

**2 Samuel - Chapters 1 to 4**  
**4 Studies**  
**[Part 1]**

## Where does **\*2 Samuel** fit into the Bible?

### Beginning

- Genesis 1-2**      *God made the world and told His people to rule over it  
The people died when they chose to ignore God's rule*
- Genesis 4-11**    *The sin and death problem spread to the entire human race*

### Covenant and Nation

- Genesis 12**      *God promised to make Abraham's family into a great nation*
- Genesis 12-20**   *Abraham's family grows and survives a famine in Egypt*
- Exodus-Deut**    *God rescues His people from slavery in Egypt  
God gives them His law and takes them to Israel*
- Joshua**          *God's people keep worshipping other gods; God keeps sending*
- Judges**          *judges to rescue them. There is a pattern of: sin, judgment &  
repentance; which spirals downwards and out of control*

### Rise and Fall of Kingdom and Nation

- 1 Sam-\*2Sam10** *God establishes kingship to lead Israel*
- \*2 Sam 11-20**   *The kingship of Saul and David; decline of kingship*
- 1-2 Kings**       *Downfall of kingship & nation; divided into North & South  
721BC Assyria invade and deport northern tribes  
586BC Babylon invade and deport southern tribes*

### Exile and Return

- Daniel, Esther**   *God still rules for His people in Babylon & Persia*
- Ezra, Nehemiah** *God brings His people home and reestablishes the nation*

### Demise of Israel again

- Haggai Zech**     *Israel's leaders lead her into judgment*
- & Malachi**       *God stops speaking to Israel, who expect a military Messiah*

### Jesus establishes Eternal Kingdom

- Gospels**          *Jesus sets up God's eternal kingdom: life, death, resurrection*
- Acts**              *Jesus' followers spread the message of Jesus worldwide*
- Letters**          *The Apostles help the church stay on track*

## INTRODUCTION

The book of 1 Samuel [First Samuel] is a book of transition. It outlines the change from the theocracy<sup>1</sup> established under Moses to the monarchy begun under [king] Saul. The book also marks the transition from priests to prophets as the central figure of God's dealing with Israel. First Samuel is really a continuation of the book of Judges, with Ruth as a parenthesis. The key thought is "choosing a king", the key verse reads, "'Now, therefore, behold the king whom ye have chosen'" (1Sam 12:13)

At the end of 1 Samuel, the first king, Saul, is dead. So, as we enter the book of 2 Samuel [Second Samuel], we see the life of the second king, David, unfold. And we see his life, warts and all; the good, the bad and the ugly.

In the original Hebrew text, the two books of Samuel formed one book only. It is unfortunate that the standard (Masoretic) Hebrew text of the books of Samuel has been relatively poorly preserved (see for instance footnotes in 1 Samuel 13:1). The ancient Greek text (the Septuagint) often differs from the Hebrew, and can be very helpful. Some useful additional Hebrew evidence is also available from the Qumran manuscripts (the Dead Sea Scrolls).

## DATE, AUTHORSHIP AND PURPOSE

The name Samuel in the title refers to the first major character in the books but he was not the author; his death is recorded in 1 Samuel 25:1. The author is unknown but he cannot have been writing earlier than the death of King Solomon towards the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC, since 1 Samuel 27:6 shows knowledge of the divided monarchy.

It is generally agreed that the books of Samuel were not written by themselves but were part of a whole sequence of books beginning with Joshua and ending with Kings. If so, the author of this whole historical work was writing at the time of the Babylonian exile (6<sup>th</sup> century BC). Some verses such as 1 Samuel 9:9 and 2 Samuel 13:18, suggest that the writer lived long after the events he records. However, the

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<sup>1</sup> A word first used by Josephus to denote that the Jews were under the direct government of God himself. The nation was in all things subject to the will of their invisible King. All the people were the servants of Jehovah, who ruled over their public and private affairs, communicating to them his will through the medium of the prophets. They were the subjects of a heavenly, not of an earthly, king. They were Jehovah's own subjects, ruled directly by him (Compare [1 Samuel 8:6-9](#) ).

author made use of many ancient and authentic source documents, one of which is mentioned by name (2 Samuel 1:18)

In exploring the Biblical author's purpose, therefore, we have to consider the purpose of Joshua-Judges-Samuel-Kings as a whole. These books cover the history of Israel from the time of the conquest of Canaan until the exile. It was a period of victory, success, decline and fall. Above all, the author wanted to demonstrate God's hand and God's purposes in all these historical events. In particular, these books are a commentary on kingship, an institution which ultimately failed, and yet which laid the basis for the Messianic hope.

In the broader context, the books of Samuel deal with Israel's first two kings, Saul and David. David was Israel's greatest king and his notable achievements are described in detail. Yet he was far from perfect, and his reign was by no means trouble-free. The books of Samuel show both sides of the story and how God overruled in the history of Israel by interacting with David and other important individuals. The message is a call to repentance, as God's people suffered for their past sins at the time of exile. It is also a call to faith, with its reminders about God's election of Israel, His provision for His people in every age, His faithfulness to them, and His promise of a coming King!

## OUTLINE OF THE BOOK—

### A. Triumphs of David (2 Samuel 1-10)

- i. David mourns the deaths of Saul & Jonathan (2 Sam 1)
- ii. David make king over Judah (2 Sam 2)
- iii. Civil war (2 Sam 3)
- iv. Ish-Bosheth, son of Saul killed (2 Sam 4)
- v. David, king over all Israel (2 Sam 5)
- vi. David's attempts to bring the ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6)
- vii. God's covenant to build the house of David (2 Sam 7)
- viii. David consolidates his kingdom (2 Sam 8)
- ix. David befriends Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9)
- x. David wars against Ammon and Syria (2 Sam 10)

