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2 Samuel: A Study Outline

Old Testament Digest, Volume 2

From the *Old Testament Digest* of William MacDonald

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2 Samuel

A study outline from William MacDonald's *Old Testament Digest, Volume 2* · online: kee-ministry-library.netlify.app/.../outline/2-samuel

Overview of 2 Samuel

Second Samuel is the story of David's forty years as king over God's people: his rise to power, his sins, and the troubles that followed. MacDonald traces David from his lament over Saul and Jonathan, through his reign at Hebron and then over all Israel from Jerusalem, God's covenant promising him an everlasting throne, and his fall with Bathsheba. The second half follows the sword that never departed from his house, Amnon, Absalom and Sheba, and closes with appendices that include his song of deliverance, his last words and the threshing floor of Araunah.

Key themes

- Waiting on God's timing rather than seizing the throne
- God's unconditional covenant with David and his everlasting throne
- Grace to the undeserving, pictured in Mephibosheth
- Sin forgiven, but its consequences reaped
- Seeking God's guidance afresh for every battle
- Loyalty to a rejected king: Ittai, Hushai, Barzillai
- Worship that costs something (2 Samuel 24:24)

Christ in 2 Samuel. MacDonald sees David in his rejection and exile as a picture of Christ: crossing the Kidron as David's greater Son would later do on the way to Gethsemane, and served by loyal friends like Ittai, who would follow the king "for death or for life." David's warfare prepared for Solomon's temple as Christ's suffering and victory prepare for His glory and for the church, God's true temple. God's covenant in chapter 7 will be fulfilled when Christ, the Son of David, returns to reign. The song of chapter 22 is read as a Messianic psalm (quoted in Hebrews 2:13 and Romans 15:9), and David's last words describe the ideal ruler, the Messiah. Ahithophel, the trusted counselor who betrayed the king and hanged himself, is a type of Judas.

Read 2 Samuel in the NET Bible: 2 Samuel 1 · MacDonald's full commentary: 2 Samuel in the Digest

MacDonald's Outline of 2 Samuel

I. David's Rise to Power (2 Samuel 1–10)
- A. Lament over Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1)
- B. Coronation as king of Judah (2 Samuel 2:1–7)
- C. Conflict with Saul's house (2 Samuel 2:8–4:12)
- D. Coronation as king of all Israel (2 Samuel 5)
- E. The ark brought to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6)
- F. God's covenant with David (2 Samuel 7)
- G. Defeat of Israel's enemies (2 Samuel 8)
- H. Compassion shown to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)

II. Further conquests (2 Samuel 10)

III. David's Fall (2 Samuel 11–12)
- A. Crimes against Bathsheba and Uriah (2 Samuel 11)
- B. Confession to the Lord (2 Samuel 12)

IV. David's Troubles (2 Samuel 13–20)
- A. Rape of Tamar by Amnon (2 Samuel 13:1–19)
- B. Revenge by Absalom on Amnon, and flight of Absalom (2 Samuel 13:20–39)
- C. Return of Absalom to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 14)
- D. Revolt of Absalom and David's flight (2 Samuel 15–18)
- E. David's return from exile (2 Samuel 19)
- F. Rebellion of Sheba and his death (2 Samuel 20)

V. Appendices (2 Samuel 21–24)
- A. The famine and its termination (2 Samuel 21)
- B. Song of thanksgiving (2 Samuel 22)
- C. David's mighty men (2 Samuel 23)
- D. Sinful numbering of the people (2 Samuel 24)

1 · David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

2 Samuel 1

MacDonald shows David executing the Amalekite who claimed to have killed Saul, and mourning Saul and Jonathan in the Song of the Bow.

