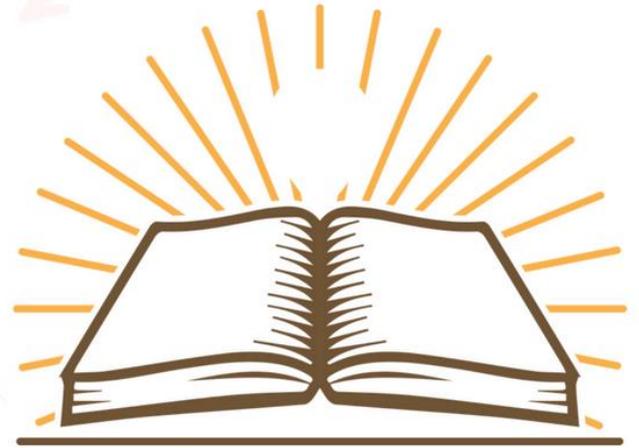


**Life Lessons**  
**From**  
**The Book of**  
**2 Samuel**



**2 Samuel - Chapters 11 to 14**

**4 Studies**

**[Part 3]**

## OUTLINE OF THE BOOK—

### A. Triumphs of David (2 Samuel 1-10)

- i. David mourns the deaths of Saul & Jonathan (2 Sam 1)
- ii. David make king over Judah (2 Sam 2)
- iii. Civil war (2 Sam 3)
- iv. Ish-Bosheth, son of Saul killed (2 Sam 4)
- v. David, king over all Israel (2 Sam 5)
- vi. David's attempts to bring the ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6)
- vii. God's covenant to build the house of David (2 Sam 7)
- viii. David consolidates his kingdom (2 Sam 8)
- ix. David befriends Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9)
- x. David wars against Ammon and Syria (2 Sam 10)

### B. Troubles of David (2 Samuel 11-24)

- i. David's two great sins (2 Sam 11)
- ii. Nathan faces David with his sins; David repents, (2 Sam 12)
- iii. David's daughter Tamar raped by Amnon, David's son; Amnon murdered by Absalom, David's son, (2 Sam 13)
- iv. David permits Absalom to return with half-hearted forgiveness, (2 Sam 14)
- v. Absalom rebels against David (2 Sam 15)
- vi. Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, deceives David; Shimei curses David (2 Sam 16)
- vii. Absalom's advisers disagree on attack against David (2 Sam 17)
- viii. Absalom slain and David mourns (2 Sam 18)
- ix. David restored to throne (2 Sam 19)
- x. Sheba revolts against David (2 Sam 20)
- xi. Three years of famine; Gibeonites take vengeance on house of Saul; war with Philistines (2 Sam 21)
- xii. David's song of deliverance (2 Sam 22)
- xiii. David's last words; David's mighty men (2 Sam 23)
- xiv. David's sin in taking census (2 Sam 24)

## Study 1 - 2 Samuel 11:1-27 - David and Bathsheba

(Sermon on 13-Sep-20)

### Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5

1. What did David do in verse 1 and what should he have been doing?

*During winter, there is a break from war. When spring comes, it was traditionally a time for war to continue. David sent Joab (nephew and commander of the army) to finish off the Ammonites. Remember in chapter 10 the Israelites had fought the Ammonites (and Arameans) and had great success. The Israelites had no trouble defeating the Ammonites.*

*David stayed in Jerusalem instead of going out to fight. Not that he needed to as Joab was more than capable of leading the army. But the fact that he stayed home led to grave sin as we'll see.*

2. What temptation does David succumb to?

*From the roof of the palace, David saw a beautiful woman bathing. Being King he sent someone to find out about her. She was Bathsheba, wife of Uriah. He slept with her. And she became pregnant.*

*Note: we are told that she was just purifying from her monthly menstruation, which means she is not already pregnant and if she gets pregnant there can be no doubt that the baby would be David's and not Uriah's.*

3. Is there any fault to be laid on Bathsheba for what happens?

*The author doesn't seem to lay any blame on Bathsheba. Yes, she was unfaithful to her husband. But would she be able to refuse the King? David abused his authority as King.*

4. What sin does David commit? What does Jesus say about this sin? (cf. Matt 5:27-30)

*David is guilty of adultery (Ex 20:14) and also coveting (Ex 20:17).*

*Jesus says in Matthew 5:27-30:*

*<sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'<sup>28</sup> But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.<sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.<sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to*

*stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

5. **Ponder:** What consequences can there be today if someone commits adultery?

*The following consequences are possible:*

- a. The wife/husband is hurt*
- b. Any children from the marriage are affected - either they don't see one parent again or have to see parents' alternate weekends*
- c. Some children feel they are to blame for the marriage breakup*
- d. It can affect grandparents who may no longer see their grandchildren*
- e. It can affect the wife/husband's future trust and future relationships*
- f. It can affect the children's future relationships when they grow up*
- g. It can bring shame to the family*

### **Read 2 Samuel 11:6-11**

6. What plan does David come up with to hide his sin with Bathsheba?

*He calls Uriah in and suggests David go home and wash his feet.*

*It seems the expression "wash your feet" is a euphemism for "making love with his wife".*

*David's plan was that Uriah would sleep with his wife, Bathsheba, and then there would be no suspicion that David was the father of her baby.*

7. How does Uriah scupper this plan?

*David scuppers the plans by not going home; instead sleeping outside the Palace with David's servants.*

