

Study of 1 & 2 Samuel

Summer- Fall 2021

Class	Reading	Date
1. Samuel	1 Samuel 1-2	July 7
2. Eli is condemned	1 Samuel 3-4	July 14
3. Loss of the ark	1 Samuel 5-7	July 21
4. Return of the ark	1 Samuel 8-10	July 28
5. Saul	1 Samuel 11-12	August 4
6. Fall of Saul	1 Samuel 13-14	August 11
7. The Lord Departs Saul	1 Samuel 15	August 18
8. David the Shepherd	1 Samuel 16-17	August 25
9. Saul vs. David	1 Samuel 18-20	September 1
10. David fleeing	1 Samuel 21-22	September 8
11. David in Exile	1 Samuel 23-24	September 15
12. Abigail and David	1 Samuel 25-27	September 22
13. Saul and David Inquire	1 Samuel 28-30	September 29
14. End of Saul	1 Samuel 31- 2 Samuel 1	October 6
15. Ishbosheth and Abner	2 Samuel 2-4	October 13
16. David secures the Kingdom	2 Samuel 5-6	October 20
17. The Covenant of David	2 Samuel 7	October 27
18. David's Reign	2 Samuel 8-10	November 3
19. Bathsheba	2 Samuel 11-12	November 10
20. Amnon and Absalom	2 Samuel 13-14	November 17
21. Absalom's Rebellion	2 Samuel 15-16	November 24
22. Defeat of Absalom	2 Samuel 17-18	December 1
23. David Returns to Power	2 Samuel 19-20	December 8
24. War, Peace and David	2 Samuel 21-23	December 15
25. Numbering Israel	2 Samuel 24	December 22
26. End of David's Reign	2 Samuel 24 – 1 kings 1	December 29

1 Samuel 1-2

The Family of Elkanah

Is Elkanah a Levite or an Ephraimite?

In 1 Samuel 1:9, some translations use the word “temple” for the tabernacle. Why do you think this is?

Hannah’s Vow

Why is Hannah’s silent prayer important for us in terms of the mechanics of prayer?

What was Hannah’s vow?

Who else was a Nazarite from their birth? What similarities did these other men have with Samuel?

Samuel

Why was Samuel permitted to minister in the tabernacle before he was of age? What did the Law of Moses say?

The House of Eli

What roles did Eli have in serving Israel?

What did the Man of God say to Eli about his sons? What would happen to his house?

APPLICATIONS:

1. The power of prayer

Why would God hear Hannah’s prayer? What makes prayer effective?

2. The danger of rebellious children

Why do you think that Eli did not change after the prophet came?

1 Samuel 3-4

Samuel's Prophecy

What is unique about Samuel's age when he received his prophecy?

To whom else did God speak in a voice?

What was Eli's response to the message from Samuel?

What does it mean when it says that the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel by the Word of the Lord in 3:21?

The Loss of the Ark

Were the Israelites supposed to take the ark into battle? What might this decision reflect among the children of Israel?

What happened when Eli heard the news of the defeat of Israel?

APPLICATIONS:

1. Remember Shiloh

God would use this even in Jeremiah 7:12-14. Why is God destroying His own "House" and permitting His ark to be taken away? What is the significance of the loss of the ark?

1 Samuel 5-7

In the House of Dagon

Why might the Philistines bring the ark to their god's temple?

What happened in that temple?

What happened to the Philistine people while the ark remained?

Return of the Ark

What did the Philistine diviners decide about the ark?

Why would they decide to offer a trespass offering?

Why is the means of transportation so remarkable?

What did the Israelites do when the ark came to them?

What did God do to the Israelites?

Why didn't God strike dead the Philistines for touching the ark?

The Ark at Kirjath Jearim

Where will the ark be placed?

How long will it be there (2 Sam. 6:3)?

Who is set up over the ark?

What is the problem with this?

The Restoration Under Samuel

What was the message of Samuel to the people?

What did God do to cause the Philistines to be defeated?

What is the Ebenezer?

Why would Samuel build an altar to the Lord?

APPLICATIONS:

1. The problems with loose worship

How will the ark in the house of Abinidat cause him grief?

1 Samuel 8-10

The Rejection of Samuel's Sons

How did Samuel's sons fail the people?

What was God's requirement of kings in Deuteronomy 17:14-20?

If God had made regulations for a king, why was He angry?

What warnings did Samuel make about a kingship?

Saul of Benjamin

What were Saul's notable physical characteristics?

Why did Saul seek out Samuel?

What is notable about prophets being called seers?

Where was Samuel blessing the sacrifice (9:12,14)?

What does 9:21 suggest about Saul's character at that time?

