

Summary of Readings

Day One: II Samuel 2:1-3:1

David is sent by God to the town of Hebron where he is eventually anointed king over the house of Judah. Upon discovering that the men of Jabesh Gilead had provided Saul with a proper burial, he sends words of thanks to them as well as a commitment to show them, "kindness and faithfulness" for their actions. A war ensues between the houses of Saul and David that is manufactured by Abner, the former commander of Saul's army. Joab, David's commander, and Abner agree to have twelve men engage in hand to hand combat, but when all twenty four are killed, the entire armies battle. David's army wins the day and while giving Abner chase, Asahel, Joab's brother is killed. The day's fighting draws to a close, but the passage ends with the note that the war between these two houses endures for, "a long time," while David's house grows stronger and Saul's grow weaker.

Day Two: II Samuel 9:1-13

Following David's victory in the fight between his house and the house of Saul, David is anointed King over all Israel, conquers Jerusalem, moves his home to Jerusalem, and bring the Ark there. Chapter nine opens with David's inquiry about any remaining descendants of Saul. When David becomes aware that Mephiboseth, a crippled son of Jonathan is still alive, he sends for him. David restores all the property of Saul to Mephiboseth's possession and says that Mephiboseth will "always eat at my table."

Day Three: II Samuel 11:1-12:25

This scene is set in the spring time when "Kings go of to war." David sends Joab and the army to attack Rammah. While walking around on his roof one evening, David sees a beautiful woman bathing and sends some messengers to discover her identity. When he learns that she is Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, David sends for her and David sleeps with her. This results in Bathsheba becoming pregnant. David then sends for Uriah with plans for him to come home and sleep with his wife. On two occasions, David's plan fails as Uriah refuses to go home and be with his wife while, "the ark and Israel are staying in tents." David then sends words to Joab through Uriah asking Joab to manipulate the coming battle to have Uriah killed. David's plan succeeds and he takes Bathsheba as his wife and they have a son.

Nathan, the prophet comes and through the telling of a story, exposes the King's sin. David repents and though the penalty for his actions are sin, Nathan says that David will live. However, Nathan say, the child conceived in this relationship will die. Nathan's prophetic words come true. David & Bathsheba mourn together and have another son, Solomon. David then returns to war and defeats Rabbah.

Day Four: II Samuel 15

Absalom makes a habit of standing by the city gate and responding directly to the complaints that the people might be bringing to the King. Not only does he function as a judge of Israel, he also practices other gestures in order to "steal the hearts of the men of Israel." After four years, Absalom devises a plan to overthrow his father and secretly builds alliances and an army for the task. When David discovers Absalom's plan, he flees from Jerusalem. The priests flee with David carrying the ark, but David instructs them to return the Ark to Jerusalem. While weeping on the Mount of Olives, David sends his servant Hushai back to Jerusalem as a spy to infiltrate Absalom's inner circle and counsel Absalom.

Day Five: II Samuel 18:1-19:15

Absalom and David's armies prepare to square off against each other. David's men instruct him to not join them in battle. David agrees, but directs all the men to be "gentle with the young man Absalom." Twenty thousand men were killed during the battle which David's forces win. While riding through the forest Absalom gets his head stuck in a tree. When Joab hears of this, he takes three javelins and kills Absalom. Joab sends a foreigner to deliver the news to David, but one of his own men outruns the foreigner. David expects good news which he partly receives from the first messenger. It is the foreigner who reports of Absalom's death. David mourns.

When Joab hears that David is mourning, he goes to him and rebukes him for humiliating his men and being inconsiderate of their sacrifice. He warns David that the army will leave him if he does not get up and go to them. King David inquires of the priests to ask the elders of Judah [his tribe] to bring him back as king. While making that political maneuver, David also reaches out to Amasa, the former commander of Absalom's forces and offers him command of the entire army.

Day Six: II Samuel 20:1-26

Upon returning to Israel, David discovers that another rebellion has broken out led by Sheba, a Benjamite. David instructs Amasa his new King to summon the army, but when he takes too long, he instructs Abishai to complete the task. When Amasa arrives, Joab kills him. Joab and his brother Abishai continue the pursuit of Sheba. When they arrive at the town where Sheba has fortified, the army lays siege. A wise woman of the town inquires as to Joab's quarrel and when Joab identifies Sheba as the offender who has brought this violence, she agrees to have the town's people kill Sheba and toss his head over the wall. After Sheba's death, the army leaves the city with Joab in command.

Day Seven: II Samuel 22

Our final days reading contains David's Song of Praise, and in my opinion, you cannot summarize poetry. You have to experience it for yourself!

The Book of Samuel [from last week]

I & II Samuel originally was one book

Samuel introduces two key concepts: Figure of the Prophet, Institution of Kingship

Transition in Israel : Loose Federation of Tribes ---> Unified Monarchy

When last we left the story...

Key Question:

Working through the Narrative

Establishing David as King

Break in the readings...

David shows kindness to Mephiboseth | Samuel 2-:12-17

David, Bathsheba & Uriah

Break in the Readings | Samuel 13:9b-15; | Samuel 14:33

Absalom betrays his Father

Joab stays in power

Take-aways...

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3 |

4 |

Questions for reflection

How do I handle power?

In what ways have I been given authority? How have I served as a caretaker for that authority?

How have you experience consequence from forgiven sin?

How do you understand integrity?

Would people describe you as a person of integrity? Why or why not?

What is the greatest threat to your integrity and ability to bring positive change to your world?