The Book of 2 Samuel
An Overview

The book of First Samuel deals largely with Saul. The second book of Samuel deals primarily with David with a hint of interest in the life of Joab. Though David is a man of greater character than Saul, he too has his rebellious moments. One of the beauties of God’s word is that it shows not only man in all his brilliance but man in moments of shame too. The life of David is a life we can all relate to. He loved God, yet he sinned.

David

It seems odd how that one man can bring a kingdom to its knees. David; however, did just that. David was thirty years old when he began to reign as king of Israel and his rule lasted forty years (see 2 Samuel 5:4). During his reign the Lord had promised David that he would establish his kingdom for ever (2 Samuel 7:12-16). The fulfillment of said promise would be realized in Jesus Christ and the everlasting kingdom of God (see Acts 2:29ff).

David was more than the anointed king or prince of Israel. David was a mighty man of war and valor (1 Samuel 16:18; 2 Samuel 17:5-10), a man of great courage and faith (1 Samuel 17), skillful harp player (1 Samuel 16:18), man after God’s heart (1 Samuel 13:14), sweet singer of Israel (2 Samuel 23:1) and a prophet of God (2 Samuel 23:2-4; Acts 2:29-30). David's character of humility is also well documented. When the Lord told David of the great blessing of being the one through whom Jehovah would grant his promises; i.e., Jesus, David said, "Who am I Lord Jehovah, and what is my house, that thou hast brought me thus far?" (2 Samuel 7:18; see also 1 Samuel 18:17-19). David was a man who dealt righteously and just with the people he governed (2 Samuel 8:15-18) and respected those in positions of authority (1 Samuel 24:8ff). David was also a man of his word (2 Samuel 9:7-13). Though all these wonderful character traits belonged to the king; he nonetheless, disappoints both God and us (see 2 Samuel 23:1-7).
David's Sins

David had many commendable qualities about himself but he was not without fault. We have already examined the sins of David in 1 Samuel. Second Samuel has more to say about the king's error. David failed to lawfully transfer the Ark of the Covenant correctly and thereby Uzzah lost his life (2 Samuel 6:6ff). David failed God miserably when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered Uriah the Hittite, Bathsheba's husband (2 Samuel 11-12). Due to this sin David's house experienced inner feuding and trouble as was prophesied by Nathan (see 2 Samuel 12:10ff). David's sin brought about a civil war in Israel that resulted in the deaths of twenty thousand men of Israel, one of which was Absalom his own son (see 2 Samuel 18:6-7). David again sins against Jehovah in that he numbered the fighting men of Israel thus showing a lack of faith in Jehovah God's protection (see 2 Samuel 24:10, 17). The results of this error was the death of seventy thousand men (2 Samuel 24:15). David single-handedly brings the nation of Israel to its knees on a few occasions.

David in the New Testament

David's name is mentioned many times in the New Testament. Jesus was often referred to as the, "Son of David" (see Matthew 12:23; Romans 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:8; Rev. 5:5; 22:16 etc.). Matthew gives the genealogy of Jesus bringing him through the seed of David as well (see Matthew 1:6). David clearly understood the grand significance of the blessing pronounced upon him by the Lord at 2 Samuel 7:12ff. Paul quotes David from Psalms 32:1-2 at Romans 4:6-8 regarding man's forgiveness of sins being contingent upon their obedient faith.

Lessons Learned from 2 Samuel

There are two overriding lessons detected in 2 Samuel. First, the reality of the Christ is seen in David's comprehension that the Messiah would come through his seed (2 Samuel 7:12ff). Secondly, we follow David's every day life only to see a man who performed both works of righteousness and evil deeds. David is no different than all of us. He was flesh and bone and that means he sinned like we all do (see Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8). The difference between David and many other sinners is that he always exercised a spirit of humility and confessed his wrong doings to the Lord (2 Samuel 12:13; 24:10, 17). When we confess our sins to the Lord, through a spirit of humble submission, the Lord promises to forgive us as well (see Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

John C. Robertson
The Book of 2 Timothy
An overview Sermon

Introduction:

Second Timothy outlines the work of an evangelist and the consequences that come with such work. Each generation must produce men who are willing to take up the mantle of an evangelist.

I. Paul had served his time as an Evangelist (2 Timothy 4:6):
   A. The apostle Paul had a never quit attitude and gave life's race everything he had (see Phil. 3:12ff)
   B. Though wicked men made life difficult Paul kept pressing forward:
      1. He was considered a mad man (2 Corinthians 5:13), an idiot (2 Corinthians 11:5), and a coward (2 Corinthians 10:10).
      2. Paul was viewed as a spectacle among men, foolish, and counted as the filth of the world (1 Corinthians 4:9-13).
      3. 2 Corinthians 11 summarizes his struggles.
   C. Though he was mistreated he remained faithful (2 Timothy 4:7ff).

II. Paul was ready to pass the torch of an Evangelist on to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:1-5):
   A. Paul warns Timothy of the grievous days ahead (2 Timothy 3:1ff).
   B. There would be brethren who could bear sound doctrine no longer and have itching ears to hear greater research into the things of this world with fascinating stories (2 Timothy 4:1-3).

III. Paul tells Timothy what he would be Facing as an Evangelist:
   A. Evil men would bring suffering to his life (2 Timothy 1:8).
   B. Evil men would spread their false doctrines like a gangrene infectious disease (2 Timothy 2:16-17).
   C. Evil men would comfort those in error (2 Timothy 3:6).
   D. Evil men would wax worse and worse (2 Timothy 3:13).
   E. Timothy is charged to be a walking contrast to the wicked (2 Timothy 1:12-14).

IV. Paul's advice to the young Evangelist:
   A. Never be ashamed of the gospel though men make you suffer (2 Timothy 1:8).
   B. No matter the level of suffering Timothy was to never shy away from truth because souls were at stake (2 Timothy 1:8; 2:3; 3:12; 4:4).
   C. Never mind the error of the wicked. God's promises will always remain (2 Timothy 2:9, 13, 19).

Conclusion:

Preachers today should never grow weary of the sorrows and persecution that comes with preaching the gospel. Those minded to do the work of an evangelist must know that heartaches and suffering go hand in hand with preaching. Paul had passed the evangelist torch to Timothy and the apostle expected Timothy to do the same thing with others (2 Tim. 2:1-3).