

# **The God of David**

## **Studies in First and Second Samuel**

*My soul, wait thou only upon God;  
for my expectation is from him.*

*He only is my rock and my salvation:  
he is my defense; I shall not be moved.*

**Psalm 62:5-6**

**Trinity Bible Church  
Sunday School  
Fall 2012**

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## Introduction

Our study for this fall concerns the life of David as presented in the books of Samuel. The account opens in a time when men were doing that which was right in their own eyes and the Word of the LORD was “rare.” Our attention is directed to a seemingly insignificant woman named Hannah, living with her husband in the hills of Ephraim. Her husband had another wife who had borne children, but Hannah was barren. In her grief over her barrenness, she earnestly pled with the LORD for a child. She deeply desired the blessing of the LORD. The LORD heard her and gave her a son, Samuel, who was not only a personal blessing to Hannah, but also the vessel of the LORD for the restoration of His Word in Israel.

This simple and effectual faith of Hannah is contrasted with the barrenness of the priesthood which was a source of corruption and finally a cause for the Glory of the LORD to depart from Israel. But the LORD had already prepared Samuel, son of Hannah, to lead the people back to Himself. Sadly, the blessing of the LORD was not sufficient for them. They wanted to be like the nations and have a human king rather than the LORD to rule over them.

Samuel was directed by the LORD to give them a man of their own choosing, Saul. The reign of King Saul gave opportunity for the people to see the folly of the course they had chosen. Instead of deserting His unworthy people, however, the LORD directed Samuel to anoint David as their king. David, unlike Saul, was *“a man after God’s own heart.”*

David is significant for several reasons. In the first place, he illustrates God’s redemptive work of grace in that He does not leave men in the plight of their own choosing, but moves in their circumstances to draw them back to Himself. They desired a king like the nations, and God gave them a king like Himself. They

despised God as their Ruler, and He gave them a man, but His own anointed one to rule over them.

Secondly, the life of David is significant in that it displays the life of the people of God in this world. David was anointed by God to rule, but spent years as a fugitive without apparent hope of seeing the Word of God come to fulfillment. His was a life of faith as he was compelled to live in expectation of the fulfillment of the promise of God. His faith is displayed in living in submission to the circumstances in which he was placed by God, circumstances which seemed contrary to the purposes of God, yet were exactly according to God’s design.

Thirdly, David anticipates for us the coming of the True Anointed One. God is not content to rule over men by a mere man, but intends to rule over men directly. The life of David pictures the Anointed One Who is despised and rejected of men, yet exalted by God as Head above all. The life of David sets before us an expectation of the True King Who will rule in unflinching righteousness and in a kingdom that will not cease. David himself was unable to fulfil that expectation.

Most importantly, we need to remember that this is not mere history or even history with a moral, but a revelation of the Almighty God and His great work of redemption. We see the ways of God. He mightily worked through the faith of simple individuals such as the barren Hannah and the shepherd David. He delayed His reward in order to focus their faith on His Person and Word, not in visible experiences or circumstances. This is the lesson for us. We wait patiently for the completion of His plan to rule men in a kingdom of righteousness by the man Christ Jesus. Our faith will be strengthened by remembering the Lord’s faithfulness to Hannah, Samuel, David and the children of Israel as they awaited His blessing.

## Schedule

- September 2 1: The Word of the Lord Returns to Israel  
1 Samuel 1-3
- September 9 2: The Glory Departs from Israel  
1 Samuel 4-6
- September 16 3: Israel Rejects God as Their King  
1 Samuel 7-10
- September 23 4: Saul – the Foolish King of Israel  
1 Samuel 11-14
- September 30 5: The Heart of the Matter  
1 Samuel 15-16
- October 7 6: Goliath Defies the Living God  
1 Samuel 17
- October 14 7: Saul Determines to Kill David  
1 Samuel 18-20
- October 21 8: The Fugitive King  
1 Samuel 21-23
- October 28 9: David Spares the Lord's Anointed  
1 Samuel 24-27
- November 4 10: The Death of Saul  
1 Samuel 28-31
- November 11 11: David Becomes King of Judah  
2 Samuel 1-2
- November 18 12: David Becomes King of All Israel  
2 Samuel 3-5
- November 25 13: God Covenants with David  
2 Samuel 6-7
- December 2 14: David Rules with Justice and Kindness  
2 Samuel 8-10
- December 9 15: David Sins Against the Lord  
2 Samuel 11-12
- December 16 16: Rebellion in the House of David  
2 Samuel 13-15
- December 23 17: Rebellion in the Nation  
2 Samuel 16-19
- December 30 18: The Final Days of King David  
2 Samuel 20-24

