

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

2ND SAMUEL



KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION 2020 VER.26

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2 Samuel

David, a man after God's own heart, becomes king of Israel.

Author: 1 Chron. 29:29 hints at authors from the schools of Samuel, Nathan and Gad.

In 2 Samuel – Jesus is the King of Grace & Love

2 Samuel 7:22 "How great thou art, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like You, and there is no God but You."



TEACHER: 24 CHAPTERS

2 Samuel is the story of King David's Reign. Trivia note: the name David is the 2nd most popular mentioned name in scripture. Jesus is number 1. As you can see from the chart, King David takes the throne around 1000 B.C. He rules Judah for around 7½ years, and a united Israel for another 33. He started out as we have learned in 1 Samuel as a shepherd in Bethlehem, and grew to be a valiant and talented warrior. Not only in 1 on 1 combat, but in full scale war as well. He was a talented musician, songwriter, poet and politician. He had the favor of God his whole life, even while being punished for some horrible offences, he was a man after God's own heart. He loved King Saul even though Saul was horrible to him. He would not kill the king God had chosen before him.

CH. 1

STUDENT:

After Saul's death David came back from his victory over the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag for two days. ² The next day a young man arrived from Saul's camp. To show his grief, he had torn his clothes and put dirt on his head. He went to David and bowed to the ground in respect. ³ David asked him, "Where have you come from?" "I have escaped from the Israelite camp," he answered. ⁴ "Tell me what happened," David said. "Our army ran away from the battle," he replied, "and many of our men were killed. Saul and his son Jonathan were also killed." (GNT)

STUDENT:

I saw that Saul was leaning on his spear and that the chariots and cavalry of the enemy were closing in on him. ⁷ Then he turned around, saw me, and called to me. I answered, 'Yes, sir!' ⁸ He asked who I was, and I told him that I was an Amalekite. ⁹ Then he said, 'Come here and kill me! I have been badly wounded, and I'm about to die.' ¹⁰ So I went up to him and killed him, because I knew that he would die anyway as soon as he fell. Then I took the crown from his head and the bracelet from his arm, and I have brought them to you, sir." (GNT)

TEACHER:

David was heartbroken over Saul. The messenger was a young Amalekite, and David was so furious he had him killed on the spot. He writes and sings a beautiful song in mourning. Here is a snippet.

STUDENT:

Jonathan's bow was deadly, the sword of Saul was merciless,
striking down the mighty, killing the enemy.
²³ "Saul and Jonathan, so wonderful and dear;
together in life, together in death; swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.
²⁴ "Women of Israel, mourn for Saul!
He clothed you in rich scarlet dresses
and adorned you with jewels and gold.
²⁵ "The brave soldiers have fallen,
they were killed in battle.
Jonathan lies dead in the hills. (GNT)

TEACHER:

David inquires of the Lord where he should go to assume control of Israel.

STUDENT:

David asked the LORD, "Shall I go and take control of one of the towns of Judah?" "Yes," the LORD answered. "Which one?" David asked. "Hebron," the LORD said.

² So David went to Hebron, taking with him his two wives: Ahinoam, who was from Jezreel, and Abigail, Nabal's widow, who was from Carmel. ³ He also took his men and their families, and they settled in the towns around Hebron. ⁴ Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and anointed David as king of Judah. (GNT)

TEACHERS:

Those loyal to Saul anointed Ishbosheth, Saul's son, king of Israel. After some time, perhaps a few months, men loyal to David met some men loyal to Saul's line at a pool in Gibeon. Being soldiers they decided on a contest of swordsmanship. It was a mistake.

STUDENT:

¹⁴ Abner said to Joab, "Let's have some of the young men from each side fight an armed contest."
"All right," Joab answered. ¹⁵ So twelve men, representing Ishbosheth and the tribe of Benjamin, fought twelve of David's men. ¹⁶ Each man caught his opponent by the head and plunged his sword into his opponent's side, so that all twenty-four of them fell down dead together. And so that place in Gibeon is called "Field of Swords."
¹⁷ Then a furious battle broke out, and Abner and the Israelites were defeated by David's men. (GNT)

TEACHER:

By the end of the day David's men killed 360, and lost 19 men of their own. Neither King David nor the Israelite King Ishbosheth were even there. The fighting between the 2 sides, would continue, and David's men grew stronger with every battle. Saul's side became weaker and weaker. David would have 6 sons born during the years at Hebron. Ishbosheth would soon make a fatal mistake.

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CH. 3

STUDENT:

⁶ As the fighting continued between David's forces and the forces loyal to Saul's family, Abner became more and more powerful among Saul's followers.