8. What do we learn about Uriah from this?

*Uriah is a man of honour.*

*According to 1 Samuel 21:5 it was usual for soldiers in the army to be kept from sleeping with their wives during times of battle.*

*So, Uriah had not wanted to break that rule; and as he says the Ark of the Lord and the army are all camped in tents; he doesn't feel comfortable returning to his house whilst they are in tents.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 11:12-13**

9. What plan does David come up with now? Does it work?

*David's next plan is to get Uriah drunk so he goes home to Bathsheba to sleep with her; but that doesn't work; Uriah sleeps outside with the servants again.*

**Read 2 Samuel 11:14-17**

10. What plan does David come up with now? Does it work?

*David's plan is to tell Joab to put Uriah in the frontline where the fighting is fiercest; and then withdraw from him, so he will be killed.*

*Joab implements David's plan; and Uriah is killed in battle.*

11. **Ponder:** What do you make of David's actions thus far?

*It's bit of a catalog of one sin after another.*

*Sometimes one sin leads to another and another - as a person tries to cover up the first sin.*

**Read 2 Samuel 11:18-25**

12. Why does Joab tell the messenger to mention Abimelek, son of Jerub-Besheth, in verse 21? (cf. Judges 9:50-57)

*Joab mentions the passage from Judges - as Abimelek got too close to city walls and a millstone was dropped on his head.*

*The idea is show David - even though this was a bad military move - he did it for David. Also, the fact that others died with Uriah, didn't make it so obvious that there was a blatant plan to have Uriah killed.*

13. What "good" news does David hear in verse 24?

*With great relief, David heard that Uriah had been killed.*

14. What "encouragement" does David send to Joab?

*David told Joab not to be upset - these things happen in battle; keep pressing and destroy the city.*

15. **Ponder:** Who else is affected by David's sin?

- *Bathsheba - unfaithful, pregnant and lost her husband*
- *Uriah - dead*
- *Joab - made complicit in David's plan and basically guilty of murdering Uriah*
- *Other men who were killed with Uriah because of David's plan*

- *The other men's wives and family*
- *Bathsheba's family*
- *Joab may well have a hold over David now*

### **Read 2 Samuel 11:26-27**

16. Does David's plan work out? How does God feel about it?

*Bathsheba mourns for her husband, Uriah. Note she is referred to as 'the wife of Uriah' to emphasize, she belonged to Uriah, not David!*

*David brought Bathsheba to the palace and she became his wife and had a son. The Lord is displeased! An understatement!*

17. Make a list of the sins that David commits in this chapter. What can we conclude from this?

- *Idolatry (of himself)*
- *Adultery*
- *Coveting*
- *Lying*
- *Murder*
- *Abuse of power*

18. **Optional Question:** Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. How do these verses relate to 2 Samuel 11?

*Just because we can do whatever we want (especially David as the King) does not mean we should do it; especially if it contradicts God's law (adultery, coveting, lying and murder). This passage says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and that we should flee from sexual immorality; and honour God with our bodies. David failed to do this!*

19. **Discuss:** Is there a way that we can be guilty of committing adultery against God? (cf. Jeremiah 3:1-2; Ezekiel 16; Hosea 2)

*Israel in the OT is often accused of being unfaithful to God - by worshipping other gods and idols.*

*In Ezekiel 16 - Jerusalem is accused of being like an adulterous life*

*In the book of Hosea - Hosea marriage to Gomer who is continually unfaithful is meant to be a picture of Israel's unfaithfulness to God.*

*We can commit adultery against God, when we are unfaithful to him by not putting him first or saying what He does for us is not enough and want more.*

*How? By making people, interests and things more important than our relationship with Him.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 11:1-27?

- *One sin can lead to another and another. Just because David is a man after God's own heart doesn't mean he is bulletproof. He succumbed to temptation.*
- *Unfaithfulness - isn't just sexual. We can be unfaithful to God and others in many ways. We need to repent and flee from that unfaithfulness*
- *Sin always has consequences*
- *In our faithfulness to God and others, copy Uriah's faithfulness - not David's.*
- *No matter how blessed we are by God; or how gifted; no matter what status we have; no matter how God has used us in the past; we can't rest on our laurels and assume we are above God's law!*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- *Jesus never sinned! He took on our sin and became sin, so that we might be forgiven of our sin*
- *Jesus was always faithful. He always did the Father's will*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- a. Examine our hearts.
- b. Ask God to help us not to be tempted (as the Lord's Prayer says - lead us not into temptation)
- c. Ask God to help us flee from all sin in our lives
- d. Ask God to help us be more like Jesus
- e. Remember that all our sins have consequences - some greater than others
- f. We are never too bad to come to Jesus for forgiveness

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V27

**Finish in prayer:** Ask God to help us to flee from all sin? Thank God that Jesus' death removes the punishment for our sins. Ask God to help us to be faithful to Him in all we think, say and do.

