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The Chapters of 2 Samuel

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2 Samuel

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (2 SAMUEL 1-2)

David kills the young Amalekite who says he put Saul out of his misery. David composes a song in honor of Saul and Jonathan. David is crowned king over Judah, and Saul's son Ishbosheth is proclaimed king over the other tribes. War breaks out between David and Ishbosheth.

I. THE TEARS OF DAVID (1:1-27)

- A. The foreigner (1:1-16): An Amalekite comes to David, claiming to have put Saul out of his misery at Saul's request. David has him killed, since he admitted that he killed Saul, the Lord's anointed.
- B. The funeral song (1:17-27): David composes a funeral song for Saul and Jonathan.
 - 1. The grief of David and Israel (1:17-21, 24-27): In David's song, he expresses his deep sorrow over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan, and he calls for all Israel to mourn.
 - 2. The glory of Saul and Jonathan (1:22-23): David extols Saul and Jonathan, describing them as "swifter than eagles" and "stronger than lions."

II. THE TRIUMPH OF DAVID (2:1-32): David is proclaimed king by the tribe of Judah.

- A. The ceremony (2:1-7)
 - 1. His crowning (2:1-4): David is crowned king in the city of Hebron.
 - 2. His commendation (2:5-7): David praises the men of Jabesh-gilead for recovering Saul's body.
- B. The competition (2:8-11): Abner, Saul's military commander, now crowns Ishbosheth, Saul's 40-year-old son, king over the other tribes.
- C. The contest (2:12-17): Joab leads David's forces against Abner's forces. As the two armies face each other on opposite sides of a pool, Abner challenges Joab to a sword fight between 12 men from each side. This results in a major battle between the two armies.
- D. The chase (2:18-23): Joab's brother Asahel pursues Abner, who warns him to abandon the chase. Asahel refuses, so Abner kills him.
- E. The compromise (2:24-32): An angry Joab continues the pursuit, seeking to avenge his dead brother. At sunset, however, both sides agree to call off hostilities for a time.

SECTION OUTLINE TWO (2 SAMUEL 3-4)

The war between David and Ishbosheth continues. Abner defects to David and is murdered by Joab. David turns Abner's funeral into a public humiliation for Joab. Ishbosheth is killed by fellow Benjamites who, in turn, are put to death by David.

I. THE BETRAYAL OF ABNER (3:1-39): As David's power increases, Abner switches loyalties, but he is betrayed when Joab kills him to avenge the murder of Asahel.

- A. The details (3:1-27)
 - 1. David's fortune (3:1-5)
 - a. The strength of his house (3:1): Over time, David's power grows stronger and stronger.
 - b. The sons born to his house (3:2-5): David fathers six sons during this time.
 - 2. Ishbosheth's fall (3:6-27)
 - a. The argument (3:6-11): Ishbosheth and Abner have a falling-out over a concubine named Rizpah.
 - b. The agreement (3:12-21): Abner switches his loyalties to David and makes an agreement with him to turn the rest of the tribes over to his side.
 - c. The assassination (3:22-27): Upon learning of Abner's proposed agreement, Joab tells David that Abner is simply acting as a spy. Then Joab kills Abner to avenge the murder of his brother Asahel.
- B. The denunciation (3:28-30): Angry and sorrowful, David condemns Joab's brutal act of treachery

toward Abner.

- C. The dejection (3:31-39): David mourns for Abner and fasts on the day of his funeral. He publicly condemns Joab and Abishai again.

II. THE BETRAYAL OF ISHBOSHETH (4:1-12)

- A. The accident (4:4): In the middle of the account about Ishbosheth's assassination, there is a short digression about Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, who is crippled when he is accidentally dropped by his nurse as she flees from the Philistines.
- B. The assassination (4:1-3, 5-7): Ishbosheth is murdered by two brothers, Baanah and Recab, two of the king's military leaders.
- C. The avenging (4:8-12): The two brothers bring the severed head of Ishbosheth to David, hoping to be rewarded. Instead, David orders them to be killed for murdering their king!

