



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson 20 – The United Kingdom of David (Second Samuel 1-10; First Chronicles 11-19)

#### David's United Kingdom

The books of **SECOND SAMUEL** and **FIRST CHRONICLES** continue the account of David after the Philistine victory over Israel. Both Saul and Jonathan lost their lives in this battle with the Philistines. The kingdom then split into two factions: the north and the south. In the south, the tribe of Judah proclaimed David to be the king, and he reigned in Hebron as king of Judah for seven years (1011-1004 BC). In the north, Saul's chief general, Abner, set up Saul's son, Ishbosheth, as king in Mahanaim, which is in the territory of Gad. There was civil war between the two kingdoms for seven years, with David's kingdom continually gaining in strength.

After Abner quarreled with Ishbosheth about Saul's concubine Rizpah, Abner agreed to give the kingdom to David. But both Abner and Ishbosheth were murdered, contrary to David's intentions. The northern tribes also anointed David as their king in 1004 BC.

David then conquered Jerusalem and took it from the Jebusites. Jerusalem became the capital of the United Kingdom. David was a great king, a conqueror, an organizer, while remaining a pious child of God. God gave him victory over the Philistines, the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Edomites, and the Syrians. A peace treaty was made with the Phoenicians. David ruled over his united kingdom for 33 years, 1004-971 BC.

#### The Sons of Zeruah

David's sister, Zeruah, had three sons who became leaders in David's army: Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. They were loyal to David but did not share his spirit. Abishai wanted to kill Saul, but David refused to harm him. In the battle against Saul's son Ishbosheth and his general Abner, Asahel ran after Abner and tried to kill him, but instead Abner killed Asahel. To avenge the death of their brother, Abishai and Joab then killed Abner, with whom David had made peace, contrary to David's will and without his knowledge. Later Joab killed another rival, Amasa, again contrary to David's intentions. Nevertheless, David did not punish Joab for his crimes. Joab was punished by David's son, Solomon, after David's death.

#### The Promise of an Everlasting Kingdom

For many years the Ark of the Covenant remained in Kirjath-Jearim, although the tabernacle itself was in Gibeon. The cities where the tabernacle had been placed earlier, Shiloh and Nob, had been destroyed. David built a separate tabernacle for the Ark in Jerusalem and moved the Ark from Kirjath-Jearim to Jerusalem. David also set in order the proper Levitical worship according to the laws of Moses. At this time there were two high priests: Zadok serving at the tabernacle in Gibeon and Abiathar serving at the tabernacle in Jerusalem.

When David was king, he wanted to build a permanent house for the Ark in Jerusalem. He made plans for a great temple to replace the temporary tabernacle. The prophet Nathan, however, received word from God that David should not build a house for the LORD. Rather, the LORD would build a house for David. That is, God would give the family of David a dynasty that would remain in power forever. God promised David an everlasting kingdom. This kingdom would never be taken away from David's family, as it had been taken away from Saul and his family.

This promise of an everlasting kingdom was fulfilled when Jesus, the Son of David, was born. The angel Gabriel said to Mary: **“You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS... The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end”** (Luke 1:31-33).

Read Second Samuel chapters 1-10 along with the notes below. If you have any questions, ask them.

#### 2 Samuel 1 – David Hears of Saul’s Death

David executes the Amalekite who claims to have killed Saul (vv. 1-16).

David mourns the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (vv. 17-27).

**“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”** (v. 27).

Note: For the true account of Saul’s death read 1 Samuel 31.

#### 2 Samuel 2 – The Kingdoms of David (in the South) and Ishbosheth (in the North)

David is anointed king of Judah (the South) at Hebron (vv. 1-4).

David thanks the men of Jabesh-Gilead for burying Saul (vv. 5-7).

Abner sets up Ishbosheth as king in Mahanaim (the North) (vv. 8-11).

In the battle of Gibeon Joab’s men (the South) defeat Abner’s men (vv. 12-17, 25-32).

Abner kills Asahel, Joab’s brother, after warning him to stay away (vv. 18-24).

#### 2 Samuel 3 – Abner Turns against Ishbosheth and to David

A list of David’s sons, including Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah (vv. 1-5).

Abner turns against Ishbosheth on account of Saul’s concubine Rizpah (vv. 6-11).

Abner returns Michal, Saul’s daughter, to David, and makes a treaty with him (vv. 12-21).