I. News of Saul's death at Ziklag — 2 Samuel 1:1–10
- A. The Amalekite's story conflicts with 1 Samuel 31; most likely a lie

II. The messenger executed for slaying the Lord's anointed — 2 Samuel 1:11–16
- A. Amalek, Israel's inveterate enemy (Exodus 17; 1 Samuel 15)

III. "The Song of the Bow" — 2 Samuel 1:17–18
- A. The book of Jashar, a collection of poems, not inspired (Joshua 10:13)

IV. The lament — 2 Samuel 1:19–27

A. "How are the mighty fallen!"

B. Together in death, but not to be pressed to eternal destiny — 2 Samuel 1:23

C. A loving eulogy of Jonathan — 2 Samuel 1:26

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 31 Exodus 17 1 Samuel 15 Joshua 10:13

LESSONS

- It was a mark of greatness that David wept, rather than rejoiced, at his enemy's death.

RELATED READING

- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 19 (Expository 1)* (John Nelson Darby) — Darby, "Thoughts on 2 Samuel"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Egypt-Canaan* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 1 →

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2 · David King at Hebron

2 Samuel 2

MacDonald describes David anointed over Judah, Abner setting up Ishbosheth over the rest, and the first battle of the civil war.

I. David inquires and goes to Hebron — 2 Samuel 2:1–4

A. Anointed king of Judah

II. Thanks to the men of Jabesh-gilead — 2 Samuel 2:5–7

III. Abner makes Ishbosheth king — 2 Samuel 2:8–11

A. 7½ years in Hebron; Ishbosheth's two years

IV. David leaves the matter with the Lord

A. As Christ waits for every knee to bow (Philippians 2:10–11)

V. The contest at the pool of Gibeon — 2 Samuel 2:12–17

VI. Asahel slain by Abner — 2 Samuel 2:18–23

VII. Truce at Ammah — 2 Samuel 2:24–32

CROSS REFERENCES

Philippians 2:10–11

LESSONS

- If God has anointed, God will subdue the enemies and give the kingdom in His time.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Articles by James Blackwood* (James Blackwood)
- *Jeremiah and Lamentations* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 2 →

3 · Abner Comes Over, and Is Murdered

2 Samuel 3

MacDonald follows Abner's quarrel with Ishbosheth, his move to David, and Joab's treacherous murder of him.

I. David's house strengthens; six sons by six wives — 2 Samuel 3:1–5
  A. Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah would grieve him

II. Abner and Ishbosheth quarrel over Rizpah — 2 Samuel 3:6–11

III. Michal returned to David — 2 Samuel 3:12–16

IV. Abner wins the tribes for David — 2 Samuel 3:17–21

V. Joab murders Abner in Hebron — 2 Samuel 3:22–30
  A. A city of refuge where Abner deserved a trial (Numbers 35:22–25)

VI. David mourns Abner but does not punish Joab — 2 Samuel 3:31–39

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 35:22–25 Psalm 76:10

LESSONS

- God uses the sin and intrigue of men to accomplish His purposes, making even their wrath praise Him.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Articles by James Blackwood* (James Blackwood)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Articles by Unknown Authors* (Author Unknown)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 3 →

4 · The Murder of Ishbosheth

2 Samuel 4

MacDonald shows David punishing the assassins who expected a reward for killing Saul's son.

I. Ishbosheth's house weakened — 2 Samuel 4:1

II. Mephibosheth, lame from childhood — 2 Samuel 4:4

III. Rechab and Baanah kill Ishbosheth at noon — 2 Samuel 4:5–7

IV. They bring his head to David — 2 Samuel 4:8
  A. God needs no murderers to fulfill His promises

V. The assassins executed — 2 Samuel 4:9–12

LESSONS

- God would not lead men to break His law in order to enthrone His king.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *The Book of Genesis* (James Gunn)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 4 →

5 · King over All Israel

2 Samuel 5

MacDonald describes David's third anointing, the capture of Jerusalem, and two victories over the Philistines won by seeking fresh guidance.

