

Introduction

“There are four predominant theological themes in 1 and 2 Samuel. The first is the Davidic Covenant, a reference to the Messiah, the King who will triumph over the nations who are opposed to God. According to the Lord’s promise, their Messiah will come through the line of David and establish David’s throne forever. The events of David’s life recorded in Samuel foreshadow the actions of David’s greater Son (i.e., Christ) in the future. The other themes include the sovereignty of God, the work of the Holy Spirit in empowering men for divinely appointed tasks, and the personal and national effects of sin.”

John MacArthur
The MacArthur Study Bible, p. 369

This year we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week’s verse is Isaiah 40:19...“As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, a goldsmith plates it with gold, and a silversmith fashions chains of silver.”

Day One

Read 2 Samuel 1:1–2:11 and 5:1–25; **David Unified the Nation**

1. From last week’s lesson or lecture on 1 Samuel, what did you find particularly encouraging or convicting about the contrast between David’s obedience and Saul’s jealousy?
 - a. Why was Saul rejected as king? What lesson can you draw from that to apply to your own life?
2. In 2 Samuel 2:1–4, who anointed David as king, and from where did he rule?
 - a. According to 2:8–11, how did the other tribes respond to David as king?
3. Read 2 Samuel 2:4–6, 3:26–39, and 4:5–12. How did David respond to the murders of Saul, Abner (the military leader who helped put Ishbosheth on the throne), and Ishbosheth (Saul’s son)?
 - a. What can be learned about David’s character through these responses?
 - b. How would David’s responses have helped establish him as king over all Israel, and not just Judah?
4. From 2 Samuel 5:1–2, what reasons did the tribes give for making David the king of Israel? (Note the emphasis on all the tribes of Israel in verses 1, 3, and 5.)
 - a. In 5:12, who did David acknowledge established him as king, and why? What is the significance of David’s understanding this?
5. From 5:6–10, what did David do immediately after the people affirmed him as king?
 - a. From your own knowledge of Scripture, why is the city of Jerusalem important?

6. From 5:17–25, what other events helped establish David as the king over Israel?

Day Two

*Read 2 Samuel 6 and 7; **The Davidic Covenant***

1. From 2 Samuel 6:1–2, what did David desire to do? What does that reveal about David's priorities?
2. According to 7:1–11, what did David want to do for God, and what was God's response through Nathan?
3. From 7:8–18, list the elements of God's covenant with David.
4. From 7:18–29, how did David respond?
 - a. How do you respond to God's blessings in your life? How can you grow in your worship of God for who He is and thankfulness for what He's done?
5. What are the implications of the Davidic Covenant for mankind?

Day Three

*Read Selected Scriptures; **The Psalms and the Davidic Covenant***

NOTE: David is the author of 75 of the 150 Psalms, and the Davidic Covenant was the foundation for many of those.

1. In Psalm 20, for whom and what is David praying?
 - a. What elements of the Davidic Covenant do you see in this prayer?
2. Read Psalm 72 and list two or three ways this prayer represents a fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.
3. How does Psalm 89, though not written by David, relate to God's covenant with David?
 - a. Remembering the covenant's implications for mankind, how should the people respond to God's discipline?
4. From Psalm 110:1, how did David refer to himself or his seed? How does this deepen your understanding of the seed promised in the Abrahamic Covenant? (See Genesis 12:1–3 and 17:1–8.)

Day Four

*Read 2 Samuel 11 and 12; **The Consequences of Sin***

1. From 2 Samuel 11, list the progression of David's sins. What can understanding that progression teach believers today?
2. In chapter 12, specifically verses 7–12, how did God view David's sin and how did He deal with it?
 - a. Why do you think David could see the sin of the man in the parable (verses 1–6) but not in his own life?
 - b. How can you keep from being blind to your own sin? Be specific.
 - c. Nathan was David's friend, yet he obeyed God in confronting David about his sin. What can you learn from his example, either when others come to you about sin in your life, or when you need to go to others?
3. From 12:9–14, how were David's sins described? Do you see your sins with this same gravity?
4. Understanding that sin always affects others, from the following texts list who and what effects David's sin had on others.
 - a. 2 Samuel 11:17
 - b. 2 Samuel 12:14–15 and 18
 - c. 2 Samuel 13:11–14
 - d. 2 Samuel 13:28–32
 - e. 2 Samuel 16:21–22
5. Did David's sin result in the revocation of God's covenant with Israel? Cite verses to support your answer.
 - a. What does this teach about God's character?

Day Five

Read 2 Samuel 12 and Psalms 32 and 51; **David's Repentance**

1. In 2 Samuel 12:13, how did David respond to Nathan, and what is significant about that?
2. Remembering that David was unrepentant for at least nine months (2 Samuel 11:27), from Psalm 32 list the consequences of David's delay in confessing his sin.

- a. As God graciously forgave David, consider whether there is there someone in your life whom you need to forgive and ask God to give you the opportunity this week.

3. From Psalm 51, what are the elements of true repentance, and the things that please the Lord?

4. From these Psalms, what did David believe that God would do for him? What does that teach about God's character?

5. Following David's example, write your own psalm of praise to God, thanking Him for His covenant with His people and its blessings in your own life.