Why might Samuel predict the events of the next day to Saul?

What is the meaning of the proverb "*is Saul among the prophets*"?

The Anointing of Saul

What did Saul do when they selected him as king?

Who were the men who went with Saul?

Who were the men who rejected Saul?

APPLICATIONS:

1. We will have a king

What lesson is there in the request of Israel, that while it was something God authorized, it was still offensive?

1 Samuel 11-12

Nahash the Ammonite

Why would the people seek a covenant with Nahash?

Why would Nahash' condition create reproach?

Why might Nahash permit the Israelites to seek out help?

Call to Arms

Where was Saul when the message arrived? What does that tell you about his kingship?

Why were the people now ready to execute those who did not want Saul as king?

How does this event legitimize the kingship of Saul?

Who was the "king" of Israel before Saul?

Samuel Prepares to Retire

Why does Samuel make the people answer his question?

Why recount the history of the people?

What sign was sent to tell the people they had offended God?

What do the people ask of Samuel?

Why wait all this time to tell the people of their sin?

APPLICATIONS:

1. Far be it from me to sin

What two things did Samuel say would be a sin if he did not do?

How is this true for us today?

1 Samuel 13-14

Saul at Gilgal

Why did Saul divide up the army and send most of them home?

What did the people do when the Philistines came together?

What (in 1 Samuel 10:8) had Samuel told Saul to do?

Was Samuel late to come to Saul?

What was the sin Saul had committed?

What was the penalty of the sin?

Whom would the Lord now seek after?

Jonathan's Assault

What was forbidden to the people of Israel by the Philistines?

How many were with Jonathan when he attacked the Philistines?

What sign did Jonathan set to know God was with him?

What did Saul bring to the battle?

Saul's Foolish command

What was Saul's command to the people?

Who broke Saul's command?

How did the people sin against God?

What saved Jonathan from Saul?

APPLICATIONS:

1. "*Cursed is the man who eats any food*"

Why is Saul's order foolish? What did it cause the people to do?

What can we learn from this order?

1 Samuel 15

Saul's Second Sin

What command did God give Saul?

Why was this command of such a ruthless nature?

Who was given a chance to save themselves?

How did Saul obey the command of the Lord? How did he disobey the command of the Lord?

What did Saul also do per 15:12?

Why did Saul say he had not obeyed the command (vs. 15)?

Of what did Samuel accuse Saul?

What seems to be at the heart of Saul's disobedience?

How did Saul react to this?

Why didn't God forgive Saul when he asked for pardon?

What seems to be the reason Saul wanted Samuel to return?

Where do we read about the (possible) descendants of Agag?

How did Samuel feel about Saul after this?

APPLICATIONS:

"You have rejected the ... LORD, and the LORD has rejected you"

Why is this lesson so important?

What does this teach us about intentions?

What does this teach us about obedience?

What does this teach us about repentance?

1 Samuel 16-17

Samuel Goes To Bethlehem

Why did Samuel mourn Saul?

Did God cause Samuel to lie?

Why might the people have been afraid that Samuel had come?

What was David's appearance?

The Distressing Spirit

Was the distressing spirit a demonic possession?

How did the servant of Saul describe David?

David and Goliath

Per Joshua 11:21-22, whom may Goliath have descended from?

What rewards were offered to the one who defeated Goliath?

Why was Eliab angry with David?

What experience did David offer to Saul as proof of his ability?

Why select five stones?

Why would Saul ask whose son David was (vs. 55)?

APPLICATIONS:

1. "*The battle is the LORD'S*"

What are some of the characteristics of faith learned from David?

What different obstacles did David face in defeating Goliath?

1 Samuel 18-20

The Rise of Enmity Between David and Saul

Why did the song of the women of Israel upset Saul?

What did the distressing spirit cause Saul to do?

Why did Saul fear David?

Why did the people esteem David?

What does Saul's dealings with his daughters reveal about him?

David Flees from Saul

Who saved David from Saul in chapter 19?

What was Samuel doing when messengers from Saul came?

Why might Saul's prophesying be so distressing to him?

If the spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet (1 Cor. 14:32), how is it that Saul does not seem to control his prophesying?

David and Jonathan

How does the Bible describe David and Jonathan's friendship?

What are some of the ways this friendship helped David?

What are some of the ways this friendship helped Jonathan?

Why is Saul angry with Jonathan?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *The LORD had departed from Saul*

What are the sins that Saul committed in this chapter?

What do you see about Saul's character here?

1 Samuel 21-22

David Comes to Nob

Why would Ahimelech be afraid when David came?

What did Ahimelech offer to David?