I. All Israel anoints David at Hebron — 2 Samuel 5:1–5
   A. His third anointing; 33 years over the united nation

II. Zion taken from the Jebusites — 2 Samuel 5:6–10
   A. Through the water shaft; Joab leads (1 Chronicles 11)

III. Hiram builds David a house — 2 Samuel 5:11–12

IV. More wives and sons — 2 Samuel 5:13–16
   A. Against Deuteronomy 17:17; the royal line through Solomon

V. Victory at Baal-perazim — 2 Samuel 5:17–21

VI. The sound in the balsam trees — 2 Samuel 5:22–25

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 16:13 · 1 Chronicles 12:23–40 · 1 Chronicles 11 · Deuteronomy 17:17 · 1 Chronicles 14:12

LESSONS

- David did not assume that God's guidance for one battle would be the same for the next; we must constantly seek His will.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Men of the Mountains & Valleys* (T. Ernest Wilson)
- *Jerusalem* (Gordon Franz)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 5 →

6 · The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

2 Samuel 6

MacDonald contrasts the disaster of the new cart with the joyful, scriptural return of the ark, and Michal's scorn of David's dancing.

I. The ark on a new cart — 2 Samuel 6:1–5
   A. To be carried by the Kohathites on staves (Numbers 7:9)

II. Uzzah struck down — 2 Samuel 6:6–7
   A. Not even priests were to touch it (Numbers 4:15)
   B. The nearer to God, the more solemnly judged

III. Three months in Obed-edom's house — 2 Samuel 6:8–11

IV. Brought up the right way, with sacrifice and dancing — 2 Samuel 6:12–15
   A. David had searched the Scriptures (1 Chronicles 15:13–15)

V. Michal's contempt and her barrenness — 2 Samuel 6:16–23

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 7:9 · Numbers 4:15 · 1 Chronicles 13:9 · 1 Chronicles 15:13–15 · Psalm 68

LESSONS

- We lack a sense of God's awesome holiness when we feel free to judge Him.

- A critical spirit produces barrenness.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Men of the Mountains & Valleys* (T. Ernest Wilson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 6 →

7 · God's Covenant with David

2 Samuel 7

MacDonald explains God's refusal to let David build the temple and His unconditional covenant of an everlasting house and throne.

I. David's desire to build — 2 Samuel 7:1–3
  A. Nathan agrees without consulting the Lord

II. The Lord's answer — 2 Samuel 7:4–11
  A. A tent suited a people on the move

III. The Davidic covenant — 2 Samuel 7:12–16
  A. A son to build the house; his throne forever
  B. Chastening, but loving-kindness never withdrawn
  C. Fulfilled when Christ returns to reign

IV. David's prayer of wonder — 2 Samuel 7:18–29
  A. At the past, the present and the future

LESSONS

- David's work was fighting, Solomon's was building; Christ's suffering prepares for His glory, and the church is being built now.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Articles by Gordon Franz* (Gordon Franz)
- *Messianic Passages* (Gordon Franz)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 7 →

8 · David's Victories

2 Samuel 8

MacDonald summarizes David's conquests that enlarged Israel's borders and the officers of his kingdom.

I. Philistines subdued; Gath taken — 2 Samuel 8:1

II. Moab subdued — 2 Samuel 8:2

III. Hadadezer of Zobah and the Syrians — 2 Samuel 8:3–8

IV. Gifts from Toi of Hamath; spoil dedicated to the Lord — 2 Samuel 8:9–12

V. Edom garrisoned — 2 Samuel 8:13–14
  A. Differences with 1 Chronicles 18 explained

VI. David's officers — 2 Samuel 8:15–18
  A. The Abiathar/Ahimelech names, likely transposed

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 18 1 Samuel 21:10–15 1 Samuel 22:20

LESSONS

- Treasure won in war was dedicated to the Lord and later used for His house.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Papers on the Pentateuch* (William Kelly)
- *The Book of Genesis* (James Gunn)
- *Isaiah* (F. C. Jennings)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 8 →

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9 · Kindness to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9

MacDonald presents David seeking out Jonathan's lame son and seating him at the king's table as a picture of salvation by grace.

I. David remembers his covenant with Jonathan — 2 Samuel 9:1
   A. See — 1 Samuel 20:14–17

II. Ziba tells of Mephibosheth in Lo-debar — 2 Samuel 9:2–4

III. Brought to the king and given everything — 2 Samuel 9:5–13

IV. A picture of the gospel
   A. Lo-debar, "no pasture"; Machir, "sold"
   B. Lame and unable to come; sought out by the king
   C. A place at the king's table, like one of his sons

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 20:14–17

LESSONS

- By grace helpless and hopeless sinners are raised to a place in God's family and made joint-heirs with Christ.