## **Memory Assignment**

### **Psalm 1**

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man that walketh not  
in the counsel of the ungodly,  
nor standeth in the way of sinners,  
nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
- <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD;  
and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree  
planted by the rivers of water,  
that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;  
his leaf also shall not wither;  
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
- <sup>4</sup> The ungodly are not so:  
but are like the chaff  
which the wind driveth away.
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore the ungodly  
shall not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners  
in the congregation of the righteous.
- <sup>6</sup> For the LORD knoweth  
the way of the righteous:  
but the way of the ungodly  
shall perish.

## Memory Assignment (continued)

### Psalm 23

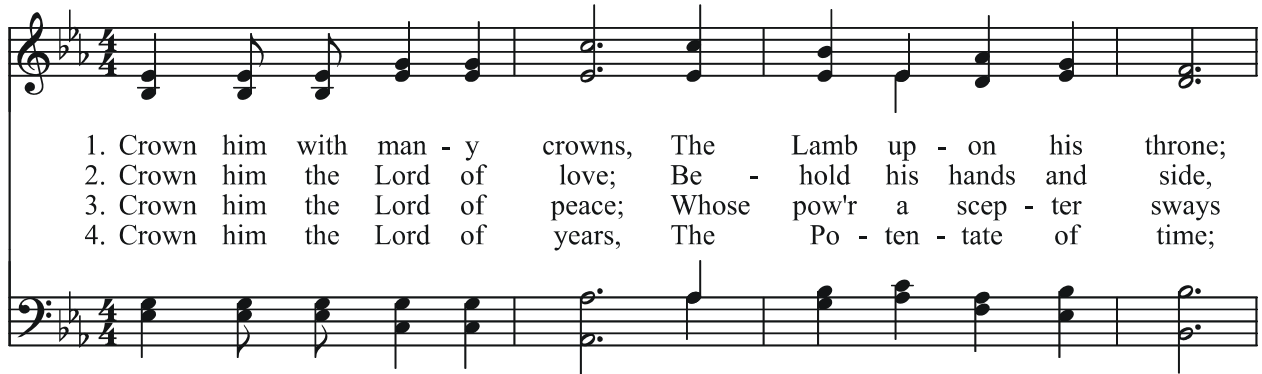
*A Psalm of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.**
- <sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**
- <sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.**
- <sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk  
through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**
- <sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.**
- <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
for ever.**

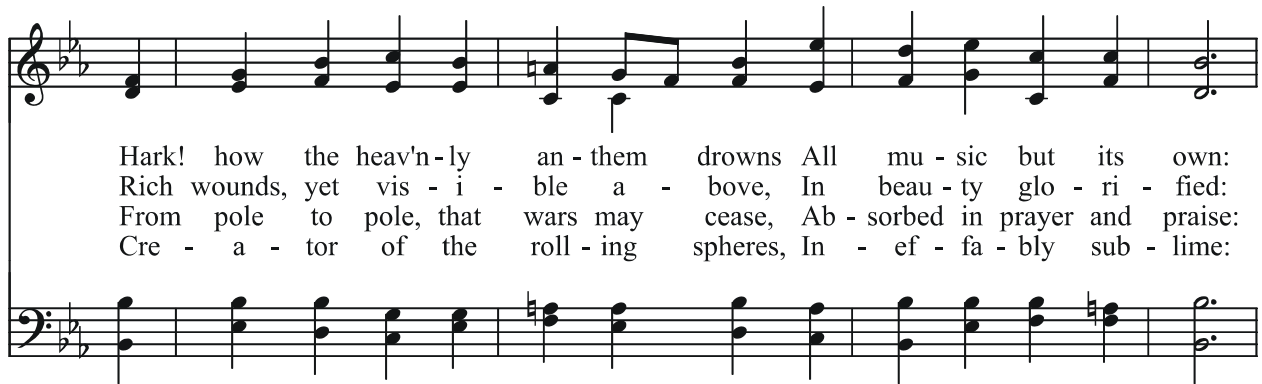
# Crown Him with Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges, 1851

