

2 Samuel

Authorship (Same as 1 Samuel): Though Samuel was involved in producing written records (10:25). The whole of 1 and 2 Samuel cannot be from him since he died (25:1) before many of the events of those books transpired. Accounts from prophets Samuel, Nathan, and Gad were probably joined together by an unknown author (see 1 Chronicles 29:29).

Date (Same as 1 Samuel): 1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book, which was later divided simply because it was too long. The events covered in the two books – from the birth of Samuel to the end of David’s reign – took place 100-971 BC. Since the compiler did his work during the time of “the kings of Judah” (27:6), the books must date from the time of the divided kingdom and were likely completed not long after the death of Solomon (931 BC).

Location (Same as 1 Samuel): Samuel apparently had a school of prophets at Ramah (19:20) in the central part of Israel. Initial records about Saul and David would have been kept there. Once Jerusalem was established by David as the capital, court records began to be kept there, and this is probably where the two books were compiled.

Overview and Background: The book of 1 Samuel records David’s rise to power as Saul fell from God’s favor. 2 Samuel tells the story of David’s kingship and the establishment of his royal line (3:10), through which Jesus the Messiah, the final and greatest Davidic king, would come (7:12-13; see Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32). The book begins just before David’s second anointing as king, in 1011 BC (see 2:4), and ends shortly before his death in 971 BC (see 1 Kings 2:10).

Purpose: (1) While Judges showed Israel’s need for a king and 1 Samuel showed that David was God’s choice as king, 2 Samuel shows God’s blessing on His chosen king. The people needed to know this in order to respect and obey the king; (2) David’s successors needed to be reminded of the “prophetic viewpoint”: Obedience to God brings reward; disobedience brings punishment. This is clearly illustrated in God’s blessings for David’s obedience and punishment for his sin.

Outline:

I. David the Sovereign (1-10)

- A. David’s lament for Saul and Jonathan (1)
- B. David anointed king over one tribe (2:1-7)
- C. War between David and Ishbosheth (2:8-4:12)
- D. David anointed king over all 12 tribes (5:1-5)
- E. David captures Jerusalem (5:6-16)
- F. David defeats the Philistines (5:17-25)
- G. David brings the Ark to Jerusalem (6)
- H. God’s covenant and David’s response (7)
- I. David’s victories listed (8)
- J. David’s kindness toward Mephibosheth (9)
- K. David defeats the Ammonites and Arameans (10)

II. David the Sinner (11)

- A. His sin of adultery (11:1-5)
- B. His sin of deceit (11:6-13)
- C. His sin of murder (11:14-27)

III. David the Sufferer (12-20)

- A. First payback for David’s sin: Death (12)
- B. Second payback: Incest (13:23-39)
- C. Third payback: Murder (13:23—39)
- D. Fourth payback: Absalom’s rebellion (14-18)
- E. Aftermath of Absalom’s rebellion (19)
- F. Sheba’s rebellion (20)

IV. David the Statesman (21)

V. David the Singer (22-23)

- A. His song (22)
- B. His last words (23:1-7)
- C. His mighty men (23:8-39)

VI. David the Statistician (24)

Key Verse

“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16 ESV).

Peaks and Valleys of Historical Books

Kingdom			
	1 & 2 Samuel		
Conquest	1 Kings 1-11	Judah	Return
Joshua	1 Chronicles	2 Kings 18-24	Ezra
	2 Chronicles 1-9	2 Chronicles 29-35	Nehemiah



Chaos	Division	Exile
Judges	1 Kings 12-22	2 Kings 25
Ruth	2 Kings 1-17	2 Chronicles 36
	2 Chronicles 10-28	Esther

People to Remember from 2 Samuel

I. Abner

Key Fact: Saul's military commander (1 Samuel 14:50) **Father:** Ner (1 Samuel 14:50)

Death: Recorded in 3:27

Key References: 2-3; 1 Samuel 14:50-52; 17:55-57; 26:5-16

Total Bible References: 61

Some Spiritual Lessons from Abner: (1) God demands faithfulness whatever our lot in life. Abner was appointed to lead King Saul's army, but on at least two occasions failed to protect the king himself (1 Samuel 24:1-7; 26:5-16); (2) We reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). Abner helped arrange a deadly contest in which 24 young Jewish warriors ended up stabbing each other to death (2:12-16). Later he himself was stabbed to death (3:27).