⁷ One day Ishbosheth son of Saul accused Abner of sleeping with Saul's concubine Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. ⁸ This made Abner furious. "Do you think that I would betray Saul? Do you really think I'm serving Judah?" he exclaimed. "From the very first I have been loyal to the cause of your father Saul, his brothers, and his friends, and I have kept you from being defeated by David; yet today you find fault with me about a woman!" ⁹-

¹⁰ The LORD promised David that he would take the kingdom away from Saul and his descendants and would make David king of both Israel and Judah, from one end of the country to the other. Now may God strike me dead if I don't make this come true!" ¹¹ Ishbosheth was so afraid of Abner that he could not say a word. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Abner cuts a deal with David, but Joab who is still mad that Abner killed his brother, follows him and kills him. David is heartbroken and fasts for the rest of the day. This caused the people to respect him even more. In chapter 4, 2 men kill Ishbosheth asleep in his bed, and bring the head to David. He was not happy.

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STUDENT:

"I take a vow by the living LORD, who has saved me from all dangers!" ¹⁰ The messenger who came to me at Ziklag and told me of Saul's death thought he was bringing good news. I seized him and had him put to death. That was the reward I gave him for his good news!" ¹¹ How much worse it will be for evil men who murder an innocent man asleep in his own house! I will now take revenge on you for murdering him and will wipe you off the face of the earth!" ¹² David gave the order, and his soldiers killed Rechab and Baanah and cut off their hands and feet, which they hung up near the pool in Hebron. They took Ishbosheth's head and buried it in Abner's tomb there at Hebron. (GNT)

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CH. 4

TEACHER:

In chapter 5 it's David's turn at a familiar enemy. The Jebusites. Joshua was supposed to drive them out, but failed to do so. Several generations later, (440 years), David is made King of all Israel and is poised to route the Jebusites out of what will be renamed Jerusalem, "The City of David." ^{1st} David is crowned, then on to Jerusalem.

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CH. 5

STUDENT: David is made King over all Israel.

³ So all the leaders of Israel came to King David at Hebron. He made a sacred alliance with them, they anointed him, and he became king of Israel. ⁴ David was thirty years old when he became king, and he ruled for forty years. ⁵ He ruled in Hebron over Judah for seven and a half years, and in Jerusalem over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years. (GNT)

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STUDENT: David wins Jerusalem.

⁶ The time came when King David and his men set out to attack Jerusalem. The Jebusites, who lived there, thought that David would not be able to conquer the city, and so they said to him, "You will never get in here; even the blind and the crippled could keep you out." (⁷ But David did capture their fortress of Zion, and it became known as "David's City.") (GNT)

TEACHER:

David is establishing a very good habit. Seeking God every time he intends to do something.

STUDENT:

¹⁷ The Philistines were told that David had been made king of Israel, so their army set out to capture him. When David heard of it, he went down to a fortified place. ¹⁸ The Philistines arrived at Rephaim Valley and occupied it. ¹⁹ David asked the LORD, "Shall I attack the Philistines? Will you give me the victory?"

"Yes, attack!" the LORD answered. "I will give you the victory!"

²⁰ So David went to Baal Perazim and there he defeated the Philistines. (GNT)

TEACHER:

He does the same thing with the Philistines. Asks God, then obeys God. As long as he does this, he does well. When he doesn't, things go awry. Finally David is King and Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. But something is missing. Any guesses? The tabernacle was still in the high place at Gibeon, and the Ark was still with Abinadab, in his home. David takes 30,000 men, to get the Ark. It was in good hands, the troops were there for pure show. David wanted a parade. They put the Ark on a new cart, behind a pair of yoked oxen and started towards Jerusalem.

STUDENT:

⁶ As they came to the threshing place of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out and took hold of the Covenant Box. ⁷ At once the LORD God became angry with Uzzah and killed him because of his irreverence. Uzzah died there beside the Covenant Box, ⁸ and so that place has been called Perez Uzzah ever since. David was furious because the LORD had punished Uzzah in anger.

⁹ Then David was afraid of the LORD and said, "How can I take the Covenant Box with me now?" ¹⁰ So he decided not to take it with him to Jerusalem; instead, he turned off the road and took it to the house of Obed Edom, a native of the city of Gath. ¹¹ It stayed there three months, and the LORD blessed Obed Edom and his family. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Notice what has happened here? When David was going to battle, what did he do 1st? Sought God's blessing. Inquired after God's plan. This time he did not. If he did, God would no doubt have told him not to pull it behind a cart with oxen. In Numbers 7 God commands that the Kohathites were the only people who could move the Ark, and it was to be carried on their shoulders with poles.

