

VISIONS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

II SAMUEL

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The Books of I and II Samuel

A Reminder about the Nature of Biblical Truth and History

Should not be measured by modern standards of scientific empirical research or modern historical standards

Truth is moral and theological, not scientific fact

Nor same attention to details and accuracy

Bible is primary source for morals, life principles, and theology.

Bible is secondary source for historic and scientific facts.

Written at a time when system of dating was different

Many of the places and persons cannot be determined with the passage of time

Theme is salvation not secular history. Therefore events, personalities, and their assessment and evaluation fit within author's purposes, as all writing does.

Pastor's approach is not literal but primarily fundamentalist, evangelical, and liberationist

Authorship:

Definitely not Samuel (Samuel's death and absence from II Samuel)

Probably the same authors who compiled history from the days of Joshua to II Kings

Structure: (Probably started as one long text. Broken into two books around fifteenth Century)

II Samuel 1: 1—5: 10, David Becomes King

A report of Saul's death, David's lament for Saul and Jonathan, David becomes king at Hebron, Battle and a blood feud, David's sons, Death of Abner, Death of Ishbosheth, David made king in Israel, David captures Jerusalem

II Samuel 5: 11—8: 18, David Consolidates his kingdom

Economic and Political Security, David brings the Ark to Jerusalem, Nathan's Dynastic Oracle, Prayer of David, David's victories, Officers of David's court

II Samuel 9: 1-20—20: 26, David's Family and David's Throne

David's hospitality to Mephibosheth, War with the Ammonites and the Arameans, David's affair with Bathsheba, Nathan's confrontation of David, Death of the child of David and Bathsheba, Capture of Rabbath, Amnon rapes Tamar, Absalom kills Amnon, Restoration of Absalom, Absalom's rebellion, David's flight from Jerusalem, Strategies of Ahitophel and Hushai, Defeat and death of Absalom, David's grief over Absalom's death, David returns to Jerusalem, Sheba's rebellion, David's officers

II Samuel 21: 1—24: 25, A Finale of David Traditions

Gibeonite vengeance, David's warriors, Psalm of thanksgiving from David, David's last words, Exploits of David's warriors, David's census and the threshing floor of Araunah

Other Lessons from II Samuel

Respect for the anointing upon those who belong to God even when they are in error. There is a way to disagree with the Lord's anointed without disrespecting the Lord's anointed.

We cannot always discipline our relatives or neither can we always control those we have used to do our dirty work. They may be useful but they lose respect for us. We must always feed those whom we supervise with a long-handle spoon.

From David's first attempt to transport the Ark, we learn that we must still follow correct procedures and God's word even when our motives are good.

There are several lists of David's warriors or officers. This teaches us that behind every good leader is a good team and that recognizing the members of our team does not take anything away from the greatness of the leader.

David's affair with Bathsheba teaches us that flesh can turn the head of faith away without warning, however follow through always takes planning, which means we have time to rethink our course of action.

David's trouble with his family teaches us that wrongdoing in one area can have repercussions and cause ripples in another area. We also learn that we cannot allow our failings as a parent to stop us from disciplining our children. We also learn that it is possible to be well accomplished and even anointed and still be a terrible spouse and parent.

Absalom's defeat teaches us that when we have a heart for the Lord, the Lord will deliver us in spite of us.

Abner's lecture to David about his grief over Absalom reminds us that we always need someone to speak hard truth to us.

David's mistakes in his latter years, such as the census and other things, teach us that seasoned leaders need as much if not more prayer than young and inexperienced leaders because seasoned leaders tend to be more vulnerable to the seduction of power, also seasoned leaders have more enemies than new ones.