SECTION OUTLINE THREE (2 SAMUEL 5-6)

David is anointed king over all Israel. He captures Jerusalem, defeats the Philistines, and brings the Ark to Jerusalem. Michal despises David for dancing in worship before the Lord as the Ark is brought into the city.

I. THE ANOINTED OF GOD (5:1-25)

- A. David's crowning (5:1-5): The 12 tribes now come to Hebron and crown David king over all Israel.
- B. David's city (5:6-12): David captures Jerusalem and establishes it as Israel's new capital.
 - 1. The taunts (5:6): The pagan defenders of Jerusalem boast that their city can never be taken.
 - 2. The triumphs (5:7-12): After capturing the city, David begins enlarging it, thus increasing the strength of his kingdom.
- C. David's children (5:13-16): Eleven of David's sons, including Solomon and Nathan, are born in Jerusalem.
- D. David's conquests (5:17-25): David completely routs the attacking Philistines twice.
 - 1. First occasion (5:17-21)
 - 2. Second occasion (5:22-25)

II. THE ARK OF GOD (6:1-23): David transfers the Ark of God to Jerusalem.

- A. The mission (6:1-2): David goes to Baalah of Judah with 30,000 special troops to bring the Ark of God to Jerusalem.
- B. The method (6:3-4): They place the Ark on a new wagon, led by Uzzah and Ahio.
- C. The music (6:5): This is accompanied by singing and the playing of musical instruments.
- D. The mistake (6:6-8): The Lord strikes Uzzah dead when he reaches out to steady the Ark!
- E. The months (6:9-11): For the next 90 days, the Ark resides in the home of Obed-edom, who receives great blessing for his willingness to house the Ark.
- F. The mad wife (6:12-23): Michal becomes angry with David for dancing before the Ark, wearing only a priestly tunic.
 - 1. David's celebration (6:12-19): As the Ark is brought from the house of Obed-edom to Jerusalem, David joins in the celebration by dancing before the Lord in a priestly tunic.
 - 2. Michal's condemnation (6:20-23): David's wife sharply rebukes her husband for his behavior. David tells her that he is willing to look foolish in order to show his joy in the Lord. Michal remains childless throughout her life.

SECTION OUTLINE FOUR (2 SAMUEL 7-8)

The Lord grants an unconditional covenant to David, promising to establish his dynasty forever. In response, David praises God. David's military accomplishments are listed.

I. THE COVENANT (7:1-29)

- A. The promise (7:1-17)
 - 1. David's request (7:1-7): to build a house for God.
 - a. The purpose (7:1-3): David desires to build a dwelling that is fitting for the Ark of God, especially since David lives in a beautiful cedar palace while the Ark of God is housed in a tent. Nathan encourages David in his plan.

- b. The prohibition (7:4-7): The Lord tells Nathan that David is not the one chosen to build a house for the Lord.
 - 2. The Lord's response (7:8-17): to build a house for David.
 - a. The promise to David (7:8-11): The Lord declares that David's kingdom will prosper and his name will be known throughout the world!
 - b. The promise to David's descendant (7:12-15): The Lord promises to bless Solomon even after David's death.
 - c. The promise to David's descendants (7:16-17): The Lord promises that David's dynasty will never end.
- B. The prayer (7:18-29): With his heart filled with awe and gratitude, David praises the Lord for his promise.

II. THE CONQUESTS (8:1-18): David continues to expand his kingdom and lead the Israelites to victory.

- A. David's campaigns (8:1-14)
 - 1. Against the Philistines (8:1): David captures their largest city.
 - 2. Against the Moabites (8:2): David executes two-thirds of the Moabites, and the rest are forced to pay him tribute money.
 - 3. Against Hadadezer and the Arameans (8:3-12): David defeats them and forces them to pay tribute money. He also seizes much gold, silver, and bronze from them.
 - 4. Against the Edomites (8:13-14): David defeats the Edomites and places garrisons throughout Edom.
- B. David's court (8:15-18): David was a fair ruler. His military, political, and religious leaders are listed.

SECTION OUTLINE FIVE (2 SAMUEL 9-10)

David shows kindness toward Mephibosheth and defeats the Ammonites and Arameans.

