

The Second Book of Samuel

Chapters 1, 2, 3

When David heard that Saul and Jonathan had died, David was very sad.

David was then anointed as king over the house of Judah, but Ishbaal became king of the rest of Israel.

War broke out between the House of David (Judah) and the House of Saul (Israel).

Gradually the House of David grew stronger and the House of Saul grew weaker.

Dear God, please give peace
to all nations suffering from civil war

Chapters 4, 5

After Ishbaal, son of Saul, was murdered, David became king of Israel as well as king of Judah.

David was 30 years old when he became king.

He reigned over Judah for 7 years.

Then he reigned over all Israel and Judah for 33 years.

David continued to fight against the Philistines.

God blessed David in all his campaigns.

Dear God, may all of Israel be blessed with peace

Chapter 6

David and 30,000 men went to Baalah (Kiriath-jearim) to bring the Sacred Chest to Jerusalem.

David and the people danced before the Sacred Chest and sang loudly to the accompaniment of much music.

After the Sacred Chest entered Jerusalem David blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

Dear God, please help us praise you with joy, as David did

Chapter 7

After David settled into his palace and the land enjoyed peace, David thought about building a temple for the Lord.

Then through the prophet Nathan the Lord told David:

"I will establish your dynasty for ever. But it will be your son, not yourself, who will build a temple for me."

David praised God:

"Who am I, Lord, and what is my House, that you have helped me so much and promised me so much?"

May my House continue in your presence for ever. May you bless my House forever."

Dear God, please bless everyone in my family tree,
past, present and future

Chapters 8, 9

Wherever David went,
the Lord gave him success and victory.

David showed kindness to Saul's family.

Meribbaal, son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul
was crippled in both feet.

David restored Saul's property to Meribbaal
and arranged for Meribbaal to eat at the royal table each day.

Lord, help us show kindness to people who treat us badly

Chapters 10, 11

The Ammonites went to war with the Israelites,
but David led the Israelites to victory.

During a further war with the Ammonites,
David stayed in Jerusalem and did not go to the battle.

While in Jerusalem,
he made love to Bathsheba the wife of Uriah who conceived
and sent word to David, "I am with child."

David recalled Uriah to Jerusalem
and tried to get him to sleep with his wife.

But Uriah loyally observed the custom of the time
and refrained from marital relations
since he was a soldier at war.

David then arranged for Uriah to be killed in battle
by having him stationed in a defenceless position.

After a time of mourning for Uriah,
Bathsheba became David's wife and bore him a son.

The Lord was displeased with David.

Dear God, help us not to displease you

Chapter 12

The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to David.

Nathan said:

"Why did you do what is displeasing to the Lord?"

David replied: "I have sinned against the Lord."

Nathan said: "The Lord forgives you,
but because of your sin, the child will die."

After the child died, Bathsheba conceived another son
by David, whom she named Solomon.

The Lord specially blessed Solomon.

"Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence"
(David's prayer in Psalm 51)

Chapter 13

David had many wives and concubines.

One of his sons, Amnon, fell in love with his step-sister
Tamar and raped her.

King David was very angry about this
but did not punish Amnon, since he loved him.
Amnon was his first-born son.

But another son, Absalom, Tamar's full brother,
hated Amnon and killed him.

Absalom fled for three years to another land.
All that time the king mourned for Amnon.

Dear Lord, please spare my family
from conflict and strife

Chapters 14, 15

When David had finished his time of mourning for Amnon, he allowed Absalom to return to Jerusalem.

Only after two years did David agree to meet Absalom. He met him and pardoned him.

But as time went on Absalom started to plot against David. Absalom gathered enough supporters to overthrow David.

David found out about the plot and fled from Jerusalem.

David was very sad and prayed to God that someday he could return to Jerusalem.

Dear God, please help people
who are exiled from their homes

Chapters 16 – 24

When David was living in exile, some people helped him, some people insulted him.

To insult his father and to claim the kingship Absalom publicly had sex with his father's concubines.

Gradually David was able to re-build his army and his army defeated Absalom's soldiers in battle.

In that battle, Absalom died and David mourned his death for a long time.

Eventually David was able to become king of all Israel again.

Dear God, may Israel be a land of peace