

2 Samuel

Original Historical Setting

Author: Unknown (Perhaps Nathan and Gad)

Written: Perhaps around 950-900 B.C.

Audience: Perhaps Israelites living in their land during the monarchy.

Occasion: To provide an account of the united Israelite monarchy and what led to the divided monarchy.

Timeline:

- ~1010 BC – Saul dies and David begins to reign
- ~990 BC – David commits adultery with Bathsheba
- ~988 BC – Solomon is born
- ~980 BC – Absalom revolts against his father David

World Events that occur simultaneously

- ~1000 B.C. – Greeks worship Zeus, Aphrodite & other gods
- ~950 B.C. – Wigs worn by Egyptian aristocrats
- ~1000 B.C. – Founding of Mayan dynasties in Central America

Genre/Literary style

A historical account written in Hebrew with a few passages of poetry

Features and Structure

- The book can be divided into 3 sections
 - Ch 1-10 – Describe David's triumphs as king
 - Ch 11-20 – Describe David's troubles as king
 - Ch 21-24 – Describe David's final acts as king
- The book describes the beginning of a dynasty that God promised to David would be unending.

Memory Verse: 2 Samuel 22:32-33

Key text(s)

7:11-16 – David's kingdom would be eternal

12:13 – David admitting, "I have sinned."

22:1-51 – David's Psalm of deliverance

What to look for

- Note how intimately the affairs of the people as a whole are tied to the spiritual and moral condition of the king.
- David wrote many Psalms that grew out of his life experiences. You may want to read the corresponding Psalm as you get to the following events in 2 Samuel in order to gain a better appreciation for these Psalms:

2 Samuel

<u>2 Samuel</u>	<u>Psalm</u>
8:13 – David's army defeated 18,000 Syrians	60
12:12 – David's sin with Bathsheba	51
15:16 – David flees from son Absalom	3
15:23 – Israelites mourn war between David and son	63
16:5 – Shemei curses David	7
22:1-51 – Is repeated in Ps 18 and is David's rejoicing over being delivered from Saul	18

Interesting facts

- William Faulkner's novel, *Absalom, Absalom*—the tale of a southern aristocrat who returns from Civil War to find that his son has disappeared and his plantation is nearly ruined—was inspired by the tragic story of King David and his son, Absalom.
- 2 Samuel 23 (the exploits of David's mighty men) was one of Pastor Scot's favorite sections of the Bible when he was a kid.
- The first "Aggie" was mentioned in 2 Samuel 23:11-12. He even had his "hair just right" like many Aggies do earning him the nickname, "Har-a-rite." He had a son who defended a field of lentils against the Philistines.
- The name David means, "beloved."