

Norwood's Notes: Brief Summaries of Bible Stories

These "notes" are intended to provide a general overview of the basic stories of the Bible in the hope of building greater biblical knowledge and encouraging Bible reading and study. For more information, visit www.UjimaChurch.org

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18 - Highlights from 2 Samuel 1-12 & 1 Chronicles 10-18 , "David the King"

King Saul had died, along with his sons who had joined him in battle against the Philistines (1Chr 10). Even though Saul had fallen on his own sword after being mortally wounded, a man came to David telling him that he had killed Saul, expecting to receive a reward from David (2Sam 1). Instead, David had him executed for killing the Lord's anointed. David then went into deep mourning, weeping and fasting and even writing a song of lament over the death of King Saul and Jonathan. The Lord sent David to the city of Hebron in the land of the tribe of Judah where people made him king over Judah. But, Abner, the general of Saul's army, made Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, king over the northern tribes of Israel (2Sam 2). King David's forces, led by his mighty warrior Joab, came against Abner and his forces. The men of Judah overcame the men of Israel. During the fight, Abner killed Joab's brother, Asahel.

The relationship between general Abner and King Ish-bosheth soured, and Abner vowed to join with King David instead, convincing the elders of Israel to do the same. Abner was received warmly by King David as he promised to turn over the rest of Israel to David's rule. Joab arrived shortly after Abner departed from David's presence. Determined to get vengeance for his brother Asahel, Joab pursued Abner and killed him. King David, furious with what Joab had done, mourned and fasted over Abner (2Sam 3). With Abner's death, the kingdom was still divided between North and South. King Ish-bosheth was eventually assassinated by two men who presented his head to King David, thinking it would please him. But, David was outraged and had the assassins executed (2Sam 4). Then the northern tribes of Israel also joined with David and he became king over a united kingdom (2Sam 5; 1Chr 11).

King David's elite warriors, called the "Mighty Men," were legendary. David conquered the city of Jebus, which had been called "Salem" in the days of Abraham. He made it his capital, "Jerusalem." But, when the king wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant into his new capital city, he failed to do so in accordance with the Law of God, placing it on an ox drawn cart instead of having it carried by the Levites. When one of the men touched the Ark, he was struck down by the anger of the Lord. Afraid to move it, the Ark was left with a man named Obed-edom. The blessing of the Lord was upon Obed-edom's household and three

months later, David came with Levites to carry the Ark into Jerusalem as he had singers and musicians lead in joyful praise. David danced for joy as the Ark was brought into the city (2Sam 6; 1Chr 13&15).

David was grateful to God and told the prophet Nathan that he wanted to build a house of worship for the Lord. Nathan initially thought this was a wonderful idea, but the word of the Lord came to him late that night and instructed him to tell David that he was not the one would build the Lord's house, but instead the Lord promised that one of David's offspring would have an eternal kingdom and sit upon a throne forever (2Sam 7; 1Chr 17). This prophecy foretold of the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ, who was born as a descendent of David many generations later. The Lord was working His plan.

The Lord continue to bless David, enabling him to overcome all of his enemies and increasing his kingdom so that others paid him tribute (2Sam 8; 1Chr 18). Thinking of his dearly departed friend, David invited Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, who had been handicapped from being dropped as a child, to dine at the king's table always, like one of the king's own sons (2Sam 9).

One day, as King David had sent his forces to battle under the command of his general, Joab, he walked on the flat roof of his home and noticed a beautiful woman bathing on her rooftop. It was Bathsheba, the wife of one of his mighty men, Uriah the Hittite. Knowing that Uriah was off to battle, the king had Bathsheba brought to him and she became pregnant (2Sam 11). In an effort to cover his deed, he had Uriah brought back from the battle and hosted him at the king's dinner table. David encouraged Uriah to go to his wife, but the faithful Uriah would not enjoy being with her while his fellow warriors were in battle. So Uriah slept at the king's door instead. Again the king tried to get Uriah to go be with his wife, this time getting him drunk... but, Uriah still did not go into Bathsheba. Finally, David wrote out a secret message for Uriah to deliver to Joab, ordering the general to send Uriah to the front of the battle line and then pull back, leaving him exposed. When Uriah was killed in battle, David took the already pregnant Bathsheba as his wife.

The Lord was angry with David and sent the prophet Nathan to tell him a story about a poor man who loved his one little lamb like a child, feeding it by hand and sleeping with it in his arms. But, a wealthy man, who had a large flock, took the poor man's lamb and slaughtered it to feed a guest. Upon hearing the story, King David was filled with rage and said that the wealthy man deserved to die for what he had done. Nathan told David, "*You are the man!*" (2Sam 12:7) and then delivered God's word of judgement for David's sin. There would be division within his family, and the child born of Bathsheba would become sick and die. A repentant David fasted and prayed for forgiveness and for the child's life. When the child died, David testified that he would one day be with the child. The Lord then allowed Bathsheba to have a second child, whom David named, "Solomon."