RELATED READING

- *Life of Christ* (Gordon Franz) — Franz, "Mephibosheth: An Overcomer's Forerunner"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *Unless Ye Repent* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 9 →

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10 · War with Ammon and Syria

2 Samuel 10

MacDonald describes Hanun's insult to David's envoys and the war against the Ammonites and their hired Syrians.

I. David's kindness to Hanun rejected — 2 Samuel 10:1–5

II. Ammon hires the Syrians — 2 Samuel 10:6–8
   A. The numbers reconciled with 1 Chronicles 19:6–7 (Haley)

III. Joab and Abishai fight on two fronts — 2 Samuel 10:9–14

IV. The Syrians beaten at Helam and make peace — 2 Samuel 10:15–19

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 11 1 Chronicles 19

LESSONS

- Kindness rejected becomes the occasion of judgment.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Papers on the Pentateuch* (William Kelly)
- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *Lectures on the Minor Prophets* (William Kelly)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 10 →

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11 · David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11

MacDonald traces David's fall from idleness to adultery to the murder of Uriah.

I. At home when kings go to war — 2 Samuel 11:1
   A. Times of idleness are often times of greatest temptation

II. Adultery with Bathsheba — 2 Samuel 11:2–5

III. The plot to cover the sin — 2 Samuel 11:6–13
   A. Uriah's loyalty puts the king to shame

IV. Uriah's death warrant in his own hand — 2 Samuel 11:14–17

V. Joab's report and David's callous answer — 2 Samuel 11:18–25

VI. Bathsheba taken as wife — 2 Samuel 11:26–27

CROSS REFERENCES

Judges 9:50–55

LESSONS

- Scripture gives us an honest, uncut view of God's people as they really were.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Intermediate Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Living Discipleship Principles* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 11 →

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12 · Nathan's Rebuke and David's Repentance

2 Samuel 12

MacDonald describes Nathan's parable, David's confession, the death of the child, and the birth of Solomon.

I. The parable of the ewe lamb — 2 Samuel 12:1–6

II. "Thou art the man" — 2 Samuel 12:7–12
   A. The sword will never depart from his house

III. "I have sinned against the Lord" — 2 Samuel 12:13–14
   A. Forgiven, but he would restore fourfold (Exodus 22:1)

IV. The child's death — 2 Samuel 12:15–23
   A. "I shall go to him": comfort for bereaved parents (Matthew 19:14)

V. Solomon, called Jedidiah — 2 Samuel 12:24–25

VI. Rabbah taken — 2 Samuel 12:26–31

CROSS REFERENCES

Psalm 32 Psalm 51 Exodus 22:1 Matthew 19:14 1 Kings 2

LESSONS

- Before the blow, David prayed, knowing God's mercy; after it, he worshiped, knowing God's righteousness.
- A man puts away his sin when he sincerely confesses it, and then God also puts it away.

RELATED READING

- *Articles by Samuel Taylor* (Samuel Taylor) — Samuel Taylor, "Great David's Greater Sin"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Intermediate Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 12 →

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13 · Amnon, Tamar and Absalom

2 Samuel 13

MacDonald shows the sword entering David's house: Amnon's crime against Tamar and Absalom's revenge.

I. Amnon's lust and Jonadab's plan — 2 Samuel 13:1–5

II. Tamar violated, then hated — 2 Samuel 13:6–19

A. Lust and hatred are closely related

III. Tamar desolate in Absalom's house — 2 Samuel 13:20

A. Lust hurts the innocent as well as the guilty

IV. David angry but does nothing — 2 Samuel 13:21

A. His own sin had tied his hands

V. Absalom kills Amnon at the sheep-shearing — 2 Samuel 13:22–36

VI. Absalom flees to Geshur — 2 Samuel 13:37–39

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 3:1

LESSONS

- Willful sin robs us of moral freedom and liberty to speak.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Articles by H. A. Knecht* (H. A. Knecht)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *Articles by William MacDonald* (William MacDonald)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 13 →

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14 · Absalom Brought Back

2 Samuel 14

MacDonald describes Joab's scheme through the woman of Tekoa and David's weak restoration of an unrepentant son.

