

2 Samuel

2 SAMUEL recounts the reign of King David over God's kingdom in Israel.

The opening chapter contains the record of the death in battle of Saul and his son Jonathan. While Saul had treated David as an enemy, David had honoured Saul as God's anointed king, and Jonathan had been a close friend whose death David laments in chapter 1.

The King Blessed by God

After the death of Saul, David became king in Hebron (for seven years) and later in Jerusalem (for thirty-three years). With God's help, the surrounding enemy nations were subdued. David brought the ark of God to Jerusalem (chapter 6).

David had built himself a house, and wanted to provide a more permanent resting-place for the ark of God – a centre for Israel's worship to take the place of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. Through the prophet Nathan, God told David that *"your seed after you ... shall build a house for my name"* (7:12,13): that was to be Solomon.

But the prophecy was not limited to Solomon. God promised David that, although he would not have the privilege of building God's house, *"the LORD tells you that He will make you a house"*; moreover, speaking of David's descendant, *"I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever"*

(7:11–13). This greater "Son of David" is Jesus Christ (see Luke 1:32,33; 18:38).

David's Sin

In chapter 11 we read about David's great sin in taking Bathsheba, another man's wife. Bathsheba bore a baby son, who in spite of David's prayers, died; but then she bore Solomon, who was to succeed David.

David repented of his sin (see his plea for God's mercy in Psalm 51), and God forgave him. However, he suffered at the hands of his own family. His son Absalom rebelled, taking the throne temporarily, and David had to flee. Later he was able to return to Jerusalem. Chapters 22 and 23 contain prophecies of Christ's future reign.

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Some interesting links with other parts of the Bible

2 Samuel 7:12 – see Isaiah 9:6;
Luke 1:32,33.

2 Samuel 12:13 – see Psalm 32:1;
51:1–17; Acts 2:38.

2 Samuel 23:3–5 – see Isaiah 32:1;
Zechariah 9:9