### B. Troubles of David (2 Samuel 11-24)

- i. David's two great sins (2 Sam 11)
- ii. Nathan faces David with his sins; David repents, (2 Sam 12)
- iii. David's daughter Tamar raped by Amnon, David's son; Amnon murdered by Absalom, David's son, (2 Sam 13)
- iv. David permits Absalom to return with half-hearted forgiveness, (2 Sam 14)
- v. Absalom rebels against David (2 Sam 15)
- vi. Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, deceives David; Shimei curses David (2 Sam 16)
- vii. Absalom's advisers disagree on attack against David (2 Sam 17)
- viii. Absalom slain and David mourns (2 Sam 18)
- ix. David restored to throne (2 Sam 19)
- x. Sheba revolts against David (2 Sam 20)
- xi. Three years of famine; Gibeonites take vengeance on house of Saul; war with Philistines (2 Sam 21)
- xii. David's song of deliverance (2 Sam 22)
- xiii. David's last words; David's mighty men (2 Sam 23)
- xiv. David's sin in taking census (2 Sam 24)

## Study 1 – 2 Samuel 1:1-27 – Dealing with grief

(Sermon on 05-Jul-20)

### Recap

1. Write a brief summary of what you remember about the book of **1 Samuel**.
  - *Hannah (husband Elkanah) couldn't have children, so she prays for a son, whom she promised she would dedicate to the Lord's service*
  - *The Lord answered her prayers and Samuel was born*
  - *Samuel became a great prophet of Israel*
  - *The Israelites' arch enemy was the neighbouring Philistines, whom they were in constant battle with; the Philistines even captured the Ark of the Covenant at one stage; but it was recaptured.*
  - *With Samuel getting old and his sons being corrupt; the people of Israel asked for a king, "like the other nations"*
  - *Despite Samuel's disappointment; God granted their request and let them have a king, like the other nations; even though that meant rejected God as their king!*
  - *Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, was appointed king. Saul was very handsome and head and shoulders taller than everyone else*
  - *However, God does not look at outward appearances but at the heart*
  - *And Saul often did his own thing, rather than obeying God, so God decides to reject Saul as king, and earmarks David as king – "a man after God's own heart"*
  - *David, a shepherd boy, from the tribe of Judah, comes to prominence when he defeats the giant Philistine warrior, Goliath, with a simple sling-shot*
  - *David is promoted to work in Saul's palace*
  - *But Saul becomes increasingly jealous and paranoid about David*
  - *Meanwhile David and Saul's son, Jonathan, become close friends*
  - *This only heightens Saul's jealousy of David and he tries to kill him several times and most of the rest of 1 Samuel, is spent with Saul pursuing David and David refusing to take the matter in his own hands; but trusting that God will uninstall Saul at the appropriate time*
  - *That time comes (1 Samuel 31) when Saul is in battle with the arch enemy, the Philistine, and when the battle became hopeless, Saul took his own life.*
2. Remind yourself how Saul died in 1 Samuel 31.  
*Saul was in battle with the Philistines.*  
*Saul was wounded critically and he asked his armour-bearer to run him through.*



*The armour-bearer refused and so Saul fell on his own sword.*

**Read 2 Samuel 1:1-4**

3. What has David been doing?

*He has been fighting the Amalekites and after defeating them, stayed in Ziklag for 2 days*

4. What does the "appearance" of the man from Saul's camp suggest in verse 2?

*Clothes torn and dust on his head - suggests that the man is in mourning.*

5. The man fell to the ground before David to pay him honour in verse 2; what does that suggest?

*That he respects David - and considers him King*

6. What does the man from Saul's camp tell David?

*That King Saul and his son, Jonathan, are dead.*

**Read 2 Samuel 1:6-16**

7. Locate **Mount Gilboa** on the map in appendix 1

*Circled in red.*

8. What did King Saul ask the man to do?

*King Saul asked the man to kill him (v9)*

9. How does the man's story differ from 1 Samuel 31?

*In 1 Samuel 31, it says that King Saul took his own life.*

*1 Samuel 31:5 says the armour bearer saw that Saul was dead.*

*It's more likely, the man was the first to come across King Saul's dead body and took his royal crown and bracelet; thinking he would get a reward from David.*

10. How did David and his men react to the news?

*They tore their clothes (as a mark/sign of grief)*

*They mourned and wept and fasted until evening for King Saul and his son, Jonathan; and for the army and the nation of Israel.*

11. What's the irony in the fact that the man who brought the news is an Amalekite?

*Irony is that it was Saul's disobedience completely destroying the Amalekites (1 Sam 15)*

*Also, it's ironic that David has just returned from defeating the Amalekites and there's an Amalekite man daring to admit he has killed the king!*

12. Why did David have the man who brought the news killed? (cf. 1 Samuel 26:9)

*Because the man killed the Lord's anointed, Saul; something that even David had had the opportunity to do; but didn't, because David let God decide Saul's fate, See 1 Samuel 26:9 - But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?"*

*Also, David did not want to be accused of somehow being involved in the killing of Saul, especially accusations from Saul's followers. By executing this man for the murder of Saul, he is showing he was not complicit in the death of Saul.*

*David would also be seen as not celebrating the death of Saul.*

13. Where have you heard the words "your blood be on your own head" before? (cf. Matt 27:24-25; Acts 18:6)

*Matt 27:24-25 - <sup>24</sup> When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" <sup>25</sup> All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"*

*Acts 18:6 - <sup>6</sup> But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."*

## **Read 2 Samuel 1:17-27**

14. What is a lament?

*A passionate expression of grief or sorrow*

15. Who is the lament about?

*The lament is written by King David - and is about King Saul and his son Jonathan. The lament is called the "lament of the bow"*



16. What is the **Book of Jashar** (verse 18)?

*This book is also mentioned in Joshua 10:12-13, when the Lord stopped the sun in the middle of the day during the battle of Beth Horon.*

*Book of Jashar means "book of the upright" or "book of the just man"*

*See: <https://www.gotquestions.org/book-of-Jasher.html> for further information)*

17. Who is the gazelle in verse 19?

*A gazelle signifies a human dignitary (see NIV footnote)*

*Some translations say "the beauty of Israel" rather than gazelle.*

*David shows his great love and generosity in his heart towards Saul; showing that David did not kill Saul with his sword or in his heart. It shows David kept his heart from bitterness, even when he was wronged and sinned against (see 1 Cor 13:5 - love keeps no record of wrongs)*

18. Why does David say not to tell the Philistines of Saul's death (verse 20)?

*Lest the daughters of the daughters of the Philistines and uncircumcised rejoice. It would be too painful for David and the Israelites if their arch enemy were to gloat over the death of King Saul.*

