

## **Triumph and Tragedy**

2 Samuel Overview

(preached Pine Grove 3/8/15; Sunday PM)

### **Introduction**

It is no secret that I am a sports fan.

I enjoy a wide range of sports, and I love to participate in them as well.

But my favorite sport to watch is football, especially college football.

And my fascination with it comes from the fact that you only play a small number of games each year.

Though it may seem like a lot to you wives, it is still a small number of games compared to other sports.

And the pressure is higher in these games because so much is at stake in every game.

Because the best team in college football has to be perfect or very near perfect and win most games if not every game.

So, the team has this pressure every week to stay unbeaten.

Most likely, they will need to be perfect to win the national championship that year.

That is why the start of the season in late August/early September is so much fun.

Because at the start, everyone is perfect.

No team starts the season with a loss, and so they all have hope for a championship.

And with each victory, the anticipation mounts.

This is the year.

1-0, 2-0, 3-0...the wins keep piling up with no losses...

Things are looking great 5 win and no losses...

6 wins...

It is all looking so good, then the unthinkable happens...

They get beat.

The fans are crushed.

The dream season is done.

And what is the cry of the fans?

“Wait til next season.”

In a lot of ways, that is a summary of the book of 2 Samuel.

Israel gets a king in David.

And it is looking real good for them.

Maybe, this is the king that they have waited for to lead them into battle and defeat all their enemies.

Then about halfway into the book, David falls headlong into sin.

He commits adultery and he murders.

Just when it looked like an undefeated kingship, sin rears its ugly head and David falls.

And Israel's hopes for a dream king die.

And they are forced to wait for another king to come...

2 Samuel is the story of David's Triumphs, Transgressions, and Troubles....

And that is how I have outlined it for us tonight...

**I. The Triumphs of David (1-10)**

- A. Reign over Judah (1-4)
- B. Reign over Israel (5-10)

**II. The Transgressions of David (11-12)**

- A. Adultery (11:1-5)
- B. Murder (11:6-26)
- C. Judgment (12)

**III. The Troubles of David (13-24)**

- A. Family problems (13-20)
- B. Kingdom problems (21-24)

## **I. The Triumphs of David (1-10)**

### **A. Reign over Judah (1-4)**

So, let's begin our look at 2 Samuel in chapter 1.

When we left off in 1 Samuel last week, we saw the death of Saul, who was Israel's first king.

No to get our minds into gear, we are journeying through the Bible one book at a time.

We have seen God create the world and then create man to rule over it.

However, Adam and Eve disobey God and give up their right to rule creation.

Because of that action in Genesis 3, God sets in motion a plan to bring about his original plan but it will take some time.

So, in Genesis 12, God goes to Abraham and makes 3 very important promises to him.

He is going to make Abraham's family tree into a great nation with a great land.

And God is also going to bring a blessing to the whole world through Abraham.

That nation is going to be the nation of Israel, who will exist to declare God's glory to the nations.

But more importantly, Israel will be the nation who brings Jesus to the world.

And for the past few weeks as we have looked at Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel...

We are really reading a history of the nation of Israel.

And a short history of Israel would be this.

Grew into a large nation in Egypt.

God leads them out of Egypt and give them His Law.

Go into the Land.

Grieve God with Disobedience.

Governed by Judges.

Give us a king!

Get a king.

And in this history of the nation, we have been seeing some valuable lessons...

1) Man is sinful.

2) God is patient and merciful.

3) God is just.

4) God's promises are kept.

Nation and land promises are fulfilled.

God is working to bring Jesus to the world.

So, last week Israel got the king that they wanted even though it may have not been a wise choice.

And we watched that first king, Saul, disobey God right away.

So, God takes the kingdom away from him and sends Samuel to anoint David king over Israel.

And the rest of the book of 1 Samuel was concerned with watching Saul fall into greater sin...

And eventually commit suicide in the final chapter of 1 Samuel.

And when we get to 2 Samuel, David hears of Saul's death.

Now contained in this account of David receiving the news of Saul's death is a fascinating story about the importance of being truthful.

Let me read this beginning in 2 Samuel...

*Then David said to him, "From where do you come?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." <sup>4</sup> David said to him, "How did things go? Please tell me." And he said, "The people have fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also." <sup>5</sup> So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" <sup>6</sup> The young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and behold, Saul was leaning on his spear. And behold, the chariots and the horsemen pursued him closely. <sup>7</sup> When he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I said, 'Here I am.' <sup>8</sup> He said to me, 'Who are you?' And I <sup>[b]</sup> answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, 'Please stand beside me and kill me, for agony has seized me because my <sup>[c]</sup> life still lingers in me.' <sup>10</sup> So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown which was on his head and the bracelet which was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."*

What do we know about how Saul died?

The last chapter of 1 Samuel says that Saul fell on his own sword.

It was an act of suicide, so why would this young boy say that he killed Saul?

In his mind, he thought that David would reward him since Saul was an enemy of David?

So, let's see how David responds..... Verse 11...