## Study 2 - 2 Samuel 12:1-31 - Nathan Rebukes David

(Sermon on 20-Sep-20)

### Before we begin; what is a parable?

*A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.*

*An Earthly story with a Heavenly meaning.*

### Read 2 Samuel 12:1-4

1. Summarize Nathan's parable in your own words...

*He compares two men - a rich man with a large number of cattle and sheep - and a poor man with just one ewe lamb. When a traveller comes to town, the rich man doesn't feed him with one of his lambs, but uses the poor man's only ewe lamb.*

### Read 2 Samuel 12:5-6

2. How does David react to Nathan's parable?

*David burned with anger and said that the rich man should die for his cruel actions; and pay back four times what he had taken.*

### Read 2 Samuel 12:7-9

3. What accusations does Nathan make against David? And what does Nathan say the Lord has done for David?

*Nathan says the story is actually about David - and David is the rich man - and of course, Uriah is the poor man.*

*God has anointed David as King and kept him safe from Saul.*

*God has given David a palace, many wives. Also, Israel and Judah.*

*And God would have given David more, if it wasn't enough.*

*God accuses David of despising His Word by doing evil and killing Uriah.*

### Read 2 Samuel 12:10-12

4. What will be the consequences of David's sin?

*The sword will never depart from David's house because of his murder of Uriah.*

*David demanded fourfold restitution for the man in Nathan's parable. God exacted fourfold restitution for Uriah from four of David's sons: Bathsheba's child, Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah*

*The Lord will bring calamity to David's house.*

*David's wives will be taken by others and slept with in the open - not in secret as David did with Bathsheba.*

*God is doing this to David because David despised God by despising his commandments. We can't despise God's commandments without despising God Himself.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 12:13-14**

5. How does David react in verse 13a? And what do you make of him saying he has sinned against the **Lord**?

*David confesses his sin "I have sinned against the Lord"*

*It's a simple confession; yet David owns up and makes no excuses.*

*"Against the Lord" - This expressed the enormity of David's sin. His sin against Bathsheba, against Uriah, against Ahithophel, against his wives and children, and against the nation were great. But his sin against the Lord was greatest of all. There are no small sins against a great God, and great sins are even greater.*

6. What reply does David receive in verse 13b? What does this show about God?

*God's forgiveness was immediate!*

*God also removed the penalty (the Law said he should die)*

*God showed His GRACE and MERCY.*

*God is merciful and quick to forgive (Isa 55:7)*

7. What consequences will there be in verse 14?

*Because he has shown contempt [disrespect] for the Lord and His commandments - the son David has with Bathsheba will die.*

*God forgave David's sin - but sin has consequences.*

*Even when sin is forgiven a price has to be paid.*

*Often an innocent party pays the price for forgiveness.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 12:15-23**

8. What are we to make of v15?

*This is hard for people to accept that the Lord strikes down the child.*

*We can assume that this was tragic for David and Bathsheba and we can also assume on God's mercy that the child was comforted by God and then went to eternal glory.*

*Though the child died; the chastisement was upon David and Bathsheba and not upon the child.*

9. What should we make of the fact that Bathsheba is referred to as "Uriah's wife" in verse 15, even though David and Bathsheba are now married?

*Although Uriah is dead and David is legally married to Bathsheba; the writer refers to Bathsheba as Uriah's wife because when the baby was conceived Uriah was alive and Bathsheba was his wife. It's God's way of saying "Uriah's death and the subsequent marriage of David and Bathsheba doesn't make everything alright"*

10. What are we to make of David's prayer and fasting not working?

*It shows that extraordinary prayer and fasting does not change God's mind or will. David's prayer and fasting put David in the right mind to receive what he must from God. All prayer should be 'according to God's will'*

11. What comfort is there in verse 23?

*Even though David can't bring his son back - he is comforted in knowing that the child is with God and one day David will go to him.*

**Read 2 Samuel 12:24-25**

12. What mercy is granted to David and Bathsheba?

*Bathsheba conceived and gave birth to a son, Solomon*

13. What 2 names does the boy receive? What do the 2 names mean?

*Solomon = peaceable*

*Jedidiah = loved of the Lord*

14. **Ponder:** What are we to make of the fact that Jesus' family line comes from King Solomon - even though David and Bathsheba came together in such a sinful way? (cf. Matthew 1:5-7)

*God chose this son, born out of a marriage that began with adultery to be heir to David's throne and the ancestor to the Messiah (Jesus). This demonstrates the truth that God forgives repentant sinners.*

**Read 2 Samuel 12:26-31**

15. Why do you think we are told about this power play from Joab? See map in appendix 1 to locate Rabbah.

*See red circle on the map*

*Joab goaded David back into battle - which had dragged on for some time whilst David had been dealing with this family crisis.*

*Only when David had put things right with God did the battle start going smoothly.*

16. How does David recover the situation?

*David mustered army and attacked and captured Rabbah.*

*David took their king's crown and plunder.*

17. **Optional question: Read Psalm 51.** Write some thoughts on this Psalm and share with your group...

*A beautiful heartfelt sincere confession.*

*David asks for forgiveness.*

*David is honest about his sins and many faults.*

*And he asks God to change his heart.*

**Read Galatians 6:1-10**

18. What does this passage have to do with 2 Samuel 12?

*V1 - is like Nathan going to David to point out his sin*

*V3 - David thought too highly of himself - and deceived himself that he was above reproach*

*V4 - David needed to judge his conduct and see that it was plain wrong*

*V7 - David deceived himself - no one can make a fool out of God.*

*V8 - David sowed of his sinful flesh and reaped destruction (death of Uriah, the child and others)*

*David reaped what he sowed.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 12:1-31?