I. Joab perceives the king's heart — 2 Samuel 14:1

II. The woman of Tekoa's story — 2 Samuel 14:2–11

III. She applies it to David and Absalom — 2 Samuel 14:12–17

A. "God devises means that his banished be not expelled" — 2 Samuel 14:14

IV. Absalom returns, but does not see the king — 2 Samuel 14:18–24

V. Absalom's beauty and hair — 2 Samuel 14:25–27

VI. Joab's field burned; father and son reunited — 2 Samuel 14:28–33

LESSONS

- David spared his son's life, and his son schemed his father's death.
- To restore the unrepentant is not mercy but weakness.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Collected Messages of Dan Snaddon* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Notes on the Minor Prophets* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 14 →

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15 · Absalom's Revolt and David's Flight

2 Samuel 15

MacDonald follows Absalom stealing hearts at the gate, the conspiracy at Hebron, and David's tearful flight across the Kidron.

I. Absalom steals the hearts of Israel — 2 Samuel 15:1–6

II. The revolt proclaimed at Hebron — 2 Samuel 15:7–12

A. Ahithophel, Bathsheba's grandfather, joins him

III. David flees Jerusalem — 2 Samuel 15:13–18

IV. Ittai's loyalty — 2 Samuel 15:19–22

A. "In what place my lord the king shall be ... there also will thy servant be"

V. Over the Kidron — 2 Samuel 15:23

A. Christ later crossed it as a rejected King (John 18:1)

VI. The ark sent back — 2 Samuel 15:24–29

VII. Up the Mount of Olives, weeping; Hushai sent back — 2 Samuel 15:30–37

A. Read Psalm 3, written at this time

CROSS REFERENCES

John 18:1 Psalm 3

LESSONS

- Believers should show the same devotion to the King of kings during His rejection as Ittai showed to David.
- David submitted meekly to what God allowed instead of becoming bitter.

RELATED READING

- *Articles by J. G. Bellett* (J. G. Bellett) — Bellett, "Absalom"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *Dr. Ironside's Bible* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 15 →

16 · Ziba, Shimei and Ahithophel's Counsel

2 Samuel 16

MacDonald describes Ziba's slander, Shimei's curses borne patiently, and Absalom's public insult to his father.

I. Ziba's gift and lie about Mephibosheth — 2 Samuel 16:1–4

II. Shimei curses David — 2 Samuel 16:5–8

III. David restrains Abishai — 2 Samuel 16:9–14

A. "Let him curse ... the Lord hath bidden him"

IV. Hushai received by Absalom — 2 Samuel 16:15–19

V. Ahithophel's first counsel: the concubines — 2 Samuel 16:20–23

A. Nathan's prophecy fulfilled (2 Samuel 12:11–12)

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Samuel 19:27 2 Samuel 12:11–12

LESSONS

- David accepted reproach as possibly from the Lord and hoped for His mercy.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Studies on Book One of Psalms* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Advanced Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 16 →

17 · Ahithophel's Counsel Defeated

2 Samuel 17

MacDonald shows God answering David's prayer by turning Absalom from Ahithophel's plan to Hushai's.

I. Ahithophel's plan: strike now with 12,000 — 2 Samuel 17:1–4

II. Hushai's counter-plan — 2 Samuel 17:5–14

A. As David had prayed (2 Samuel 15:31)

III. The priests' sons carry word to David — 2 Samuel 17:15–22

IV. Ahithophel hangs himself — 2 Samuel 17:23

A. A type of Judas Iscariot

V. Absalom crosses the Jordan; Amasa his captain — 2 Samuel 17:24–26

VI. Shobi, Machir and Barzillai bring supplies — 2 Samuel 17:27–29

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Samuel 15:31 John 1:11 1 Kings 2:7

LESSONS

- Christ will not forget those who minister to Him in His rejection; they will be honored in His kingdom.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Articles by Gordon Franz* (Gordon Franz)
- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *Articles by James Naismith* (James Naismith)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 17 →

18 · The Death of Absalom

2 Samuel 18

MacDonald tells of the battle in the forest of Ephraim, Absalom caught by his hair, and David's anguished grief.