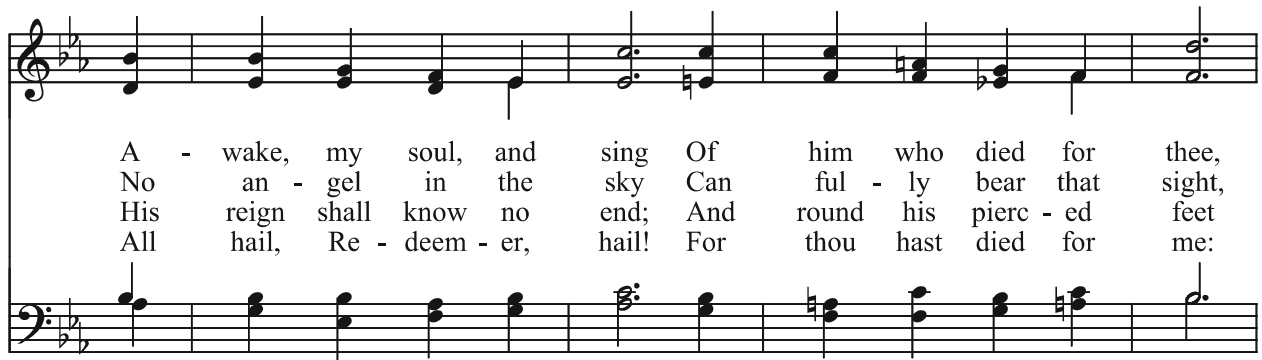
Sir George J. Elvey, 1868



1. Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;  
2. Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side,  
3. Crown him the Lord of peace; Whose pow'r a scep - ter sways  
4. Crown him the Lord of years, The Po - ten - tate of time;



Hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own:  
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied:  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:  
Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,  
No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,  
His reign shall know no end; And round his pierc - ed feet  
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me:



And hail him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
But down-ward bends his burn - ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
Fair flowers of Par - a - dise ex - tend Their fra-grance ev - er sweet.  
Thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A-men.

# Lesson 1: The Word of the Lord Returns to Israel

## 1 Samuel 1-3

**MEMORY:** Psalm 1:1

**HYMN:** "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

**SUMMARY:** *Hannah, a barren woman, is the means by which the LORD will restore His blessing in Israel. God heeded her prayer and gave her a son, Samuel, whom she returned to the service of the LORD. Hannah's prayer of praise to God is a remarkable display of her knowledge of God. In contrast, the family of the High Priest Eli is very wicked and about to receive the judgment of God. Hannah's son Samuel is the instrument for the return of the Word of the Lord to Israel.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Psalm 66, 80

1. Why was Hannah unhappy?
2. What vow did Hannah make to the LORD?
3. What is meant by the phrase in verse 19 that "the LORD remembered" Hannah?
4. What did Hannah do after Samuel was weaned?
5. What knowledge of God is evidenced by Hannah in her prayer?
6. What did Eli tell his sons when he heard about their sinful conduct, and why did they ignore him?
7. What judgment and what promise did the "man of God" bring to Eli?
8. How did Samuel discover that the LORD was calling him?
9. What was the message spoken by the LORD to Samuel?







## **Lesson 4: Saul – The Foolish King of Israel**

### **1 Samuel 11-14**

**MEMORY: Psalm 1:1-4**

**HYMN: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

**SUMMARY:** *Saul led Israel in victory over the Ammonites, and then showed kindness to those who initially rejected his rule over them. Samuel warned the people at the coronation of Saul. After two years of reign, Saul foolishly intruded into the office of priest and was rejected as king. Later, Saul was prevented by the people from executing his son Jonathan for violating Saul's foolish vow.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Psalm 49, 53

1. When Saul heard of the threat to Jabesh-gilead, what happened to him, and what did he do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. After the LORD “accomplished salvation in Israel,” what did Saul and the people do at Gilgal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What warning did Samuel bring to the people at the coronation of Saul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How did Samuel answer the people's request that he pray for them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Why did Saul offer the sacrifice at Gilgal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What did Samuel say about this act of Saul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why did Jonathan and his armorbearer go over to the garrison of the Philistines?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What did Saul do when he heard that the people were eating blood?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why did Saul want to kill Jonathan?



## Lesson 6: Goliath Defies the Living God

### 1 Samuel 17

**MEMORY:** Psalm 1:1-6

**HYMN:** “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

**SUMMARY:** *The army of Israel is challenged by Goliath, the Philistine giant. David realizes that Goliath is defying the living God. He goes forth in the name of the LORD of hosts. The LORD delivers Goliath and the Philistine army into the hand of David and the army of Israel.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** *Psalm 27, 68*

1. How did Goliath defy the armies of Israel?
2. How long did this challenge continue?
3. Why was David at the battlefield?
4. How did David react to the challenge of Goliath?
5. What did Eliab, David's oldest brother, say to David?
6. How did Saul try to help David?
7. Why was David confident that he could defeat Goliath?
8. How did David kill Goliath?
9. What happened in the battle that followed the death of Goliath?





