

The Great Story

Week 11 – King David (2 Samuel 01-23)

Bible Study

I. David Learns of Saul

- a. David returned from battle with the Amalekites to find a messenger from Saul's camp waiting on him.
- b. The messenger told David that Israel had fled from battle and that Saul and Jonathan were dead.
- c. David asked him who he was and how he knew these things
 - i. 2 Samuel 1: 6-10
- d. David ordered the messenger killed. He likely did this for multiple reasons.
 - i. Saul died by his own hand. We know this from 1 Samuel 31: 3-6, so the man was lying. He was likely saying these things in order to win favor with David.
 - ii. Even though he didn't kill Saul, he admitted to the crime, and as such, "raising his hand against the Lord's anointed"
 - iii. He was an Amalekite, and God had ordered all of the Amalekites killed.

II. War Between the Houses of Saul and David

- a. David asked the Lord whether he should visit the cities in Judah, and the Lord told him to go to Hebron.
- b. David was made King over Judah.
- c. Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, was made king over all Israel, with only the tribe of Judah recognizing David.
 - i. He was 40 years old when he became king and reigned 2 years.
- d. The two houses fought and David continued to grow stronger while the house of Saul grew weaker (2 Samuel 3:1)
- e. Abner, another son of Saul was also growing stronger during this time.
- f. Abner took his father's concubine for his own and Ish-bosheth objected. This caused Abner to defect to David's side.
 - i. By taking Saul's concubine, Abner was demonstrating that he was the one in charge. When Ishbosheth objected, Abner was infuriated.
- g. Abner came to David, offering his support and left David in peace. He was going to gather Israel in order to crown David King.
 - i. At the Battle of Gibeon, Abner slew Asahel (the brother of Joab)
 - ii. When Joab returned to David, he found that Abner had just left.
 1. Joab tried to convince David that Abner was trying to deceive him, but David would not believe him.
 - iii. Joab sent a messenger to have Abner return.
 - iv. Joab met Abner at Hebron. He struck him in the stomach and killed him to avenge his brother.

- h. David cursed the house of Joab for this act. David was innocent in the whole affair.
- i. Ish-bosheth was killed (beheaded) by two of his captains.
 - i. The captains took Ish-bosheth's head to David to show them what they had done and to get a reward.
 - ii. 2 Samuel 4:9-12
- j. David was made King of all of Israel.

III. David the King (2 Samuel 5)

- a. David was 30 years old when he became king and he reigned for 40 years.
 - i. 7 years as king in Judah
 - ii. 33 additional years as king of all of Israel
- b. David succeeded in his military conquests
 - i. He drove the Jebusites out of Jerusalem
 - ii. He defeated the Philistines in the Valley of Rephaim
 - iii. He also defeated the Moabites, Ammonites, and Syrians.
 - iv. In all things, David gave thanks to God; seeking His guidance and following His commands.
- c. David did not forget the seed of Jonathan
 - i. 2 Samuel 9:1, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"
 - ii. Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan
 - 1. He was "lame of foot" - handicapped
 - 2. He was 5 years old when Jonathan died
 - 3. He was likely around 12 when Ish-bosheth died
 - iii. David restored all of Saul's land to him, and said he could eat at his table continually.

IV. The Ark of God and the Temple (2 Samuel 6-7)

- a. David planned on bringing the Ark of God to Jerusalem
- b. 2 Samuel 6:3
 - i. The Philistines transported the ark in the same fashion.
 - ii. The ark was to be carried on poles according to Old Testament Law
 - iii. Uzzah put out his hand to steady the ark when the oxen stumbled on God killed him for touching the ark.
 - 1. The ark was holy and it was forbidden to touch it
 - iv. David was angered at the Lord at the Lord and afraid
 - 1. The ark was left in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite
 - v. After 3 months, when David heard of the blessing Obed-Edom had received, he went to retrieve the Ark
 - 1. This time they transported it properly
 - a. 2 Samuel 6:13
 - vi. David played music and danced with all of his might in front of the ark, while wearing linen ephod

1. Ephod could refer to under garments or a sleeveless robe worn, typically worn by the high priest¹
2. Michal was embarrassed by David's behavior
 - a. 2 Samuel 6:20-23
- c. David expressed his desire to build a home for the Ark of God to Nathan.
 - i. Nathan initially told David to go ahead, but the Lord advised him differently later.
 - ii. 2 Samuel 7:12-16

V. **David, Bathsheba, and Uriah**

- a. 2 Samuel 11:1, "In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem
 - i. David was the King, he should have been out with the army.
- b. David woke up one night and walked out onto his roof and saw a woman bathing
 - i. He inquired after her, found out that her name was Bathsheba, and that she was the wife of Uriah
 - ii. He sent messengers to retrieve her and he slept with her
 1. The Bible mentions that she had just been "cleansed from her impurity"
 - a. This refers to menstruation, and affirms that she was not pregnant prior to this event.
 2. She became pregnant because of this event.
- c. David called Uriah home in an attempt to hide his sin.
 - i. After asking for a report on Joab, David told Uriah to go home. He hoped that he would lay with his wife.
 1. Uriah slept on the King's doorstep because the army was deployed and he didn't feel it was right for him to go home.
 - ii. David sent Uriah back to the front with a letter for Joab.
 1. The letter indicated that Uriah was to be put in the worst part of the battle, and then retreated from.
 - a. This was to ensure his death.
- d. Nathan's Parable – 2 Samuel 12: 1-15
 - i. "The sword will never depart from your house because you have despised me"
- e. David pleaded for the life of the child with the Lord
 - i. He fasted and spent the night on the ground when the child became ill
 - ii. The child died, just as Nathan said
 - iii. After learning of the death, David changed his clothes and worshipped the Lord
- f. Psalm 51
 - i. David understood that a person had to deal with his own sin and be blameless before God before they could be useful for ministry.
- g. God forgave and blessed Bathsheba
 - i. Solomon was the son of Bathsheba

¹ Allen C. Myers, *The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987), 342.

VI. Treason

- a. Absalom, the son of David was very handsome
 - i. 2 Samuel 14:25, “Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.”
 1. Another example of where good looks do not make the man.
 - ii. Absalom murdered his brother Amnon after he raped their sister Tamar
 1. Though death would have been the sentence for Amnon for this crime, it was not Absalom’s place to carry out vengeance.
- b. After David forgave Absalom of his crime, Absalom sent men throughout Hebron declaring himself the king. He won over the hearts of Israel.
 - i. David fled Jerusalem for his life.
- c. David was adamant that Absalom not be harmed in any way
 - i. “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom” – 2 Samuel 18:5
- d. A battle between David’s army and Absalom’s army occurred where Absalom was defeated.
 - i. A soldier saw Absalom riding on a mule and his hair got tangled in some overhead branches. The mule went on, leaving Absalom there, still alive.
 - ii. Joab found Absalom after the soldier told him this story and killed him.
 - iii. David was immensely grieved

VII. Lessons Learned from the Story

- a. Forgiveness is always available from sin, but sometimes there is a punishment required
- b. A clean, blameless heart before the Lord is necessary before ministering to others.

VIII. Sources

- a. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Edited by MacArthur, John, Jr. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997.
- b. Myers, Allen C. *The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987.