- a. *God's forgiveness is immediate when we truly repent*
- b. *There are consequences of our sins - even though they are forgiven.*
- c. *God's wonderful grace - he provided a son, Solomon.*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- a. *The innocent son died for David and Bathsheba's sin - the innocent Jesus died for our sin*
- b. *The son, Solomon, is in Jesus' family line*
- c. *Solomon becomes the next king and points to the forever king, King Jesus.*
- d. *David said he would go to his son (who died) one day - we will go to be with Jesus one day.*
- e. *Jesus (v13b) has taken away our sin and we are not going to die!*

- ➔ How does this passage **apply to your life**?
- a. *We must be truly repentant of our sin*
  - b. *Forgiveness of our sins does not remove the consequences of our sins*
  - c. *God shows amazing grace and mercy - and forgives; we must do the same to those who sin against us.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V13a - *David says "I have sinned against the Lord"*

V13b - *The Lord says "I have taken away your sin, you are not going to die.*

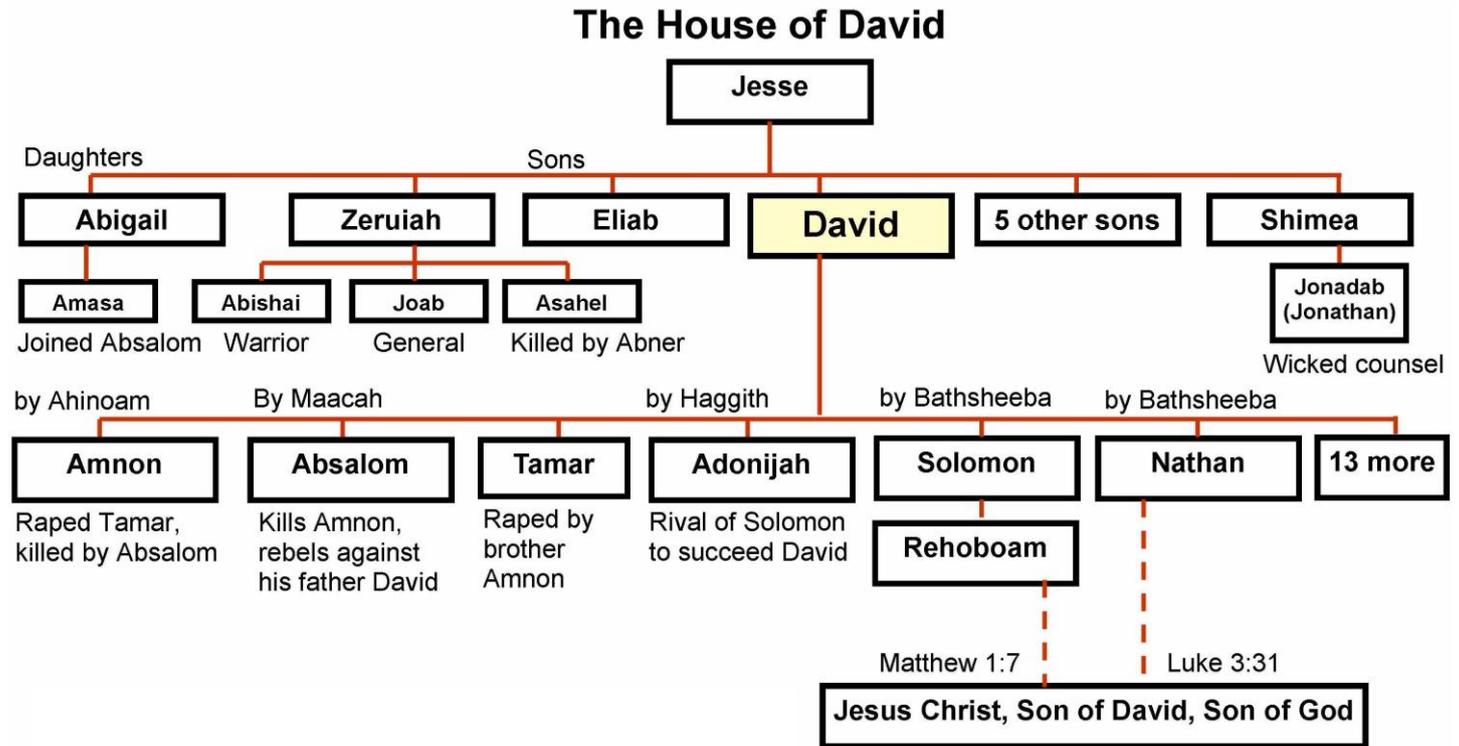
V23 - *David says he can't bring back the child but he knows he will go to him one day.*

**Finish in prayer:** Ask God to help us to be diligent in examining our hearts and confessing our sins? Thank God that we have been cleansed from all unrighteousness through the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:9).

## Study 3 - 2 Samuel 13:1-39 - Amnon and Tamar

(Sermon on 27-Sep-20)

Before we begin; study the family tree in appendix 2 and note who Amnon, Absalom and Tamar are. Also look up what their names mean.



1. Amnon is the firstborn son of David - and first in line for the throne.
2. Absalom and Tamar are brother and sister - father David & mother Maacah
3. Amnon is half-brother to Absalom and Tamar - same father, David - but Amnon's mother is Ahinoam.

Amnon means: faithful or stable

Absalom means: His father's peace (Abi-shalom)

Tamar means: palm tree signifying fruitfulness

There is certainly a bit of irony their names.

### Read 2 Samuel 13:1-2

1. What dilemma does Amnon have? Why is this a problem?

Amnon fell in love with Absalom's sister, Tamar.

