
OT History – Part 14: Reign of David (Part B)

“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me: your throne will be established forever.” – 2 Samuel 7:16

“Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign Lord, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.” – 2 Samuel 7:29

1. Lust, Rape, and Murder: Amnon, Tamar, and Absalom (Chapter 13)

- a. Amnon, David’s son, falls for Tamar – his half sister (Absalom’s sister).
 - i. Amnon lusts after her, pretends to be ill, rapes her.
- b. David finds out and is angry (13:21) and.... (and nothing).
- c. Absalom harbors hate for Amnon and has him murdered two years later.
 - i. Absalom flees to Geshur for three years.
 - ii. 13:39 – The spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, for he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead.

2. Deceit: Joab’s Sneaky Plot to Get Absalom Back to Jerusalem (Chapter 14)

- a. Joab knows that David’s heart goes out to Absalom.
 - i. Arranges to have a woman dress in mourning and go before David with a story.
 - ii. Convicts David.
- b. David finds out that Joab is involved and then sends Joab to bring back Absalom.
 - i. 14:25-26 point out Absalom’s good looks and hair!
- c. Joab brings Absalom back, but 2 years pass before he and David meet again.
- d. When they do meet, Absalom bowed down before David and David kissed him.

3. Conspiracy: Absalom Steals the Hearts of Israel; David Flees (Chapter 15)

- a. Absalom sets up shop outside of Jerusalem.
 - i. “If only I were king of the land, then people would come to me, and I would ensure justice prevailed.”
 - ii. Absalom “steals” the hearts of the men of Israel.
- b. Absalom requests that he be able to go to Hebron to fulfill a vow he made and David allows it.
- c. Absalom has a bunch of people shout, “Absalom is king at Hebron!”
 - i. Significance of Hebron – recall 2 Samuel 2:1ff.
- d. David flees and in 15:25-26 expresses his trust in God’s sovereignty.
- e. David learns that Ahithophel is among the conspirators.
 - i. Hushai the Archite enters the story.
 - ii. David sends Hushai to Jerusalem to be a spy and to defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.

4. A Blessing, Curse, and Absalom Sleeps with David’s Concubines (Chapter 16)

- a. David blesses Ziba (servant of Mephibosheth).
- b. Shimei curses David.
 - i. 16:10-12 – David again expresses his trust in God’s sovereignty.
- c. At the advice of Ahithophel, Absalom has sex with all of David’s concubines on the roof so that, “all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened.”
 - i. Refer back to Nathan’s prophecy in 12:11.

5. Ahithophel vs. Hushai: Hushai’s Advice Wins (Chapter 17)

- a. Ahithophel:
 - i. Gather 12,000 men and pursue David killing only him and bringing back all of the people as a bride to her husband.

- b. Hushai:
 - i. David is a master of war. Gather all of Israel and go to battle in person.
- c. Absalom goes with Hushai's advice because (14b), "the Lord had ordained (or commanded) to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the Lord might bring harm upon Absalom."
- d. Note in 17:25 – Absalom appointed Amasa (David's nephew – see 1 Ch 2:16-17 – and thus Absalom's cousin) over the army in place of Joab.

6. Absalom's Death (Chapter 18)

- a. David musters up his army and sends them out. Tells the commanders (and all of the men hear it as well) to deal gently with Absalom (18:5).
- b. Battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim.
 - i. David's men win – the loss there was great – 20,000 men.
 - ii. The battle spread all over and the forest devoured more men than the sword.
- c. Absalom gets caught in a tree (recall 14:25-26 ☺)
 - i. Joab throws three javelins into the heart of Absalom.
 - ii. Joab's armor-bearers (10 of them) surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.
- d. Joab blows a trumpet and his men cease fighting.
- e. V18: Absalom's monument (brings back thoughts of Saul in 1 Samuel 15:12).
- f. Ahimaaz and the Cushite race to bring the news to David.
 - i. David went up to the chamber over the gate and wept over his son.

7. David Pardons His Enemies and Returns to Judah (Chapter 19)

- a. Joab is told about David's weeping and the news spreads. Joab is mad.
 - i. Those returning from battle are described as "stealing into the city as people steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle."
 - ii. Everyone is confused because of David's weeping over the enemy that was killed.
 - iii. Joab tells David that he must address the city or else everyone will turn on him and leave.
 - iv. We're really only told that in response to Joab's words to David, that David addressed the crowd – we don't get the content of the speech but simply the fact that he gave one.
- b. David to be reappointed as king in Judah.
 - i. Promises Amasa that he will replace Joab as the commander of his army.
- c. David pardons Shimei, Mephibosheth, and Barzillai.
- d. A spat arises between the people of Judah and the people of Israel over David.