*And perhaps lest the Philistines think that the Israelites are vulnerable for further attack.*

19. What does David say about Mount Gilboa and why (verse 21)?

*He said - let there be no dew or rain; no watering of the fields. In other words, may it remain barren. Even to this day, apparently, it is still barren!*

*Why - because this was where King Saul died.*

20. How are Saul and Jonathan described in verses 22-23?

*Both described as extremely brave.*

*Both together in life and in death.*

*They were swifter than eagles and stronger than lions.*

21. What does David have to say to the daughters of Israel in verses 24-25?

*They are to weep for Saul because he spared no expense in making them elegant.*

22. How does David feel about Jonathan (verse 26)? Is this surprising? (cf. 1 Sam 18:1; 20:42)

*Jonathan is special to David. It was the most loving of friendships.*

*Definitely not to be seen as a homosexual relationship.*

*The Hebrew word is ahava - which is also used for the love that God has for his people!*

23. **Think it through:** What do we learn about grief from this passage?

- *Grief is a deep and powerful emotion*
- *Grief is the price we pay for loving someone and engaging in a relationship with them*
- *God understands our grief - Ps 34:18*
- *God is a God of all comfort (2 Cor 1)*
- *Grief needs to be expressed and not bottled up.*
- *It is helpful when expressing grief over the death of a loved one to recall their gifts and achievements; this may help to come to terms with their death.*

**Optional questions.**

**Read John 14:1-7**

24. What's the context of this passage?

*The context is that Jesus is saying goodbye to His disciples before He goes to his death and he tells them not to be troubled by his death.*

*He promises he is going ahead (to Heaven) to prepare a place for them and He promises to come back one day too.*

*Obviously, the disciples are troubled by this - they don't want Jesus to go.*

*And Thomas is unsure of the way to get to the place Jesus is going.*

*Jesus famously says: "I AM the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."*

*Jesus is saying - He is the way to get to Heaven - by believing in Him - in His death for the forgiveness of sins and in His resurrection for eternal life.*

25. How can Jesus say to the disciples "**do not let your hearts be troubled**"? (cf. John 11:25-26)

*Because His death is not the end - it was followed by resurrection.*

*Because of His resurrection - our death and the death of all believers is not the end - we have eternity in Heaven to look forward to.*

*So, although we may grieve a loved one, we know we will see them in Heaven - when we die.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 1:1-27?

*Grief is necessary but because of Jesus it is not the end.*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*Saul was God's anointed one - and his death caused great sorrow.*

*Jesus was God's anointed one (The Christ) - but His death, although causing great sorrow; also caused great joy - as He opened up the way to the Father.*



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

*Our hearts do not need to be troubled by the death of a believing loved one or even our own pending death. Jesus has defeated the sting of death.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*V14*

*V26*

*John 14:6*

**Finish in prayer:** Pray for those who might be grieving the loss of a loved one.

Thank God that through Jesus, death no longer has a sting (1 Cor 15:55-57)

## Study 2 – 2 Samuel 2:1-3:5 – David anointed King over Judah & Civil War (Sermon on 12-Jul-20)

### Read 2 Samuel 2:1-7

1. Why did David go to Hebron? (cf. 1 Sam 23:2, 11-12)

*Because David inquired of the Lord whether he should return to his homeland and God said "Yes"; and even told David which town to go to.*

*Back in 1 Sam 23:2 David had asked God whether he should attack the Philistines And likewise, in 1 Sam 23:11-12, David had asked if the people of Keilah would give David and his men up to Saul, and God had answered "Yes they will".*

*From this, we see that David makes a habit of asking God before acting; it seems to be key to his success.*

2. Locate **Hebron** on the map in appendix 1.

*See blue circle on map.*

*David took his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, widow of Nabal of Carmel and also brought his men with him to Hebron.*

3. What happened at Hebron?

*The men of Judah came to Hebron and they anointed David king*

4. What message did David send to the people of Jabesh Gilead? Why?

*He sent the Lord's blessing to the people of Jabesh Gilead because they had shown kindness to King Saul and buried him. And he asked that the Lord show them kindness and faithfulness. David also said he would show the same kindness to them, because of what they had done. He told them to be strong and brave, for Saul is dead but the people have anointed he (David) as King.*

*Note the people of Jabesh Gilead were very fond of Saul because he had rescued the city from the Ammonites (see 1 Samuel 11)*

### Read 2 Samuel 2:8-11

5. What did Abner do to Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth?

*Abner, son of Ner, and commander of Saul's army – made Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth, king over Gilead, Ashuri, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin and all Israel.*

*Abner probably made Ish-Bosheth the king, because he wanted to be the powerhouse behind the king.*

6. What problem can you see occurring with two kings crowned?

*There will be a split in the nation, with some people following King David and others following King Ish-Bosheth. This could lead to a civil war.*

**Read 2 Samuel 2:12-16**

7. Locate **Gibeon** on the map in appendix 1.

*See green circle.*

8. Who are the two "**sides**" involved?

*Side 1 - Abner son of Ner, commander of Saul's army and Saul's son, King Ish-Bosheth's men.*

*Side 2 - Joab, son of Zeruiah and David's men.*

*The two sides sat down on either side of the pool in Gibeon.*

9. What does Abner propose to Joab?

*A contest - that some men from each side get up and fight hand to hand in front of them. They had 12 men from each side fight and each man grabbed his opponent and thrust their dagger into their opponent's side.*

10. What's significant about the name of place they met at **Helkath Hazzurim** in Gibeon?

*The significance of the name Helkath Hazzurim is that it means: Field of Daggers or Field of Hostilities.*

**Read 2 Samuel 2:17-32**

11. How did the battle go, in verse 17?

*There was fierce fighting and David's men defeated Abner and the Israelites.*

12. What happens between Abner and Asahel? (verses 18-23)

*Zeruiah had 3 sons: Joab, Abishai and Asahel.*

*Asahel chased Abner. Abner warned Asahel to stop chasing him as he didn't want to strike Asahel down, because he respected Asahel's brother, Joab, and would not be able to look Joab in the face, if he harmed Asahel.*

