



WELCOME TO SECOND SAMUEL!

The book of 2 Samuel continues the story of Israel's transition from a loose confederation of tribes into a unified kingdom under God's chosen king. In the Hebrew Bible, First and Second Samuel are a single book, traditionally called *Shemu'el* ("Samuel"), named after the prophet who anointed Israel's first two kings. Second Samuel focuses primarily on the reign of King David—his rise, his victories, his failures, and **God's unshakable covenant promises**.

Second Samuel records both the glory and the grief of David's kingship. We see a man after God's own heart establish Jerusalem as the capital, bring the ark of God into the city, and receive God's promise of an enduring dynasty (2 Samuel 7). At the same time, the book does not sanitize David's sin or its consequences. His moral failure, family fracture, and internal rebellion reveal the cost of sin—even for God's anointed leader—and the mercy of God who continues to work through broken people.

At its core, Second Samuel is not merely a biography of David; it is a theological and historical story about God's faithfulness to His promises. God establishes a covenant with David that points beyond his lifetime toward a future King whose throne would last forever.

LESSONS FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVER (THAT'S US)

Second Samuel plays a crucial role in shaping New Testament hope. God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7 becomes the foundation for understanding Jesus as the Son of David, the rightful King whose kingdom will never end (Luke 1:32–33; Matthew 1:1). The gospel writers present Jesus as the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant—perfect where David failed, faithful where earthly kings fell short.

Second Samuel teaches us about leadership, repentance, and grace. It reminds us that God works through imperfect people, that sin has real consequences, and that repentance opens the door to restoration. It also invites us to place our ultimate hope not in human leaders, but in God's promised King.

It's my prayer for you that as you study the book of Second Samuel with us, you will encounter the faithfulness of God in both triumph and tragedy. May you see His grace at work in weakness, His purposes advancing through brokenness, and your hope anchored more deeply in the reign of King Jesus.

As you read, study, and pray, don't hesitate to reach out with questions, reflections, and testimonies of what God is teaching you. We're here for you.

Main Theological Themes

- God's covenant faithfulness
- Kingship under God's authority
- The destructive power of sin
- Repentance and mercy
- Leadership and accountability
- Hope for a righteous King

What You Can Expect to Learn

- That God works through imperfect leaders
- Why private sin eventually has public consequences
- What genuine repentance looks like
- How God remains faithful to His promises even when people falter

Key Figures in 2 Samuel

- David – King of Israel; courageous, gifted, repentant, deeply flawed
- Joab – Military commander; effective but morally dangerous
- Nathan – Prophet who confronts sin and speaks God's promises
- Bathsheba – Central figure in David's moral failure and later restoration
- Absalom – David's son; embodiment of unresolved bitterness and ambition
- Mephibosheth – Living picture of covenant kindness
- Uriah – Faithful servant betrayed by power

What follows is a 21 day reading plan to guide you through the book of 2nd Samuel. Each day will help you learn about God's redemptive history, and offer opportunities to reflect on your current walk with God.

Week 1 – The Rise of the King

Day 1

Reading: 2 Samuel 1

Theme: Grief, honor, and transition

Cross-references: Psalm 34:18; Romans 12:15

Reflection: How do you honor God when seasons end painfully?

Day 2

Reading: 2 Samuel 2

Theme: Waiting for God's timing

Cross-references: Proverbs 3:5–6; Psalm 27:14

Reflection: Where are you tempted to move ahead of God?

Day 3

Reading: 2 Samuel 3

Theme: God's purposes cannot be stopped by human conflict

Cross-references: Isaiah 46:10; Philippians 1:6

Reflection: How does God bring unity out of division?

Day 4

Reading: 2 Samuel 4–5

Theme: God establishes His chosen king

Cross-references: Psalm 75:6–7; James 4:10

Reflection: How do humility and patience prepare us for responsibility?

Day 5

Reading: 2 Samuel 6

Theme: God's holiness and joyful worship

Cross-references: Psalm 16:11; Hebrews 12:28

Reflection: How do reverence and joy belong together in worship?

Day 6

Reading: 2 Samuel 7

Theme: God's covenant promise

Cross-references: Luke 1:32–33; Hebrews 1:5

Reflection: How does God's promise shape your sense of identity and future?

Day 7

Reading: 2 Samuel 8

Theme: God's faithfulness in victory

Cross-references: Psalm 20:7; Romans 8:31

Reflection: Where do you need or where have you seen God bring stability and order?

Week 2 – The Fall of the King

Day 8

Reading: 2 Samuel 9

Theme: Covenant kindness

Cross-references: Micah 6:8; Ephesians 2:4–5

Reflection: Who might God be calling you to show grace to?

Day 9

Reading: 2 Samuel 10

Theme: Conflict and trust in God

Cross-references: Psalm 144:1; Proverbs 21:31

Reflection: How do you rely on God in the midst of pressure?

Day 10

Reading: 2 Samuel 11

Theme: Sin and the misuse of power

Cross-references: James 1:14–15; Proverbs 4:23

Reflection: Where are you most vulnerable to temptation?

Day 11

Reading: 2 Samuel 12

Theme: Confrontation, repentance, and mercy

Cross-references: Psalm 51:17; Hebrews 12:11

Reflection: How do you respond when God exposes sin?

Day 12

Reading: 2 Samuel 13

Theme: The ripple effects of unaddressed sin

Cross-references: Galatians 6:7–8; Psalm 82:3–4

Reflection: What happens when injustice is ignored?

Day 13

Reading: 2 Samuel 14

Theme: Partial reconciliation and unresolved hearts

Cross-references: Matthew 5:23–24; Proverbs 19:3

Reflection: Why is incomplete repentance dangerous?

Day 14

Reading: 2 Samuel 15

Theme: Pride, ambition, and rebellion

Cross-references: Proverbs 16:18; Isaiah 14:13–15

Reflection: How does pride distort our perception of leadership?

Week 3 – The Restoration of the King

Day 15

Reading: 2 Samuel 16

Theme: Trusting God amid humiliation

Cross-references: Psalm 37:5–6; 1 Peter 5:6

Reflection: How do you respond when misunderstood or wronged?

Day 16

Reading: 2 Samuel 17–18

Theme: God's sovereignty in chaos and loss

Cross-references: Romans 8:28; Psalm 3:3

Reflection: Where do you need to trust God's control rather than outcomes?

Day 17

Reading: 2 Samuel 19

Theme: Restoration and reconciliation

Cross-references: Proverbs 15:1; Colossians 3:13

Reflection: What does humility look like after conflict?

Day 18

Reading: 2 Samuel 20

Theme: Lingering division and leadership fatigue

Cross-references: Galatians 6:9; Psalm 127:1

Reflection: How do you remain faithful when problems persist?

Day 19

Reading: 2 Samuel 21

Theme: Justice, accountability, and communal responsibility

Cross-references: Numbers 32:23; Ezekiel 18:20

Reflection: How do individual choices affect the wider community?

Day 20

Reading: 2 Samuel 22–23

Theme: Praise from a tested life

Cross-references: Psalm 18:1–2; 2 Timothy 4:7

Reflection: How has God proven faithful over time?

Day 21

Reading: 2 Samuel 24

Theme: Repentance and costly worship

Cross-references: 1 Chronicles 21:24; Romans 12:1

Reflection: What would costly obedience look like for you right now?