I. DAVID'S COMPASSION (9:1-13): David shows kindness toward Saul's family.

- A. The man (9:1-4): Seeking to make good on his promise to watch over Jonathan's family, David asks Ziba, a former servant of Saul's, if anyone from Saul's family is still alive. Ziba tells him that Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, lives in Lo-debar.
- B. The meeting (9:5-6): David summons Mephibosheth, who fearfully and humbly appears before him.
- C. The mercy (9:7-13): David tells Mephibosheth not to fear and promises him several generous gifts. David offers this kindness to Mephibosheth because of his love for his father, Jonathan.
 - 1. David promises to restore all of Saul's lands to Mephibosheth (9:7-8).
 - 2. David provides him with many servants (9:9-10, 12).
 - 3. David assigns him a special place in the royal palace (9:10-11, 13).

II. DAVID'S CLENCHED FIST (10:1-19)

- A. The respect (10:1-2): David sends ambassadors to express his sympathy to Hanun, king of the Ammonites, whose father recently died. Hanun's father had been loyal to David.
- B. The ridicule (10:3-5): Hanun's advisers falsely conclude that the ambassadors are actually spies, so Hanun publicly humiliates them by cutting off their robes at the buttocks and shaving half their beards.
- C. The retaliation (10:6-19)
 - 1. Hanun's fear (10:6-8): Realizing his stupid blunder, the panic-filled Ammonite king hires 33,000 foreign soldiers to help him repel the anticipated Israelite attack.
 - 2. David's fury (10:9-19): In a fierce battle alongside the Euphrates River, David defeats his enemies, killing 700 of their charioteers and 40,000 horsemen.

SECTION OUTLINE SIX (2 SAMUEL 11-12)

David commits adultery with Bathsheba, attempts to deceive Uriah, and arranges for Uriah's murder. When David is rebuked by Nathan, he repents, but their illegitimate child dies. David marries Bathsheba, and she becomes pregnant with Solomon. David seizes control of all the Ammonite cities.

I. DAVID THE SINNER (11:1-27)

- A. His sin of adultery (11:1-5): Two factors lead to this tragic sin:
 - 1. David's laziness (11:1): David stays behind in the royal palace and sends Joab to lead the Israelites to fight the Ammonites.
 - 2. David's lust (11:2-5): David watches a beautiful woman named Bathsheba as she bathes. After learning that she is the wife of one of his soldiers, he sends for her and sleeps with her. Soon he learns she is pregnant with his child.
- B. His sin of deceit (11:6-13): David tries to cover up his sin of adultery.
 - 1. The unscrupulous plan (11:6-8): David recalls Uriah (Bathsheba's husband) from the battlefield, encouraging him to spend time with Bathsheba. David hopes that Uriah will sleep with his wife and think that David's child is his.
 - 2. The unsuccessful plan (11:9-13): Twice Uriah refuses to go home to his wife.
- C. His sin of murder (11:14-27): Failing to deceive Uriah into sleeping with his wife, David arranges for Uriah to be killed in battle so David can make Bathsheba one of his wives.
 - 1. The details (11:14-21)
 - a. The treachery (11:14-15): David sends a sealed letter to Joab by way of Uriah, ordering Joab to arrange for loyal Uriah's death.
 - b. The tragedy (11:16-21): Joab places Uriah in the fiercest part of the battle, and he is killed just as David planned.
 - 2. The disapproval (11:22-27): News reaches David that Uriah has been killed, so he marries the widowed Bathsheba after her period of mourning. Soon after this, a son is born. But the Lord is highly displeased with what David has done.

II. DAVID THE SORROWFUL (12:1-13)

- A. The confrontation (12:1-12): The Lord sends Nathan the prophet to confront David regarding his sin.
 - 1. The illustration (12:1-4): Nathan relates the story of how a rich farmer with many lambs takes the sole lamb of a poor farmer.
 - 2. The indignation (12:5-6): David is furious, vowing to kill such a person unless he pays back the poor farmer fourfold!
 - 3. The identification (12:7-9): Nathan tells David that he is the rich farmer in the story!
 - 4. The imprecation (12:10-12): As punishment for David's sin, the Lord condemns David's family to terrible turmoil.
- B. The confession (12:13): When David confesses his sin, Nathan tells him that the Lord has forgiven him and will not let him die for this sin.