8. Sheba, Leader of Israel – Beheaded: Joab Stabs Amasa (Chapter 20)

- a. A worthless man, Sheba blows a trumpet and all of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba. But the men of Judah held fast to David.
- b. David calls on Amasa and tells him to gather all of Judah together in three days.
 - i. We're told that Amasa can't get the job done.
 - ii. David tells Abishai that Sheba will do more harm than Absalom and that he is to go out and attack.
 - iii. Joab kills Amasa – stabs him with a sword.
 - iv. Then Joab and his brother Abishai pursued after Sheba.
- c. They catch up to Sheba at Abel and a woman calls out to Joab.
 - i. She was a wise old woman and tells Joab not to destroy the whole city.
 - ii. He responds that they only really want Sheba and so she consults the people of the city, they behead Sheba and throw the head out to Joab.
- d. Joab blows his horn and they all disperse.

9. Famine and the Avenging of Gibeonites via Hanging 7 Sons of Saul (Chapter 21)

- a. (Note that the chapters 21-24 defeat chronological ordering.)
- b. Famine comes over the land for three years.
- c. David “sought the face of the Lord” and the Lord responded that there was blood guilt on Saul and on his house because he put the Gibeonites to death.
 - i. David seeks out the Gibeonites and asks what must be done to atone for the horror that Saul put them through.
 - ii. They respond that they want 7 of his sons and they want to hang them.
 - iii. David agrees to give them over and made good on it. They hung them.
- d. We’re then told that God responded to the plea for the land.
- e. War again between Israel and the Philistines sparks up.
 - i. David is almost killed in battle and his men tell him that he is no longer to go into battle with them.
 - ii. We’re told of four giants who were killed in these battles.

10. David’s Song of Deliverance (Chapter 22)

- a. See also Psalm 18.

11. David’s Last Words and His Mighty Men (Chapter 23)

- a. David acknowledges the Spirit of the Lord being upon him and using David to speak (v2).
- b. List of mighty men and their victories and accomplishments.

12. David’s Census (Chapter 24)

- a. 24:1 – “Against the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel...”
- b. God tells David to go and number Israel and Judah.
 - i. **Contrast with 1 Chronicles 21:1 – “Satan inspired David to take the census.”
 - ii. Traditional interpretation is that God’s permissive action is expressed in 2 Samuel 24:1 and Satan’s instrumentality is the emphasis of the Chronicles parallel.
 - iii. Joab questions why David would want a census taken.
 - 1. 1 Chronicles 21:6 – the command was repulsive to Joab.
 - iv. After 9 months and 20 days, they return to Jerusalem with totals (Chronicles reports slightly different numbers).
 - 1. 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword in Israel.
 - 2. 500,000 in Judah
- c. 24:10 - David’s heart struck him after he had numbered the people – admits to God that he has sinned.
 - i. David admits to his sin on his own without the need of someone else pointing it out (recall 2 Samuel 12 and his sin with Bathsheba and Nathan’s involvement in convicting David).
 - ii. This time the prophet (Gad) comes after David has confessed.
 - iii. David is displayed here as a king who has learned how to confess, seek forgiveness, and seek restoration.
- d. God sends Gad (David’s seer) to David and gives him three options to choose from.
- e. David responds:
 - i. “I am in great distress. Let us fall *into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great*; but let me not fall into the hand of man.”
 - ii. So God sent a pestilence on Israel for three days.
- f. From Dan to Beersheba, 70,000 men died.
 - i. We’re told that an angel was involved here.
 - ii. Note that Chronicles account really draws this out.
 - iii. When the angel reached out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented and said that it was enough – telling the angel to stay his hand.

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- g. David spoke to the Lord, confessing his own sin and asking that God direct his hand at David and his house.
- h. Gad comes to David again and tells him to raise an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.
 - i. David goes there, insists on buying the threshing floor and the animals even though Araunah offers them to him for free.
 - ii. He builds the altar, offered burnt offerings and peace offering.
 - iii. The Lord responded to the plea for the land and the plague was averted from Israel.
 - iv. Note from 2 Chronicles 3:1 that this is the site where Solomon's Temple is constructed.

13. For Next Time:

- a. Read 1 Kings 1-11
 - i. Note especially David's charge to Solomon in 2:1-9.
 - ii. Note God's two appearances to Solomon. When did these appearances occur?
 - iii. Chapter 8 contains Solomon's great prayer. What stands out to you in this prayer?
 - iv. In chapter 11, Solomon falls away from the Lord. Are we to see this as abrupt, or are there subtle signs throughout the previous chapters that point to a more gradual decline?

14. Class Handouts, etc Available Online:

- a. I'm making all of the handouts, etc available online at:
 - i. www.toddsmindblogger.wordpress.com