STUDENT:

¹² King David heard that because of the Covenant Box the LORD had blessed Obed Edom's family and all that he had; so he got the Covenant Box from Obed's house to take it to Jerusalem with a great celebration. ¹³ After the men carrying the Covenant Box had gone six steps, David had them stop while he offered the LORD a sacrifice of a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴ David, wearing only a linen cloth around his waist, danced with all his might to honor the LORD. ¹⁵ And so he and all the Israelites took the Covenant Box up to Jerusalem with shouts of joy and the sound of trumpets. (GNT)

TEACHER:

As David was coming into the city, his wife Michal was watching from her window which overlooked the city. Michal was brought back to David against her will, and no doubt she was a problem for David. After David and Saul parted company Saul gave her to another man. When David became King, he demanded her back from the nation of Israel. Now she is watching David with contempt.

STUDENT:

¹⁶ As the Box was being brought into the city, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked out of the window and saw King David dancing and jumping around in the sacred dance, and she was disgusted with him. ¹⁷ They brought the Box and put it in its place in the Tent that David had set up for it. Then he offered sacrifices and fellowship offerings to the LORD. ¹⁸ When he had finished offering the sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty ¹⁹ and distributed food to them all.....

²⁰ Afterward, when David went home to greet his family, Michal came out to meet him. "The king of Israel made a big name for himself today!" she said. "He exposed himself like a fool in the sight of the servant women of his officials!" (GNT)

TEACHER:

David defends himself. God punishes Michal.

STUDENT

²¹ David answered, "I was dancing to honor the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and his family to make me the leader of his people Israel. And I will go on dancing to honor the LORD, ²² and will disgrace myself even more. You may think I am nothing, but those women will think highly of me!"

²³ Michal, Saul's daughter, never had any children. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 7, King David is sitting in his palace, and has an idea. Having learned from his mistake, (not seeking the Lord's council), he goes to the prophet Nathan.

STUDENT:

King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD kept him safe from all his enemies. ² Then the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Here I am living in a house built of cedar, but God's Covenant Box is kept in a tent!"

³ Nathan answered, "Do whatever you have in mind, because the LORD is with you." ⁴ But that night the LORD said to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David that I say to him, 'You are not the one to build a temple for me to live in. ⁶ From the time I rescued the people of Israel from Egypt until now, I have never lived in a temple; I have traveled around living in a tent. ⁷ In all my traveling with the people of Israel I never asked any of the leaders that I appointed why they had not built me a temple made of cedar.'" (GNT)

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STUDENT: God continues.

⁸ “So tell my servant David that I, the LORD Almighty, say to him, ‘I took you from looking after sheep in the fields and made you the ruler of my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have defeated all your enemies as you advanced. I will make you as famous as the greatest leaders in the world. ¹⁰⁻¹¹ I have chosen a place for my people Israel and have settled them there, where they will live without being oppressed any more. Ever since they entered this land, they have been attacked by violent people, but this will not happen again. I promise to keep you safe from all your enemies and to give you descendants. ¹² When you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will make one of your sons king and will keep his kingdom strong. ¹³ He will be the one to build a temple for me, and I will make sure that his dynasty continues forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him as a father punishes his son. ¹⁵ But I will not withdraw my support from him as I did from Saul, whom I removed so that you could be king. ¹⁶ You will always have descendants, and I will make your kingdom last forever. Your dynasty will never end.’” (GNT)

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TEACHER:

David is moved and says a beautiful prayer in the tent by the Ark. He is bolstered by God’s promises, and the presence of the Ark. David sets out to expand the kingdom, and clean out the riff-raff from Israel. In chapter 8 David ends the Philistine control over the land they had in Israel, then the Moabites. He killed 2 out of every 3 Moabite prisoners. The rest served him and paid taxes. He defeated the King of Syria, capturing his cavalry, and enough horses for 100 chariots. Verse 6 says the Lord made David victorious everywhere. He killed 18,000 Edomite soldiers, and gave all the loot and gifts for the Lord’s house.

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STUDENT:

CH. 8 ¹⁵ David ruled over all of Israel and made sure that his people were always treated fairly and justly. ¹⁶ Joab, whose mother was Zeruiah, was the commander of the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was in charge of the records; ¹⁷ Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were priests; Seraiah was the court secretary; ¹⁸ Benaiah son of Jehoiada was in charge of David’s bodyguards; and David’s sons were priests. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

I wasn’t sure what to do with this list. How could David’s sons be priests? He was from the line of Judah. His wives were from everywhere. He even took Saul’s harem. Some weren’t even Jews. The word in the original language is “*kohen*.” It is translated elsewhere as servant, minister, and counselor. The role must have been more like the cabinet positions in our government, as we never see them offering sacrifices in the tabernacle as a Levitical priest would do. The word here is a verb, not a noun. In chapter 9 David seeks out Saul’s family.

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STUDENT:

CH. 9 One day David asked, “Is there anyone left of Saul’s family? If there is, I would like to show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake.”

² There was a servant of Saul’s family named Ziba, and he was told to go to David. “Are you Ziba?” the king asked. “At your service, sir,” he answered.