Did David tell the truth?

David Flees to Gath

What champion of Gath had David slain? Why would he flee here?

What might David have brought here (vs. 9)?

What does the heading of Psalm 56 suggest about this time?

How did David keep himself safe?

David wrote Psalm 34 during this time; what does it reflect on David's attitude during this period?

The Cave of Adullam

According to verses 1-2, what is David now building?

Who protected David's father and mother?

What does Gad's presence with David tell us?

Massacre at Nod

What do verses 6-8 suggest about Saul's mental/spiritual state?

How did Saul's men react to his command to kill the priests?

What does Psalm 52 tell us about Doeg the Edmonite?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *The king has commissioned me*

What are the lessons learned about lies in this chapter?

1 Samuel 23-24

David Defends Keilah

- Why would David defend Keilah?
- How might David have inquired of the Lord?
- Why were his men afraid to attack Keilah?
- Why did Saul believe he had David trapped?

David in the Wilderness

- How did Jonathan see the future in verse 17?
- According to Psalm 54, how did David view the Ziphites?
- What happens to draw Saul away from his pursuit of David?

The Cave of En Gedi

- How did David's men see Saul's appearance in their cave?
- Why might it trouble David that he cut Saul's robe?
- Why did David refuse to harm Saul?
- Why was addressing Saul such a dangerous risk?
- How do you account for Saul's change of demeanor?
- What promise does Saul exact from David? Will he keep it?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *David inquired of the LORD*

- David's inquiry of God sets him apart from Saul. What should we learn from this?

1 Samuel 25-27

Abigail

Based on this chapter, what type of man was Nabal?

Why did David send men to Nabal?

How does Nabal insult David?

Why would David decide to fight Nabal?

Why is Abigail's behavior so remarkable? Is it appropriate?

Why might Nabal have died when Abigail spoke to him?

David Finds Saul

According to 1 Chronicles 2:16, how are Abishai and Joab related to David?

Why might David have snuck into camp if not to kill Saul?

Who is Abner, and how is he related to Saul (1 Sam. 14:50)?

Why does David continually preserve Saul? Is this appropriate?

David With the Philistines

What happened the last time David dwelt in Gath?

What does David request of Achish, and why?

How does David lie to Achish? What is Achish's response to it?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *Blessed is your advice and blessed are you*

What lessons of wisdom can we learn from Abigail?

1 Samuel 28-30

War Against Philistia

What position did David hold with the king of the Philistines?

Why was Saul afraid?

What was Saul's response to God not speaking to him?

Why might the witch have recognized Saul when she saw Samuel?

Did Samuel reveal anything Saul did not know?

David is Removed From Philistia

Where was David and his army in the order of battle?

Why did the Philistine lords object to David?

Why does David continually preserve Saul? Is this appropriate?

David Against the Amalekites

Why would there still be Amalekites after Saul defeated them?

Why is it important to see David inquire of God in this situation?

Why does David share the spoils with the men who were unable to fight? With the elders of Judah?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *Bring up Samuel for me*

There is a great debate as to whether this was Samuel or a deceiving spirit of some sort. What is important is to understand the dangers of the occult. Why is God opposed to such things?

1 Samuel 31 – 2 Samuel 1

Death of Saul

How old might Saul be at this time (i.e. at least _____)?

Who were the first to die in battle against the Philistines?

How was Saul wounded?

Why did Saul want his armor bearer to kill him?

Why would the Philistines abuse the body of Saul and his sons?

Why would the men of Jabesh risk their lives to recover Saul's body? Why burn the bodies?

David Learns of Saul's Death

How did the man from Saul's camp know what happened to Saul?

Why would David mourn for the death of Saul?

Where was the man who found Saul from?

1 Samuel 31 says Saul fell on his own sword; the Amalekite says that he killed Saul. How do we reconcile this?

What do we know about the *Book of Jasher*?

What does David praise about Saul? What praise about Jonathan

APPLICATIONS:

1. *I have killed the LORD'S anointed*

These chapters give us one of the few examples in the Bible of suicide and the only account of an assisted suicide. What does David's pronouncement reveal about God's law? What does this event reveal about suicide in general?

2 Samuel 2-4

David, King of Judah

- Why might God send David to Hebron?
- Why reach out to those at Jabesh? Who resisted?
- Who was made king in place of Saul by Abner?

Abner, Asahel and Joab

- Why did the soldiers of Joab and Abner come together?
- What was the purpose of the competition?
- Why might Abner tell Asahel to turn away?