*Problem: Tamar is Amnon's half-sister. They have the same father, David. More difficult for him, since she is a virgin and available for marriage but not allowable under the Law.*

**Read 2 Samuel 13:3-5**

2. What evil advice does Jonadab give to Amnon?

*Jonadab is Amnon's cousin (and David's nephew)*

*When Jonadab finds out Amnon is "in love (lust)" with Tamar; he advises Amnon to pretend to be sick and ask David to send Tamar to attend to him and feed him. All so that Amnon can be alone with Tamar.*

*Notice Amnon refers to Tamar as my brother's sister; ignoring the fact that Tamar is his sister too!*

**Read 2 Samuel 13:6-10**

3. What does Amnon pretend to be? Why?

*Amnon pretended to be ill.*

*So that he can orchestrate having Tamar look after him in his bedroom.*

**Read 2 Samuel 13:11-14**

4. What wicked thing does Amnon do to Tamar?

*When she comes with his food, he grabs her into his bed.*

*Despite Tamar's protestations, Amnon rapes Tamar!*

*Tamar's honour is at stake. She will be a tarnished woman now; even though not her fault.*

5. Why is this wrong? (cf. Leviticus 18:11; 20:17)

*Leviticus 18:11 - Do not have sexual relations with the daughter of your father's wife, born to your father; she is your sister.*

*Leviticus 20:17 - 'If a man marries his sister, the daughter of either his father or his mother, and they have sexual relations, it is a disgrace. They are to be publicly removed from their people. He has dishonored his sister and will be held responsible.*

**Read 2 Samuel 13:15-22**

6. How did Amnon feel about Tamar and what did he decide to do?

*Amnon now hated Tamar with an intense hate.*

*Why?*

*Because his love was actually not love but lust.*

*He had to blame someone, and Tamar was the cause of his fall*

*Once Amnon had raped Tamar, the conquest is over; there's no challenge anymore, he's got what he wanted, because he didn't love her, he lusted for her.*

*Once Amnon had raped Tamar, he felt guilty of his sin - and Tamar was now a reminder of this sin; so, he wanted every reminder of sin put away.*

*Amnon decides to send Tamar away and locked her out of his home.*

*Terrible treatment for an Israelite, a sister and a Princess.*

*He could have married her (Ex 22:16-17 and Deut 22:28-29) rather than sending her away!*

7. What is Tamar's response?

*She put ashes on her head, tore her beautiful robe and wept aloud in sorrow.*

8. What is Absalom's response to what has happened?

*He discovers what has happened and tells her to be quiet about the incident for now and not to take it to heart.*

*He also let's Tamar stay in his home.*

9. What is King David's response to what has happened? Are you surprised that he didn't take any action?

*King David was furious!*

*Yes, it's surprising that David did nothing to help/protect Tamar nor did he speak to Amnon about his evil action.*

*It may be that David was conscious of his own guilt in a similar matter and therefore felt a lack of moral authority to discipline his own son.*

*However, he could have said to Amnon "I know the evil that results when we don't restrain our lusts and affections. This is something you must address and conquer in God's strength." "Why did he not reprove him at least very sharply for this foul fact?" (Trapp)*

10. How does Absalom feel about Amnon?

*Absalom didn't say anything good or bad to Amnon. But inside Absalom hated Amnon for what he had done to his sister. And we get the impression, this is not the end of the story....*

**Read 2 Samuel 13:23-27**

11. What invite does Absalom issue? What is the occasion?

*Two Years later.*

*Absalom invites the King and all his sons to a sheepshearing festival; a time to celebrate and have a feast.*

12. Why do you think Absalom wants Amnon there?

*Absalom has not forgotten what Amnon did. He has revenge in his heart.*

*Revenge is God's business (Deut 32:35 and Romans 12:17-19)*

*Note: David has been instrumental in a) allowing Tamar to go to Amnon's room and b) allowing Amnon to attend this feast.*

**Read 2 Samuel 13:28-29**

13. What happens to Amnon? Why?

*When Amnon was drunk from wine. Absalom had his men kill Amnon.*

*Remember 2 Samuel 12:10 - Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own*

*What happened to Amnon is similar to story of Uriah*

*David sins with Bathsheba - Amnon sins with Tamar*

*David gets Uriah drunk - Amnon gets drunk*

*Uriah dies by the sword - Amnon dies by the sword*

**Read 2 Samuel 13:30-36**

14. What is King David told about his sons?

*He is told that Absalom has killed all of David's sons. David mourned for them.*

15. What "good news" does David learn?

*Jonadab informs David that only Amnon has been killed, not the other sons.*

16. Why is it ironic that it is Jonadab who is involved here?

*Jonadab is the one who started all this mess off with his evil advice to Amnon.*

17. How could all of this have been avoided? (cf. Exodus 22:16-17; Deut 22:28-29)

<sup>16</sup> *"If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged to be married and sleeps with her, he must pay the bride-price, and she shall be his wife. <sup>17</sup> If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must still pay the bride-price for virgins (Exodus 22:16-17)*

<sup>28</sup> *If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered, <sup>29</sup> he shall pay her father fifty shekels of silver. He must marry the young woman, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives. (Deut 22:28-29)*

18. Where did Absalom flee? Why? (cf. 2 Samuel 3:3)

*Absalom did not go to a city of refuge because he was guilty, and the cities of refuge were only meant to protect the innocent.*