³ The king asked him, “Is there anyone left of Saul’s family to whom I can show loyalty and kindness, as I promised God I would?”

Ziba answered, “There is still one of Jonathan’s sons. He is crippled.”⁴ “Where is he?” the king asked. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁶When Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul, arrived, he bowed down before David in respect. David said, "Mephibosheth," and he answered, "At your service, sir."

⁷"Don't be afraid," David replied. "I will be kind to you for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will give you back all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always be welcome at my table."

⁸Mephibosheth bowed again and said, "I am no better than a dead dog, sir! Why should you be so good to me?"

⁹Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said, "I am giving Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, everything that belonged to Saul and his family. ¹⁰You, your sons, and your servants will farm the land for your master Saul's family and bring in the harvest, to provide food for them. But Mephibosheth himself will always be a guest at my table." (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 10 David sends condolences to the Ammonites as their king had died. The king and David were allies. But the Ammonites treated them as spies, and David was off to war again. By the end of chapter 10, David had won a terrific war, even though the Ammonites had Syria as allies.

STUDENT:

The fighting began, ¹⁸and the Israelites drove the Syrian army back. David and his men killed seven hundred Syrian chariot drivers and forty thousand cavalry, and they wounded Shobach, the enemy commander, who died on the battlefield. ¹⁹When the kings who were subject to Hadadezer realized that they had been defeated by the Israelites, they made peace with them and became their subjects. And the Syrians were afraid to help the Ammonites any more. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 11 tells the sad story of a great king who proves to be human. Adultery and murder. His army is at war besieging the city of Rabbah, an Ammonite city under rebellion. We will read the highlights. Keep in mind, David's army is at war, and he is sitting at home bored.

STUDENT:

²One day, late in the afternoon, David got up from his nap and went to the palace roof. As he walked around up there, he saw a woman taking a bath in her house. She was very beautiful. ³So he sent a messenger to find out who she was, and learned that she was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. ⁴David sent messengers to get her; they brought her to him and he made love to her. (She had just finished her monthly ritual of purification.) Then she went back home. ⁵Afterward she discovered that she was pregnant and sent a message to David to tell him. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁶David then sent a message to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David. ⁷When Uriah arrived, David asked him if Joab and the troops were well, and how the fighting was going. ⁸Then he said to Uriah, "Go on home and rest a while." Uriah left, and David had a present sent to his home. ⁹But Uriah did not go home; instead he slept at the palace gate with the king's guards. ¹⁰When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he asked him, "You have just returned after a long absence; why didn't you go home?" (GNT)

CH. 10

CH. 11

STUDENT:

¹¹ Uriah answered, "The men of Israel and Judah are away in battle, and the Covenant Box is with them; my commander Joab and his officers are camping out in the open. How could I go home, eat and drink, and sleep with my wife? By all that's sacred, I swear that I could never do such a thing!" (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹² So David said, "Then stay here the rest of the day, and tomorrow I'll send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ David invited him to supper and got him drunk. But again that night Uriah did not go home; instead he slept on his blanket in the palace guardroom.

¹⁴ The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by Uriah. ¹⁵ He wrote: "Put Uriah in the front line, where the fighting is heaviest, then retreat and let him be killed." ¹⁶ So while Joab was besieging the city, he sent Uriah to a place where he knew the enemy was strong. ¹⁷ The enemy troops came out of the city and fought Joab's forces; some of David's officers were killed, and so was Uriah. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

²⁶ When Bathsheba heard that her husband had been killed, she mourned for him. ²⁷ When the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to the palace; she became his wife and bore him a son. But the LORD was not pleased with what David had done. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Nathan the prophet is sent by God to David. He gives David enough rope to hang himself.

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CH. 12

STUDENT: from the lips of Nathan

The LORD sent the prophet Nathan to David. Nathan went to him and said, "There were two men who lived in the same town; one was rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had many cattle and sheep, ³ while the poor man had only one lamb, which he had bought. He took care of it, and it grew up in his home with his children. He would feed it some of his own food, let it drink from his cup, and hold it in his lap. The lamb was like a daughter to him. ⁴ One day a visitor arrived at the rich man's home. The rich man didn't want to kill one of his own animals to fix a meal for him; instead, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared a meal for his guest." (GNT)

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STUDENT: from the lips of David

⁵ David became very angry at the rich man and said, "I swear by the living LORD that the man who did this ought to die! ⁶ For having done such a cruel thing, he must pay back four times as much as he took." (GNT)

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STUDENT: from the lips of God

⁷ "You are that man," Nathan said to David. "And this is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I made you king of Israel and rescued you from Saul. ⁸ I gave you his kingdom and his wives; I made you king over Israel and Judah. If this had not been enough, I would have given you twice as much. ⁹ Why, then, have you disobeyed my commands? Why did you do this evil thing? You had Uriah killed in battle; you let the Ammonites kill him, and then you took his wife! ¹⁰ Now, in every generation some of your descendants will die a violent death because you have disobeyed me and have taken Uriah's wife. ¹¹ I swear to you that I will cause someone from your own family to bring trouble on you. You will see it when I take your wives from you and give them to another man; and he will have intercourse with them in broad daylight. ¹² You sinned in secret, but I will make this happen in broad daylight for all Israel to see.'" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

David says "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replies, "The Lord forgives you." He then says that the child will die. He was correct. After the baby is born, he becomes ill. David spends every day fasting and weeping before God, laying on the floor all night in prayer. David is heartbroken. The baby dies, this is his response.

