trespass offering was five golden mice/rats and 5 golden tumors. They Philistines were warned not to act like Pharaoh (v. 6). The Ark was to be transported by two milk cows and a new cart (v.7-8). They also devise a test to see whether this was God’s action against them or something that happened by chance (v. 9).
- 6:13-7:1 – The Ark initially returned to Beth-Shemesh, but those people were struck by God because they looked inside the Ark. Numbers 4:1-15 shows that only the Kohathites were authorized to handle the Ark. The Ark was next sent to Kirjath-Jearim.

## **Chapter 7**

Samuel serves as Israel’s judge/deliverer.

- 7:2-6 – Samuel prays for Israel. Twenty years passed from the time that the Ark went to Kirjath-Jearim until Israel repented! Samuel told the Israelites that they needed to repent and serve God only.
- 7:7-14 – The Philistines hear of the gathering of Israel and prepare for battle. Verses 9-11 show what both Samuel and the Lord did for Israel.
- Samuel sets up “Ebenezer” (stone of help).
- 7:15-17 – Samuel’s service to Israel.

## **Chapter 8**

Israel desires a king.

8:1-5 – Israel’s request for a king.

- We are not told why his sons turned out as they did. Every person must make his/her own choices when it comes to following the Lord.
- The problem is not necessarily that the requested a king. The problem was the reason they wanted the king (v. 5b).

8:6-9 – Samuel’s prayer to God in light of Israel’s request.

- The actions of Israel on this occasion are no surprise to God! There was a repeated problem throughout Israel’s history of rejecting God’s will.
- Deuteronomy 17:14-20 contains guidelines for selection of a king. Israel was to be “forewarned” of the behavior of the king (v. 9).

8:10-18 – Samuel relays God’s message to the people. Basically, setting up a monarchy would result in oppression and taxes.

8:19-22 – Israel was not going to be swayed. The motivation for this decision is again stated in verse 20.

## **Chapter 9**

Saul meets Samuel.

9:1-5 – Saul and his servant go looking for his father’s lost donkeys.

9:6-21 – Saul’s servant recommended that they seek out the “man of God,” i.e. Samuel, to find out where the donkeys were.

- Samuel is also referred to as a “seer” (v.9).
- God’s care for His people is seen again (v. 16) even though they had rejected Him.

9:22-25 – Saul and his servant eat with Samuel. The food provided for Saul was the portion of the sacrifice reserved for the priest (Ex. 29:27; Lev. 7:32-33).

## **Chapter 10**

Saul is anointed as king of Israel.

9:26-10:8 – Saul is anointed and given three signs:

- Donkeys would be found – 10:2.
- Food would be provided – 10:3-4.
- He would meet a group of prophets and the Spirit of the Lord would also cause him to prophesy – 10:5-8.

10:9-16 – All the signs come to pass and Saul is “given another heart” by the Lord.

10:17-27 – Saul is elected and revealed as king to Israel.

- Samuel reemphasized the sin that the people had committed in desiring a king (v. 19).
- Verses 21-22 seem to show that Saul began as a humble man (15:16-17).

## **Chapter 11**

Saul’s first challenge as king of Israel.

11:1-3 – The Ammonites attempt to subjugate Jabesh-Gilead.

- There was a history between these two groups of people. Jabesh-Gilead was on the eastern side of the Jordan just north of the Ammonites. The Ammonites felt that it belonged to them (Jud. 11:13).
- Nahash wanted to humiliate Israel with the demand of putting out the right eye of all the men of Jabesh-Gilead (v. 2).

11:4-11 – Saul hears of the trouble and takes action.

- The “spirit of the Lord” seems to mean that Saul was overcome with righteous anger (v. 6).
- Verse 7 is a call to action for Israel. (1) It would serve as a warning because oxen were valuable to the owner. (2) This was an effort to unite Israel under the new king.

- 330,000 men answered the call (v. 8).
- The Ammonites are defeated (v. 11).

11:12-15 – Saul is reaffirmed as king of Israel.

- Verse 13 seems to indicate again that, in the beginning of his reign, Saul was a humble man.
- Saul anointed for the second time.

## **Chapter 12**

Samuel's address to Israel after Saul's anointing.

12:1-5 – Samuel's integrity.

12:6-12 – Lessons from their history.

- 12:6-8 – God's selection of Moses and Aaron to lead Israel.
- 12:9-11 – The period of the judges is reviewed.
- 12:12 – Even in the face of all of God's goodness, they still demanded a king!

12:13-15 – Israel got what she asked for.