*Absalom went to Geshur, because his mother's father was King of Geshur (2 Sam 3:3)*

19. How does David feel about Absalom after a period of time?

*After three years, the sting of Amnon's murder was not as severe. David wanted to be reconciled to Absalom again - but never corrected his son for his evil.*

*David's indulgence towards Amnon is repeated towards Absalom and he will meet a similar end.*

20. Should we be surprised by these events? Yes/No/Maybe? Why/Why not?  
(cf. 2 Samuel 12:10-11)

*No!*

*See 2 Samuel 12:10-11:*

<sup>10</sup> *Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'*

<sup>11</sup> *"This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.*

**Read Matthew 18:15-20**

21. What does this passage say about dealing with sin?

- a. Go to your brother and sister and point out the fault
- b. If they don't listen, take one or two as mediators
- c. If they still don't listen, take church (elders, minister)
- d. If they still don't listen, put them out of fellowship.

22. Why is this important? (cf. Habakkuk 1:13)

*Because God cannot look at our sin*

*Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;*

*you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.*

*Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?*

*Why are you silent while the wicked*

*swallow up those more righteous than themselves?*

23. **Optional question: Read John 8:1-11**

How did Jesus deal with the woman and her sin? What can we learn from that?

*Gentle correction.*

*No condemnation in Christ.*

*He separated the sin from the sinner.*

*He loved the sinner but not the sin.*

*And He commanded she sin no more.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 13:1-36?

- a. Not dealing with sin has consequences
- b. Flee from sin.
- c. Sin must be pointed out and corrected.
- d. Parental example - where did David's son learn their behaviour? What are we modelling? Don't be afraid to point out our mistakes to our children, and say don't do what I did, it was wrong!
- e. Don't let sin fester (as Absalom did)



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*The sin in this chapter - shows the great need of a Saviour to save us from our sins.*

*Jesus led a perfect life and left us an example of how to live a life pleasing to God*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- a. Let us flee from sin*
- b. Let us point out each other's sin - and reconcile*
- c. Let us be a Godly example - especially as parents to our children/grandchildren*
- d. Be careful what we model to others.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*V39 - David wanted reconciliation - he just didn't know how to go about it.*

**Finish in prayer:** Ask God to help us flee from sin. Ask God to help us to point out sin in others in a gentle manner (Galatians 6:1)

## Study 4 - 2 Samuel 14:1-33 - Absalom returns home

(Sermon on 04-Oct20)

Before we begin, remind yourself of the prophecy in 2 Samuel 12:10-11.

<sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, the **sword will never depart from your house**, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD says: '**Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.**

### Read 2 Samuel 14:1-3

1. What is Joab's plan here? Why?

*His plan was to bring a widowed woman before David with a similar story of an estranged son.*

*Why? To soften David's heart towards Absalom as their relationship had become a stalemate. And possibly to protect David by having him reconciled to Absalom rather than having Absalom far away festering over another plot.*

### Read 2 Samuel 14:4-11

2. What story does the woman of Tekoa tell?

*The widow told of having two sons who had got into a fight and one had struck and killed the other. Now the whole family wanted the surviving son killed. But this was the only son the widow had left. She didn't want any harm to come to him. King David said the words that the widow (and Joab behind her) wanted to hear - see v11b - "As surely as the Lord lives; not one hair of your son's head will fall to the ground"*

**Read 2 Samuel 14:12-17**

3. How does the woman's story apply to David's situation?

*The widow points out that her story is similar to Amnon and Absalom and she asks David the telling question in v13: "Why then have you devised a thing like this against the people of God? When the king says this, does he not convict himself, for the king has not brought back his banished son"*

*The widow explains that Absalom is a threat to Israel whilst he is banished!*

*She also tellingly says how God works in v14 (Key Verse!)*

*Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But that is not what God desires; rather, **he devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from him.***

*In other words – we all die eventually – the time for reconciliation is short!*

**Read 2 Samuel 14:18-20**

4. What does David ask the woman of Tekoa here?

*David asks the widow if Joab is behind what she said.*

*And of course, he is; Joab knows exactly which strings to pull in David.*

**Read 2 Samuel 14:21-24**

5. What does David agree to?

*David agrees to Joab bringing Absalom back from Geshur.*

*Joab hoped that reconciliation between David and Absalom would prevent a rebellion.*

6. What does David **not** allow? Why?

*He does not allow Absalom to return to the Palace but only to Absalom's own house.*

*Why? Perhaps still angry. In the past David has been over indulgent with his sons (allowing Amnon to go unpunished in 2 Sam 13) but now perhaps he's too tough and doesn't show grace.*

*See Ephesians 6:4 - Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

**Read 2 Samuel 14:25-27**

7. How is Absalom described?

*He is described as been highly praised for his handsome appearance and that he did not have a blemish on him from head to toe!*

*He only cut his hair once per year - when it became too heavy for him. His hair weighed 200 shekels (5lbs or 2.3Kg)*

8. What do we find out about Absalom's appearance here?

*He is extremely proud of his appearance (which may become his downfall later)*

9. What do you make of Absalom naming one of his daughters, Tamar?

*Absalom showed great sympathy towards his sister, Tamar.*

*He memorialized his sister, Tamar, by naming his daughter after her.*

**Read 2 Samuel 14:28-33**

10. Why did Absalom set Joab's field of barley on fire?

*Absalom had been back in Jerusalem for 2 years without seeing his father, King David.*

