Explore the Bible Lesson Preview
June 3, 2018
“Respected”
Background: 2 Samuel 1:1-2:7
Lesson: 2 Samuel 1:22-27; 2:1-7

Motivation: Israel was in a state of transition. News of defeat and death begin the account of 2 Samuel. The one unchanging beacon in the dusk of uncertainty is the clear direction of God.

I. Lament for the Dead (1:1-22)

A. News of Saul's Death (1:1-10)

1. Timing “After the death of Saul . . .” (1:1) The book of Samuel was divided for ease of reference, much like the chapters and verses which were added later to each Bible book. 2 Samuel focuses on the reign of King David; so, the death of the previous king was a natural reference point for the division into two sections. David and his men returned from a great victory (I Samuel 30:1, 17, 26) and knew nothing of the defeat of Saul by the Philistines (I Samuel 31:1).

2. Tragedy “. . .a man with torn clothes and dust on his head came from Saul’s camp . . .” (1:2)

Believer's Study Bible, p. 421:
1:2
“Torn clothes and dust upon the head were common signs of mourning (cf. Josh. 7:6; 1 Sam. 4:12). The torn clothes probably represented a rent heart or unrestrained grief, but the exact significance of the dust upon the head is unknown.”
3. **Testimony** “The troops fled from the battle’, he answered, ‘Many of the troops are fallen and are dead. Also, Saul and his son Jonathan are dead.’” (1:4) I Samuel 31 records

“. . .

Then Saul took his sword and fell on it. ”

(4b-5) However, the testimony of the Amalekite in these verses reads, “ When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his own sword and died with him. ”

(1:9-10) “Two options are available for reconciling the two accounts:

a. From the armor bearer’s perspective, Saul appeared to be dead but had to be “finished off” by the Amalekite. Or, more likely,

b. The Amalekite lied to David. He found the dead body of King Saul and stole the crown and bracelet; then realizing the enormity of his theft, he brought “the crown jewels” to David, perhaps expecting a reward. The extra narrative of applying the coup-de-grace to Saul was an effort to gain favor with David. **Believer’s Study Bible**, p. 421: 1:8 “There is irony in the fact that the man who claimed to have killed Saul was an Amalekite (probably a mercenary fighting for Saul), a member of a nation Saul had been instructed to annihilate (1 Sam. 15:2, 3). His failure to do this led to his being rejected as Israel’s king in favor of David (1 Sam. 15:28).”

**B. The Penalty for Opposing God’s Authority** (11-16)

The Amalekite messenger must have been shocked by the reception his news brought. Instead of jubilant shouts of “The King is dead, long live the King,” David and his men “**mourned and wept and fasted**” (1:12). With Saul and many of his sons dead, David’s path to the throne seemed wide open. Yet, instead of celebration and a reward, the Amalekite found doom and death.

**1. Understanding God’s Authority is Crucial** “They mourned, wept and fasted until the
evening for those who died by the sword- for Saul, for his son Jonathan, the Lord’s people, and the house of Israel. " (12) .

David understood that God established Saul as king. The fact that Saul was a bad king who tried to kill David was beside the point. If God established Saul, it was God’s sovereign right to remove him. Even understanding that the time had come for Saul to be removed did not cushion the blow of losing Jonathan or of seeing Israel experience a great defeat.

2. Undermining God’s Authority is Callous “Where are you from?” (13) The Amalekites were under a death penalty from God for opposing His king and His people (I Samuel 15:2-3). A clear principle exists in God’s Word: “What God establishes, man should not undermine.” This applies to marriage (Matt. 19:6; Malachi 2:14), unity (Prov. 6:19), and authority (I Chronicles 16:22). Even in the Roman Empire, which was not particularly kind to Christians, Paul wrote “

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God.