III. DAVID THE SUBMISSIVE (12:14-25)

- A. The bitter event: the death of Bathsheba's first son (12:15-23)
 - 1. David's travail (12:15-19): For seven days David fasts and prays, asking God to spare his son. But the baby dies.
 - 2. David's testimony (12:20-23): After the baby's death, David breaks his fast, ceases his mourning, and worships God. He testifies that one day he will join the baby in death, but the baby can never return to him.
- B. The blessed event: the birth of Bathsheba's foremost son (12:24-25): Later Bathsheba gives birth to Solomon, whose name means "peace." The Lord, however, tells David that his name should be Jedidiah, meaning "beloved of the LORD."

- IV. DAVID THE SOLDIER (12:26-31): David captures the Ammonite city of Rabbah, making slaves of the people and taking great amounts of gold, including a special golden crown set with precious stones.

SECTION OUTLINE SEVEN (2 SAMUEL 13-14)

Amnon rapes Tamar. Absalom avenges Tamar and flees to his maternal grandfather's home. David permits Absalom to return to Jerusalem but bars him from the palace. David meets with Absalom and is reconciled to him for a time.

I. THE RAPE (13:1-19)

- A. Amnon desires Tamar (13:1-10): David's son Amnon falls desperately in love with his half sister Tamar.
 - 1. The suggestion by Jonadab (13:1-5): Amnon's cousin Jonadab tells him to pretend he is sick and request Tamar to attend to him.
 - 2. The subtlety by Amnon (13:6-10): Amnon heeds Jonadab's advice and arranges for Tamar to be alone with him in his bedroom.
- B. Amnon defiles Tamar (13:11-19)
 - 1. The sinful act (13:11-14): Ignoring Tamar's cries of protest, Amnon rapes his half sister.
 - 2. The sinful attitude (13:15-19): Suddenly Amnon's lust turns to loathing, and Amnon has Tamar thrown out of his bedroom.

II. THE REVENGE (13:20-39)

- A. Absalom and Tamar (13:20-22): Absalom, Amnon's half brother, attempts to comfort Tamar, his full sister. Because of this terrible deed, Absalom hates Amnon, although he never speaks of it.
- B. Absalom and Amnon (13:23-33): Absalom conspires to murder Amnon in revenge for raping Tamar. He does so two years later as he is celebrating the shearing of his sheep.
- C. Absalom and David (13:34-39): Absalom flees the land of Israel to escape his father David. Eventually David desires to see Absalom again.

III. THE RETURN (14:1-33): Joab devises a plan to bring Absalom back to Israel.

- A. The strategy by Joab (14:1-20)
 - 1. The person (14:1-3): Joab enlists the help of a wise woman from Tekoa in effecting the return of Absalom.
 - 2. The particulars (14:4-20)
 - a. Setting the trap (14:4-11): This woman approaches David, pretending that one of her two sons killed the other. She asks for mercy upon the survivor. David guarantees that her son will be allowed to safely return.
 - b. Springing the trap (14:12-20): The woman then urges David to do this same thing for his son Absalom.
- B. The summons by David (14:21-33)
 - 1. David sends for Absalom (14:21-32): David instructs Joab to bring Absalom back from exile.
 - a. Absalom's arrival (14:21-27): Absalom returns to Jerusalem, but David refuses to see him. Absalom is a very handsome man with long hair.
 - b. Absalom's anger (14:28-32): After waiting two full years to see his father, Absalom sets a barley field on fire to get his attention.
 - 2. David meets with Absalom (14:33): Finally, David agrees to see his son, and the two men are reconciled to each other.

SECTION OUTLINE EIGHT (2 SAMUEL 15-16)

Absalom steals the hearts of the people and revolts against his father. David flees into exile, returns the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, and plants an infiltrator named Hushai in Absalom's court. David refuses to retaliate against Shimei. Ahithophel gives Absalom ungodly counsel.