David Defeats the House of Saul

- Who are David's wives to this point?
- Why was Abner accused of going to Saul's concubine?
- Why was Abner angry? What did he do?
- What deal does Abner make with David?
- What does David demand of Ishbosheth?
- What does Joab do when he finds Abner? Why?
- What does David declare about Joab?

Ishbosheth's End

- Why might Ishbosheth lose heart over Abner's death?
- Why would men of Benjamin murder Ishbosheth?
- Why bring the head of Ishbosheth to David?
- Why does David respond as he does?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *"My kingdom and I are guiltless"*

- Joab's murder of Abner is a testimony of the personality of Joab. What characteristics can you describe in Joab that we have seen in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel?

**2 Samuel 5-6
(1 Chronicles 11-12)**

David King of Israel

- Why do the people of Israel finally submit to David?
- How old was David when he became King in Judah? In Israel?
- What were some of the old/other names of Jerusalem?
- Does David really hate the blind and lame (2 Samuel 9)?
- Why might the King of Tyre build David's palace?
- How did David "know" God was with him?
- Why did the Philistines seek out David?
- How did David defeat the Philistines and drive them back?

Moving the Ark to Jerusalem

- Why did David gather the army to move the ark?
- What is the significance of moving the ark on a new cart?
- Why did Uzzah touch the ark?
- Why was David angry? Why was he afraid?
- According to 1 Chronicles 15:17-24, who was Obed-Edom?
- According to 1 Chronicles 15:12-15, how did they move it the second time?
- Why is Michael upset with David? What is her fate? What was the fate of her sons in 2 Samuel 21:8-9?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *The anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah*

What happened to Uzzah at Nachon's threshing floor is an important lesson for us today. What do we learn about God and holiness from this?

**2 Samuel 7
(1 Chronicles 17, Psalm 132)**

David's Kingly Covenant With God

Who built David's palace?

Why might David ask Nathan about God's desire?

What was Nathan's mistake that God would correct?

Was God angry that David wanted to build Him a "house"?

What promises does God make to David?

What son/Son of David built the house/House of God?

According to 1 Chronicles 29:23 and 1 Kings 1:35, whose throne is this?

According to 1 Chronicles 28:3, why would David not build the Temple?

How would you describe David's response to this?

What will David do to prepare the building of the Temple

APPLICATIONS:

1. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever

There are some important ideas about the building of the House of God. First, that the Throne of David would be part of it. Yet in Jeremiah 22:30 God declares that no descendant of David would sit on the throne in Jerusalem. How is this reconciled?

Jeremiah 22:30 "Thus says the LORD, 'Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David Or ruling again in Judah.'"

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land."

2 Samuel 8-10

David Is Victorious Over Enemies

According to 8:3, how far north did David conquer?

Why might David NOT have wiped out the Edomites?

What was the position of recorder held by Jehoshaphat?

Who was the High Priest?

The word translated in verse 18 as “minister” is actually the Hebrew word “kohan”, *priest*. Were David’s sons priests?

Mephibosheth

How had Mephibosheth become lame in his feet?

What stigma was attached to being lame per Leviticus 21:18?

How old was Mephibosheth when his father died?

Why is the promise of David significant?

The Insult of Ammon

From whom did the Ammonites descend?

What kindness had Nahash shown to David?

Why did the princes of Ammon fear David?

Why might the Ammonites NOT have killed David’s men?

Who did the Ammonites call to help? Why them?

Who will die in the battle against Ammon per 2 Samuel 12:9?

What will Nahash’s son Shobi do in 2 Samuel 17:27?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem....ate at the king's table regularly*

What is the symbolism for us in the story of Mephibosheth?

2 Samuel 11-12
Psalm 51

David and Bathsheba

- Where was David when he saw Bathsheba?
- Who is Eliam? Who is Eliam's father (2 Sam. 23:34)?
- What is David's first plan to cover his sin?
- Why did Uriah decline to be with his wife?
- Why might Joab only tell of Uriah's death if David asked?
- What did David's reply message to Joab indicate?

Nathan Confronts David

- What kind of relationship did Nathan and David have at this time?
- Why use a parable to convict David?
- What does David's response to the parable indicate?
- What are the consequences of David's sin?
- Why will David's child still die if David is forgiven?
- What does David's declaration in verse 23 indicate?

David Defeats Ammon

- Why did Joab call David to the battle?
- What does this say about Joab?

Psalm 51

- What does David mean when he says "against you only have I sinned" in Psalm 51:4?
- Why does David say he was conceived in sin?
- What does David promise to do if forgiven?

APPLICATIONS:

- you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme*
How does the sins of those in Christ give occasion to blaspheme?

