



2 Samuel: The God Who is Sovereign

Memory Verse: 2 Samuel 7:22 “How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.”

Background

The book of 2 Samuel is the 10th book in the Bible and the 5th book of history in the Old Testament. In the Hebrew Bible, 1 and 2 Samuel were considered to be one book and were then divided into two books in the Greek Septuagint. 2 Samuel was likely written in the same time period as 1 Samuel, from 971-722 BC. Set in the land of Israel, the book of 2 Samuel covers the 40-year reign of King David first over the tribe of Judah and then over all of the nation of Israel from 1011-971 BC.

No author is stated for the book of 2 Samuel directly. However, 1 Chronicles 29:29-30 tells us that the events regarding the reign of King David were recorded by the prophets Samuel, Nathan, and Gad. Therefore, it is likely that whoever authored 2 Samuel compiled the book from the documents of these prophets.

The Short Story

Although flawed, David becomes Israel's greatest king and God promises an eternal throne to the house of David.

What's the Big Idea?

While 1 Samuel shows Israel transitioning into a monarchy, 2 Samuel is all about the reign of David, the establishment of the Davidic dynasty, and the expansion of Israel. As 2 Samuel begins, we see David, righteous before God, victorious in battle, loved by the people, and worshipful as the ark of the covenant is returned home. As 2 Samuel continues, we see David's flaws and the consequences that result from his sins. David commits adultery with Bathsheba, has her husband killed, and the child conceived in their adultery dies. Turmoil continues in David's household as one son (Amnon) violates his half-sister and is then killed by the girl's full brother (Absalom) in revenge. 2 Samuel also share Absalom political takeover of David's throne ending in his (Absalom's) death. Despite David's flaws and great sins, he truly had a heart for God. King David, unlike many who followed him, never allowed idolatry to become an issue during his reign. He went directly to the Lord in the circumstances of his life, in prayer, praise and worship, as well as in repentance and sorrow over his sins. His life, dedicated to God, showed God's faithfulness, forgiveness, and favor. In addition, God establishes a covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7:16, “Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.” This Davidic covenant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, one of David's descendants.

So What? Why is this book so important? What was God's purpose for the book?

In 2 Samuel, we see in David's life that having a heart for God does not equate to leading a perfect life. The choices David made in his life led to great blessings in some instances and to severe and sad consequences in others. David acknowledged the Lord, not only in praise and worship, but he also turned to God in his failures, pouring out his heart in repentance before the Lord. The Lord, rich in mercy, forgave David and restored David to a right relationship with Him. The Lord knows that we are not perfect. Therefore, He sent His son Jesus to die for our sins that we might be restored to a right relationship with Him. God is worthy of our praise and worship. He has established an eternal throne for Jesus Christ and made a way for us to be with Him for all eternity. God is Sovereign and there is none like Him. David knew this to be true as he proclaimed in 2 Samuel 7:22, “How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.” May our hearts also proclaim this truth.

**Material taken from various sources.*

Teaching Text

2 Sam 7:18-24 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: "Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a mere human! ²⁰ "What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign LORD. ²¹ For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

Sermon-Based Discussion Questions

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Practical Application

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Hitting the Highpoints

- 2 Sam 2:16
- 2 Sam 12:7
- 2 Sam 1:25
- 2 Sam 7:18
- 2 Sam 18:33

Bonus Features

Personal Takeaways and Notes