

- I. 2 Samuel
- a. Purpose: In this session we shall survey the purpose, structure, key chapters, key characters and place of 2 Samuel in the canon of Scripture so that we would desire to study this book more in-depth.
  - b. Authorship: From our discussion earlier we gave the reasons for why we believe **2 Samuel** was authored written by the two prophets Gad and Nathan after Samuel died.
  - c. Purpose
    - i. According to John Walton: “The purpose of the books of Samuel is to tell the story of the establishment of the kingship covenant with David. God’s plan was to have an earthly king who would give a good example of what God’s kingship was like. David is shown to be the legitimate choice of God, but also is shown to have been at times an obstacle rather than an instrument of God’s rule.”<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. According to Richard Mayhue: **2 Samuel** is about “David's Reign as King.”<sup>2</sup>
    - iii. According to Dale Ralph Davis: **2 Samuel** is more than about “David; it is not even about covenant kings; it is about a covenant God who makes covenant promises to a covenant king through whom he will preserve his covenant people.”<sup>3</sup>
    - iv. In my own words: The book of **2 Samuel** is God’s work and future work promised to the fallible king David in order to usher the Kingdom of God and bring about the Messiah.
  - d. Structure<sup>4</sup>
    - i. Note: The following three “T”s help us to remember the outline of the book.
    - ii. The Triumphs of David (**2 Samuel 1-10**)
      1. Political Triumphs (**1-5**)
      2. Spiritual Triumphs (**6-7**)
      3. Military Triumphs (**8-10**)
    - iii. The Transgressions of David (**2 Samuel 11-12**)
      1. His Adultery (**11:1-5**)
      2. His Murder (**11:6-27**)
      3. His Response (**12:1-31**)
    - iv. The Troubles of David (**2 Samuel 13-24**)
      1. In David's House (**13:1-36**)
      2. In David's Kingdom (**13:37-24**)
  - e. Key chapters in **2 Samuel**<sup>5</sup>
    - i. **5** David as King over all Israel

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Hill and John Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 257.

<sup>2</sup> What follows below is quoted verbatim from Richard Mayhue, *Ordination Practicum Syllabus* (Sun Valley, California: Self-Published for The Master’s Seminary), 62.

<sup>3</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Samuel* (Ross-shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications), 9.

<sup>4</sup> What follows below is quoted verbatim from Richard Mayhue, *Ordination Practicum Syllabus* (Sun Valley, California: Self-Published for The Master’s Seminary), 62.

<sup>5</sup> What follows below is quoted verbatim from Richard Mayhue, *Ordination Practicum Syllabus* (Sun Valley, California: Self-Published for The Master’s Seminary), 62.

- ii. **6** The Ark returned to Jerusalem
  - iii. **7** Temple; Davidic covenant
  - iv. **11** Bathsheba
  - v. **12** Nathan rebukes David
  - vi. **13-20** Absalom's exile and revolt
  - vii. **24** David numbers the people
- f. Key characters in **2 Samuel**<sup>6</sup>
- i. David: second King of Israel; son of Jesse; man after God's own heart.
  - ii. Absalom: third son of David, who revolted; avenged his sister Tamar by killing Amnon his brother; was killed by Joab.
  - iii. Joab: David's nephew and commander of David's army; killed Abner.
  - iv. Ahithophel: Counselor of David; defected with Absalom; God made his counsel foolish to Absalom; hanged himself because of his rejected counsel.
- g. Place of this book in the Canon
- i. An important chapter in **2 Samuel** for further revelation and development in the Scripture is **2 Samuel 7**.
    - 1. It is duplicated in **1 Chronicles 17** with a commentary in **Psalms 89**.<sup>7</sup>
    - 2. As we shall discuss below it also sets the foundation for further discussion about the Davidic Covenant, the Messiah and God's Kingdom.
  - ii. **2 Samuel 7** echoes previous revelation in Scripture concerning God's promise plan.
    - 1. **2 Samuel 7:12** mentioned the word "*Seed*" which echoes the theme of the Messianic "*Seed*" mentioned in **Genesis 3:15** and collective "*Seed*" in a corporate solidarity sense of believers.
    - 2. **2 Samuel 7:12-13 and 16** mentioned the word "*Kingdom*" which echoes the theme of "*Kingdom*" mentioned earlier in **Exodus 19:6 and Numbers 24:7**.
  - iii. Now **2 Samuel 7** builds upon previous revelation in Scripture concerning God's promise plan.
    - 1. From the above we see the hint that the Messianic Seed will come from David's lineage in **2 Samuel 7:12**.
    - 2. From the above we see God's Kingdom will now be tied to God's promise to David in **2 Samuel 7:12-13 and 16**.
    - 3. Specifically there will be a Davidic dynasty with this Kingdom: "*He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*" (**2 Samuel 7:13**)
      - a. "House" here in the Hebrew means more than a physical residence as seen in **Genesis 35:2** with Jacob ordering his

---

<sup>6</sup> What follows below is quoted verbatim from Richard Mayhue, *Ordination Practicum Syllabus* (Sun Valley, California: Self-Published for The Master's Seminary), 62.

<sup>7</sup> Walter Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 117.

house to get rid of foreign gods and sub-tribes of Israel being called house in **Joshua 7:14**.<sup>8</sup>

- b. It is best to understand house here to mean a dynasty; thus there will be a Davidic Dynasty with the Kingdom of God.
4. There is the development of the “Seed” given the additional title of “Son:” *“I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men”* (**2 Samuel 7:14**)
  - a. Remember there is the collective sense of “Seed” in a corporate solidarity sense of believers.
  - b. But there’s also the singular “Seed” that is the Messiah.
5. This hope of the Messiah through the Davidic Dynasty is certain and forever: *“Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord God, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”* (**2 Samuel 7:29**)

---

<sup>8</sup> Walter Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 118.