

2 Samuel

*This is part of an ongoing series of short articles designed to help us understand what scripture is and what is **in** each book of scripture. Previous articles can be found at www.openarms-communityofchrist.org.*

Second Samuel begins with David being told of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan and his anointing as king. It was not all smooth sailing, because another of Saul's sons (Ishbaal) became ruler over part of Israel. The war between the house of Saul and the house of David continued for many years, finally ending with Ishbaal's general coming over to David's side. Ishbaal's men were defeated and fled, leaving behind Mephibosheth, a son of Jonathan; however, David treated him kindly, in memory of Jonathan.

David ensured that the ark of the covenant was returned to Jerusalem; in the process, one of David's wives (Michal, daughter of Saul) saw him dancing in a way that made her despise him.

David wanted to build a house for the Lord and initially had approval from the prophet Nathan. However, the Lord told Nathan to tell him to gather materials, but it would not be his responsibility to build. It would be his son's.

After David had ruled for many years, he fell in love with Bathsheba, the daughter of one of his generals. He took her as his wife and she became pregnant, while still married to Uriah. David made arrangements for her husband to be killed in battle, and was rebuked by the prophet Nathan for this.

David had many sons and daughters. Unfortunately, one son (Amnon) raped his sister (Tamar), causing a rift between Amnon and Tamar's brother Absalom. Absalom ultimately killed Amnon and fled from David's presence, working to make himself popular with the people so that he could become king in David's place.

When war broke out between David and Absalom, David asked his soldiers to protect Absalom. However, they did not, and David was deeply distressed by his death.

He continued to reign for many years, but was embroiled in many wars with the peoples around Israel.