Joab and Abishai kill Abner secretly to avenge the death of their brother Asahel (vv. 22-28).

David mourns the death of Abner and rebukes Joab and Abishai (vv. 29-39).

#### 2 Samuel 4 – The Deaths of Ishbosheth and His Two Murderers

Two of Saul’s captains kill Ishbosheth in bed and bring his head to David (vv. 1-8).

David has these murderers executed (vv. 9-12).

#### 2 Samuel 5 – David Unites the Kingdom and Conquers the Philistines (also 1 Chron. 11 & 14)

All Israel anoints David king in Hebron in 1004 BC (vv. 1-5). David is 37 years old.

David takes Jerusalem from the Jebusites and makes it his capital (vv. 6-10).

David’s palace in Jerusalem, built by Hiram of Tyre (vv. 11-12).

A list of David’s wives and children (vv. 13-16).

David wins two victories over the Philistines (vv. 17-25).

#### 1 Chronicles 12 – A List of the Valiant Men Who Helped David

#### 2 Samuel 6, 1 Chronicles 13, 15, 16 – The Ark of the Covenant Is Moved to Jerusalem

The Ark is removed from Kirjath-Jearim with great joy (vv. 1-5).

The Ark had been in Kirjath-Jearim since 1069 BC, or about 70 years.

Uzzah is killed for touching the Ark, and the Ark was left in Obededom’s house (vv. 6-11).

This happened because David failed to follow God’s Law for carrying the Ark (1 Chronicles 15).

After three months the Ark is brought to Jerusalem in the proper way, and with great rejoicing (vv. 12-19).

David's wife, proud Michal, despises his rejoicing and dancing (vv. 20-23).

**"I will play music before the LORD... I will be humble in my own sight"** (vv. 21-22).

#### 2 Samuel 7, 1 Chronicles 17 – God Promises David an Everlasting Kingdom

David tells the prophet Nathan of his desire to build a Temple for God (vv. 1-3).

God reveals to Nathan that God wants to build a house for David (vv. 4-17).

**"The LORD tells you that He will make you a house... And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever"** (vv. 11, 16).

It was God's will that David's son Solomon should build the Temple.

David thanks God for this marvelous promise concerning **JESUS** (vv. 18-29).

**"With Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever"** (v. 29).

#### 2 Samuel 8, 1 Chronicles 18 – David's Wars, Victories, and Leaders

#### 2 Samuel 9 – David Shows Kindness to Lame Mephibosheth, Jonathan's Son

Remember the covenant that David had made with Jonathan (see 1 Samuel 20:14-17).

#### 2 Samuel 10, 1 Chronicles 19 – The War with the Ammonites and the Syrians

The Ammonites dishonor David's messengers (vv. 1-5).

Joab and Abishai defeat the Ammonites and their allies, the Syrians (vv. 6-14).

Later David defeats the Syrians and prevents them from helping the Ammonites (vv. 15-19).

It was in the midst of this war against the Ammonites that David committed his great sin of adultery and murder. We shall study the sin of David in the next lesson.

#### **Names to Remember:**

Prophets: Gad and Nathan;

The Three Brothers (David's nephews): Joab, Abishai, Asahel;

The High Priests: Abiathar and Zadok;

Saul's Sons: Jonathan and Ishbosheth;

Saul's General: Abner;

Jonathan's Son: Mephibosheth, who was crippled; Ziba was Mephibosheth's guardian;

David's Sons: Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah;

David's Wives: Michal, Ahinoam, Abigail;

Neighboring Kings: Agag (Amalekites), whom Samuel killed; Achish (Philistines); Hiram (Tyre).

**Questions:**

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1. Why did a civil war erupt between the north and the south after Saul's death?
2. Why did Joab murder Abner? Why did David disapprove of this murder?
3. Why did David disapprove of the murder of his enemy Ishbosheth?
4. Where was the Ark of the Covenant placed after it was returned by the Philistines?
5. What did David build in Jerusalem for the Ark of the Covenant?
6. What was wrong with the way David's men moved the Ark of the Covenant the first time?
7. What happened when they moved it the correct way?
8. Why was Michal unhappy with David when the Ark was brought to Jerusalem?
9. What amazing promise did God make to David about his descendants?
10. How do we know this promise was fulfilled when Jesus was born?