- One of the most important lessons from Judges-Chronicles is that God will allow people to go the way they choose.
- The choice of blessing or cursing from God was in Israel's hand.

12:16-18 – A sign from God.

- Wheat harvest typically fell in May-June when rainfall is rare.
- This sign showed that Samuel was from God and they both (Samuel & God) were saddened by Israel's desire for a king in the place of God.

12:19-25 – Reassurance for Israel.

- Again, the choice for blessing from God was with Israel.
- Verse 22 – reflection on God's name – Exodus 32:12.
- Samuel was not "retiring" from his position, but he was trying to turn Israel's heart to God (v. 23-24).

## **Chapter 13**

13:1-15 – Saul's unlawful sacrifice.

- 13:1-7a – Saul has 3,000 men to fight against the Philistines. The Philistines gather 36,000 warriors and many men to fight against Israel (v. 5).
- The men of Israel scatter in fear and Saul attempts to reorganize them in Gilgal by offering a sacrifice (v. 8-9).
- Samuel had specifically mentioned these events according to 10:8. He had instructed Saul to wait for him for seven days and then he would come and offer sacrifice for the people.
- Samuel did come on the seventh day, but Saul was apparently becoming anxious. A burnt offering and a peace offering were going to be given. Saul offered the burnt offering and Samuel approached before Saul could offer the peace offering (v. 9-10).
- Saul offers a series of excuses as to why he felt compelled to do this:

- The people were scattering.
- You (Samuel) had not shown up.
- The Philistines were gathering together against us.
- I wanted to approach the Lord first.
- This was something I felt I needed to do.
- Which excuse made it okay for Saul to do something he had no right to do?
- The serious consequences for disobeying God (v. 13-14).
- “A man after God’s own heart” (v. 13).
  - This verse is quoted by Paul on his first missionary journey as he preached in a synagogue about Jewish history (Acts 13:22).
  - What about adultery and murder? What about numbering Israel?
  - His response to both incidents is helpful – 2 Samuel 12:13; 24:10.
  - David’s heart did not turn from God, even though he did commit sin.

13:16-23 – Only a few in Israel have weapons.

- The Philistines were oppressing Israel and apparently either captures or killed all of the blacksmiths. The Philistines would charge Israel for any of this type of work to be done (v. 20-21).
- Saul and Jonathan were the only men with weapons.

#### **Chapter 14**

14:1-23 - Jonathan and his armor-bearer defeat the Philistines.

- Jonathan’s faith in God is on display in this text – v. 6, 10.
- It is also evident that the Lord was involved in his activity (v. 15, 23).

14:24-52 – Saul begins to change.

- Saul had made Israel take an oath not to eat until the enemy was defeated. Jonathan openly states that this was a bad idea.
- From verses 31-33 it is evident that Saul’s oath made a difficult situation even worse. He appears to me getting more arrogant as time passes.
- Saul seeks God’s counsel as to whether or not he should pursue the Philistines and the Lord does not answer (v. 37).
- He states that even if Jonathan was the man who sinned, he would die. Israel refuses to let this ridiculous event take place (v. 41-46).
- Saul’s kingdom and family continued to grow (v. 47-52).

#### **Chapter 15**

Things go from bad to worse!

15:1-9 – Saul is commissioned by Samuel to destroy the Amalekites.

- Exodus 17:8-16 records the attack of Amalek on Israel as they were in the wilderness.
- Verse 3 makes it very clear concerning what Israel was to do.
- Saul completely ignores what he was commanded to do (v. 8-9).

15:10-15 – The Lord reveals to Samuel what Saul has done.

- The effect on Samuel (v. 11).
- Saul's arrogance on display (v. 13).
- He blames others for his sinful decision (v. 15).

15:16-26 – The consequence of Saul's sin.

- Saul's "good intentions" were nothing more than sin in the eyes of God (v. 19).
- Saul again blames the people for his decision (v. 20-21).
- God demands obedience to His will, not our good intentions (v. 22-23).
- Saul seemingly wants these events "swept under the rug" and for things to go back to the way they were (v. 24-26).

15:27-35 – The kingdom is taken from Saul and Agag is put to death.

- Saul's arrogance is evident again (v. 30).
- The response to the monarchy (v. 35).

## **Chapter 16**

God chooses a new king.

16:1-5 – God sends Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint the new king from the house of Jesse.

- Perhaps the reason for Samuel's sadness is that he was old (12:2) and he was concerned about seeing the future of the kingdom.
- Even though he was discouraged God told him to keep working for the kingdom (v. 3).

16:6-13 – The new king is found.