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STUDENT:

He asked them, "Is the child dead?" "Yes, he is," they answered.

²⁰ David got up from the floor, took a bath, combed his hair, and changed his clothes. Then he went and worshiped in the house of the LORD. When he returned to the palace, he asked for food and ate it as soon as it was served. ²¹ "We don't understand this," his officials said to him. "While the child was alive, you wept for him and would not eat; but as soon as he died, you got up and ate!"

²² "Yes," David answered, "I did fast and weep while he was still alive. I thought that the LORD might be merciful to me and not let the child die. ²³ But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Could I bring the child back to life? I will someday go to where he is, but he can never come back to me." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

After the baby dies, they have another son, and name him Solomon. Verse 24 say's "the Lord loved the boy" David captures the town of Rabbah, (the city they were fighting when all this monkey business started) and took the crown from the head of their god Molech and put its main jewel in his own crown. Life goes on. Chapter 13 shows us that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. When we sin, we give our children the illegitimate justification, that being good doesn't matter. 1 of David's sons (Amnon) was lusting after his ½ sister.

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CH. 13

STUDENT: the abridged version

David's son Absalom had a beautiful unmarried sister named Tamar. Amnon, another of David's sons, fell in love with her. ² He was so much in love with her that he became sick, because it seemed impossible for him to have her; as a virgin, she was kept from meeting men.

"I'm in love with Tamar, the sister of my half-brother Absalom," he answered.

⁵ Jonadab said to him, "Pretend that you are sick and go to bed. When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please ask my sister Tamar to come and feed me. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

So David sent word to Tamar in the palace: "Go to Amnon's house and fix him some food." ⁸ She went there and found him in bed. She took some dough, prepared it, and made some cakes there where he could see her. Then she baked the cakes ⁹ and emptied them out of the pan for him to eat, but he wouldn't.

¹¹ As she offered them to him, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me!"

¹² "No," she said. "Don't force me to do such a degrading thing! That's awful! ¹³ How could I ever hold up my head in public again? And you—you would be completely disgraced in Israel. Please, speak to the king, and I'm sure that he will give me to you." ¹⁴ But he would not listen to her; and since he was stronger than she was, he overpowered her and raped her. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Absalom finds out what happened to his sister and tells her to keep silent, she lives in his home broken in spirit, and lonely. David is furious as is Absalom. The wound festers for 2 years. Finally Absalom has a feast, invites all his brothers and kills Amnon. Then Absalom runs to the in-laws for 3 years. After some prodding, Absalom is allowed to return, but David revokes his privileges to the palace. 2 years in Jerusalem and still no face to face meeting. Absalom goes to Joab.

STUDENT:

²⁵ There was no one in Israel as famous for his good looks as Absalom; he had no defect from head to toe. ²⁶ His hair was very thick, and he had to cut it once a year, when it grew too long and heavy. It would weigh about five pounds according to the royal standard of weights. ²⁷ Absalom had three sons and one daughter named Tamar, a very beautiful woman.

²⁸ Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king. ²⁹ Then he sent for Joab, to ask him to go to the king for him; but Joab would not come. Again Absalom sent for him, and again Joab refused to come. ³⁰ So Absalom said to his servants, "Look, Joab's field is next to mine, and it has barley growing in it. Go and set fire to it." So they went and set the field on fire. (GNT)

STUDENT:

³¹ Joab went to Absalom's house and demanded, "Why did your servants set fire to my field?"

³² Absalom answered, "Because you wouldn't come when I sent for you. I wanted you to go to the king and ask for me: 'Why did I leave Geshur and come here? It would have been better for me to have stayed there.'" And Absalom went on, "I want you to arrange for me to see the king, and if I'm guilty, then let him put me to death."

³³ So Joab went to King David and told him what Absalom had said. The king sent for Absalom, who went to him and bowed down to the ground in front of him. The king welcomed him with a kiss. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Fast forward 4 years, and Absalom stages a coup. He goes to Hebron after years of planning, gathers followers by the thousands, including royal advisors. David hears what is going on and flees the city. David goes to a place that you all know, and can still visit today. Let's read.