I. The army divided; "deal gently with Absalom" — 2 Samuel 18:1–5

II. The battle in the wood — 2 Samuel 18:6–8

III. Absalom caught in the oak — 2 Samuel 18:9

  A. The pride of his life became his downfall

IV. Joab kills Absalom — 2 Samuel 18:10–15

V. A heap of stones instead of a monument — 2 Samuel 18:16–18

VI. Ahimaaz and the Cushite run — 2 Samuel 18:19–32

VII. "O my son Absalom!" — 2 Samuel 18:33

LESSONS

- David consistently refused to punish his sons' crimes, so the task fell to someone else.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Articles by Gordon Franz* (Gordon Franz)
- *Collected Messages of Dan Snaddon* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 18 →

19 · David's Return to Jerusalem

2 Samuel 19

MacDonald describes Joab's rebuke, the return of the king, and the true and false hearts revealed at the Jordan.

I. Victory turned to mourning; Joab's rebuke — 2 Samuel 19:1–8

II. "Why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?" — 2 Samuel 19:9–10

  A. An appropriate question for a sleeping church today

III. Judah invited; Amasa replaces Joab — 2 Samuel 19:11–15

IV. Shimei's apology — 2 Samuel 19:16–23

V. Mephibosheth's loyalty — 2 Samuel 19:24–30

  A. "Let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again"

VI. Barzillai's gracious refusal — 2 Samuel 19:31–39

VII. Judah and Israel quarrel over the king — 2 Samuel 19:40–43

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 2:8–9

LESSONS

- The true heart cares more for the King's return than for its own rights.

RELATED READING

- *Life of Christ* (Gordon Franz) — Franz on Mephibosheth

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 19 →

20 · The Revolt of Sheba

2 Samuel 20

MacDonald recounts Sheba's brief rebellion, Joab's murder of Amasa, and the wise woman of Abel.

I. Sheba: "We have no part in David" — 2 Samuel 20:1–2

II. The ten concubines shut up — 2 Samuel 20:3

III. Amasa slow to muster — 2 Samuel 20:4–7

IV. Joab murders Amasa at Gibeon — 2 Samuel 20:8–13

V. The wise woman of Abel — 2 Samuel 20:14–22

A. Negotiation before destruction (Deuteronomy 20:10)

VI. David's officers — 2 Samuel 20:23–26

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 20:10

LESSONS

- A wise word in season can save a whole city.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Articles by James Blackwood* (James Blackwood)
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 20 →

21 · The Gibeonites Avenged; Giants Slain

2 Samuel 21

MacDonald explains the famine sent because Saul broke Joshua's oath to the Gibeonites, Rizpah's vigil, and battles with Philistine giants.

I. Three years of famine — 2 Samuel 21:1

A. Saul broke the oath sworn to Gibeon (Joshua 9:19–20)

II. Seven of Saul's descendants given up — 2 Samuel 21:2–9

III. Rizpah's vigil — 2 Samuel 21:10

IV. Saul and Jonathan reburied — 2 Samuel 21:11–14

V. Four Philistine giants slain — 2 Samuel 21:15–22

A. David nearly killed; no longer allowed into battle

CROSS REFERENCES

Joshua 9:19–20 1 Chronicles 20:5

LESSONS

- Time does not dull God's memory or His sense of justice.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Articles by Edwin Fesche* (Edwin Fesche)

- *Papers on the Church* (William Kelly)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 21 →

22 · David's Song of Deliverance

2 Samuel 22

MacDonald reads David's psalm of praise, found also in Psalm 18, as a Messianic psalm of death, resurrection and the coming kingdom.