***11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also did all the men who were with him. 12 They mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan and for the people of the Lord and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. 13 David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he <sup>[d]</sup>answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite." 14 Then David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" 15 And David called one of the young men and said, "Go, <sup>[e]</sup>cut him down." So he struck him and he died. 16 David said to him, "Your blood is on your head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.'"***

Regardless of what personal issues that David had with Saul, it was wrong to kill someone anointed by the Lord.

So, David killed the man who "said" he had killed Saul.

The lie told to make David like him become the lie that caused David to kill him.

Tell the truth. It may save your life.

And notice too that David mourns over Saul and his son dying.

We know that David and Johnathan were close, but why is David mourning over someone who wanted him dead?

Saul was still the man chosen by God as the first king of Israel, and David would not let his pride get in the way of grieving over the death of the king.

And chapter 1 ends with David's song about the deaths of Saul and Johnathan.

In chapters 2 – 5, we see David's kingship of Israel begin.

It begins in the southern section of Israel, but by chapter 5, he became the king of all of Israel..

## **B. Reign over Israel (5-10)**

Let's look at that in the beginning of chapter 5...

*5 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and <sup>1</sup> said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. <sup>2</sup> Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and in. And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.'" <sup>3</sup> So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant*

*with them before the Lord at Hebron; then they anointed David king over Israel. <sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.*

Two things to note here...

First, this is a high point in Israel's history.

The nation is united under a single king.

Second, David establishes Jerusalem as the capital.

Very important because that is where the true king will reign from one day.

And Jerusalem had never been captured until David captures it here.

And the reason it had never been captured?

It is situated on a hill and easily defended.

The Jebusites who lived there until David captured it would mock anyone who tried to fight them because it was nearly impossible to climb the hill.

Yet, David did it and he did it for one purpose...

God will one day set His Son on that hill to rule the world.

That brings us to chapter 6 and the ark of the covenant, which was a golden ark that represented God's presence with His people.

And in chapter 6, the ark comes to Jerusalem, and David decides to build a temple for the ark in the first few verses of chapter 7.

Which leads to the Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel 7.

Which was God's promise that a descendant of David would one day sit on the throne forever.

Now, all this talk of thrones and kings and rulers brings to mind a verse that we all need to constantly keep in the back of our minds..

Gen 1:26-28...

***26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the <sup>[ak]</sup>sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*** ***27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*** ***28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish***

*of the sea and over the birds of the <sup>[al]</sup>sky and over every living thing that <sup>[am]</sup>moves on the earth.”*

What was God’s purpose from the very beginning?

To have Someone who could rule his creation.

This was a command from God right after he made man.

And what is the Davidic Covenant.

It is God’s promise that Someone will rule His creation as God intended.

The ultimate descendant of David is Jesus Christ, and his ultimate purpose is to rule from a throne over God’s creation forever.

That is the glue that holds all the Bible together.

God desired a ruler, and God is going to bring about that Ruler.

God desired a king and he is going to bring forth a King forever.

And we see that right here in 2 Samuel 7..

Now, let us fast forward a 1000 years or so and turn to John 12:12...

Jesus has finished his ministry in the other areas of Israel, and now in chapter 12 of John, he is preparing to enter what city?

Jerusalem!

This is what we call the triumphal entry or Palm Sunday...

And listen to how John describes it....

***<sup>12</sup> On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel."***

***<sup>14</sup> Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, <sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."***

This is the promise of 2 Samuel 7..

David's descendant will be a king to rule to Jerusalem...

Except on this first visit, he didn't take the throne, he took the cross...

Now flip with me to Rev 19:11...

It is the end of the tribulation and all the nations of the earth have gathered in the valley of Meggido to fight against the Lord..

And then we read in verse 11...

***<sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will <sup>[d]</sup>rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the <sup>[e]</sup>wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."***

This should probably be called the Triumphant Entry!!

And the words there are so important...

Ruling....King of kings....

The language is so clear...

Just flip a page over to Revelation 20 verse 4...

***<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of <sup>[b]</sup>their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.***

What do we see here?

Jesus as a king reigning over the earth, the fulfilment of the promise in 2 Samuel

Then the final one in Rev 22:3...

***<sup>3</sup> There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; <sup>4</sup> they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will no longer be any night; and they <sup>[d]</sup>will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.***

This is the ultimate fulfilment of 2 Samuel as the God and the Lamb will reign forever and ever.

Isn't it amazing to see the idea of reigning, ruling, throne, kingdom, etc. all throughout the Bible?

Here we are in 2 Samuel, and God makes an eternal promise to set a descendant of David upon his throne forever...

And we can see that come true in Jesus' first coming, in Jesus' second coming and in the eternal state.

But let's get back and finish up 2 Samuel first.

So, God makes that promise to David...

And in the chapters that immediately follow, we see David's incredible conquests...

He is king that seems unstoppable until we get to chapter 11, which begins our second section of 2 Samuel....

We move from the TRIUMPHS of DAVID to...