" (Rom. 13:1; I Pet. 2:13-17)

3. Undertaking to Remove God’s Authority is Calamitous “How was it that you were not afraid to lift your hand to destroy the Lord’s anointed?” (14) David himself had two opportunities to kill King Saul, but realized that he did not have that right (I Sam. 24:4-6). Trying to reverse a decision of God is saying that you know better than God. The execution of the Amalekite messenger is a harsh reminder of the penalty for doing such a thing.

C. Lament of David (1:17-27)

In these verses, David the Warrior lays down his sword and picks up his pen to become David the Poet. The writer of so many beloved Psalms, David is inspired by God to write a fitting eulogy to the fallen leaders. As a tribute to Saul and Jonathan, David asked that the memorial song be included in “the Book of Jasher” (18) HCSB; p.499: 1:18 “David commanded that Judahites everywhere should learn this lament. Such an order provided further indication of the depth of his sorrow and the respect he had for Saul and Jonathan. The Book of Jashar (or “Book of the Upright”) is also mentioned in Jos 10:13. It has never been discovered, but it appears to have been a collection of some of God’s great works among His people.”
1. **Context** “Tell it not in Gath, don’t announce it in the marketplaces of Ashkelon. . .” (1:20) Gath and Ashkelon were stronghold cities of the Philistines. David understood that any defeat for God’s people was a victory for the enemy. Today, too much fighting goes on inside God’s army and not enough is directed at the enemy by God’s army. (Eph. 6; 2 Cor. 10:4)

2. **Commemoration Mountains of Gilboa**” (1:21) HCSB; p. 499: 1:21 “David called to the mountains of Gilboa, site of Saul’s death, to participate in the mourning by lacking dew and rain, two kinds of moisture much more common in the north where Gilboa was located rather than in the south where David was. The Hebrew seems to reflect the depth of David’s extreme emotion. The phrase the shield of Saul, no longer anointed with oil perhaps indicates the cleaning and polishing of Saul’s weapons. The concept of anointing was fitting for Saul, God’s anointed one.”

3. **Courage** “Jonathan’s bow never retreated. Saul’s sword never returned unstained…” (1:22) Whatever Saul’s character deficits, cowardice was not one of them. David could say from experience that Jonathan and Saul had been brave to the end.

4. **Combination** “Saul and Jonathan, loved and delightful, they were not parted in life or in death. They were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.” (1:23) Rather than dwell on the evil done to him by Saul, David chose to remember the “good times.” One rarely improves his/her future position by “running down” another person.

5. **Cost** “Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with luxurious things, who decked your garments with gold ornaments.” (1:24) Through conquest, Saul brought prosperity to the nation. When a leader goes away, we should try to remember the good things rather than the bad.

6. **Camaraderie** “I grieve for you, Jonathan, my brother. You were such a friend to me. Your love for me was more wonderful than the love of women.” (26) Although David had many wives and concubines, he was not all that successful in marriage. Michal betrayed him; Bathsheba misled him. It seems that only Abigail was true to him. HCSB,
p. 499:
1:26
“David called Jonathan his brother and friend. His relationship with Jonathan included a covenant bond of deep mutual respect and loyalty (1Sm 18:1-3; 20:13-17; 23:16-18). As leading men of society, they had much in common and developed a deep relationship that David considered more wonderful than the love of women. The text does not suggest that David had a homosexual relationship with Jonathan or that David had a poor relationship with his wives. Rather, it speaks to an unbreakable friendship bond between men that has been witnessed countless times and in countless cultures throughout history.”

7. Citation “How the mighty have fallen and the weapons of war have perished” (27)
Thus David concludes one of the truly great tributes of the Old Testament. With Saul’s spotty record, one has the feeling that the ode is to the office rather than the officer, and that David’s warm feelings are influenced heavily by his love for Jonathan. However, we can all learn a lesson: no matter how ill-treated we feel, we should all experience and reflect the grace of God to “pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)

II. Coronation (2:1-4a)

An interim time between kings is a period accompanied by potential peril. Even with the discretion evidenced by David, Israel was thrown into a civil war (8-9).