*But Asahel refused to listen to the warning, so Abner thrust the butt of his spear into Asahel's stomach and Asahel died.*

13. How did Joab and Abishai react? (verses 24-25)

*The brothers of Asahel, Joab and Abishai pursued Abner until they came to a hill where Abner was well supported by Benjamites and they made a stand.*

14. What stopped the pursuit of Abner? (verses 26-28)

*Abner called out to Joab - "must the sword devour forever? Don't you realize that this will end in bitterness? How long before you order your men to stop pursuing their fellow Israelites?"*

*Joab saw the wisdom in Abner's words and blew the trumpet for his troops to halt and stop pursuing the Israelites and stop fighting.*

15. Where did Abner and his men go? Find these places on the map in appendix 1  
*Abner and his men marched through Arabah; crossed the river Jordan, and came to Manahaim. See brown circles.*

16. What was the final result of the battle? (verses 30-32)

*Fighting stopped.*

*19 of David's men were missing (presumably killed in battle)*

*360 Benjamites men had been killed.*

*Ashael was buried in his father's tomb at Bethlehem.*

*Joab and David's men marched all night and arrived at Hebron at daybreak.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 3:1-5**

17. What happened to David's family in Hebron?

*War between house of Saul and house of David lasted a long time.*

*David grew stronger and stronger whereas house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.*

*This began, when God chose David and rejected Saul. (1 Samuel 16:13-14)*

18. Write out David's family tree (thus far), starting from Boaz and Ruth.

*See Appendix 3*

19. **Think it through:** Why are we being told about these events?

a. *To show that God is in control of all these events*

b. *To show how David's path to the throne came about and that it wasn't simply a matter of David becoming King, after Saul's death.*

c. *To show that David is a man after God's own heart and has a plan for David as the new King.*



*d. To introduce us to some of the characters we will meet in the book of 2 Samuel.*

### Optional question

**Read Romans 8:28-32**

20. What does this passage have to do with our passage from 2 Samuel 2:1-3:5, if at all?

*We see that God chose David.*

*That all things: David's good (inquiring of God, man after God's own heart, trusting God in the battle with Goliath; his friendship with Jonathan), bad (Bathsheba) and ugly (multiple wives and family troubles) - all things work together for good, for those who love God, as David did.*

*God foreknew what David would be like and God predestined him to be the king and to be conformed into the image of Jesus. In fact that is God's plan for each one of us whom He has chosen - so that we will be adopted into Jesus' family.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 2:1-3:5?

- *God is sovereign in all things.*
- *God has a plan and it will not be derailed.*
- *God has a plan for us too.*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*David refused to force his reign on his subjects - and neither will the Son of David. Like David, Jesus will battle against pretenders to the throne, but He will not force His reign on mankind - yet.*

*When we try to make peace between King Jesus and King Self, within us, the result is a long, bitter war. It is so much better to simply surrender and submit to the reign of King Jesus.*

*In the lives of many Christians today, there is a raging, literally, a civil war. A war between the flesh (King Saul's kingdom) and the spirit (King David's Kingdom) and the conflict is bitter. We do everything we possibly can to hold up the tottering Kingdom of Self, so that it might exist just a bit longer. If only we could preserve*

*some rights; if only we could at least have some of our own way; if only we could keep this or that at any cost. We feel we must bolster up this Kingdom of Self, that we cannot be crucified with Christ (Alan Redpath - British pastor and evangelist and author)*

*David as a man/king after God's own heart points to the man/king Jesus.*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- a. Always inquire of the Lord before we act.*
- b. Trust God has a plan for us.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Pray that we would always be diligent in inquiring of the Lord in all things. Praise God that He is for His people and sovereign in all things.

## Study 3 – 2 Samuel 3:6-39 – Why revenge never works

(Sermon on 19-Jul-20)

Before we begin, read 1 Samuel 15:28

What was promised?

*The Kingdom will be torn from Saul and given to another – see 1 Sam 15:27-28*

*<sup>27</sup> As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. <sup>28</sup> Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you.*

**Read 2 Samuel 3:6-11**

1. What happens between Abner and Ish-Bosheth?

*Remember Abner is the commander of Saul's army – he is very confident and very powerful as v6 says – he has strengthened his own position.*

*Ish-Bosheth (Saul's surviving son) accused Abner of sleeping with Saul's concubine<sup>2</sup>, named Rizpah, which amounts to disloyalty and could be construed as a bid for the throne. Abner was very angry with this accusation, especially given how loyal he had been to Saul and his household, and given how he had protected Ish-Bosheth from being handed over to David. So offended was he at being accused of disloyalty, any remnant of loyalty to Saul had gone. So, Abner tells Ish-Bosheth – what God had promised (in 1 Sam 15:28) to David, Abner will make sure it happens – and help transfer the kingship from Saul's house to David's house – and David will become king of Israel and Judah.*

*Ish-Bosheth didn't say another word – because he was afraid of Abner.*

**Read 2 Samuel 3:12-16**

2. What agreement does David make with Abner? What condition is there?

*Abner agrees to help David to bring all of Israel under his rule.*

*On the condition that Abner brings the daughter of Saul, Michal, to David.*

*Presumably having Michal in the royal court would help to foster a continuity with the previous regime.*

3. What does David demand from Ish-Bosheth?

*David sent messengers to Ish-Bosheth demanding his wife, Michal.*

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<sup>2</sup> *A concubine: (in polygamous societies) a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his wife or wives.*

*Note David had won Michal by killing 200 Philistines - see 1 Sam 18:27 - <sup>27</sup>David took his men with him and went out and killed two hundred Philistines and brought back their foreskins. They counted out the full number to the king so that David might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage. But Saul, when jealous and angry with David, had given Michal to another man - see 1 Sam 25:44 - But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Paltiel son of Laish, who was from Gallim. Ish-Bosheth complies with David's request much to the dismay of Michal's husband, Paltiel - who was sent packing by Abner, when he tried to go with Michal.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 3:17-19**

4. What does Abner do for David in these verses?

*Abner confers with the elders of Israel to urge them to make David their king. In fact, he urges them to "Now do it!". On the basis that God had promised that he would rescue His people, Israel, from the Philistines, through His servant, David.*

