



## **Getting started with 2 Samuel**

2 Samuel continues the story of 1 Samuel (originally it was one book.)

In these books, we're searching for the leader that God's people need. Israel's first experience of a king has not gone well – though Saul started well, it all ended in tears.

But under the surface, a new king was rising. 1 Samuel ends with the tragic, gory death of Saul – but it leaves us with the hope that finally David would become King.

2 Samuel tells the story of how, through David, God establishes a dynasty which will lead to the perfect King and an eternal kingdom.

### **Structure**

#### ***Chapters 1-10: The Rise of David***

David mourns the death of the Saul who had tried to kill him. He then unites the tribes, establishes Jerusalem as the capital and brings the ark there, too. These chapters are filled with David's victories and a key chapter 7, where God makes an amazing promise to David and his descendants (see below for more detail).

#### ***Chapters 11-20: The Fall of David***

David's story begins to spiral downward with the infamous Bathsheba incident. Adultery, murder and cover-up is forgiven by God when David repents, but the consequences are evident in the next few chapters as David's family falls into disunity, sin, rebellion and war. Mighty King David even has to go on the run when his son gets murderous.

#### ***Chapters 21-24: Looking back; looking forward***

These chapters are not in chronological order. Rather they are selected stories with particular themes. These chapters reflect on the faithfulness of God through the weakness and failures of the kings, and points us forward to a future hope of the perfect king with an everlasting kingdom. (2 Samuel 22v51)

## **God's promise to David (2 Samuel 7)**

Chapter 7 is a key chapter in the whole of the Bible. God promised Abraham a people and a place. He said that Abraham's descendants would be a blessing to all nations.

Now God expands those promises in the language of KINGDOM.

At the start of the chapter, David looks around at his plush palace and decides to build a temple for the ark of God. But God replies; "Rather than you building me a house, I'll build YOU a house." God promises to establish David's kingdom, to keep a descendant of David on the throne. God says that this kingdom will never end.

These huge promises play out in the rest of the Old Testament as we look out for a Messiah king who will fulfil these promises. Ultimately these promises take us to Matthew 1, where David's descendants are traced through to Jesus.

Jesus establishes His eternal kingdom through His death and resurrection. He is now exalted, sitting on a forever throne – fulfilling what God promised way back in 2 Samuel 7.

### **Things to watch out for...**

- We can certainly learn from David's example and mistakes. But remember that first and foremost, we should identify with the PEOPLE of the King, rather than the King. 2 Samuel teaches us about the type of King we need!
- 2 Samuel continues the theme of God bringing the low high and the high low.

## Jesus in 2 Samuel

Jesus is the King of Kings, the Messiah, the son of David (Matt 1v1)

We are reminded of the limitations of merely human leaders, especially when we see the failures of Israel's best king, David.

Jesus is the eternal King of an everlasting Kingdom – the promises of 2 Samuel 7 are fulfilled in Jesus. Christians are citizens of the Kingdom!



**RBT Grow Group is on  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

Bring along some things from your reading of 2 Samuel to share with others.

### **Some RBT reading ideas:**

- Meet up once a week to read it with a friend.
- Listen online at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com)
- Write down a verse that struck you that day.
- Encourage someone by texting them a thought from what you've read.



Here are some questions the Bible wants you to ask of itself. Use these to help you as you read your way through this month's book: (please don't feel like you have to fill in every question in loads of detail. These are a guide to help you learn from what you are reading.)

- What did you learn about Jesus and what it means to trust him? (Luke 24:45-47)
- What did you learn about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- How were you corrected or rebuked or equipped for every good work? (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- What did you learn from the book that will help you keep going as a follower of Jesus? (Romans 15:4)
- What did you learn that will help you serve and build up the church? (Eph 4:11-16)
- What have you learnt that helps you love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
- What has helped you love your neighbour as yourself? (Matt 22:37-40)