## **Lesson 9: David Spares the Lord's Anointed**

### **1 Samuel 24-27**

**MEMORY: Psalm 23:1-3 and review      HYMN: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

**SUMMARY:** *David had opportunity to kill Saul in the cave at En-gedi, but refused to do so. Saul was softened by this act of mercy and temporarily abandoned his pursuit. David was prevented from killing the wicked man, Nabal. When God killed Nabal, David took Nabal's wife, Abigail, as his own wife. He had a second opportunity to kill Saul, and again refused to do so. Saul ceased his pursuit. David then went to the land of the Philistines and allied himself with them.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY: Psalm 57, 142**

1. What happened when Saul went into the cave at En-gedi?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did David tell Saul, and how did Saul react?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why was David going to kill Nabal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why did David not kill Nabal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What happened to Nabal and Abigail?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How did David and Abishai get another opportunity to kill Saul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In David's conversation with Saul, what does he seem to want?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Why did David go to the land of the Philistines?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why was Achish happy for David to be there?





## **Lesson 11: David Becomes King of Judah** **2 Samuel 1-2**

**MEMORY: Psalm 23:1-5 and review      HYMN: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

**SUMMARY:** *David heard of the death of Saul from the man who claimed to have killed him. David executed him because he had killed “the LORD’s anointed” and then led in mourning for Saul. David was then directed by the LORD to go to Judah where he was crowned king. Ishbosheth, son of Saul, was crowned king of Israel. There followed seven years of civil war.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Psalm 18, 40

1. How did the Amalekite appear, and what message did he bring to David?
  
2. How did David react to the word concerning the death of Saul?
  
3. Why did David execute the Amalekite?
  
4. In David’s psalm of lamentation, how does he describe Saul and Jonathan?
  
5. Why did David go to Hebron, and what happened when he got there?
  
6. Why did David commend the men of Jabesh-gilead? See 1 Samuel 31.
  
7. Identify the following men:  
Ishbosheth  
  
Joab  
  
Abner  
  
Asahel
  
8. What happened in the battle described in chapter 2?

## **Lesson 12: David Becomes King of All Israel** **2 Samuel 3-5**

**MEMORY: Psalm 23:1-6 and review      HYMN: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

**SUMMARY:** *In the civil war between Israel and Judah, the army of David increased in strength. Abner, the leader of the army of Israel, was offended at Ishbosheth and determined to betray his master into the hand of David. David accepted Abner's offer after he confirmed his intention by bringing David's wife Michal back to David. Joab was offended at the peaceful reception of Abner and murdered him. Ishbosheth is subsequently murdered in his house. The entire nation then received David as their king. David took Jerusalem as his dwelling. He successfully defended the nation against the Philistines.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** 1 Chronicles 11-12, 14; Psalm 28, 108

1. What did Abner decide to do when he was offended by Ishbosheth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did David require of Abner before he would talk with him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why did Joab kill Abner?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How did David react to the death of Abner?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What happened to Ishbosheth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What did David do when he heard of the death of Ishbosheth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What did the tribes of Israel say to David after the death of Ishbosheth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. After David was settled in Jerusalem, what did he realize, and what did he do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why did David name the place of the battle with the Philistines “Baal-perazim”?



## Lesson 14: David Rules with Justice and Kindness 2 Samuel 8-10

**MEMORY:** Psalm 1 and Psalm 23

**HYMN:** "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

**SUMMARY:** *David extended the borders of Israel by his military victories over the Philistines, the Moabites, the Zobahites at the River Euphrates and the Syrians. David dedicated the gold and silver which he had taken from the nations to the LORD. David showed kindness to the house of Saul by taking Mephibosheth, the lame son of Jonathan, into his household and giving him Saul's possessions. David's kindness to Hanun, king of Ammon, was repaid with the humiliation of David's servants. David avenged this disgrace by defeating the Ammonites and their allies.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** 1 Chronicles 18-19; Psalm 60, 62

1. How did David treat the Moabites?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did David do with the spoils of his battle with the king of Zobah?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did Toi, king of Hamath, do when he heard of the military success of David?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What did David do with the silver and gold which he took from the nations?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How is David's reign over Israel described?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Who was Mephibosheth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What did David do for Mephibosheth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How did David try to show kindness to Hanun, king of Ammon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How did David react to the humiliation of his servants by the Ammonites?