II. Absalom

Key Fact: Led rebellion against his father, David (15-18) **Birth:** Recorded in 3:3 **Father:** David (3:2-3) **Mother:** Maacah (3:3)

Brothers: 18 half-brothers (1 Chronicles 3:1-8), including Amnon, Adonijah, and Solomon. **Sister:** Tamar (13:1) **Sons:** 3 Unnamed (14:27)

Daughter: Tamar (14:27)

Key References: 13-19

Total Bible References: 108

Some Spiritual Lessons from Absalom: (1) Pride usually leads to humiliation. Absalom was especially proud of his hair, but ultimately it played a key role in his death (14:25-26; 15:1; 18:9-15; see Proverbs 16:18); (2) We should show proper respect to those in authority. Absalom's failure to do so contributed to his undoing (15:2-12; see Psalm 105:15).

III. David

Key Fact: Israel's greatest king, author of half of the books of Psalms **Father:** Jesse (Ruth 4:17; 1 Samuel 16:1)

Brothers: Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, Nethanel, Raddai, and Ozem (1 Samuel 17:12-13; 1 Chronicles 2:13-15); 1 unnamed (the seventh of 1 Samuel 16:10)

Sisters: Zeruah, Abigail (1 Chronicles 2:16)

Wives: Michal, Ahinoam, Abigail, Maacah, Haggith, Abital, Eglah, and Bathsheba (3:2-5; 11:26-27; 1 Samuel 18:27; 1 Chronicles 3:1-8)

Sons: Amnon, Kileab, (also called Daniel), Absalom, Adonijah, Shephatiah, Ithream, Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, Eliphelet (3:2-5; 5:13-16; 1 Chronicles 3:1-8; 14:3-5); 1 unnamed (12:15-23)

Occupation: Shepherd, musician, songwriter, soldier, king of Judah, king of all Israel (2:1-7; 5:1-5; 23:1; 1 Samuel 16:11, 23; 18:5)

Age at Death: 70 (5:4-5; 1 Kings 2:10-11)

Key References: 1 Samuel 16 - 1 Kings 2; Psalms; Isaiah 9:7; Jeremiah 30:8-9; Ezekiel 37:24-25; Zechariah 12:7-10; Matthew 1:1; Hebrews 11:32

Total Bible References: 1,118

Some Spiritual Lessons from David: (1) If we are faithful in the little things, we will be entrusted with greater responsibilities. David proved faithful in caring for his father's sheep before being called to shepherd God's flock (1 Samuel 16:11; 17:34-35; Psalm 78:70-72); (2) Spiritual growth takes time. David was anointed king by Samuel when he was about 17 years old (1 Samuel 16:12-13). He would not actually rule over all Israel, however, until many years later (5:4-5). A toadstool can spring up overnight, but mighty trees don't grow quiet that fast; (3) God has given each of us the necessary equipment to fight our spiritual battles; we shouldn't try to use another person's armor (1 Samuel 17:38-40); (4) Dishonesty is always wrong. David's lie to Ahimelech would indirectly lead to 85 deaths (1 Samuel 21:1-9; 22:6-19); (5) It's always too soon to quit: When Saul was pursuing him, David concluded that he was doomed (1 Samuel 27:1), yet history would prove otherwise; (6) Heartache will be the sure result of marrying someone who does not share our love for God (6:14-23); (7) Sin leads to suffering and shame, no matter how godly the sinner (12:13-23); (8) God is often more concerned about our response when convicted of sin, than about the sin itself (see 11:1-17), which describes David's sin, and Psalm 51, which describes his sorrow for that sin); (9) David began and ended his ministry by acknowledging the absolute sovereignty of God in the lives of His people (1 Samuel 17:46-47; 1 Chronicles 29:10-15).

Sources:

Journeying with God: A Survey of the Old Testament, Purposeful Design Publications.
Wilmington, Harold L. *Wilmington's Bible Handbook*, Wheaton, Ill: Tyndale, 1997.