

Introduction to 2 Samuel

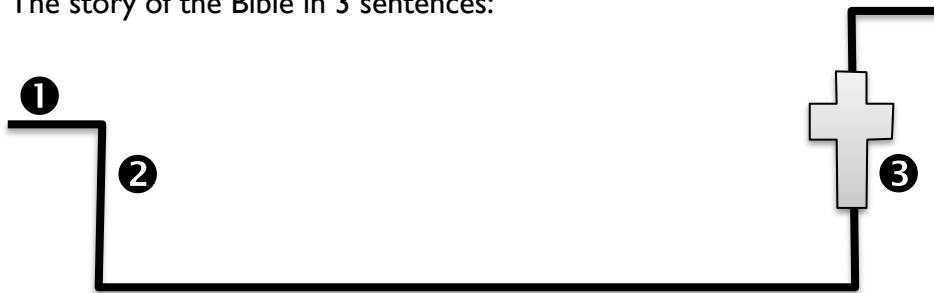
Immanuel Church Brentwood Leaders' Day 2014

How well do you know 2 Samuel?

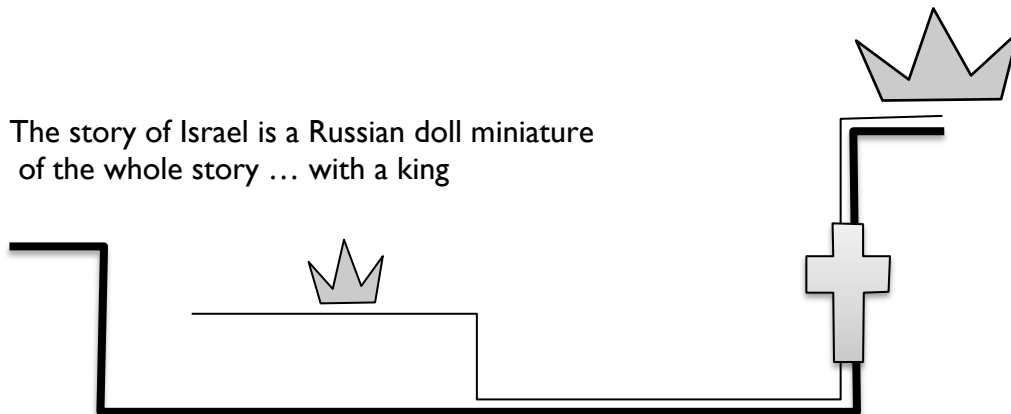
Absalom	Amnon
Mephibosheth	Michal
Nathan	Uriah
Ish-bosheth	Benaiah the son of Jehoida
Hushai	David

Getting our bearings within the whole Bible

The story of the Bible in 3 sentences:



The story of Israel is a Russian doll miniature of the whole story ... with a king



How do we get from 2 Samuel to today?

The Bible Timeline Tool

The "Who am I?" Tool

IN GROUPS

How do the following New Testament passages guide us in applying lessons about King David? To whom do they apply?

Matthew 1:1; 21:9

Romans 4:6-8

Luke 24:27

A Survey of 2 Samuel

The Rise of David (chapters 1-8)

'And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went' (8:6)

God consolidates David's Kingdom at Hebron (2:2 – 5:5)

God establishes David's Throne at Jerusalem (5:6 – 8:18)

God makes an amazing promise through Nathan the prophet

IN GROUPS

Can you think ways in which Western society is hostile to monarchical authority?

How might this distort someone's reading of this section of 2 Samuel? How might it diminish their enthusiasm for the news that 'Jesus is King'?

Pray that the positive portrayal of a kingdom under a godly king would change our thinking.

The Fall of David (chapters 9-20)

'Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house' (12:10)

"So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were priests." (8:15-18)

"Now Joab was in command of all the army of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and Adoram was in charge of the forced labor; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder; and Sheva was secretary; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests; and Ira the Jairite was also David's priest." (20:23-26)

David's Fall (9:1 – 11:27)

God delivers a terrible sentence of judgement through Nathan the prophet

Chips off the Old Block (13:1 – 14:29)

Absalom's Revolt (15:1 – 20:26)

Appendix (chapters 21-24): A caution for pessimists

David's prayer regarding the Gibeonites (21:1-14)

Annals of four heroes from Gath (21:15-22)

David's song of praise (22:1-51)

David's last words (23:1-7)

Annals of David's mighty men (23:8-39)

David's prayer regarding the plague (24:1-25)

Compare Hannah's prayer: horn, rock, deliverance

PRAY IN GROUPS

An MOT for Bible Teachers

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Remember your goal (Colossians 1:28)

Teaching the Bible is not our goal!