## **Lesson 15: David Sins Against the Lord** **2 Samuel 11-12**

**MEMORY: Psalm 1 and Psalm 23**

**HYMN: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

**SUMMARY:** *David committed adultery with Bathsheba. He then arranged with Joab to have Bathsheba's husband Uriah killed in a battle. After the death of Uriah, David took Bathsheba to be his wife. Nathan, the prophet, confronted David with the displeasure of the LORD. As judgment, the child of David and Bathsheba died. The LORD then blessed the marriage with the birth of Solomon. David defeated the Ammonites.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** 1 Chronicles 20; Psalm 32, 51

1. What did David do when his army went off to war with the Ammonites?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did David do when he heard that Bathsheba was going to have a child?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why did Uriah not go home the first night?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What did David do to Uriah the second night?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What instructions did David give to Joab concerning Uriah, and what happened to him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What did the LORD say that David had done?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What judgments did the LORD say would come upon David?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What did David do when his child was ill, and then when he died?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What is the meaning of the name Jedidiah?

## Lesson 16: Rebellion in the House of David 2 Samuel 13-15

**MEMORY:** Psalm 1 and Psalm 23

**HYMN:** “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

**SUMMARY:** *Amnon, son of David, fell in love with his half sister Tamar. He deceived his father and sinned against Tamar. Tamar’s brother, Absalom, hated Amnon for this and arranged his murder. Absalom went into exile for three years. His return to Jerusalem was arranged by Joab through trickery. Absalom was permitted to return to Jerusalem, but did not see the king until he forced Joab to intercede for him. Absalom was received again into the presence of his father David. Absalom then led a rebellion against his father. David was forced to flee from Jerusalem.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Psalm 41, 55

1. What advice did Jonadab give Amnon to get David to send Tamar to him?
  
2. How did King David and brother Absalom react to the news that Amnon had sinned against Tamar?
  
3. What did Absalom do to his brother Amnon?
  
4. What happened to Absalom after the death of Amnon?
  
5. What was the purpose of the story told by the “wise woman from Tekoa”?
  
6. What did David tell Joab about Absalom in response to this plot by Joab and the woman from Tekoa?
  
7. Why did Absalom burn Joab’s field?
  
8. How did Absalom steal the hearts of the men of Israel?
  
9. Identify the following men and their loyalties:  
Ahithophel

Ittai

Zadok

Hushai

## Lesson 17: Rebellion in the Nation 2 Samuel 16-19

**MEMORY:** Psalm 1 and Psalm 23

**HYMN:** "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

**SUMMARY:** *Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, told of his master's treason. Shimei threw stones at David and cursed him. Ahithophel counseled Absalom to defile David's wives and then pursue David immediately. Hushai advised Absalom to delay the pursuit of David. When Absalom accepted this latter counsel, Hushai sent warning to David. Absalom's forces were defeated by David's. Absalom was killed by Joab, in spite of David's instructions to spare him. David mourned for his son. He returned to Jerusalem, but did not seek vengeance upon his enemies. The seed was sown for a future rebellion.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Psalm 3, 7, 69

1. What did Ziba tell David about Mephibosheth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How did Shimei treat David?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did Ahithophel advise Absalom to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What did Hushai advise Absalom to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What did Ahithophel do when his counsel was not followed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How was Absalom killed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What did David do when he heard of the death of his son?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What did David do to each of these men?  
Shimei  
  
Ziba  
  
Mephibosheth  
  
Barzillai
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What was the dispute between the men of Israel and the men of Judah?



## **Lesson 18: The Final Days of King David**

### **2 Samuel 20-24**

**MEMORY: Psalm 1 and Psalm 23**

**HYMN: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

**SUMMARY:** *Sheba led the men of Israel in a civil war against David and the men of Judah. Joab led the men of Judah to victory against Israel. Israel suffered famine because of the treatment of the Gibeonites by Saul. Seven sons of Saul were put to death for this. The Philistines were defeated before Israel. David's last words are a song to the LORD. David recorded a census of Israel and came under the judgment of the LORD. The judgment was stopped when David built an altar to the LORD at the site of the future temple.*

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** 1 Chronicles 21-29; Psalm 39, 139

1. What happened to Amasa?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What happened to Sheba, the leader of the rebellion?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why was there a famine in the land, and how did it end?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What does David praise God for in chapter 22?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Why did David pour out the water from the well of Bethlehem?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Why did David number the people of Israel? Compare with 1 Chronicles 21:1.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What happened as a result of this census of the nation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What did Gad the seer tell David to do on the threshing floor of Araunah?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What happened when David obeyed?