STUDENT:

³⁰ David went on up the Mount of Olives crying; he was barefoot and had his head covered as a sign of grief. All who followed him covered their heads and cried also. ³¹ When David was told that Ahithophel had joined Absalom's rebellion, he prayed, "Please, LORD, turn Ahithophel's advice into nonsense!" (GNT)

STUDENT:

³² When David reached the top of the hill, where there was a place of worship, his trusted friend Hushai the Archite met him with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head. ³³ David said to him, "You will be of no help to me if you come with me, ³⁴ but you can help me by returning to the city and telling Absalom that you will now serve him as faithfully as you served his father. And do all you can to oppose any advice that Ahithophel gives. ³⁵ The priests Zadok and Abiathar will be there; tell them everything you hear in the king's palace. ³⁶ They have their sons Ahimaaz and Jonathan with them, and you can send them to me with all the information you gather."

³⁷ So Hushai, David's friend, returned to the city just as Absalom was arriving. (GNT)

CH. 14

CH. 15

TEACHER:

In chapter 16 David plants a mole in the palace to spy on Absalom. It is Mephibosheth's servant Ziba. Ziba met him on the road with provisions for David's escape, and David asked him to help his cause. As David runs, Shimei came to meet the party of exiles. He is not a fan. But David shows restraint.

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CH. 16

STUDENT:

One of Saul's relatives, Shimei son of Gera, came out to meet him, cursing him as he came. ⁶ Shimei started throwing stones at David and his officials, even though David was surrounded by his men and his bodyguards. ⁷ Shimei cursed him and said, "Get out! Get out! Murderer! Criminal! ⁸ You took Saul's kingdom, and now the LORD is punishing you for murdering so many of Saul's family. The LORD has given the kingdom to your son Absalom, and you are ruined, you murderer!" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Abishai offers to cut off his head. But David knows that he is on the run because of what he has done. Like young people say, "haters gonna hate."

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ "This is none of your business," the king said to Abishai and his brother Joab. "If he curses me because the LORD told him to, who has the right to ask why he does it?" ¹¹ And David said to Abishai and to all his officials, "My own son is trying to kill me; so why should you be surprised at this Benjaminite? The LORD told him to curse; so leave him alone and let him do it. ¹² Perhaps the LORD will notice my misery and give me some blessings to take the place of his curse." ¹³ So David and his men continued along the road. Shimei kept up with them, walking on the hillside; he was cursing and throwing stones and dirt at them as he went. ¹⁴ The king and all his men were worn out when they reached the Jordan, and there they rested. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Absalom takes up residence in the palace, and at his advisers' advice, takes the harem fulfilling Nathans prophesy in 2 Samuel 12:11. "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.'" (NIV)

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STUDENT:

²⁰ Then Absalom turned to Ahithophel and said, "Now that we are here, what do you advise us to do?"

²¹ Ahithophel answered, "Go and have intercourse with your father's concubines whom he left behind to take care of the palace. Then everyone in Israel will know that your father regards you as his enemy, and your followers will be greatly encouraged." ²² So they set up a tent for Absalom on the palace roof, and in the sight of everyone Absalom went in and had intercourse with his father's concubines.

²³ Any advice that Ahithophel gave in those days was accepted as though it were the very word of God; both David and Absalom followed it. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 17 Ahithophel advises Absalom to let him chase down and kill David. Hushai advises against this. (Remember that Hushai agreed with David to frustrate Ahithophel's council.) Interesting point you won't hear anywhere else. In chapter 23:34 we learn that Ahithophel is the father of Eliam. 2 Samuel 11:3 tells us that Eliam is the father of Bathsheba. That would make this Ahithophel, the grandfather of Bathsheba, or David's grandfather-in-law. Ahithophel is renowned as having God's ear as we just read in verse 23. He must have loved his Godly son-in-law Uriah the Hittite, whom David had killed. Could it be that he is siding against David because of animosity over Uriah? God turns the children of Israel against his council.

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STUDENT:

CH. 17

¹⁴ Absalom and all the Israelites said, "Hushai's advice is better than Ahithophel's." The LORD had decided that Ahithophel's good advice would not be followed, so that disaster would come on Absalom.....

²³ When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and went back to his hometown. After putting his affairs in order, he hanged himself. He was buried in the family grave.....

²⁷ When David arrived at Mahanaim, he was met by Shobi son of Nahash, from the city of Rabbah in Ammon, and by Machir son of Ammiel, from Lodebar, and by Barzillai, from Rogelim in Gilead. ²⁸⁻²⁹ They brought bowls, clay pots, and bedding, and also food for David and his men: wheat, barley, meal, roasted grain, beans, peas, honey, cheese, cream, and some sheep. They knew that David and his men would get hungry, thirsty, and tired in the wilderness. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

David and his army are now well rested and ready to fight, so they meet Israel in the countryside of Ephraim.