Teaching the Bible is the only means to our goal!

Remember that the treasure is in the text

Read and re-read and read again

Look out for the author's purpose: not just what, but why?

Try to avoid speculation – going beyond what the author wanted to say

Only use commentaries in pairs

THE MODEL BIBLE STUDY

Remember that a good Bible study is like a game of golf

Freedom and direction

Aim for 5-iron questions

The second shot will depend on where the ball lands

Make sure you get right into the hole

Remember to apply what you learn

Beware hypocrisy

The author's purpose is better than the "bolt on" application

The nitty-gritty comes only with meditation

Four passages to learn from

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The familiar passages are the hardest!

2 Samuel 7

1) David wants to build a house for God – and receives a slap down!

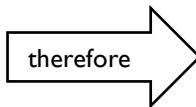
2) God wants to build a house for David

BIBLE TIMELINE TOOL

3) David wants God to build a house for David! Lesson learned!

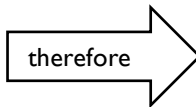
LINKING WORDS TOOL

You, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.'



your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you.

And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant.



may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you.

The Author's purpose in 2 Samuel 7 is...

A good opening 5-iron question might be...

2 Samuel 9

In various ways this chapter showcases the *hesed* or “lovingkindness” of God:

1) *Hesed* is life changing (STRUCTURE TOOL)

David’s intention to show *hesed* (v1)

Conversation with Ziba (vv2-4)

‘Mephibosheth ... paid homage ... “I am your servant”’ (vv5-6)

David promises to show *hesed* (v7)

Mephibosheth ‘paid homage and said ‘What is your servant...’ (v8)

Conversation with Ziba (vv9-11a)

David welcomes Mephibosheth into his home (vv11b-13)

2) *Hesed* is gracious and undeserved (REPETITION TOOL; CONTEXT TOOL)

3) *Hesed* is promise-keeping (REPETITION TOOL; CONTEXT TOOL)

4) *Hesed* is personal (REPETITION TOOL)

“We are God’s Mephibosheths through Jesus”. It makes a great sermon/bible study like this. But is that Author’s purpose? Why does he discuss it *here*?

2 Samuel 11-12

"2 Samuel 11 is about the horrors of sexual sin and how we can fall into it" – Discuss.

Consider the shape of the narrative:

Problem raised (vv1-5)

A failed solution (vv6-13)

A successful solution (vv14-25)

Problem resolved (vv26-27a)

Consider why we must wait so long for v27b.

MY OUTLINE WENT LIKE THIS...

Sin imagines a world without God

But there is a God, and he speaks.

- he exposes sin

- he pronounces judgment

- he does not forget mercy

SO HOW DO WE APPLY THIS?

The Psalm 52 route?

I went for Psalm 32 / Romans 4:6-8

2 Samuel 13

A difficult read – we acknowledged it as a difficult read.

There is no theological commentary within the chapter. We can only understand the significance of what happens using the CONTEXT TOOL:

Chapter 11

David commits adultery

David murders Uriah
(in a cowardly manner,
through a third party)

Chapter 13

Amnon commits rape

Absalom murders Amnon
(in a cowardly manner,
through a third party)

We can use the CONTEXT TOOL secondly the specific words of judgment that God spoke in 12:10:

‘Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house....’

There’s not much more to say in terms of the meaning of the passage (and it’s a mistake to read in extra meanings where the author gives no clear steer). What we have instead is lots of details that make the story three-dimensional, and real, and personal, and heart-wrenching. The best way to approach it is to use the TONE AND FEEL TOOL to discern how the text rubs our noses in the sinfulness of sin and its devastating effects. Here are a few examples:

‘“No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing”’ (v12)

‘Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her’ (v15).

‘And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went’ (v19).

‘“Strike Amnon,” then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant.”’ (v28).

‘And as soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king’s sons came and lifted up their voice and wept. And the king also and all his servants wept very bitterly’ (v36).

The study should reflect the tone of the passage. No gags this week.

The author’s purpose is achieved through the tone of the passage.