- Notice the implication of verses 6-7. What was it that caused Samuel to think that Eliab was the next king?
- Eliab's heart is revealed in 17:11 & 28.
- Verses 8-11 – the first seven sons of Jesse are rejected.
- Verses 12-13 are our introduction to David:
  - He was a shepherd – Psalm 23.
  - He was *ruddy* – red-haired.
  - He was of *beautiful countenance* – handsome.
  - In other words, he wasn't hard to look at!
  - His most important feature is referred to in verse 7.

16:14-23 – Saul's evil spirit.

- What does it mean that "the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul?"
- Romans 8:6-7.
- One man wrote, "*His carnal mind refused to be subject to God. He was guided by his human passions and not by the will of God.*"
- Over time Saul became more calloused and cold, even to the point of trying to murder David (18:10-12).
- His stubbornness was compared to "witchcraft and idolatry" (15:23).
- This instance is similar to Pharaoh, whose heart the Lord had hardened.
- Also, there is no other example of a demon fleeing at the sound of music (v.16).
- There is a contrast in the behavior of Saul and David (v. 18).



- David also becomes the armorbearer of Saul (v. 21).
- Because of his growing hatred and jealousy of David, the remedy for this evil spirit did not last long.

## **Chapter 17**

### David & Goliath

17:1-11 – Goliath challenges Israel.

- 1 cubit = 18 inches, 1 span = 9 inches. Goliath was 9 ft., 9!
- His coat of mail weighed approximately 125 lbs. and his spear weighed about 17 lbs.
- His challenge to Israel – verses 8-10. He makes this challenge for 40 days (v. 16).
- Israel's response – verse 11.

17:12-25 – David sent to check on his brothers.

- David's three oldest brothers served in Saul's army (v. 13).
- David witnesses the situation with Goliath (v.20-25).

17:26-37 – David's reaction to Goliath's challenge.

- David is shocked by Israel's lack of a response to Goliath (v. 26).
- Eliab seems to be irritated (and perhaps embarrassed) by David's words (v. 28).
- Verses 29-32 shows David's faith in God and his knowledge of God's "cause." He is basically asking, "Isn't there something you should be standing up for?"
- David's experience as a shepherd is used as evidence that he could defeat Goliath (v. 34-37).
- Israel's faith was no longer in God. David understood that God would fight for him.

17:38-44 – David's preparations for the fight.

- He was not familiar with Saul's armor (v. 38-39).
- David selects his weapon and approaches Goliath (v. 40-44).

17:45-51 – David kills Goliath.

- David's faith in God is again displayed (v. 45-47).
- Psalm 27:1-3.

17:52-58 – Israel pursues and defeats the Philistines and Saul inquires about David.

## **Chapter 18**

18:5-16 – Saul's jealousy of David.

- Verse 5 begins this section by describing David's behavior with Saul.
  - Wise.
  - Responsible.

- Accepted.
- Proverbs 14:30.
- The jealousy and anger displayed by Saul was a direct result of Saul's heart, not David's behavior.
- 1 Peter 4:15-16.
- Jealousy is a very dangerous sin! It even led Saul to the point of murder.
- David's behavior is again addressed in verses 13-16. We too should behave ourselves in a godly way no matter how we are treated.

18:17-21 – An evil plot to have David killed by the Philistines.

- It seems that all of Saul's efforts are now focused on killing David.
- He was even willing to use his own daughter in the plot.

18:22-27 – David is further enticed to marry Saul's daughter.

- Saul now enlists others to convince David to become his son-in-law.
- David accomplishes the task given by Saul and becomes his son-in-law (v. 26-27).

18:28-30 – All of Saul's plans backfire and David's popularity grows.

## **Chapter 19**

19:1-7 – Jonathan acts as a mediator between Saul and David.

- Saul gets a perspective on David from someone who knows and loves David and is not jealous of him.
- This kind of action can be helpful in our lives sometimes!
- For a brief period of time Saul listens to reason (v. 5-6).

19:8-17 – Saul's "evil spirit" returns when David is victorious against the Philistines.

- Saul sends out spies to follow David and kill him at his own house (v. 11).
- Michal, Saul's daughter and David's wife, helps David escape during the night (v. 12-17).

19:18-24 – David escapes to Samuel in Ramoth.

- David wants to be near to someone who is near to God.
- One thing this passage brings out is that God is in control.
- David often wrote about the times of his affliction and the comfort and safety he found in God (Ps. 35, 37, 40, 46).

## **Chapter 20**

20:1-23 – David and Jonathan make a covenant. Jonathan will talk to Saul concerning David to find out what his mindset is.

