**2 Samuel 8 – 24**

(10-13-16) (Notes from Enterthebible.org)

**Chapter 8 – Summary:** This section shows David on the offensive and summarizes David's wars, to describe the extent of his kingdom, and to make the theological point that "the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went."

A David's victories result in tribute (vv. 1-5)   
B Garrisons among the Arameans (v. 6a)  
C Arameans become David's servants (v. 6b)  
D "The LORD gave victory to David wherever he went" (v. 6c)   
A′ David's victories result in tribute (vv. 7-13)   
B′ Garrisons among the Edomites (v. 14a)  
C′ Edomites become David's servants (v. 14b)  
D′ "The LORD gave victory to David wherever he went" (v. 14c)

**Chapter 9 - Summary:** In his covenant with Jonathan, David had promised to show loyalty to Jonathan's family (1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:14-17). In this story, David shows kindness to Jonathan's son Mephibosheth by giving him land and promising that he would always eat at David’s table.

Note: This passage has often been read and interpreted from the position of Mephibosheth. “We read as those who constantly find ourselves cut off from our full future – existing as remnants with little hope for fullness of life except for the *hesed* (Loving-Kindness)of God, a divine sovereign who restores us to wholeness and invites us to sit at His table.” NIB 1276

**Chapter 10 - Summary:** The Ammonite King dies and David sends men with condolences out of *hesed*. The new king assumes these men are spies and mistreats them. Out of fear of David the Ammonites then combine forces with the Arameans. These actions causes David to command Joab to conquer the Ammonites and Arameans – which he does.

**Chapters 11 & 12 - Listen to Professor Craig Koester**

The Audio Lectures can be found here: <http://www2.luthersem.edu/ckoester/gen_to_rev_audio.asp>

Listen for: 1. the misuse of power, 2. The downward spiral of sin, 3. The role of the prophet, 4. Confession, 5. Restoration

David’s prayer is found in Psalm 51

Many efforts have been made throughout history to soften this passage:

1. Chronicles doesn’t include it
2. **Scapegoating** (Bathsheba the seductress)
3. **Rationalizing** (Uriah is a bad husband)
4. **Romanticizing** (David was in love)

The text tells us of David as a Fallen Hero – he has sinned. Will there be a future for him and his house?

Chapter 12: This is a difficult story for modern readers.

* The text assumes that ALL things come from God (including the sickness of a child).
* God can and does use the circumstances of our lives to further the purposes of divine grace and judgment
* This story does NOT make a generalized claim about the deaths of all children
* The emphasis in this story is on David, who thought he could be the controller of life and death for his own ends, but must now discover that he is not autonomous and cannot control life and death, even though he is the king.
* This story reminds us that in the community of faith, life always has a further word to speak. [[1]](#endnote-1)

**Read 13:1-39**

This ancient text tells a story of violence against women. Tamar’s story, sadly, is still modern.

* Tamar was sexually assaulted, not by a stranger, but by someone she knew.
* The violation took place not in a dark alley or in a desolate park, but by a member of her own family in his own home.
* Tamar was exploited through one of her most vulnerable traits – her kindness and her upbringing to take care of the other.
* Tamar said no; her no was not respected.
* When Tamar sought help, she was told to keep quiet.
* The process for achieving justice and restitution was taken out of her hands entirely and carried forward by her brother – it became men’s business.
* In the end it was her perpetrator for whom her father mourned, not for her.
* The end of Tamar’s story happens without her. [[2]](#endnote-2)

**Chapter 14 – Summary:** Reconciliation between David and Absalom (vv. 21-33) is brought about through the use of a subterfuge, masterminded by Joab and carried out by an accomplished actress (a wise woman) from the village of Tekoa, outside of Bethlehem. David is tricked into allowing Absolom’s return.

**Chapters 15 -20 – Listen to Professor Craig Koester**

**Matthew 23:37-39**  37 ¶ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

**Luke 19:41-42**  41 ¶ As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

**Read Chapter 21:1-9, 14**

Is David politically opportunistic? Or does this exonerate David from eliminating his political rivals (it is God & the Gibeonite’s fault)

* There is no recorded action of Saul against the Gibeonites

**Chapter 22 – Summary:** In this magnificent hymn, which also appears as Psalm 18, David reflects upon his reign as king and God's deliverance. David expresses thanks to God for many acts of deliverance by singing God's praise.

**Chapter 23- Summary:** Functioning together with David's song of praise (chapter 22) as a counterpoint to the song of Hannah that opened the books of Samuel, David's last words affirm that God will remain faithful to the everlasting covenant between God and the house of David.

**Chapter 24 – Summary:** A terrible plague, seen as God's judgment upon David for taking a census of the people, is averted after David, following the advice of a prophet, acquires some land in Jerusalem, builds an altar, and sacrifices to the Lord.

* This is the piece of land that will become the site of the Temple built by Solomon. (1 Chronicles 22:1-16)

1. This list is from the New Interpreters Bible Commentary Volume II (Abingdon Press, 1998) pg. 1298 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Pamela Cooper-White, The Cry of Tamar: Violence against Women and the Church’s Response (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995) 4-5. Found in New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary Volume II pg 1306. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)