*It's worth noting that even Abner (Saul's commander) knows what God has promised through David!*

*Abner also spoke to the Benjamites (Saul's tribe) in person.*

*Abner then confirmed to David that the Israelites and Benjamites wanted David as their King.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 3:20-21**

5. What did David do for Abner?

*David prepared a feast for Abner and his men.*

*Then Abner offered to assemble all of Israel for David to become King*

### **Read 2 Samuel 3:22-27**

6. What does Joab learn about Abner and what is his concern? (verses 22-26)

*Joab learns that Abner has been to see David.*

*Joab is angry that Abner has been sent away in peace because in Joab's opinion, Abner just came to deceive David and observe David's movements and find out all that David was doing; i.e. a spy. The latter is probably an excuse, the real reason for Joab killing Abner later is given in verses 27 and 30.*

*The author of 2 Samuel, doesn't give opinion on Joab's assumption (which is of course is incorrect). We, the readers, are left to decide this.*

7. Is there a problem in how Joab speaks to the King here? Yes/No/Maybe?  
Why/Why not?

*Yes! See v24 - Joab says to David - "what have you done?" "Why did you let him go?". David is the King; not Joab!*

*It seems like Joab has too much power; he even brought Abner back without David knowing!*

*Joab doesn't like the idea of anyone else, other than Joab himself, arranging David to become the King of all Israel; especially Abner, his arch-enemy.*

8. Why does Joab murder Abner? (verse 27) (cf. verse 30)

*V27 says - Joab murdered Abner to take revenge for Abner murdering Joab's brother, Asahel (2 Sam 2:23).*

### **Read 2 Samuel 3:28-30**

9. What declaration does David make about the death of Abner and why?

*David is angry.*

*But he takes no direct action against Joab (his nephew). David had no qualms about executing those responsible for the death of Saul (2 Sam 2) and for death of Ish-Bosheth (2 Sam 4 - next chapter). Perhaps the difference is; Saul and Ish-Bosheth were kings, Abner was just a commander of the army?*

*Instead David declares:*

*a. He, David, is innocent of the blood of Abner;*

*b. the blood of Abner lies on Joab and his family; and*

*c. David says 'may Joab's family always be plagued with someone having sores or leprosy or disability or falling by the sword or hungry; basically, a curse on Joab and his family.*

*David is angry because it may seem like he had a hand/part in Abner's murder and David wants the transition to his kingship of all of Israel, to be implemented in a smooth and just manner.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 3:31-39**

10. Why do you think David mourns so deeply for Abner?

*David admired Abner's loyalty to Saul when he was alive.*

*David trusted Abner.*

*David saw Abner's death as unjust - not death in a battle, but death through sin.*

11. What sort of death does David say Abner died? Why?

*He died as the lawless died, as though being punished for some wicked deed. Abner was not killed on the battle field, or after a warning - but he was killed covertly and in cold blood.*

*Why? All because of revenge.*

12. What does David's mourning show the people? Why is that important?

*That David admired Abner.*

*That David had no part in Abner's death.*

*To show he had no part in Abner's death, David makes Joab (the murderer of Abner) tear his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and walk in front of Abner's funeral procession!*

*Why? He wants to be crowned King - in such a way that he is approved of by all as a fair and just King.*

13. Why does David say he is weak in verse 39?

*On the one hand, David seems to want to leave any punishment of Joab to God but on the other hand; he may appear weak and not taking his kingly responsibilities serious and regarding as showing nepotism?*

*Why does he say he is weak? (v39)*

- a. Is it that family ties are too strong to break? Zeruiah is David's sister; he may not want to upset his older sister, by punishing any of her sons (Joab, Abishai and Asahel [deceased]).*
- b. More likely Zeruiah's sons Joab and Abishai are so influential in the Kingdom, it would be difficult for David to successfully bring them to trial. Therefore, like in the case of Saul, David trusts God to handle this situation.*
- c. Or is it that Joab and Abishai are physically stronger than David?*
- d. Or is it that in reality Joab is in control of Judah, like Abner was in control of the North; and David is merely a puppet king?*
- e. Or is it that David felt so dependent on Joab's skills as a general that he was unwilling to lose Joab for any reason?*

*Option b - seems to be the most likely reason for David saying he is weak.*

14. What request does David make to the Lord in verse 39?



*That God will repay the evildoer according to his evil deeds.*

15. **Think it through:** What's the difference between Joab's actions and David's request to God?

- a. Joab takes revenge into his own hands.*
- b. David leaves it up to God.*

### **Read Romans 12:17-21**

16. What does the Apostle Paul say about answering evil here?

*Don't repay evil with more evil.*

*Instead be careful to do what is right in everyone's eyes.*

*Live at peace with everyone, as much as it is possible.*

*Don't take revenge. Instead let God be the one to get angry and let God be the one to take revenge.*

17. How does this passage from Romans relate to Joab and David?

*Joab did the complete opposite to Romans 12; he took revenge into his own hands.*

*David left it up to God.*

18. How did Jesus overcome evil with good?

*He taught to turn the other cheek.*

*He taught to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matt 5:44)*

*He overcame the evil of sin - by dying on the cross - for sins to be forgiven.*

*He said from the cross - "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34)*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 3:6-39?

*Not taking revenge.*

*Trusting that God is sovereign in all things!*

*God's sovereignty is seen in how Abner switches his allegiance from King Ish-Bosheth to King David; nothing is impossible for God!*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- a. *We need to embrace God's anointed one, Jesus, as our King, just like the people of Israel needed to embrace, God's anointed one, David, as their King.*
- b. *The controversy over Saul's concubine, Rizpah, seems strange, since Saul is dead. But the thinking was that she belonged to the King alone. In the same way, Jesus' bride, the church, belongs to Jesus and no one else.*
- c. *David would not take the kingship unless the people submitted to him freely, without force. In the same way, Jesus invites us to submit to His kingship without force; leaving us to accept His invitation or reject it.*



How does this passage **apply to your life?**

*Don't take revenge - trust God with all of our life.*

*Overcome evil with good.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*V9 and V39*

**Finish in prayer:** Pray that we would not take revenge on people who wrong us but instead ask God to help us overcome evil with good.