20:24-34 – David is missing from Saul’s presence and Jonathan is questioned. Saul becomes so angry over the situation that he attempts to kill his own son (v. 32-33)!

20:35-42 – Jonathan sends David away.

### **Chapter 21**

21:1-9 – David flees to Nob and gets bread and a sword. Jesus mentioned this event in Matthew 12:3-4. Doeg, a servant of Saul, knows that David is present (v. 7).

21:10-15 – David flees to Gath in Philistia to escape Saul.

### **Chapter 22**

David leaves Gath and goes to the Cave of Adullam.

22:1-2 – David begins to build an alliance from his family and many who were in trouble in Saul’s kingdom. There were 400 at this time and in 23:13 we learn it had grown to 600.

22:3-5 – David arranges for the safety of his parents in Moab.

- David was the great-grandson of Ruth, the Moabitess (Ruth 4:21-22).
- David is told by Gad, a prophet, to hide in Judah.

22:6-19 – In his anger over David, Saul kills 85 priests.

- Verses 6-8 – Saul makes a pathetic attempt to convince his servants that everyone is against him.
- Verses 9-16 – Doeg, who saw David in Nob, tells Saul about what happened when David met with Ahimelech (21:1-7).
- Saul’s paranoia is evident in verse 13. Saul did not appreciate what Ahimelech said to him (v. 14-15)!
- Saul has 85 priests, the men, women, children, and animals of Nob killed because of what he thought Ahimelech did for David.

22:20-23 – Abiathar escapes and tells David what has happened. David’s heart is seen in verses 22-23.

### **Chapter 23**

23:1-6 – David and his men fight the Philistines to save the city of Keilah, which is in Judah (Jos. 15:44).

23:7-12 – David inquires of God and learns that the people of Keilah will turn him over to Saul.

23:13-15 – David and his 600 men escape to the wilderness of Ziph.

23:16-18 – Jonathan reassures David that he will help him.

23:19-26 – The people of Ziph tell Saul that David is hiding in their land and Saul pursues him. Saul is relentless (v. 23)!

23:27-29 – Saul's pursuit of David is halted by an attack from the Philistines. Most commentators attribute this event to the providence of God.

## **Chapter 24**

24:1-8 – David is presented with an opportunity to kill Saul.

- How would many people have handled this situation?
- Verses 5-6 again show us the heart of David.

24:9-15 – David's speech to Saul.

- Regardless of what Saul had heard (v. 9), the evidence from David's had shown nothing but respect for Saul (v. 10-11).
- David makes it clear to Saul that God is aware of what was going on (v.12-15).

24:16-22 – Saul's response to David.

- Saul could have said (v. 17) "I am wicked and you are righteous."
- Verse 22 may show that David knew Saul too well.

## **Chapter 25**

David meets Nabal and Abigail.

25:1 – Samuel dies and was lamented by all Israel.

25:2-9 – David sends messengers to Nabal with a request for food. Verses 15-16 give a fuller picture of how David's men treated Nabal's men.

25:10-13 – The responses to the request.

25:14-17 – The events are told to Abigail.

25:18-31 – Abigail's intercedes for her foolish husband.

- David has determined that he is going to kill Nabal and every male that is with him (v. 22).
- David's reputation is well known (v. 28).
- Abigail takes the blame for her husband's behavior (v. 24, 28).

25:32-35 – David's kind response to Abigail's intercession.

25:36-38 – Abigail tells Nabal what she has done and he dies.

25:39-44 – David’s wives.

- David now has three wives – Michal, Abigail, and Ahinoam.
- 1 Chronicles 3:2-5 reveals that he also marries Maachah, Haggith, Abital, Eglah, and Bathsheba.
- This was the introduction of the sin of polygamy into the monarchy. The Law of Moses forbade the king to multiply wives (Deut. 17:17).
- Jesus stated that there was tolerance of sin under the Old Law because of the hardness of hearts (Matt. 19:8).
- Romans 3:25 and Acts 17:30 might help us understand these sinful activities.

## **Chapter 26**

Saul’s pursuit of David continues.

26:1-4 – The people of Ziph inform Saul of David’s position. Saul gathers 3,000 men to find David.

26:5-12 – David and Abishai go into the camp of Saul and steal Saul’s spear and jug of water.

- Verses 9-10 show us again the heart of David.
- Romans 12:17-21

26:13-16 – David embarrasses Abner, the captain of Saul’s army.

26:17-20 – David speaks to Saul.

- David points out that if Saul had been seeking David because it was God’s will, he would offer a sacrifice (v. 19).
- The king of a nation was hunting down one innocent man like an animal (v. 20)!

