

Key to II SAMUEL

1. STATISTICS:

Writers, Nathan, a prophet, and Gad, a seer (I Chronicles 27:24; 29:29); time covered, about 40 years; type of book, history; key thought, full establishment of kingdom; key verse, 7:16; key character, David.

2. THEME:

The story of David as king: his reign in Hebron, his coronation over the entire nation, his military exploits and victories, his grievous sin and the sad train of consequential punishments.

3. OUTLINE:

David at Hebron (1-4)
David king over all Israel (5-24)
Ark restored (6, 7)
Many conquests (8-10)
David's sin and repentance (11, 12)
Absalom's rebellion (13-19)
David's last days (20-24)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The frankness in describing David's sin is proof of Divine authorship of the book.

Here is the height of the kingdom (see Genesis 15:18-21).

One of David's psalms is chapter 22.

A great military leader inspired talented followers (23).

Psalms written from his experiences: his flight from Jerusalem (Psalm 3, 4), his song of military victory (Psalm 30, 60), his sin (Psalm 51).

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

David's greatest commendation was to be called a man after God's own heart (I Samuel 13:14). How could this be, in view of his great sin? The answer is his whole-souled repentance. Whatever else, he had a heart for GOD. His many psalms reveal this.

Not only was David gracious and forgiving, but he utterly discouraged vindictiveness, and went out of his way to be kind to Saul's kin (chapter 9).

GOD's covenant with David regarding a perpetual throne (chapter 7) is one of the Bible's greatest chapters. (See also: Psalm 89:27-29; Jeremiah 33:20, 21, 25; Luke 1:30-33).

David's great capacity for worship evidenced in his bringing the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and establishing ritual and order of the temple service as soon as the land was quiet from war.

GOD forgave David's sin, but its consequences followed him all his life. Murder and adultery occurred again and again in his family. Sin is truly a damnable thing.

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Watercourse ("gutter" 5:8) is still seen in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem was one of the most easily defended capital cities of the ancient world.

Some amazing records are marked by David's mighty men (chapter 23).

Absalom's vanity (luxurious head of hair) became his downfall.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

How can one today be a man after God's own heart? It was surely not in his sin, but in his whole-souled sorrow and repentance that David could be thus named.

~ end of II Samuel ~

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