2 Samuel 13-14

The Sins of Amnon

- What began the spiral of sin by Amnon (Prov. 4:23)?
- What plot does Jonadab come up with?
- Why did Amnon come to hate Tamar?
- What motivated David's lack of action?
- Why would Absalom say nothing to Amnon for two years?
- Why did Absalom flee to Tamai of Geshur (2 Sam. 3:3)?
- If David longed to go to Absalom, why didn't he?

Joab's Scheme

- Why would Joab use someone else to ask for Absalom's return?
- What did the Law of Moses say regarding Absalom?
- Who did David realize was behind the wise woman's counsel?
- What was David's condition to return Absalom?
- What was unique about Absalom?
- What does Absalom do to get Joab to speak with him?
- What does Absalom want?

APPLICATIONS:

- 1. God does not take away life, but plans ways so that the banished one may not be cast out from him*

How does the wise woman's words relate to the Gospel?

2 Samuel 15-16

Absalom's Rebellion

What is the significance of Absalom having runners and chariots?

What role was Absalom taking on for himself in 2 Sam. 16:4?

What does it mean "Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel"?

What forty years had passed in 16:7?

Why would Absalom go to Hebron to declare himself king?

Why was Ahithophel important to this rebellion?

Why did David flee Jerusalem?

Why did David send the ark back to Jerusalem?

Why did David send Hushai back to Jerusalem?

David's Flight

Did Ziba tell the truth about Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 19:24)?

How does David deal with Shimei? What eventually befalls him?

What counsel does Ahithophel give Absalom?

How good was the advice of Ahithophel in those days?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor*

We have seen before that it is likely Ahithophel was the grandfather of Bathsheba. What do we learn about the consequences of sin from Ahithophel's betrayal?

2 Samuel 19-21

David' Return to Jerusalem

How did the people respond to David's mourning?
Why did Joab rebuke David? Was he right?
What was going on (per 19:9) throughout Israel? Why?
What did David offer Amasa to join him? Why?
What did David do with Shimei? How did this benefit David?
How does Mephibosheth's appearance suggest he told the truth?
How did David handle the dispute of Ziba and Mephibosheth?
What is the dispute of Israel and Judah? Is it a foreshadow?

Sheba's Rebellion

What tribe is Sheba? Why is that significant?
Why did Joab do to Amasa? Why?
What does Joab do in pursuit of Sheba?
How does the wise woman deliver the city?

Vengeance of the Gibeonites

Why would God bring about a famine over Saul (Num. 35:33)?
Why had Saul blood guilt against the Gibeonites?
What did David do with the bodies of Saul and his family?
How does the wise woman deliver the city?

David's Last Battle

Why did David grow weary fighting the Philistines?
What did the people declare?
Who were the men of Gath killed by David's nephew Jonathan?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *Loving those who hate you, and by hating those who love you*
How does lamenting evil hurt the righteous

2 Samuel 22-24, 1 Chronicles 21

Psalm 18 and 2 Samuel 22

What has God done for David?
What had David done for God?

David's Legacy and His Mighty Men

How is David described in 23:1?
Who were David's three mighty men?

Numbering Israel

Who motivated the numbering of Israel per 2 Samuel 24:1?
Why might David have desired to number Israel?
Why did Joab seek to dissuade David?
What does it mean "David's heart condemned him"?
What sin had David committed?
What three choices did God offer David?
When the plague came to Jerusalem, what was David's plea?
Where did the angel stop?
Why did David insist on purchasing the threshing floor?
According to 2 Chronicles 3:1, what was built here later?
According to 2 Chronicles 3:1 and Genesis 22:2 what happened here in the past?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *Nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.*

The significance of this event settles on several levels. It speaks to the establishment of the temple, and even the true Temple of God today.

1 Kings 1-2

Adonijah Seeks to Be King

Why was a woman sought for David?

Who else had chariots and runners before him (vs 5)?

Who supported Adonijah? Who was not with Adonijah?

What did Nathan tell Bathsheba to do?

What promise was there that Solomon should/would be king?

How old might Solomon have been here? Adonijah?

How did Adonijah handle Solomon's accession to king?

David's Last Words

What did David charge Solomon to do?

What did David command to be done to Joab? To the sons of Barzillai? To Shimei? Why?

What did Adonijah ask of Bathsheba? Why her?

How did Solomon see this request?

What did Solomon do with Abiathar the priest? Why?

What was the significance and irony of Joab's death at the altar?

What was the circumstance of Shimei's death?

APPLICATIONS:

1. *So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.*

Although several kings were virtuous in the story of Israel, David is the one whom God calls "a man after my own heart". Yet David was a man of many faults. How do we reconcile David's faults with the love God had for him? Why is this so important to us?