26:21-25 – Saul “repents” and says he will stop pursuing David.

## **Chapter 27**

David flees to Philistia again.

27:1-4 – David and his 600 men escape to Achish, king of Gath in order to stop Saul from pursuing him.

27:5-7 – David lives in Ziklag for a year and four months.

27:8-12 – David secures territory for Achish. Achish believes that Israel will turn on David for what he has done.

## **Chapter 28**

Saul consults a medium at Endor.

28:1-2 – Achish wants David to be his chief bodyguard.

28:3-6 – Verse 3 is important because of what is about to happen.

- Deuteronomy 18:9-12.
- Saul did what the law required, but now finds himself in a difficult position.
- God was not answering Saul in any way (v. 6).

28:7-14 – Saul's rebellion against God continues to grow.

- Saul goes out to seek a séance.
- Perhaps he should have repented and prayed to God for guidance.
- Saul seeks Samuel, but when Samuel appears, the woman is frightened!

28:15-20 – Samuel's message to Saul.

- Kingdom given to David (v. 17).
- Israel would be defeated by the Philistines (v. 19).
- Saul and his sons would die (v. 19).

28:21-25 – The medium feeds Saul and his servants.

## **Chapter 29**

David's help of the Philistines is refused.

29:4-5 – The leaders under Achish are paranoid about David, considering his past.

29:9 – David continually impresses those around him.

## **Chapter 30**

David fights the Amalekites.

30:1-2 – The Amalekites, whom Saul was told to destroy years earlier, attack Ziklag, burn it with fire, and take the women and children captive.

30:3-10 – God permits David to pursue the Amalekites.

- Things go from bad to worse (v. 6). Instead of becoming bitter and angry, David strengthened himself in God. He sought communication with God (v. 7-8).
- A division of the troops occurs (v. 10).

30:11-15 – An Egyptian slave of an Amalekite leads David and his men to the enemy.

30:16-20 – David and his men rescue everything that had been taken.

30:21-25 – David makes a law in Israel that those who protect the stuff during a war are just as deserving as those who go and fight the war.

30:26-31 – David divides the spoil among the tribe of Judah.

## A Study Outline of First Samuel

### Chapter 31

Saul and his sons are killed by the Philistines.

31:1-6 – Saul, his three sons, and his armor-bearer die in the battle.

31:7-10 – The Philistines abuse Saul's body as a sign to everyone around.

31:11-13 – Valiant men from Jabeshgilead bury Saul and his sons.

## Second Samuel

### Chapter 1

David learns of and mourns over the death of Saul and Jonathan.

1:1-12 – A young Amalekite tells David that Saul and his sons have died in the battle. He also tells David that he was responsible for the death of Saul.

1:13-16 – David executes the young man because he killed the Lord's anointed.

1:17-27 – A lamentation written by David.

### Chapter 2

A division in Israel.

2:1-4 – David is crowned as king of Israel in Hebron by the men of Judah. David is anointed three times as king:

- By Samuel in Bethlehem – 1 Samuel 16:13.
- By the men of Judah in Hebron – 2 Samuel 2:4.
- By all Israel in Jerusalem – 1 Chronicles 14:8.

2:5-7 – David was grateful to the men of Jabeshgilead for taking care of Saul's body.

2:8-11 – A division in Israel.

- Those who were still loyal to Saul attempt to retain power.
- Abner was Saul's cousin (1 Sam. 14:50).
- Ishbosheth, Saul's son, is made king by the house of Saul.

2:12-17 – A battle between the houses of Saul and David.

- "Play" is an invitation to fight.
- David's men come out victorious.

2:18-24 – One of David's men, Asahel, is killed by Abner.

2:25-32 – The pursuit of Abner by David's men is stopped.

## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### Chapter 3

3:1 - A power shift in Israel.

3:2-5 - David's 6 sons born in Hebron.

3:6-21 - Abner, the former leader of Saul's army, attempts to make an alliance with David.

- It seems that everyone is figuring out that David is the rightful successor to the throne (v. 9-10, 12, 18).
- Abner leaves David to get all of Israel to make a league (alliance) with the king (v. 21).

3:22-27 - Joab, a servant of David, murders Abner.

3:28-30 - David lays the blame squarely upon Joab.

3:31-39 - David and Israel mourn the death of Abner.

### Chapter 4

4:1-8 - Saul's son, Ishbosheth, is murdered by his own servants. With his death, the government of Saul's house is gone forever.

4:9-12 - David executes the men who murdered Ishbosheth.

