

Part 3: UNITED KINGDOM

LESSON 13: DAVID'S TROUBLES CONTINUE, 2 SAMUEL 13-24

2 Samuel 13	AMNON
2 SAMUEL 14	JOAB
2 SAMUEL 15	ABSALOM
2 SAMUEL 16	ESCAPE
2 SAMUEL 17	HUSHAI
2 SAMUEL 18	DEATH
2 SAMUEL 19	RESTORATION
2 SAMUEL 20	SHEBA
2 SAMUEL 21	GIBEON
2 SAMUEL 22	PSALM
2 Samuel 23	MIGHTY MEN
2 Samuel 24	CENSUS

13 = "BAD" NUMBER = BAD SON

FOURTEEN = BEFORE THE KING

FIFTEEN = "IF I WERE KING"

SIXTEEN = SAD SCENE

SEVENTEEN = **SAVIN'** THE KING

EIGHTEEN = FATE OF THE KING (ABSALOM)

NINETEEN = MINE IS THE KINGDOM

TWENTY = BICHRI → SHEBA

TWENTY-ONE = GIBEON

TWENTY-TWO = **HE'LL SING FOR** YOU

TWENTY-THREE = MIGHTY THREE / DR. P

TWENTY-FOUR = THRESHING FLOOR

1. Just as he pronounced fourfold restitution on the rich man of Nathan's parable, David loses four sons (i.e., the son of Bathsheba, Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah). How did Amnon die, and why? (2 Sam 13:1-39)

NOTE: The Greek OT here renders the Hebrew word *'āhab* ("love") with *agapaō* [vv. 1, 4, 15, 21], which demonstrates that the Greek word for love does not always mean "selfless goodwill."

As a father, what strengths and weaknesses does David display?

2. How does Joab convince David to bring Absalom out of exile? (2 Sam 14:1-24)

Why does Joab want Absalom to return?

How does Scripture describe Absalom? (vv. 25-27)

OPTIONAL: What does the name *Absalom* mean?

What scheme does Absalom use to come again before David? (vv. 28-33)

**3. How does Absalom steal the hearts of the people of Israel?
(2 Sam 15:1-12)**

When he learns of the conspiracy of Absalom, what does David do? (vv. 13-37)

**After he passes the Mount of Olives, who approaches David and suggests that Mephibosheth is part of the conspiracy?
(16:1-4)**

Who curses David, and how does David respond? (vv. 5-14)

4. After Absalom arrives in Jerusalem, what does Ahithophel counsel him to do to the concubines of David, and why? (2 Sam 16:15-23; cf. 12:11; 15:16)

NOTE: The response of Hushai to Absalom is ambiguous, making it sound as though he is now loyal to Absalom when he is actually still loyal to David (16:18-19).

5. Whose advice to Absalom is more strategic (from a political and military perspective), Ahithophel's or Hushai's? (2 Sam 17:1-29)

Why does Hushai dismiss the counsel of Ahithophel? (v. 14; cf. 15:32-37)

What happens to Ahithophel?

6. Summarize the civil war between David and Absalom (2 Sam 18:1-33).

How does David's grief over Absalom affect the people, and what does Joab expect of David? (19:1-15)

What does David do to/for Shimei, Mephiboseth, and Barzillai? (vv. 16-39)

Are Judah and Israel at peace? Explain (vv. 40-43; 20:1-26).

7. Why does a famine afflict Israel for three years, and what does David do to fix the problem? (2 Sam 21:1-14; cf. Josh 9:15-27)

Whom does David spare, and why? (2 Sam 21:7)

With what nation does Israel fight again? (vv. 15-22)

Why do the soldiers of David forbid him from going into battle with them thereafter? (v. 17; cf. 22:29; Ps 18:29; 132:17; 1 Kgs 11:36; 15:4; 2 Kgs 8:19; 2 Chron 21:7; Rev 21:23; 22:5)

OPTIONAL: Summarize 2 Sam 22 (cf. Ps 18) and 23:1-7.

8. Compare 2 Sam 24 and 1 Chron 21.

Why does God send a plague on Israel?

Where does David build an altar and sacrifice?

What is significant about this place? (1 Chron 22:1; 2 Chron 3:1)

NOTE: The Chronicler follows the account of the pestilence with an extended discussion of David's preparations for the temple in Jerusalem and of his coregency with Solomon (1 Chron 22-29).

CHALLENGE: The sin of David had lifelong consequences. Rather than get out in front of these consequences and lead his family, David seems to have become a passive parent. Whomever you influence (e.g., child, grandchild, friend), lead him or her by teaching him or her from your own successes and failures. Schedule a time to visit with your "son" or "daughter" about his or her spiritual condition.

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