



Walking Thru The Bible

1 & 2 SAMUEL

AUTHOR: Much of these two books were written by the prophet whose name the books bear, *Samuel*. But not all of it could be authored by him, for it records his death and some subsequent events. I Chronicles 29:29-30 provides the information for us that the material in this time of Israel's history was recorded by Samuel, and the prophets Nathan and Gad who followed him.

Samuel was Judge, Prophet and Priest. He was a Levite, a descendant of Kohath (1 Chron. 6:26, 33), and was not redeemed at birth but was dedicated to the Lord from his infancy (thus he belonged to God and God's use). Geographically he was an Ephraimite.

DATE: First Samuel begins with the birth of Samuel in about 1100 BC to the death of King Saul in 1010 BC. Second Samuel begins at that time frame and continues with Israel's history till the death of David in 970 BC.

STRUCTURE: The events of 1st and 2nd Samuel cover roughly 130 years. The lives of three great men of this period overlap in the first book. The prominent characters of FIRST SAMUEL are:

SAMUEL:	The Last of the Judges	-- Ch. 1 - 8
SAUL:	The First of the Kings	-- Ch. 8 - 15
DAVID:	The Anointed Successor	-- Ch. 16 - 31

The book of SECOND SAMUEL is the "Book of David's Reign." It opens with David reigning in Judah immediately after Saul's death. The book closes just before David's death when he "was old and stricken in year." Its structure looks like this:

David's Triumphs	-- Ch. 1 - 12
David's Troubles	-- Ch. 13 - 24

IMPORTANT CHARACTERS: Three great characters and many other important ones, are found in this time of Israel's history. We are probably more familiar with the stories of this part of the Old Testament than any other.

The stories of Eli, Samuel, Saul and David stand at the forefront, but also there are the stories of Saul's general Abner, and David's general Joab, and of Goliath, Jonathan and the rebellion of David's son Absalom against his father, and David and Bathsheba's sin which all occur within the time frame of these two books of the Old Testament. There are many lessons to be learned from man's weakness and sin and God's love and forgiveness. We learn that obedience will be rewarded and disobedience will be severely punished.

OUTLINE: A more detailed outline of *First Samuel* would be:

Ch. 1 - 12	Judgeship of Samuel
1:1-2:11	Birth and infancy of Samuel
2:12-3:21	Childhood of Samuel
4:1-22	Loss of the ark and end of Eli's house
5 - 7	Captivity of the Ark
8 - 10	Installation of Saul as Israel's first king
11 - 12	Samuel's retirement
Ch. 13 - 31	Reign of Saul
13 - 14	Early days of Saul's reign and victories
15	God's rejection of Saul
16	David chosen as Saul's successor
17	David's meeting with Goliath
18	Saul's reception of David into his court
19	David's flight from Saul's court
20	David's farewell to Jonathan
21	David's flight from Saul to Gath
22 - 23	Saul's reprisals against & pursuit of David
24	Saul's life spared by David
24 - 26	David's continued flight from Saul
27	David's second flight to Gath
28 -29	Preparations for Saul's last battle
30	David's return to Ziklag
31	Saul's last battle, his and Jonathan's death.

An Outline of *Second Samuel*:

Ch. 1 - 12	David's Triumphs
1 - 4	David at Hebron (Civil war period)
5 - 12	David King of all Israel at Jerusalem
7:8-16	The Davidic Covenant
8-10	David's reign at its highest - victory
abounds	
11	David's great sin
12	David's confession
Ch. 13 - 24	David's Troubles
13-14	David has problems with his children
15-18	Absalom's rebellion
19-24	David is forgiven, his kingdom reestablished.

Some Lessons For Us From The Book of First Samuel

1. From Eli, Samuel, and David we learn that it is possible for great men to fail as fathers.
2. From Saul we also learn that great advantages and remarkable opportunities do not guarantee success.
3. We learn that there is nothing that will take the place of obedience to God (I Samuel 15:22).
4. The experiences of the past are recorded to provide lessons of warning and encouragement for the present (Romans 15:4).

Some Lessons from the Book of Second Samuel

1. In David we see something of how God providentially cares for those whose heart are set on him and who want to do His will.
2. From the time of Israel's civil war between generals Joab and Abner we learn a lesson about the folly of division (A house divided cannot stand).
3. There is a major lesson to be learned from David on the folly of fleshly lusts which war against the soul.
4. We can learn a great lesson on the proper attitude needed for the heart and how one must deal with sin in his life.
5. We learn that truly God's grace and mercy is great!
6. Other thought-provoking lessons to be learned:
 - a. David recognized the chief good even in his enemies (2 Samuel 2:33, 38).
 - b. The contents of a prayer from a sincere and thankful heart (2 Samuel 7:18-29).
 - c. The proper attitude in the death of a child (2 Samuel 22-23)
 - d. The kind of friend that no one needs (2 Samuel 13:1-3).
 - e. The feelings of old age (2 Samuel 19:35).
 - f. When it is better to fall into God's hands rather than men's (2 Samuel 24:14).

David and Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9

Introduction:

1. The story of David and Mephibosheth is one of the many fine stories in the Old Testament with a great lesson for us today (Romans 15:4).
2. It points out some of the finer virtues of a good character and emphasizes the value of good friendships and their effect in later life.
3. The background on the story of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 4).

I. DAVID and MEPHIBOSHETH

1. David had a desire to remember for good Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 9:1) "Is there anyone left of the house of Saul that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"
 - a. Our thoughts in hours of quietness when alone show what we really are at heart.
 - b. Do we fill our heart and dwell on mistreatment we have received from others?
 - c. Do we look for opportunities to do good?
2. From David we see the power of sacred associations and friendship of the past.
 - a. Evidently this thought came upon David as he walked down memory lane and his soul was touched again by his memories of Jonathan's friendship.
 - b. The power of good memories can have long lasting effect upon others.

II. FOR JONATHAN'S SAKE (2 Samuel 9:7)

1. Children may be blessed after their parents are gone by good deeds done to others.
2. Nothing could be done for Jonathan but that was no excuse for doing nothing. He could do the next best thing.
 - a. One person was overheard saying, "I don't know how I will ever be able to repay all the kindness shown me."

CONCLUSION:

1. Picture what David did "For Jonathan's Sake" for Mephibosheth.
2. Picture what God has done "For Jesus' Sake" for us.
 - a. 2 Cor. 4:5; Eph. 4:32.
3. What if Mephibosheth had rejected David's love?