### Chapter 5

5:1-5 - David is anointed as king over all Israel.

5:6-16 - David conquers Jerusalem.

- The Jebusites felt that David was incapable of defeating them (v. 6).
- 1 Chronicles 11:6 records that Joab became the leader of David's army because of this victory in Jerusalem.

5:17-25 - David defeats the Philistines on two different occasions.



## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### Chapter 6

6:1-5 – David returns the ark of the covenant to Israel.

- Paralleled in 1 Chronicles 13:1-8.
- The ark had been taken by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4:11) and they had it for 7 months.
- Because of plagues the ark was sent to house of Abinadab for twenty years (1 Sam. 7:1-2).
- These events are about 50-60 years after the ark had been stolen.
- Great preparations and celebrations are made over the return (6:2-5).

6:6-11 – The Uzzah incident.

- Paralleled in 1 Chronicles 13:9-14.
- God's prescribed manner for the carrying of the ark was very specific (Num. 4:15; 7:9; 10:21).
- Why would Uzzah do such a thing (v. 6)?
- Why would God do such a thing (v. 7)?
- David left the ark in the house of Obed-Edom for three months (v. 9-11).

6:12-23 – The ark is returned to Zion.

- Paralleled in 1 Chronicles 15.
- 1 Chronicles 15:25-26 reveals that the Levites were involved in transporting the ark the second time.
- 1 Chronicles 15:13 teaches an important lesson.
- David rejoices greatly over the return of the ark (v. 15-16).
- Michal rebukes David for his "display" as the ark was returning (v. 20).
- David promised to be "more vile" and that he would be even more respected by those around him (v. 22).

## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### Chapter 7

Paralleled in 1 Chronicles 17.

7:1-11 – God forbids David from building the temple.

- David is disturbed by his condition as compared to the condition of the Ark (v. 2).
- God states that He never asked for a house (v. 7).
- God's goodness to Israel and David (v. 8-11).
- 1 Chronicles 17:4 says, "Thou shalt not build me a house to dwell in."
- 1 Chronicles 22:7-10.

7:12-17 – God's promise to David.

- The only "seed" to which these promises can apply is Christ.
- Acts 2:29-35; Romans 1:3-4.
- Moses built the tabernacle and Solomon built the temple. Both of those structures served as a type of the kingdom of God/church.
- Verse 14 has caused some people some trouble. It is not a reference to Solomon, but to Christ (Isa. 53). Christ was "chastened" because of iniquity, but not His own iniquity.
- God stated three times that this throne/kingdom would be established forever (v. 13, 16).

7:18-29 – David's thanksgiving to God.

### Chapter 8

A record of David's conquests. Paralleled in 1 Chronicles 18.

8:1-2 – David subdues the Philistines and Moabites (1 Chr. 18:1-2).

8:3-8 – David subdues Hadaezer and the Syrians (1 Chr. 18:3-8). Verses 6 and 14 note that God was preserving David throughout this time. Important in view of the Messianic promise of chapter 7.

8:9-12 – An alliance is made between David and Toi, king of Hamath (1 Chr. 18:9-11).

8:13-14 – David subdues the Edomites (1 Chr. 18:12-13).

8:15-18 – David and his administration (1 Chr. 18:14-17).

## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### **Chapter 9**

David's kindness to the houses of Saul and Jonathan.

1 Samuel 20:11-17 records an agreement of kindness between David and Jonathan, not only in life, but also after Jonathan's death.

9:1-8 – David finds out about Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, and returns land to him and gives him a seat at his table.

9:9-13 – Ziba, a servant of Saul, is tasked with farming the land for Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth himself would be "as one of the king's sons" (v. 11).

### **Chapter 10**

This chapter is paralleled in 1 Chronicles 19.

10:1-5 – David wants to return a kindness to the Ammonites and their king, Hanun. We are not told what they did for David, but some have speculated that they assisted him as he was running from Saul. David's messengers are rejected and insulted out of paranoia (v. 3-4).

10:6-8 – David accepts Hanun's challenge for war. Hanun hires the Syrians to help fight against David (v. 6).

10:9-14 – Joab, the leader of David's army, divides his troops into two groups and defeats the Syrians and Ammonites.

10:15-19 – David subdues the Syrians.

### **Chapter 11**

David, Bathsheba, and Uriah.

11:1-5 – David and Bathsheba commit adultery and she becomes pregnant. What else did David think was going to happen?

11:6-13 – David attempts to conceal his sin by getting Uriah to come and report about the war. The nobility of Uriah is seen in verse 11. Desperate times call for desperate measures (v. 13)!