A. Direction “Sometime later, David inquired of the Lord ‘Should I go to one of the towns of Judah?’” (1) David understood that he was the anointed of God to be the next King (I Sam. 16:12-13). Yet, he did not think it wise to immediately march his men into Judah and declare himself. So, he sought God’s direction.

B. Diplomacy “‘To Hebron’ the Lord replied. So, David went there. . .” (1b-2a) David moved from the land of the Philistines to the outskirts of Judah. Rather than advance himself,
he made himself available.

HCSB,
p. 499,
2:1
“David
inquired of the Lord
as he often did to determine God’s will for his life (1 Sm 23:2, 9-12; 30:7-8).
Hebron
was Judah’s natural capital, located about 19 miles south of Jerusalem high in the hill country.”

C. Declaration “Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.”
(2:4a) Recognition by Judah, David’s own tribe and the most powerful of the 12, was an important intermediary step to becoming King of Israel.

III. Commendation (2:4b-7)

A. Banner “It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul”
(4) Explore the Bible Commentary
(Summer, 2002), p. 18: “Meanwhile, David received further news about the details of Saul’s death. The men of Jabesh Gilead, whom Saul had rescued from Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had honored Saul with an act of bravery (I Sam. 31:11-13). They had journeyed to Beth Shan, where the Philistines had attached the bodies of Saul and his sons to the city wall. They took down the bodies, burned them, buried their bones, and fasted seven days. Their act of bravery revealed the depth of their gratitude toward one who had rescued them from Ammonite oppression.”

B. Blessing “Now, may the Lord show kindness and faithfulness to you, and I will also show the same goodness to you because you have done this deed.”
(2:6) The Hebrew word for kindness (hesed) is the closest word in the Old Testament to the New Testament word for grace. It is used for God’s covenant love.

C. Description “Therefore be strong and courageous, for though Saul your lord is dead, the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.”
The plea for strength and courage is reminiscent of God’s charge to Joshua upon entering the promised land (Joshua
1:6,7,9, 18). In uncertain times between kings, the people of Israel needed to trust God more than ever.

**Application**

1. **We must respect God’s sovereignty and will.**

2. **Even when we know God’s will, we must respect and honor those impacted by the decisions made.**

3. **Courage and strength are needed in uncertain time.**

**Leader’s Pack Item 1:** Map: David’s Rise to Power; **Item 2:** Outline of 2 Samuel; **Item 7:** Handout: 2 Samuel Timeline; **Item 8:** Handout: Memory Verses Bookmark


**Notes:** "You may access David’s Lesson Preview in MP3 format at: [www.hfcbiblestudy.org](http://www.hfcbiblestudy.org);"

**Dates:** 5/23 – HCHS Graduation Rehearsal; 5/24 – FBA 8th Grade Graduation; 5/25 – HCHS Graduation; 5/28 – Memorial Day offices closed; 6/1 – Family Night @ Typhoon Texas; 6/8-9
II Samuel Lesson 1: “Respected”

Written by David Self
Monday, 28 May 2018 00:00 - Last Updated Saturday, 09 June 2018 13:51

– Life of a Single Mom Conf; 6/10
– Timothy Ateek guest speaker; 6/10-13
- Camp Intersect; 6/10-7/1
- Pastor Gregg on Sabbatical; 6/17
– SPF Father’s Day Luncheon; 6/17
- Warren Samuels guest speaker; 6/23
- Men:Serve; 6/24
– VBS Prep Day; 6/24
– Jeremiah Johnston guest speaker; 6/25-28
– VBS, 27th is Family night; 7/1
– David Self preaching; 7/4
– Independence Day, offices closed; 7/9-12
– Houston 1:8; 7/22
– HB Charles guest speaker; 7/20-26
– RUSHWEEK 2018; 8/4
– Inspirational Writers Conf.; 8/12
– Welcome to the HUB; 8/13
– All-Staff with FBA in Chapel @ Loop; 8/19
– Kickoff Sunday; 8/25
– ReFuel: Parenting with Purpose Conference.