## **II. The Transgressions of David (11-12)**

### **A. Adultery (11:1-5)**

There is little need to linger here.

Most are familiar with the story of David taking another man's wife.

In chapter 11, we learn that David should have been out to war with his men, but instead he stays behind and isolates himself.

And isolation often leads to temptation, which gives way to sin.

And that is what happened to David, he sins with Bathsheeba....

### **B. Murder (11:6-26)**

Then he tries to cover up his sin with her but killing her husband..

And in the matter of a just a few months, David has gone from triumph to tragedy...

It takes years to build character and minutes to lose all of it...

And now he faces....

## C. Judgment (12)

Incredibly, he is blinded to his own sin....

Flip to chapter 12 with me...

God sends his prophet named Nathan to David and Nathan opens up with a story...

Look at 2 Samuel 12:1...

*Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and <sup>[a]</sup>said,*

*“There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor.*

<sup>2</sup> *“The rich man had a great many flocks and herds.*

<sup>3</sup> *“But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb*

*Which he bought and nourished;*

*And it grew up together with him and his children.*

*It would eat of his <sup>[b]</sup>bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom,*

*And was like a daughter to him.*

<sup>4</sup> *“Now a traveler came to the rich man,*

*And he <sup>[c]</sup>was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd,*

*To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him;*

*Rather he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”*

Nathan tells a story of clear injustice.

A man who had plenty to spare is too selfish to give of what he has.

So, he goes and takes all that a poor man has and gives it away.

Look at David's response..

***<sup>5</sup> Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, surely the man who has done this <sup>[d]</sup>deserves to die. <sup>6</sup>He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion."***

And see how Nathan responds...

***<sup>7</sup> Nathan then said to David, "You are the man!"***

David had taken the wife of one of his own soldiers.

Though David has been blessed in every way imaginable, he took Uriah's treasured lamb of a wife.

That is how far blinded you can be by your own sin.

When someone else sins, -even though you may be doing the same sin,- you want justice for them!

Look what David said in verse 6...

That man needs to receive justice four times worse..

Well, better be careful what judgment you want to come to others because it may come to you...

And it did come to David in four ways....

If you look at the verses immediately after....

In verse 10, God says that the sword would never depart David's home, which meant his kids would fight with one another and they did!

In verse 11, God says that evil would come David's way....

In verse 11, David's wives will also be taken from him...

And then in verse 14, David is told that one of his children will die....

David wanted a man to be paid back four times for taking someone else's lamb...

And he is in fact paid back four times and many more for taking someone else's wife.

And what do we learn in just chapter 11?

Sin comes when we are where we shouldn't be and it comes in isolation.

Sin comes fast.

Sin leads to more sin.

Sin blinds our own eyes to it.

Sin has consequences.

People often ask about sin after salvation.

They often think that sin it is forgiven, what's really the harm?

And I always point to David.

David was a believer in God.

David is with God now.

None of this sin kept him out of heaven, but boy, it sure made life on earth so much harder.

If you are a believer, your sins have no eternal consequences, but they surely have earthly consequences..

The sword never left David's house.

He lost wives.

His kids fought.

He lost a child.

Who wants that in their life?

That's why we choose obedience.

And so from chapter 13 to the end of 2 Samuel, we move from DAVID'S TRANSGRESSIONS to..

### **III. The Troubles of David (13-24)**

#### **A. Family problems (13-20)**

#### **B. Kingdom problems (21-24)**

A summary of these chapters is fairly simple....

Family drama at its worst!!!

There is family rape, family murder, and family rebellion, where one of David's son even tried to take the kingdom from his father...

By engaging in some gross sins...

There can be no pain that compares with watching your family engage in evil and sin.

And for David, he lived with the constant thought that he had contributed to it in some way...

Though David eventually regains some control of his family and his kingship in the remaining chapters of 2 Samuel, it is never the same as before his sin...

We know that David was broken over his sin against God...

We know that he truly repented of it and God still blessed him...

In fact, that is the point of many of the psalms that David wrote in the book of Psalms.

David was certainly forgiven and even restored to a place of power...

The Bible even describes King David as a man after God's own heart...

And we read that after going through David's sin and wonder how could that ever be said of him?

But the question goes to us as well...

How can we be people after God's own heart knowing the sin that we committed..

And the answer is found in this...

God doesn't seek perfect people, but he does seek people who are contrite and broken hearted over their sin...

And furthermore, there are no perfect people; there is only One Perfect One.

That's why we hide in Christ through repentance and faith.

And we strive to live lives of obedience to Him, always being quick to confess our sin to God.

All the while clinging to the person of Christ.

## **Conclusion**

In the big picture, the book of 2 Samuel teaches an incredible lesson...

Even in the greatest of earthly kings, there is still an incredible depth of sin that separates them from God.

If David is the best a man can do, then it shows how far apart we are from holiness....

And it highlights in big flashing letters the need for Christ in our lives.

Earthly kings will never lead us to heaven only an eternal King can do that.

Let us pray.