I. Praise for answered prayer — 2 Samuel 22:2–4

II. Death closing in on the Savior — 2 Samuel 22:5–7

III. God warring against the hosts of hell — 2 Samuel 22:8–20

IV. Reasons God raised Messiah from the dead — 2 Samuel 22:21–30

V. Messiah's second advent and victory — 2 Samuel 22:31–43

VI. The glorious kingdom of the Messiah — 2 Samuel 22:44–51

CROSS REFERENCES

Psalm 18 Hebrews 2:13 Romans 15:9

LESSONS

- The New Testament applies this psalm to Christ.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Facts and Theories as to a Future State* (F. W. Grant)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Worship and Remembrance, Volume 4* (Daniel Smith)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 22 →

23 · David's Last Words and Mighty Men

2 Samuel 23

MacDonald covers David's last inspired song of the coming righteous Ruler and the roll of his mighty men.

I. The last words of David — 2 Samuel 23:1–7

A. The ideal ruler, a dawn after the night

B. David did not fit the picture, but the covenant assured him

II. The first three: Adino, Eleazar, Shammah — 2 Samuel 23:8–12

III. The water from Bethlehem's well — 2 Samuel 23:13–17

A. Poured out to the Lord as too costly to drink

IV. Abishai and Benaiah — 2 Samuel 23:18–23

V. The thirty, ending with Uriah — 2 Samuel 23:24–39

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 11:11–47

LESSONS

- Those close to Jesus hear the longings of His heart for the nations and risk their lives to satisfy them.
- Christ takes note of His mighty men; whatever our rank, let us fight the good fight of faith.

RELATED READING

- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 16 (Practical 1)* (John Nelson Darby) — Darby, "The Last Words of David"
- *Articles by C. H. Mackintosh* (C. H. Mackintosh) — Mackintosh, "David's Companions and Paul's Friends"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Things to Come* (John R. Caldwell)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 23 →

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24 · The Census and the Threshing Floor

2 Samuel 24

MacDonald explains David's proud census, the plague, and the altar on Araunah's threshing floor, the future temple site.

I. Satan moves David to number Israel — 2 Samuel 24:1
  A. Compare — 1 Chronicles 21:1

II. Joab objects; the census taken — 2 Samuel 24:2–9
  A. No ransom paid (Exodus 30:12–13)

III. David's conviction; three choices — 2 Samuel 24:10–14
  A. "Let us fall now into the hand of the Lord"

IV. The plague stopped at Araunah's floor — 2 Samuel 24:15–17

V. The threshing floor bought — 2 Samuel 24:18–25
  A. "Neither will I offer … of that which doth cost me nothing"
  B. Mount Moriah, the site of the temple

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 21:1 Exodus 30:12–13 1 Chronicles 21:25 Psalm 40:1–3

LESSONS

- True worship costs something.
- Few men walked closer to God, few fell deeper into sin, but through it all David was sustained by the Lord.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Advanced Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *Articles by Jean Gibson* (Jean Gibson)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 24 →

Further reading on 2 Samuel

In the Faithful Men Library

- *Notes on 2 Samuel* (William Kelly)
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 19 (Expository 1)* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, Volume 1: Genesis to 2 Chronicles* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Miscellaneous Writings, Volume 4* (C. H. Mackintosh)
- *Miscellaneous Writings, Volume 4* (C. H. Mackintosh)
- *Articles by J. G. Bellett* (J. G. Bellett)
- *Articles by Leslie S. Rainey* (Leslie S. Rainey)

On plymouthbrethren.org

- "2 Samuel" (William Kelly, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "2 Samuel" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Thoughts On 2 Samuel" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "The Life and Times of David - B" (C. H. Mackintosh, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "The Life and Times of David - C" (C. H. Mackintosh, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Absalom" (J. G. Bellett, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Mephibosheth: An Overcomers Forerunner" (Gordon Franz, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Great David's Greater Sin" (Samuel Taylor, plymouthbrethren.org)
- ""The Last Words Of David"" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)

Every library book that cites 2 Samuel: Scripture index — 2 Samuel

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