

1. 1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book. 2 Samuel focuses the story primarily on David.

2. What happened to Saul - how did he actually die?

1 Chronicles 10 says Saul fell on his own sword. 2 Samuel 1 has an Amalekite mercenary saying he finished Saul off at Saul's request.

The mercenary most likely thought that to claim to have killed David's enemy Saul would be a good thing, so when he came across the dead body of Saul, he took the crown and bracelet and went running to David.

His misfortune was that David believed his lie and was very displeased that this man had done what David himself would never do - kill the king. It cost him his life.

3. The Bible's attitude toward the subject of suicide is that only God has the knowledge and authority to decide when a person should die, so committing suicide or assisting another to do so is not an option for the believer.

4. Saul was not a coward, but he knew the fate of captured kings and did not wish to die like that.

5. Saul made his last stand against the Philistines on the plain of Armageddon, an area of battle for centuries.

6. The men of Jabesh Gilead displayed great courage in stealing back the bodies of Saul and his sons from the walls of the Philistine city.

7. Saul started well but did not finish well - his life is summed up in 1 Chronicles as one of unfaithfulness, disobedience, and divination, and these brought about his failure and death.

8. David does not compose a song of gloating over his enemy and celebration of the fact that Saul is dead, he composes a song of mourning and remembrance of the good things that Saul had once done.

9. "How the mighty have fallen" - a biblical phrase we still use today.

10. In this song we see David at his very best.

1. Psalm 101 may have been written when David first became king over Judah.
2. The main characters in these 2 chapters:
 - a. David - Judah's king
 - b. Ish-bosheth - Saul's son
 - c. Abner - Saul's relative and general
 - d. Joab - David's military man
3. Israel is in chaos after Saul's death. The men of Judah readily accept David as king; but Abner thinks of David as Saul's enemy and Israel's enemy and wants Israel to never accept David as king.
4. Abner works to establish Ish-bosheth as king of Israel.
5. David reigned in Judah for 7 years while Ish-bosheth only reigned in Israel for 2 years before he died.
6. David delayed the process of acceptance by all of Israel as king by again aligning himself with the Philistines, without first asking God.
7. David had lapses, but he did inquire of the Lord before he went up to Judah. He was determined to follow the Lord, but was still paying attention to politics.
8. Psalm 101 shows us David's heart and intentions with regard to the way he would rule his people. He wanted to major on:
 - a. living a blameless life
 - b. keeping his eyes from vile things
 - c. hating the deeds of faithless men - having nothing to do with evil men
 - d. silencing the slanders of proud men
 - e. staying away from liars
9. Some things to notice:

David knew that kings attracted people willing to do or say anything in order to control you for their own ends.

David did not ask God about all the wives he took - and it would come back to bite him. He gave in to political expediency.

Joab was not the sort of person David said he wanted around him - he was ambitious, a liar, a slanderer and a murderer, but David kept him because his hold on the kingdom was not yet strong.

Good intentions are not always lived up to and are no guarantee that you will live by the standards you have set for yourself.
10. David was a righteous king because he knew how to get back to God, how to restore the fellowship that had been broken. He knew how to repent of his sin. The Psalms are full of his "penitential" words - he was often broken by his sin and humbly and genuinely repented. That was the big difference between Saul and David.

1. Like us, David had ‘landmark’ days.

- a. The day he was anointed by Samuel as king
- b. The day he killed Goliath
- c. The day Jonathan’s arrows flew far past their mark

d. And 3 landmark days in today’s reading:

- 1) The day he was finally anointed as king over all Israel
- 2) The day Jerusalem was captured and became David’s capital
- 3) The day the Ark of the Covenant came to Jerusalem to take up its permanent residence

2. Chapter 4 alludes to 3 reasons the people of Israel finally chose to accept David as their king:

- a. He was an Israelite like them after all.
- b. He had military prowess.
- c. He was God’s choice to be their king.

3. David’s reign of 33 years over all of Israel (plus 7 ½ over Judah) is the golden age of Israel.

4. The capture of Jerusalem from the Jebusites was necessary politically and militarily to consolidate David’s power and unite his kingdom.