*V29 - Absalom had sent for Joab so that he could arrange an audience with the King but Joab had refused to come.*

*So, Absalom's servants had suggested that he set fire to Joab's barley fields next door, that should get his attention!*

*And it worked. Joab came to Absalom and asked why he would do this?*

*Absalom justifies the fire - by saying he's been back 2 years and that he might as well have stayed in Geshur.*

11. Why is Absalom so confident he has done nothing wrong?

*He demands to see King David - as he feels he was justified to kill Amnon for such a despicable act against Tamar.*

*But remember - two wrongs never make a right!*

*Thou shalt not murder is a commandment!*

12. Why did Absalom finally get to see the King?

*Because he had got Joab's attention and Joab arranged it.*

**Read Luke 15:11-32**

13. What are the **similarities** between Absalom and the returning son in Luke 15?
- The Father and Son's relationship is estranged in both stories.*
  - Both Absalom and the prodigal son - went away to a faraway land.*
  - God devises a way so that sons do not remain exiled and estranged.*
14. What are the **differences** between Absalom and the returning son in Luke 15?
- The Father in Luke 15 has done nothing wrong.*
  - The prodigal came to his senses and returned home. Absalom didn't return on his own volition, Joab sent for him.*
  - Even though Absalom returned he didn't make any attempt to repent and reconcile.*
  - The Father in the prodigal son story welcomed the son back with open arms. David's welcome was to allow him in the same city but not in the same house; and he didn't see him for 2 years!*
  - When David finally accepts Absalom into the Palace after 2 years, there is a reconciliation of sorts; but there is no repentance from Absalom like the prodigal son did; and there's no forgiveness from David, like the Father of the prodigal son did?*
15. **Read Ephesians 4:26.** How does this relate to Absalom?  
*In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry...*
- Absalom had every right to be angry with what happened to his sister, Tamar. But in his anger, he did sin and murder Amnon. And he is still angry, as we saw with the burning of Joab's barley fields. He has not resolved his anger and he hasn't reconciled with David properly either. Until, Absalom admits his sin, he will not have peace with God or himself.*
16. **Ponder:** 2 Samuel 14:14 says 'God devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from him'. How does God achieve that for us if we consider ourselves as being 'banished' because of our sins?  
*V14 is the Gospel in one verse again!*

*When we are still in our sin we are like banished ones; our relationship with God is broken and we need reconciliation. God devised away for us not to remain banished from him, by sending His Beloved Son, Jesus, to be sin for us and to die for our sin and take the punishment of our sin, for us. All that is required is that we admit our sin against God, repent and say sorry and believe that Jesus died for our sins.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 14:1-33?

- *God devises a way for a person to return to Him*
- *God wants reconciliation in relationships - but we must do our part - David is half-hearted and Absalom is unrepentant and unable to sin his wrong!*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*See V14 - Q16 above.*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life?**

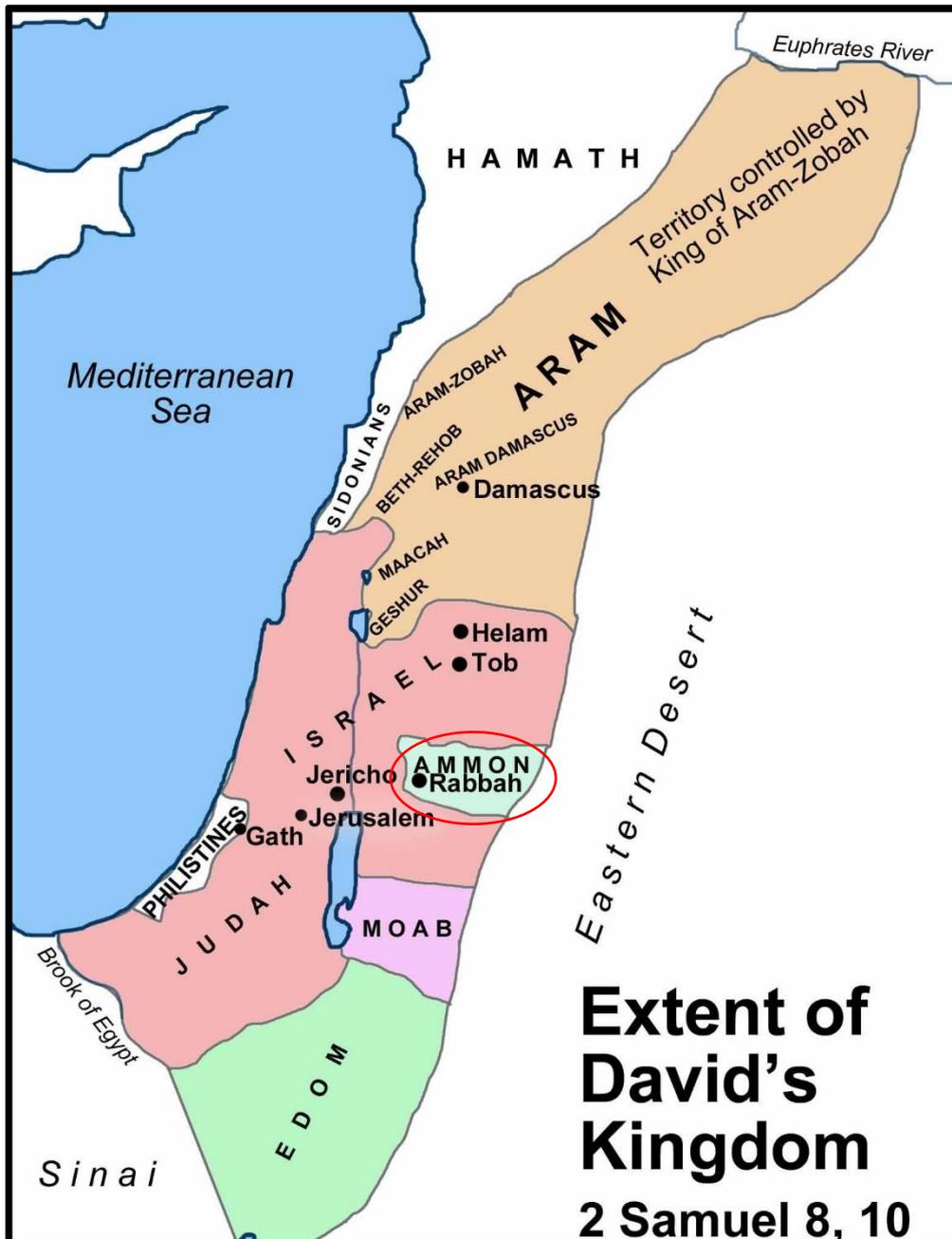
- a. *Is there someone you need to reconcile to? Are you being stubborn, half-hearted, unrepentant?*
- b. *Be like the repentant prodigal son - not Absalom*
- c. *Be like the forgiving father of the prodigal - and not David*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