11:14-25 – David arranges for Uriah's death in the battle (v. 15). Joab even helps in the plot (v. 18-21). David is seemingly calloused at this time (v. 25).

11:26-27 – Bathsheba becomes David's wife and the Lord is not happy.

## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### Chapter 12

12:1-4 – The prophet Nathan confronts David about his sin using a parable. Initially, David would have no idea that Nathan would know about what has happened.

12:5-6 – David's reaction shows that he wanted justice for other people. He still thinks this is about someone else.

12:7-12 – The judgment is announced to David. With all of his privileges and blessings from God, when he was tempted with something he wanted, he acted selfishly. This is a demonstration of the principle taught in Numbers 32:23 and Galatians 6:7-8. The prophecy of verses 11-12 are fulfilled in 16:20-23 by his own son, Absalom.

12:13-14 – David confesses his sin and is forgiven, but there will still be consequences. Many believe that Psalms 32 and 51 were written during this period of time.

12:15-23 – The child conceived in adultery dies and David expresses a hope to “go to him.” These verses show that David was a different man than was Saul. Saul persisted in sin, while David confessed his and turned to God (v. 20, 22). We may be forgiven of the guilt of a particular sin that we commit, but there may be lasting consequences that we have to face.

12:24-25 – Solomon (*peace*) (Jedidiah – *beloved of the Lord*) is born.

12:26-31 – Joab defeats the city of Rabbah and David turns the Ammonites into his servants.

### Chapter 13

13:1-19 – This passage shows some of the negative effects of David's polygamy. His son Absalom and daughter Tamar, by Maacah (2 Sam. 3:3), had a half-brother, Amnon, who was born by Ahinoam (1 Chr. 3:1).

One of the things we learn from this text is that, sometimes, those who claim to be our “friends” are not really out friends! Jonadab was (NKJ) “very crafty.” His advice to Amnon was to fake sickness, have Tamar cook for and feed him so that he could take advantage of her when they were alone.

Verse 15 shows that Amnon never really “loved” Tamar, he lusted after her.

Deuteronomy 22:25-27 instructs Israel about rape.

13:20-22 – Absalom's hatred for Amnon. Verse 20 seems to indicate that people knew what kind of man Amnon was. David, the father of both Tamar and Amnon, does nothing!

13:23-29 – Absalom kills Amnon.

13:30-33 – The report gets back to David that “all of his sons” had been killed (v. 30). This same type of false reporting still happens today.

13:34-39 – Absalom goes on the run from David. Perhaps now, the words of Nathan are in the back of David’s mind (12:10). Verses 37-39 show us the lingering consequences of David’s sin with Bathsheba.

## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### Chapter 14

This chapter begins recording the rebellion of Absalom against David. Absalom has been on the run for three years and is brought back to Jerusalem by Joab.

14:1-20 – Absalom returns to Jerusalem with the help of Joab.

Joab uses a woman who was going through difficult times with her own family to make a point to David about Absalom. David agreed to solve her problem by issuing a pardon to her son (v. 11). She then makes application to David about his own son, Absalom. Amnon was dead and like water spilled on the ground (v. 14).

14:21-24 – David sends Joab to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem. The punishment for murder was death (Num. 35:30). Instead, David returns Absalom with a half pardon (v. 24). This ends up being a terrible mistake for David!

14:25-33 – Absalom uses force against Joab to be able to see David and be forgiven.

### Chapter 15

Absalom's treason.

15:1-12 – Nathan's prophecy against the house of David now begins to be fulfilled.

Absalom begins to play politics with the people (v. 4-6). Absalom is now in the presence of David (v. 7-9). David is clearly not doing what he ought to do as a father and king. Absalom begins to usurp the throne of David (v. 10-12). He also takes David's counselor, Ahithophel (v. 12).

Perhaps this was Ahithophel's chance to get back at David. He was the grandfather of Bathsheba (2 Sam. 23:34; 11:3). David had murdered his grandson-in-law and taken his granddaughter to be his wife!

Psalms 41:5-9 and 55:12-14 were probably written during or about these events.

15:13-18 – David and 600 of his men flee Jerusalem.

15:19-23 – Ittai gives his allegiance to David.

15:24-29 – David does not permit the priests and the Ark to leave Jerusalem.

15:30-37 – David's friend, Hushai, is told to stay in Jerusalem and serve as a spy for David.

Many believe that David wrote Psalms 3, 4, 62, and 63 during this period.

## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### **Chapter 16**

16:1-4 – False hope for the house of Saul. Mephibosheth was mistaken if he thought the kingdom would be restored to the house of Saul.