**Study 4 – 2 Samuel 4:1-12 – A 'helpful' action which is unjust**  
**(Sermon on 26-Jul-20)**

**Read 2 Samuel 4:1-4**

1. What affect did Abner's death have on Ish-Bosheth? Why?

*Ish-Bosheth lost courage.*

*He had relied heavily on Abner and has lost his right-hand man.*

*In some ways, Ish-Bosheth was just a puppet king, with Abner having the real power.*

*This also caused the nation to be alarmed, as they saw how weak Ish-Bosheth was.*

*Ish-Bosheth trusted in a man – instead of in God*

2. What other characters are we told about in verses 1 to 4? Why?

- *Baanah and Rekab. They will be involved in a murder later.*
- *Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. We will meet him later in 2 Samuel 9.*

**Read 2 Samuel 4:5-8**

3. What do Rekab and Baanah do? Is this okay?

*The went to Ish-Bosheth's house and stabbed Ish-Bosheth whilst he was having a noonday nap. And they were fellow Benjamites (Saul's tribe)*

*Ish-Bosheth was a bit slack having a snooze during the day without any guards*

*They killed Ish-Bosheth and chopped off his head and brought his head to King David at Hebron.*

*This is not okay – it's murder [and not in a battle]*

*King Ish-Bosheth didn't have much loyalty from his troops. Once they saw he was weak (especially without Abner); they murdered him.*

4. Who asked them to do this?

*Nobody asked them to do that. Especially not King David.*

*They thought (wrongly) that they would gain favour from David, by killing Ish-Bosheth. And they had proof (Ish-Bosheth's head) that David's rival to the throne was dead.*

*They made a fatal assumption in v8 'Here is the head of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, your enemy, who tried to kill you. This day the Lord has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his offspring'. They assumed they had the Lord's approval of their deed. They also assumed that David saw Saul as his enemy, but as we saw back in 2 Samuel 1 – when David lamented, he didn't see Saul as his enemy.*

## Read 2 Samuel 4:9-12

5. How does David react?

*David reacts as we would expect.*

*Remember David made this promise to Saul, in 1 Samuel 24:20-22*

<sup>20</sup> I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. <sup>21</sup> Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family." <sup>22</sup> So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

*Remember David he reacted when the Amalekite said he had killed King Saul.*

*David says "As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, when someone told me, 'Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and put him to death in Ziklag. That was the reward I gave him for his news! How much more—when wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed—should I not now demand his blood from your hand and rid the earth of you!"*

6. What happens to Rekab and Baanah?

*David gave orders to have them both killed. Their hands and feet were cut off and hung by the pool at Hebron.*

7. What does David's actions show the people?

- a. He had no part in the death of King Ish-Bosheth.*
- b. He wants to become King of all Israel - in God's timing, not human timing*
- c. He will not accept nor approve of such crimes*

8. What happens to Ish-Bosheth's head?

*Ish-Bosheth's head is buried in his commander, Abner's, tomb.*

9. Is there a replacement for Ish-Bosheth as king? (cf. verse 4; 2 Samuel 9)

*Yes, there is a surviving member of Saul's family and that is Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan. This is poor boy was disabled and unlikely to ascend to Saul's throne.*

10. What does the death of Ish-Bosheth mean for David's rule?

*David's path to being the King of all of Israel is clear now.*

## **Read Matthew 12:22-32**

11. What is Jesus' point in this chapter and how does it relate to 2 Samuel 4:1-12?

*In this story from Matthew 12:*

- *Jesus healed a demon-possessed blind and mute man*
- *The Pharisees accused Jesus of being "Beelzebub (a name for Satan) and that Jesus was able to drive out the demons from this poor man, by the power of Satan*

*Jesus knew what the Pharisees were thinking.*

*He says that it doesn't make sense for Satan to drive out demons - that would be like a kingdom divided and fighting amongst itself*

*Jesus' point is that someone who is the complete opposite to Satan [Jesus] is driving out demons.*

*Jesus' is saying it's a spiritual war between God's Spirit and Satan - between good and evil.*

*How this relates to our passage from 2 Samuel 4*

*Jesus is saying evil doesn't destroy evil. As we learnt last week good overcomes evil.*

*The doctrine that says "the end justifies the means" is the devil's doctrine.*

*The evil of Rekab and Baanah did in killing King Ish-Bosheth doesn't justify the outcome that David will now have a free path to the throne.*

*Also, have you noticed ow evil just keeps multiplying:*

- *The Amalekite lies about killing Saul*
- *Abner takes revenge on Ish-Bosheth, when he is accused of sleeping with Saul's concubine; and Abner swaps sides - going over to David's side*
- *Joab takes revenge on Abner because Abner killed Asahel, Joab's brother*
- *And then Rekab and Baanah kill Ish-Bosheth*
- *The kingdom of Israel is like the kingdom Jesus describes - a kingdom divided against itself (Matt 12:26)*

*As David says in 2 Sam 4:9 - 'As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble'*

*David is making the same point as Jesus - 'the goodness of God will achieve what God wants - not the wickedness and evil of men or of Satan'*

*David sees his kingdom as a gift from God - and God has so far led David through all sorts of troubles. So, like Jesus, David will have no part in evil and injustice to secure his kingdom.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 4:1-12?

- *Trusting that God is in control - and He will deliver us out of trouble (v9)*
- *The end doesn't justify the means*
- *A 'helpful' action that is unjust, is not helpful at all*
- *Evil cannot overcome evil - God's goodness overcomes evil*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- *The link to Matthew 22 and that Satan cannot cast out Satan*
- *David would not allow injustice and subterfuge to establish his promised Kingdom. Jesus would not allow his kingdom to be established by violence - see Matt 26:52-54: <sup>52</sup> "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life**?