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STUDENT:

CH. 18

⁶ David's army went out into the countryside and fought the Israelites in Ephraim Forest. ⁷ The Israelites were defeated by David's men; it was a terrible defeat, with twenty thousand men killed that day. ⁸ The fighting spread over the countryside, and more men died in the forest than were killed in battle.

⁹ Suddenly Absalom met some of David's men. Absalom was riding a mule, and as it went under a large oak tree, Absalom's head got caught in the branches. The mule ran on and Absalom was left hanging in midair. ¹⁰ One of David's men saw him and reported to Joab, "Sir, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree!"

¹⁴ "I'm not going to waste any more time with you," Joab said. He took three spears and plunged them into Absalom's chest while he was still alive, hanging in the oak tree. ¹⁵ Then ten of Joab's soldiers closed in on Absalom and finished killing him. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

David comes back to Israel.

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CH. 19

STUDENT:

⁹ All over the country they started quarreling among themselves. "King David saved us from our enemies," they said to one another. "He rescued us from the Philistines, but now he has fled from Absalom and left the country. ¹⁰ We anointed Absalom as our king, but he has been killed in battle. So why doesn't somebody try to bring King David back?"

¹⁵ On his way back the king was met at the Jordan River by the men of Judah, who had come to Gilgal to escort him across the river. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Sheba starts a rebellion and pays a steep price for it in chapter 20.

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STUDENT:

CH. 20

There happened to be in Gilgal a worthless character named Sheba son of Bikri, of the tribe of Benjamin. He blew the trumpet and called out, "Down with David! We won't follow him! Men of Israel, let's go home!" ² So the Israelites deserted David and went with Sheba, but the men of Judah remained loyal and followed David from the Jordan to Jerusalem.....

Then Joab and his brother Abishai went on after Sheba..... (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹⁵ Joab's men heard that Sheba was there, and so they went and besieged the city. They built ramps of earth against the outer wall and also began to dig under the wall to make it fall down. ¹⁶ There was a wise woman in the city who shouted from the wall, "Listen! Listen! Tell Joab to come here; I want to speak with him." ¹⁷ Joab went, and she asked, "Are you Joab?"

"Yes, I am," he answered.

"Listen to me, sir," she said.

"I'm listening," he answered. (GNT)

=====

STUDENT:

"We will throw his head over the wall to you," she said. ²² Then she went to the people of the city with her plan, and they cut off Sheba's head and threw it over the wall to Joab. He blew the trumpet as a signal for his men to leave the city, and they went back home. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 21 finds Israel in a severe 3 year famine. David seeks God's face.

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STUDENT:

CH. 21

During David's reign there was a severe famine which lasted for three full years. So David consulted the LORD about it, and the LORD said, "Saul and his family are guilty of murder; he put the people of Gibeon to death." (² The people of Gibeon were not Israelites; they were a small group of Amorites whom the Israelites had promised to protect, but Saul had tried to destroy them because of his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah.) ³ So David summoned the people of Gibeon and said to them, "What can I do for you? I want to make up for the wrong that was done to you, so that you will bless the LORD's people." (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁴ They answered, "Our quarrel with Saul and his family can't be settled with silver or gold, nor do we want to kill any Israelite."

"What, then, do you think I should do for you?" David asked.

⁵ They answered, "Saul wanted to destroy us and leave none of us alive anywhere in Israel. ⁶ So hand over seven of his male descendants, and we will hang them before the LORD at Gibeah, the hometown of Saul, the LORD's chosen king."

"I will hand them over," the king answered. (GNT)

And after that, God answered their prayers for the country. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The next battle was with philistines fighting with giants in their ranks, descendants from Gath. 4 giants were killed.

STUDENT:

²⁰ Then there was another battle at Gath, where there was a giant who loved to fight. He had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. ²¹ He defied the Israelites, and Jonathan, the son of David's brother Shammah, killed him.

²² These four were descendants of the giants of Gath, and they were killed by David and his men. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 22 is a song of victory written and sung by David. We will read the 1st refrain.

STUDENT:

CH. 22 The LORD is my protector; he is my strong fortress. ³ My God is my protection, and with him I am safe. He protects me like a shield; he defends me and keeps me safe. He is my savior; he protects me and saves me from violence. ⁴ I call to the LORD, and he saves me from my enemies. Praise the LORD! (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 23 calls David's last words, and a list of his most famous soldiers. Some of these accomplishments in battle have never been duplicated since. Let's look at some of them.

STUDENT: The "3"

1st Josheb Bassshebeth from Tachemon, who was the leader of "The Three"

He fought with his spear against eight hundred men and killed them all in one battle.

2nd Eleazar son of Dodo, of the clan of Ahoh.

