

**BIBLE SYNTHESIS II**  
(Bible Survey)

**Introduction to II Samuel**

II Samuel is occupied with the story of David as king (5:3), it is David who is the focus of attention throughout this book. II Samuel describes the enthronement of David, as God's king, and the establishment of the "House of David" through which Jesus Christ, the Messiah, should later come. And, when Christ returns, He will sit upon the throne of David (cf. Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32; and see Acts 15:14–18).

Under the reign of David the enemies of Israel were conquered, and the Land of Promise possessed. Israel possessed more of the Promised Land than they had previously, and more than they have since that time. The kingdom which David passed on to Solomon was at peace with the nations around it. David had been a mighty man of war.

We must know the story of David's life for two reasons:

(1) Because of the position he holds as the ancestor and picture of Christ. And as well, the *unconditional* Davidic covenant which is found in this book.

(2) In order to help us to understand and use the Psalms. Many of the Psalms were written by David, and written in connection with the experiences of his life as seen in II Samuel (and also in I Samuel).

**1. Author:**

Unknown—but see I Chronicles 29:29

(1) Perhaps Nathan the prophet—II Sam. 7:2; 12:1; I Kings 1:22.

(2) Perhaps Gad, or one or more of the other early prophets—II Sam. 24:11, 18

**2. Addressees:**

Not specifically indicated

**3. Date:**

(1) Of coverage:

About 40 years—the reign of David. From about 1011 to 971 B.C.—5:4

(2) Of Writing:

Probably during the period covered or shortly thereafter

**4. Circumstances:**

(1) To record the reign of David—2:11; 5:1–5

(2) To record the Davidic Covenant (unconditional)—7:8–17

(3) To record the preparation for the building of the Temple—7:4–6; I Chron. 28:11–ff; 22:6–ff; I Kings 7:51; etc.

**5. Relationship to Other Books:**

(1) To I Samuel:

It records the actual assumption of the throne by David, who had been anointed much earlier (I Samuel 16), but who had been pursued and threatened by Saul because of that anointing.

(2) To I and II Kings:

-1. II Samuel:

Records the reign of David, the founder of the royal line of Christ—5:5, 7:8, 12, 16

-2. I and II Kings:

Continues the historical record of the reigns of all the remaining kings of Judah and Israel, from Solomon to Zedekiah —I Kings 4:1; II Kings 25:6–7

(2) To Micah:

-1. II Samuel:

Records the reign of David of Bethlehem over all Israel (8:15), as I Samuel shows the Bethlehem of his nativity (I Sam. 16:1)

-2. Micah:

Records prophetically the birthplace—Bethlehem—of the Messiah, the Eternal King over Israel —5:2

**6. Theme:**

The Reign of David —2:11; 5:1–5; 8:15; etc.

**7. Key Words:**

(1) David (286 times) —1:1 — 24:25

(2) King (usually referring to David) (281 times) —2:4 — 24:24

*These words are King — David*

**8. Key Passage:**

II Samuel 7:10–16 (5:12)

### INCIDENTALS

1. David was the first to describe a king as “the LORD’s anointed” this gives a high view of God’s choosing of kings and other rulers. See I Samuel 24:6; II Samuel 1:14, 16, 21; 2:4, 7; 3:39; 5:3, 17; 19:10; 22:51.
2. In II Samuel we find that David’s Psalms were inspired of God —23:2. His *words* (not thoughts) came from God.
3. The first message of II Samuel is that patience is necessary. God will fulfill His promises —2:1; 5:1–3. For David it took a long time and a lot of suffering.
4. The second message of this book is on sin. “Be sure your sin will find you out” is seen in various places:
  - The young Amalekite —1:14–16
  - Abner’s life and death
  - The murderers of Ishbosheth —4:11–12
  - David’s sin —11:1 — 13:39, etc.

Divine punishment is sure. Yet we see that God is ready to forgive (12:13). But, though pardoned, willful sin is punished (12:14). The subsequent history of David is a record of God’s punishment for that sin. David recognized this (16:10), and so must we! David’s sin is a warning to us. Psalm 51 was written as a result of David’s sin. It has been a source of comfort to many for centuries. Many other Psalms likewise were the expressions of David who wrote of the afflictions which came as the punishment for this sin.

**Bible Synthesis II**  
(Bible Survey)

**OUTLINE OF II SAMUEL**

Here in II Samuel, we have David of Judah replacing Saul of Benjamin as king (5:1–3), building a strong and unified kingdom (5:12), and subduing every enemy (8:1, 2, 3, 6, 11–14). David was a man of war (17:8) and a conquering hero (22:35–46). In all of this he typifies Christ (Psalm 2:8–9; 110:5–6; Rev. 11:15; 19:15).

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|---|-------------------------|
| <b>1. Civil War after Saul's Death</b>                | <b>—II Sam. 1 — 4</b>   |
| (1) David's lament over Saul and Jonathan             | —II Sam. 1              |
| (2) David made king over Judah—Ishbosheth over Israel | —II Sam. 2:1–11         |
| (3) David steadily gains                              | —II Sam. 2:12 – 3:21    |
| (4) Abner and Ishbosheth murdered                     | —II Sam. 3:22 – 4:12    |
| <br>  |                         |
| <b>2. David Fully Established</b>                     | <b>—II Sam. 5 — 10</b>  |
| (1) Made King over all Israel                         | —II Sam. 5:1–5          |
| (2) Makes Jerusalem his capital                       | —II Sam. 5:6–25         |
| (3) Brings the Ark to Jerusalem                       | —II Sam. 6              |
| (4) God's covenant with David regarding the Kingdom   | —II Sam. 7              |
| (5) David's conquests, and his grace to Mephibosheth  | —II Sam. 8 — 10         |
| <br>  |                         |
| <b>3. David's Great Sin and Many Sorrows</b>          | <b>—II Sam. 11 — 20</b> |
| (1) David and Bathsheba                               | —II Sam. 11 — 12        |
| (2) Amnon, Tamar and Absalom                          | —II Sam. 13             |
| (3) David and Absalom                                 | —II Sam. 14 – 18        |
| (4) David and Joab                                    | —II Sam. 19 — 20        |
| <br>  |                         |
| <b>4. Varied Incidents in David's Reign</b>           | <b>—II Sam. 21 — 24</b> |
| (1) David and the Gibeonites                          | —II Sam. 21:1–14        |
| (2) David and the Philistines                         | —II Sam. 21:15–22       |
| (3) His Song of Deliverance                           | —II Sam. 22             |
| (4) His last words and his mighty men                 | —II Sam. 23             |
| (5) His sin in numbering the people                   | —II Sam. 24             |

## SUGGESTED SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

1. Study the Davidic Covenant. Be sure that you understand its past and future significance. One suggested source is *Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics*, by J. Edwin Hartill, see page 24.
2. Determine which of David's sins was the most serious, or which had the most far-reaching consequences?
3. What did God testify of David? See Acts 13:22. Not a bad verse to memorize.