I. THE PLOT EXECUTED (15:1-12): David's own son Absalom organizes a rebellion against him.

- A. The politics of the plot (15:1-6): Absalom captures the people's hearts by assuring them that his kingship would bring about a far more just society than did his father's.
- B. The place of the plot (15:7-12): The rebellion begins in the city of Hebron. He also sends messengers to other parts of Israel to stir up trouble.

II. THE PEOPLE ENJOINED (15:13-29): David learns of the rebellion. As he flees Jerusalem to escape Absalom, he gives commands to three men who flee with him.

- A. Ittai (15:17-22)
 - 1. The leader (15:17-20): Ittai is the captain of the 600 Gittite soldiers who have joined David. David urges him to return to Jerusalem, since he and his men have only just arrived in Israel.
 - 2. The loyal (15:21-22): Ittai vows to support David whatever the cost, so David welcomes him.

B. Zadok and Abiathar (15:23-29): David instructs a priest named Zadok to return the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and send word to him before he disappears into the wilderness.

III. THE PEOPLE ENCOUNTERED (15:30-16:19): David also encounters some people as he flees from Absalom.

A. Hushai (15:30-37; 16:15-19)

1. Hushai and David (15:30-37): A faithful friend named Hushai is waiting for David on the Mount of Olives. David instructs him to return to Jerusalem and offer himself as Absalom's adviser, pretending he has turned against David, so he can offer Absalom wrong advice on how to conduct the rebellion.

2. Hushai and Absalom (16:15-19): Hushai and Ahithophel, David's former adviser who has turned against him, eventually meet with Absalom. After Hushai explains that he has turned against David, it appears that Absalom accepts him as his adviser.

B. Ziba (16:1-4): David encounters Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, who reports that his master has turned against David as well. So David grants Ziba all that he had formerly granted Mephibosheth.

C. Shimei (16:5-14): David meets Shimei, a member of Saul's family.

1. The reviling (16:5-8): Shimei curses David and throws stones at him as he calls him a murderer and tells him that the Lord is repaying him for stealing Saul's throne.

2. The restraint (16:9-14): David forbids his soldiers to harm Shimei, saying that his actions are understandable since he is Saul's relative.

IV. THE PROFANITY EMBRACED (16:20-23): At the advice of Ahithophel, Absalom sets up a tent on top of the palace roof and sleeps with David's concubines, publicly insulting David.

SECTION OUTLINE NINE (2 SAMUEL 17-18)

Hushai gives Absalom bad military counsel and warns David to flee. Absalom pursues David east of the Jordan, but David's men defeat Absalom's men. Twenty thousand men die in the battle, including Absalom. David mourns Absalom's death.

I. THE RUSE (17:1-14, 23): Ahithophel and Hushai offer conflicting advice to Absalom.

A. The correct advice of Ahithophel (17:1-4): Ahithophel urges Absalom to attack David's troops immediately while David is still weary and weak.

B. The crafty advice of Hushai (17:5-14, 23): Hushai advises that the attack be delayed until a large number of soldiers throughout the land can be assembled. Then Absalom himself should lead them into battle. Hushai's plan is accepted, causing Ahithophel to go home and hang himself.

II. THE RELAY (17:15-23): Hushai sends news of Absalom's plan to David, who now has time to mobilize his army.

III. THE REPLACEMENT (17:24-26): Absalom appoints Amasa to command the Israelite army in place of Joab.

IV. THE RENDEZVOUS (17:27-29): Three friends of David-Shobi, Makir, and Barzillai-bring him and his soldiers food in the wilderness.

V. THE REFUSAL (18:1-4): David's troops urge him not to lead them in battle, arguing that his life is worth 10,000 of theirs.

VI. THE REQUEST (18:5): Just before the battle, David instructs Joab, Abishai, and Ittai to deal gently with Absalom.

VII. THE ROUTING (18:6-8): David's troops defeat Absalom's army in the forest of Ephraim.

VIII. THE REPRISAL (18:9-18)

- A. The helpless Absalom (18:9-10): As he flees the battle on his mule, Absalom's hair gets caught in the thick branches of a large oak, and he is left dangling helplessly in the air.
- B. The heartless Joab (18:11-18): Disregarding David's instructions, Joab plunges three daggers into Absalom's heart.

