2 Samuel 1-8

Overview: In this section David continues to rise to power becoming king over Judah (a southern territory) and then king over Judah and Israel (all the Northern territories). David conquers Jerusalem and establishes it as the new political and spiritual capital of his kingdom. Throughout David is successful in all aspects of life.

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 1:1-16**

2 Samuel 1:17-27 is a song of Lament by David. It might be important to consider both how we grieve and the way that song is used to help us with our grief.

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 2:1-4a, 8-11** On a map find the two capital cities

2 Samuel 2:12-32 Introduces us to two military commanders for the opposing sides. Joab is David’s commander and Abner is Ishbaal’s commander. These two leaders engage in a small skirmish in which Abner is defeated. As Abner flees Joab’s brother pursues him. Abner tries to convince the brother to turn back but when he won’t Abner kills Joab’s brother, setting up future conflicts between the two.

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 3:1-5**

2 Samuel 3:6-11 tells of Abner and King Ishbaal getting into an argument. Abner decides to defect to David.

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 3:12-19**

2 Samuel 3:20-39 tells us that David meets with Abner and is kind to him. Joel learns of Abner’s defection and greets him as a friend but then kills him. David grieves Abner’s death and calls for God to punish whoever killed him. In this grief all the people learn that David is innocent of Abner’s death.

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 4:1-12**

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 5:1-10**

2 Samuel 5:11-25 describes how life is good for David. A different King builds a house for David he marries several times and has many more concubines and many children (and the finances to support all of them). David also goes to battle against the Philistines and wins.

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 6:1-11**

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 6:12-23**

**Read and Discuss 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 11b-17**

2 Samuel 7:18-29 is a prayer of David thanking and praising God for His blessing.

2 Samuel 8:1-18 Describes how David defeats all of his surrounding enemies: Philistines (West), Moabites (East), Arameans (North), and Edomites (South) as well as several others. David’s territory grows from a small kingdom to a small empire. The last few verses of the chapter also chronical the names of the officers of David’s court. This section makes the theological point that "the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went."

**I. David Becomes King of Judah (2 Samuel 1:1-3:5)**
The first major section of 2 Samuel describes how David became king over the southern tribe of Judah.

**A. David Laments the Deaths of Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1:1-27)**
David laments the deaths of Saul and his friend Jonathan in a poignant elegy. After hearing the news from an Amalekite warrior who claims to have killed Saul, David has the warrior killed for having put the Lord's anointed to death.
**B. David Anointed King of Judah (2 Samuel 2:1-11)**
David reigns over Judah, but Ishbaal, Saul's son, reigns over the other tribes.
**C. David Defeats the House of Saul (2 Samuel 2:12-3:1)**
In a civil war between David's forces and the forces of Ishbaal, David's forces prevail, signaling the end of Saul's house and the beginning of David's rise.
**D. Sons Born to David in Hebron (2 Samuel 3:2-5)**
This is one of four lists that serve to demarcate the first four sections of 2 Samuel. Here it is a list of David's sons born to him in Hebron (see 5:13-16; 8:15-18; and 20:23-26).

**II. David Becomes King of Israel (2 Samuel 3:6-5:16)**
David's accession to the throne of Israel follows the same pattern as his accession to Judah's throne.

**A. The Murder of Abner (2 Samuel 3:6-39)**
Following Abner's attempt to transfer leadership from Ishbaal to David, Abner is murdered by Joab for killing Joab's brother Asahel in battle. Great care is taken to absolve David of any complicity in the death of Abner, Saul's cousin; in fact, the king protests his innocence and mourns the passing of the famous warrior.
**B. The Murder of Ishbaal (2 Samuel 4:1-12)**
Once again, David is presented as completely innocent of the death of a rival for the throne of Israel--this time Ishbaal, Saul's son. Upon hearing of Ishbaal's death, David responds in ways similar to his response at hearing of the deaths of Saul and Abner.
**C. David Anointed King of Israel (2 Samuel 5:1-5)**
The tribe of Judah had already anointed David as king. Now the tribes of Israel commit themselves politically to David by anointing him king of Israel as well. David consolidates his rule by making the politically neutral Jerusalem his capital and home and by defeating the Philistines, twice, all because "the LORD was with him."
**D. David Captures Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:6-12)**
By conquering the Jebusite city of Jebus, which separated Jerusalem from the northern tribes, changing its name to Jerusalem, and making it his capital, David successfully united the twelve tribes under his rule.
**E. Children Born to David in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:13-16)**
This is one of four lists that serve to demarcate the first four sections of 2 Samuel. Here it is a list of David's children born to him in Jerusalem (see 3:2-5; 8:15-18; and 20:23-26).

**III. David Consolidates the Kingdom (2 Samuel 5:17-8:18)**
These chapters present David's efforts to consolidate his kingdom. Military success against the surrounding peoples (5:17-25; 8:1-14) frames David's cultic activity in bringing the ark to Jerusalem and prayer (6:1-23; 7:18-29), which, in turn, encloses the all-important promise of a Davidic dynasty (7:1-17).

**A. David Defeats the Philistines (2 Samuel 5:17-25)**
In stark contrast to Saul, David succeeds in delivering Israel from the oppression of the Philistines.
**B. David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:1-23)**
David brings the ark of the covenant, the symbol of God's presence, to Jerusalem. This has the effect of making Jerusalem the Holy City, Israel's religious center, as well as David's political capital.
**C. God's Covenant with David (2 Samuel 7:1-29)**
In this pivotal text, God promises that David will always have a son on the throne of Judah. God's promise of a Davidic dynasty holds sway over much of the theological message of the Old Testament and becomes the basis for the messianic expectations that arose following the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E.