*Jesus, in His life would not accept the testimony of demons (evil) and explicitly said that Satan cannot cast out Satan. It is a truth we do well to remember and to apply to even the smallest particulars of our life and service of the Lord. Evil and unjust means never justify the end result.*

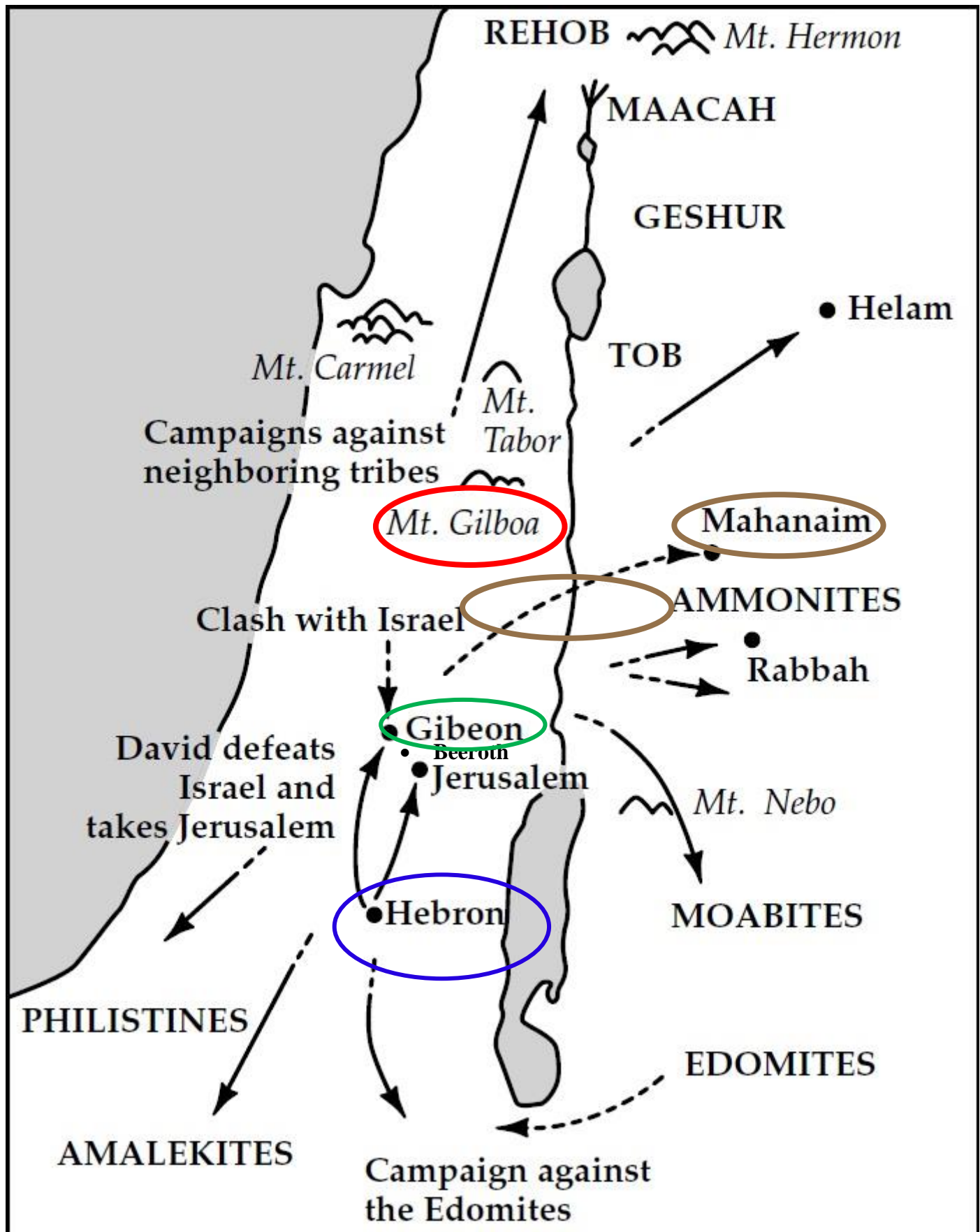
**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V9-11

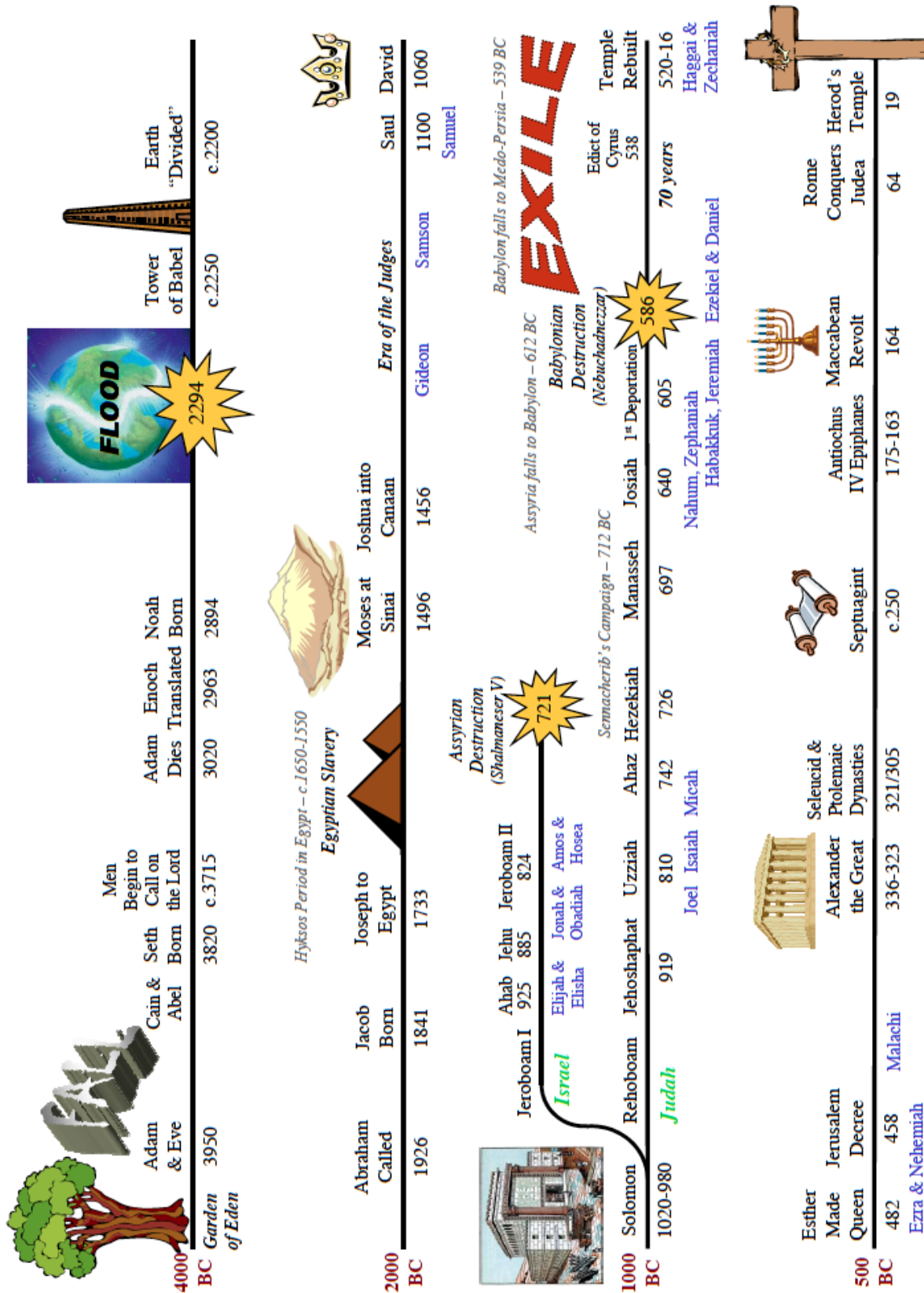
**Finish in prayer:** Pray that we would not be tempted to do wrong to gain justice.