IX. THE REPORT (18:19-32): David anxiously awaits news of the battle and Absalom's fate. Finally, a messenger brings him word that his enemies are defeated and Absalom is dead.

X. THE REMORSE (18:33): Bursting into tears, David wishes that he had died instead of his son.

SECTION OUTLINE TEN (2 SAMUEL 19)

David's kingship is restored in Jerusalem. David refuses to take vengeance on Shimei, deals with Mephibosheth, and attempts to reward Barzillai for his kindness to him. The tribe of Judah escorts David back to Jerusalem, causing some jealousy among the other tribes.

I. THE TEARS OF DAVID (19:1-7)

- A. David's anguish (19:1-4): The king continues to sorrow over the death of Absalom.
- B. Joab's anger (19:5-7): Joab sternly rebukes David, claiming that he seems to love those who hate him and hate those who love him! He warns David that his troops will desert him unless he congratulates them for winning the battle.

II. THE TRAVELS OF DAVID (19:8-43): David begins his long trip back to Jerusalem.

- A. The resolution (19:8-15)
 1. The argument (19:8-10): The people of Israel argue over whether David should return.
 2. The appeal (19:11-12): David personally appeals to the leaders of Judah, asking them to support his return.
 3. The appointment (19:13): The king promises to appoint Amasa as Joab's replacement.
 4. The agreement (19:14): All of Judah agrees to support David's return.
- B. The return (19:15-43)
 1. David and Shimei (19:16-23)
 - a. Shimei's fear (19:16-20): Shimei, who previously cursed David, meets David at the Jordan River and pleads for mercy.
 - b. David's forgiveness (19:21-23): The king grants him mercy and assures him that his life will be spared.
 2. David and Mephibosheth (19:24-30): Mephibosheth also comes to meet David; David asks him why he stayed in Jerusalem during the revolt. Mephibosheth claims that Ziba refused to help him leave and lied about his loyalty. So David divides Saul's land equally between Ziba and Mephibosheth.
 3. David and Barzillai (19:31-39): David invites 80-year-old Barzillai to accompany him back to Jerusalem and live in the palace, but he declines the offer.
 4. David and the men of Judah (19:40-43): The army of Judah escorts David across the Jordan and into Jerusalem. The other tribes complain about the favor shown to Judah in this way.

SECTION OUTLINE ELEVEN (2 SAMUEL 20-21)

Sheba rebels against David. Joab kills Amasa and attacks the city of Abel, but he retreats once the people cut off Sheba's head and throw it out to him. David makes amends for Saul's attack on the Gibeonites. Some military exploits of David and his men are recorded.

I. THE TROUBLEMAKING OF SHEBA (20:1-22)

- A. Sheba's uprising (20:1-13)
 1. Sheba's conspiracy (20:1-2): Sheba, a Benjaminite, leads a rebellion against David, supported by all Israel's tribes except Judah.
 2. David's concern (20:3-7): David perceives Sheba's threat to be more dangerous than even Absalom's rebellion, so he orders Amasa to mobilize the entire army of Judah to fight against Sheba.
 3. Joab's cruelty (20:8-13): Joab assassinates Amasa to regain his former position as David's

military commander.

B. Sheba's undoing (20:14-22)

1. The war against Abel (20:14-15): Sheba seeks refuge in the city of Abel, so Joab attacks the city.
2. The wise woman of Abel (20:16-22): A woman from Abel strikes a bargain with Joab to spare the city. She offers to throw Sheba's severed head over the wall. The woman makes good on her promise, and Joab calls off the attack on the city.

II. THE TALLY OF LEADERS (20:23-26): David's leaders are listed, including his military commanders, the leader of his labor force, his royal historian, his secretary, and his priests.

III. THE TRANSGRESSION OF SAUL (21:1-14)

- A. The problem (21:1-2): David asks God why Israel is being punished by a famine; he is told it is because Saul tried to wipe out the Gibeonites.
- B. The plan (21:3-9)
 1. David's meeting (21:3-6): The king confers with the Gibeonites, who demand that seven of Saul's descendants be handed over to them to be executed.
 2. David's mercy (21:7-9): David grants their demand, but he does not allow Jonathan's son Mephibosheth to be taken. So the Gibeonites execute seven of Saul's descendants on a nearby mountain.
- C. The protective mother (21:10-14): Rizpah, whose two sons were among those executed, faithfully remains by their bodies for many weeks, protecting them from being eaten by wild animals and vultures.

