

Handout 1: 2 Samuel Lesson 1

SUMMARY OF 2 SAMUEL

BIBLICAL PERIOD	#6 THE UNITED KINGDOM						
COVENANT	The Sinai Covenant and The Eternal Davidic Covenant						
FOCUS	DAVID'S TRIUMPHS			DAVID'S TRAGEDIES			Appendix
SCRIPTURE	1:1-----6:1-----8:1-----11:1-----12:1-----13:37-----21:1--24:25						
DIVISION OF TEXT	Political victories	Spiritual victories	Military victories	Adultery and murder	Turmoil in David's family	Turmoil in David's Kingdom	Miscellaneous accounts from David's outlaw years to his kingship
TOPIC	Blessings = David's obedience			Sin = David's disobedience	Divine judgment and redemption		
LOCATION	David in Hebron capital of Judah		David in Jerusalem capital of United Israel				Israel
TIME	7 years		33 years				c. 43 years

TIME LINE BC

-----UNITED KINGDOM-----DIVIDED KINGDOMS

of Israel and Judah

c.1030	c. 1010	c.1000	c. 970	c. 930	722	587/6	539
Saul anointed king	death of Saul	David captures Jerusalem	Solomon -builds Temple	Rehoboam -Civil War	Israel destroyed by Assyrians/ 10 tribes exiled	Judah destroyed by Babylon/ 2 tribes exiled	Persians defeat Babylonians 538 exiles of Judah return

David of Bethlehem: *As the fat is set apart from the communion sacrifice, so was David chosen out of the Israelites. He played with lions as though with kids, and with bears as though with lambs. While still a boy, did he not slay the giant and take away the people's shame, by hurling a stone from his sling and cutting short the boasting of Goliath? For he called on the Lord Most High, who gave strength to his right arm to put a mighty warrior to death and assert the strength of his own people. Hence they gave him credit for ten thousand, and praised him while they blessed the Lord, by offering him a crown of glory. For he destroyed the enemies on every front, he annihilated his foes, the Philistines, and crushed their strength for ever. In all his activities he gave thanks to the Holy One Most High in words of glory; he put all his heart into his songs out of love for his Creator. He placed singers before the altar, melodiously to sing; he gave the feasts their splendor, the festivals their solemn pomp, causing the Lord's holy name to be praised and the sanctuary to resound from dawn. The Lord took away his sins, and making his strength even greater; he gave him a royal covenant, and a glorious throne in Israel. Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 47:2-11/13*

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He chose David to be his servant, took him from the sheepfold, took him from tending ewes to pasture his servant Jacob, and Israel his heritage. He pastured them with unblemished heart; with a sensitive hand he led them. Psalms 78:70-72

The account of Saul's death in 2 Samuel does not agree with the account in 1 Samuel 31:3-7. There are two different ways to explain the apparent discrepancy:

1. The young man was lying about dispatching Saul at his request to curry favor with David and receive some kind of a reward. He simply came upon Saul's dead body lying on the battlefield.
2. The young man came upon a dying Saul whose attempt to commit suicide had not been successful. In verse 10 the young man says that "he finished" and not that he killed Saul who was dying. It is possible that when Saul fell on his sword that his armor bearer only thought he was dead.

There are two points of irony concerning the young Amalekite in 2 Sam 1:1-10 and Amalekites in the earlier narrative, Israel's sworn enemies, in general:

1. Saul lost his hold on the kingship of Israel when he failed to kill the Amalekites, including their king, and now Saul, according to the young man, has begged an Amalekite to kill him.
2. David has just returned from a battle in which he and his men killed many Amalekites, and now an Amalekite has admitted to David that he has killed Israel's king.

After stating the intended use of the song (verse 18), the lament has six parts:

1. David begins his lament by addressing the hill where the tragedy occurred (verse 19).
2. Next, he implores, in a plural verb, for Israel at large not to inform Gath of the tragedy so their daughters will not gloat (verse 20).
3. He speaks to the hill of Gilboa (verse 21).
4. He addresses Saul and Jonathan (verses 22-23).
5. Then David addresses the daughters of Israel (verse 24).
6. Finally David speaks to Jonathan alone (verses 25-26). It is a section of the lament that is bracketed by two rhetorical questions: "How did the heroes fall in the thick of the battle?" and "How did the heroes fall and the weapons of war succumb!"

David takes measures to assure the tribes of Israel that he is innocent of Abner's death:

1. He swears by God's divine name that he is innocent of Abner's death.
2. He curses his own kinsmen who are responsible for Abner's death.
3. He orders the people, including his nephews, to publically mourn Abner's death.
4. He leads the burial procession behind Abner's bier and buries Abner in his capital city.
5. He composes and sings a public lament for Abner.
6. He pronounces Abner's death unjustified.
7. He fasts and utters a self-curse against himself if he breaks the fast before sundown.