# Appendix 1 - Map of the time of 2 Samuel



## Appendix 2 - Timeline



# Appendix 3

## The House of David Tribe of Judah 2 Samuel 3:1

"Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; and David grew steadily stronger, but the house of Saul grew weaker continually."

**Salmon** + **Rahab the harlot: Caananite**  
Married in 1390 BC

Nahash was the Ammonite king that caused Israel to demand their own king. Saul defeated Nahash in 1046 BC. Nahash fathered both Zeruiah and Abigail with a woman who later became Jesse's wife, making Zeruiah, David's step sister. This explains why Nahash showed kindness to David and they became friends. Both David's and Zeruiah's mother are unknown. Nahash is masculine gender and cannot be Abigail's mother. Amasa was chosen as Absalom's general because he was David's first step-cousin and of the House of David. 1 Chron 19:1-2

**Boaz** + **Ruth the Moabite**  
Married in 1284 BC

**Obed**

**Jesse** + **Unknown wife** + **Nahash, Ammonite king**  
2 Sam 17:25

### Tabernacle of David is anti-type of Church:

David was Hebrew, Caananite, Moabite and Ammonite: "I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen, and rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, so that the gentiles may seek the Lord" (Amos 9:11-2; Acts 15:16-18) David, the "Gentile blooded king" brought salvation to the Gentiles through Christ and the Church.

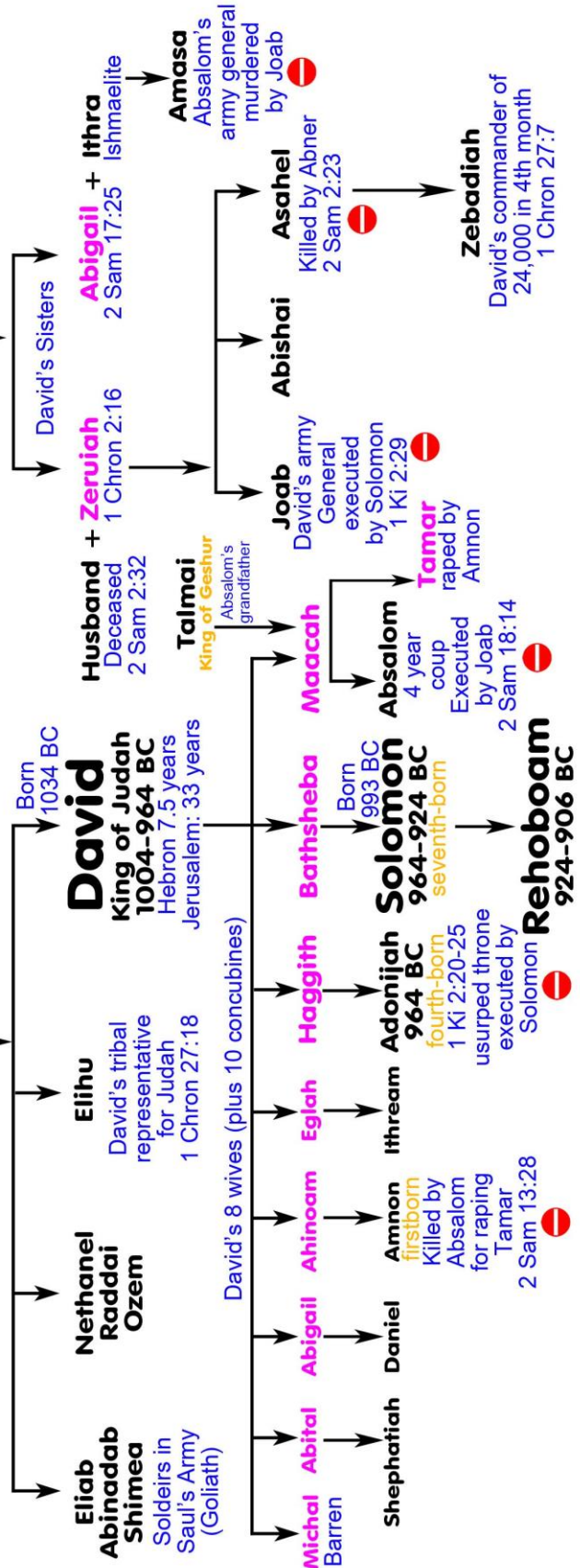
### Key

**Black: Male**  
**Pink: Female**

 Killed or executed

**Steve Rudd**

[www.bible.ca/maps](http://www.bible.ca/maps)



**Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke**  
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**Resources:**

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

The Message of Samuel (Mary J. Evans)

The Books of Samuel (Keil and Delitzsch)

**Notes/Prayer Points**