16:5-14 – David is cursed by Shimei.

16:15-19 – David's friend, Hushai (15:32-37), subjects himself to Absalom for David's sake.

16:20-23 – Ahithophel, David's former counselor, advises Absalom to publically humiliate David. Nathan prophesied of these events (12:11-12).

### **Chapter 17**

17:1-4 – Ahithophel wants to send 12,000 men to kill David. Absalom is pleased!

17:5-14 – Hushai disagrees with Ahithophel. The text reveals that God Himself was involved in these plans.

17:15-22 – Zadok's sons, Jonathan and Ahimaaz, go to David and tell him what is going on. A game of cat and mouse ensues.

17:23-24 – Ahithophel commits suicide because he was ignored.

17:25-26 – David's nephew, Amasa (19:13), is made captain of Absalom's army.

17:27-29 – The Ammonites provide David and his men with food and bedding.

## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### Chapter 18

18:1-5 – David divides his men into three groups under the leadership of Joab, Abishai, and Ittai. He charges them to “deal gently” with Absalom.

18:6-8 – David’s army defeats Absalom’s army.

18:9-18 – Joab kills Absalom.

18:19-33 – The report of Absalom’s death reaches David. Ahimaaz lied to David (v. 29) probably out of fear for his life. The tender love of a parent is seen in verse 33.

### Chapter 19

19:1-8 – David mourns Absalom’s death and is rebuked by Joab.

19:9-15 – David begins the journey back to Jerusalem.

19:16-23 – David spares Shimei’s life.

19:24-30 – David and Mephibosheth reconcile.

19:31-40 – Others who had helped David while he was running from Absalom appear before him.

19:41-43 – A division occurs between the 10 northern tribes (Israel) and the two southern tribes (Judah).



## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### **Chapter 20**

20:1-2 – The division between Israel and Judah is announced publically.

20:3 – David arrests ten concubines and puts them under guard for life.

20:4-13 – Joab murders Amasa, David's nephew. It also seems that David's paranoia is growing (v. 6).

20:14-26 – Sheba is beheaded.

### **Chapter 21**

21:1-9 – A famine comes about because of Saul (v. 1). We are not told when or how Saul slaughtered the Gibeonites. Joshua 9 records their agreement with Joshua to be protected by Israel. They want to kill seven of Saul's sons.

21:10-11 – The mother, Rizpah, of two of the men killed watched over the bodies for five months!

21:12-14 – David removes the bodies of the men, along with the bones of Saul and Jonathan, and buried them in the grave of Saul's father in Benjamin.

21:15-22 – David and his men defeat 4 giants from among the Philistines.

### **Chapter 22**

David's psalm of praise for God's deliverance.

Paralleled in Psalm 18.

22:1-6 – David's praise to God in the difficulties he faces.

22:7-21 – God's response to David's prayers.

22:22-28 – What is required of one who calls on God.

22:29-46 – God's deliverance of David.

22:47-51 – David recognized the power of God.

## A Study Outline of Second Samuel

### **Chapter 23**

23:1-7 – The last inspired, prophetic words written by David. Verse 2 contains the claim of verbal inspiration. We have the product of inspiration in the written word of God. Many believe that verses 3-4 are a Messianic prophecy. Christ is the light of the world (Jn. 8:12) and He is from the seed of David (Rom. 1:3).

God's promise to David would be fulfilled (v. 5).

23:6-7 – Sons of Belial (low, worthless people) are hard to deal with and will be destroyed.

23:8-39 – Mighty men who served David. Paralleled in 1 Chronicles 11:10-47.

8 – Josheb-Basshebeth

9-10 – Eleazar

11-12 – Shammah

13-17 – Three valiant men risked their lives to get David some water.

18-19 – Abishai

20-23 – Benaiah

24-39 – a list of names of the rest of the men.

### **Chapter 24**

Paralleled in 1 Chronicles 21

24:1-4 – David commands Joab and the captains to number Israel. 1 Chr. 21:6 states that Joab did not number Levi and Benjamin because “the king's word was abominable” to him.

24:5-9 – 800,000 men in Israel and 500,000 men in Judah who “drew the sword.”

24:10-14 – David confessed his sin to God and is presented with a choice of consequences to come upon Israel. David's response is interesting (v. 14).

24:15-17 – God struck Israel with three days of pestilence and 70,000 men of Israel died because of David's sin. David interceded for Israel (v. 17).

24:18-25 – David bought the threshing room of Araunah (Ornan – NKJ) and offers a sacrifice to God.

1 Chronicles 21:27-30 records further details.