- *Hebron was in Judah and he needed to be seen as the King of Israel, not of Judah.
- *Jerusalem was a neutral site.
- *It was an enemy fortress right in the middle of Israel, dominating the ridge that separated Judah from the rest of the tribes.

Spiritually it was the single most important thing he did in his reign because of Jerusalem’s unparalleled importance.

- *In Genesis, we first encounter the mysterious figure of Melchizedek, the King of Salem (later called Jerusalem) there. He was a ‘type’ of Christ.
- * Mount Moriah, where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac (though God stopped him in the end by providing a ram for the sacrifice) was in or near Jerusalem (it may have been Golgotha).
- *It would be where God gave His own Son to redeem fallen mankind.

5. When the Ark was brought into Jerusalem, David discarded his royal vestments and wore only the linen garment of a priest, and Michal despised him for doing it. He was not naked!

6. 2 Samuel 10:5: “He became more and more powerful because the Lord Almighty was with him.” This is the secret of David’s success...and any success we may ever have.

1. Psalm 68 probably celebrates the coming of the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem.
2. 30,000 men accompanied the Ark to Jerusalem; it was a full-fledged national celebration with songs written and all kinds of musical instruments.
3. Psalm 68 celebrates God's faithfulness and power in leading Israel out of Egypt; His omnipotence and power; and calls upon God to summon that power and show that strength again.
4. David conquers Jerusalem, brings the Ark there, and plans the building of a temple because he wants the nations to know the power of God and wants them to give glory to God along with all Israel.
5. David was not at all perfect, but his heart was for God's glory, and God knew David's heart.
6. "Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)
7. Uzzah and the Ark:
 - a. It was being carried on an oxcart. God had ordered it to be carried only by the priests and on poles put through the rings.
 - b. The penalty was death for anyone who touched it.
 - c. Approaching and worshipping God is done on His terms, not ours.
8. Both of the Psalms read today make it clear that David wanted to build a temple for the Lord.
9. Nathan the prophet becomes prominent in the story from this point on in David's life. God speaks through Nathan to David about the building of the Temple:
 - God wants to build a house through David - a dynasty.
 - The Ark has been in a tent since the exodus and there has been no need to change that arrangement.
 - God had simply not asked for a house.
 - Someday there would be a temple, but it would be built by Solomon, a man of peace, instead of David, a man of war.
10. God's promise to David was the dynasty that would last forever, in the person of Jesus Christ.
11. The Davidic Covenant: 2 Samuel 7:12-16
 - a. It is an extension of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 15)
 - i. Land - developed in the Book of Deuteronomy
 - ii. Blessing - prophesied in Jeremiah and ratified by Jesus Christ on the cross
 - iii. Nation - 2 Samuel 7:12-16
 1. David will have a son for whom God will establish a kingdom
 2. That son will build the temple instead of David
 3. His son's throne will be established forever (though interrupted)
 4. Though his son will sin greatly, the right to the throne will not be taken from his family
12. The building of the Temple was David's idea, not God's. Food for thought - the New Testament church is more like the 'tabernacle model' than the 'temple model'.

1. Chapter 8 finds David back on the battlefield after the mountaintop experience of bringing the Ark into Jerusalem.
2. The role of empire-builder has passed from the Philistines to the Israelites, though David was not the aggressor, but the responder with Philistia and Ammon.
3. Aramea, Moab and Edom had to do with trade routes and links.
4. It is tradition that the King of Moab put David's parents to death while they were in his custody, which may account for the severity of the action against Moab.
5. The Philistines and Moabites were thoroughly subjugated by David.
6. Hadadezer, King of Zobah, was David's foe in 1/3 of his campaigns. David was pushing the borders of the kingdom to the Euphrates River in these encounters.
7. Tou, King of Hamath, made a treaty with David and those borders were extended peacefully.
8. God gave victory wherever he went to fulfill His promise to Abraham as to the boundaries of the kingdom.
9. Verses 15-18 give us some idea of the administration of the kingdom. David kept the administration of the law as his responsibility to ensure justice.
10. Zadok is introduced as chief priest.
11. The story of Mephibosheth:

He was the son of David's best friend Jonathan; and the grandson of David's worst enemy, Saul. Who would he be most like?

David was fulfilling his promise of long ago to Jonathan to take care of his family. He remembered to keep his word.