One day he and David challenged the Philistines who had gathered for battle. The Israelites fell back, ¹⁰ but he stood his ground and fought the Philistines until his hand was so cramped that he could not let go of his sword. The LORD won a great victory that day. After it was over, the Israelites returned to where Eleazar was and stripped the armor from the dead.

3rd Shammah son of Agee from Harar.

The Philistines had gathered at Lehi, where there was a field of peas. The Israelites fled from the Philistines, ¹² but Shammah stood his ground in the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines.

The LORD won a great victory that day. (GNT)

STUDENT: Joint exploit of the "3"

¹³ Near the beginning of harvest time three of "The Thirty" went down to Adullam Cave, where David was, while a band of Philistines was camping in Rephaim Valley. ¹⁴ At that time David was on a fortified hill, and a group of Philistines had occupied Bethlehem. ¹⁵ David grew homesick and said, "How I wish someone would bring me a drink of water from the well by the gate at Bethlehem!" ¹⁶ The three famous soldiers forced their way through the Philistine camp, drew some water from the well, and brought it back to David. But he would not drink it; instead he poured it out as an offering to the LORD ¹⁷ and said, "LORD, I could never drink this! It would be like drinking the blood of these men who risked their lives!" So he refused to drink it. Those were the brave deeds of the three famous soldiers. (GNT)

STUDENT: The "30"

¹⁸ Joab's brother Abishai (their mother was Zeruiah) was the leader of "The Famous Thirty." He fought with his spear against three hundred men and killed them, and became famous among "The Thirty." ¹⁹ He was the most famous of "The Thirty" and became their leader, but he was not as famous as "The Three."

²⁰ Benaiah son of Jehoiada from Kabzeel was another famous soldier; he did many brave deeds, including killing two great Moabite warriors. He once went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion. ²¹ He also killed an Egyptian, a huge man who was armed with a spear. Benaiah attacked him with his club, snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with it. ²² Those were the brave deeds of Benaiah, who was one of "The Thirty." ²³ He was outstanding among them, but was not as famous as "The Three." David put him in charge of his bodyguard. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Depending on what translation you use, the final chapter in 2 Samuel might give you trouble. Let's read and we will discuss.

STUDENT:

On another occasion the LORD was angry with Israel, and he made David bring trouble on them. The LORD said to him, "Go and count the people of Israel and Judah." ² So David gave orders to Joab, the commander of his army: "Go with your officers through all the tribes of Israel from one end of the country to the other, and count the people. I want to know how many there are." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Over 9 months later they number 800,000 military men in Israel, 500,000 military men in Judah. David is struck with guilt. The King James and New King James both capitalize the He in verse 1. But in 1 Chronicles 21:1 it tells the story that Satan stood up and made David number Israel. That would make the "he" in 2 Samuel lower case. It is as if Satan tempted David to take a census, and God then say's go ahead and see what happens. You see as we studied in Exodus 30:12 when Israel takes a census, it was to be at God's will, not the kings will. And that after the census, the children of Israel should redeem the 1st born with sacrifices. They did not. God punishes Israel harshly. He lets David pick his punishment.

STUDENT:

¹¹⁻¹² The LORD said to Gad, David's prophet, "Go and tell David that I am giving him three choices. I will do whichever he chooses." The next morning, after David had gotten up, ¹³ Gad went to him, told him what the LORD had said, and asked, "Which is it to be? Three^[d] years of famine in your land or three months of running away from your enemies or three days of an epidemic in your land? Now think it over, and tell me what answer to take back to the LORD." ¹⁴ David answered, "I am in a desperate situation! But I don't want to be punished by people. Let the LORD himself be the one to punish us, for he is merciful." ¹⁵ So the LORD sent an epidemic on Israel, which lasted from that morning until the time that he had chosen. From one end of the country to the other seventy thousand Israelites died. (GNT)

NEXT LESSON 1 KINGS

"God is my strength and power, and He maketh my way perfect."

2 Samuel 22:33



The Large Stone Structure, located on a rocky spur in the City of David, is a large public building comprised of impressive ashlar blocks. Its excavator, Eilat Mazar, dated the building to the 11th–10th centuries B.C.E. That King David’s palace is prominent and prominently located is referenced in the Book of Samuel (2 Samuel 5:11; 2 Samuel 11; 2 Samuel 16:22). When Nehemiah returned from Babylonian exile half a millennium after the reign of David, he repaired the city wall and organized a dedication procession. One group on the east side of the city was described as having gone “up the steps of the City of David, on the ascent to the wall, past the House of David, and up to the Water Gate on the east” (Nehemiah 12:37). Nadav Na’aman suggests that King David’s Palace must be found at the top of the city’s northeastern slope, just above the Stepped Stone Structure that would have provided an ascent to the summit on the east. The location, date and scale of the Large Stone Structure, Nadav Na’aman believes, matches the biblical descriptions of King David’s Palace.