IV. THE TRIUMPHS OF THE FOUR (21:15-22): The military accomplishments of four of David's soldiers are recorded.

SECTION OUTLINE TWELVE (2 SAMUEL 22)

David composes a song to praise God and commemorate his victories over Saul and all his enemies.

I. THANKSGIVING FOR BEING SAVED FROM HIS ENEMIES (22:1-32)

- A. God's protection (22:2-7)
- B. God's power (22:8-16)
- C. God's provision (22:17-25)
- D. God's perfect justice (22:26-28)
- E. God's proven dependability (22:29-32)

II. THANKSGIVING FOR BEING SET OVER HIS ENEMIES (22:33-51)

- A. The warrior for God (22:33-46): David praises God for giving him what he needs to defeat his enemies.
 1. The skill to defeat his foes (22:33-37)
 2. The strength to defeat his foes (22:38-46)
- B. The worshiper of God (22:47-51): David praises God for all the victories he has given him.

SECTION OUTLINE THIRTEEN (2 SAMUEL 23-24)

David's last words are recorded, along with the deeds of his mighty men. Because David takes a census of the people, he must choose the punishment. After a plague kills 70,000 Israelites, David builds an altar and the plague is stopped.

I. THE SONG OF DAVID (23:1-7)

- A. God and the godly (23:1-5)
 1. His anointing of David (23:1-4)
 2. His agreement with David (23:5)
- B. God and the godless (23:6-7): The godless will be cast away and burned like worthless and harmful thorns.

- II. THE SOLDIERS OF DAVID (23:8-39): This passage lists the exploits of David's mightiest warriors.
- A. First grouping (23:8-17): The first group, called the Three, consists of the three greatest warriors among David's men.
 - 1. Jashobeam, the commander of the Three, killed 800 men in one battle.
 - 2. Eleazar struck down Philistines until his hand was too tired to hold his sword.
 - 3. Shammah single-handedly beat back a large number of attacking Philistines.
 - 4. These men once broke through the Philistine lines simply to bring David water from Bethlehem.
 - B. Second grouping (23:18-23): The second group of David's famous warriors are two leaders of the Thirty.
 - 1. Abishai, the leader of the Thirty, once killed 300 enemy soldiers in a single battle. He became as famous as the Three.
 - 2. Benaiah, the commander of David's bodyguard, killed two of Moab's mightiest warriors and a lion in a pit. He also killed an Egyptian with the Egyptian's own spear.
 - C. Final grouping (23:24-39): The rest of the warriors among the Thirty are listed.
- III. THE SIN OF DAVID (24:1-25)
- A. The project (24:1-2): David commands that a census be taken of all the tribes of Israel.
 - B. The protest (24:3-4): Joab unsuccessfully attempts to change David's mind about taking a census.
 - C. The particulars (24:5-9)
 - 1. The territory of the census (24:5-7): The itinerary of the census takers is given.
 - 2. The time of the census (24:8): It takes nine months and 20 days to complete the census.
 - 3. The total of the census (24:9): There are 500,000 men of military age in Judah and 800,000 throughout the rest of Israel.
 - D. The prayer (24:10): After the census is taken, David realizes he sinned and asks for the Lord's forgiveness.
 - E. The punishment (24:11-15)
 - 1. The nature (24:11-13): God allows David to choose one of three punishments for taking the census:
 - a. three years of famine
 - b. three months of military defeat
 - c. three days of plague
 - 2. The number (24:14-15): David chooses the plague, which results in 70,000 deaths throughout Israel.
 - F. The pardon (24:16-17): God stays the hand of the death angel as he is about to destroy Jerusalem.
 - G. The purchase (24:18-25): David is instructed to buy a certain threshing floor, build an altar there, and make a sacrifice to the Lord. He obeys, and the plague ceases.