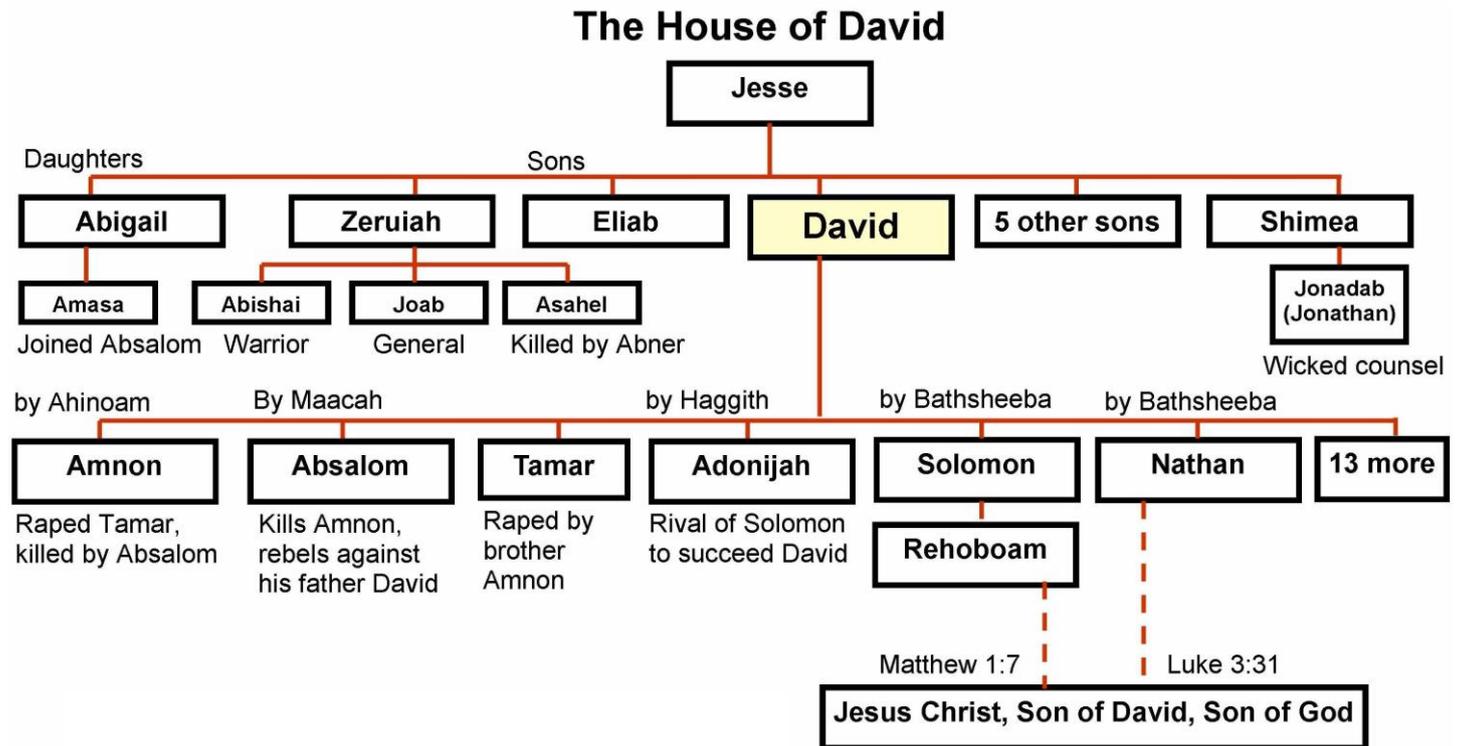
V14

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking God that through Jesus we can be welcomed back into His flock. Ask God to help us when we are angry and stubborn.

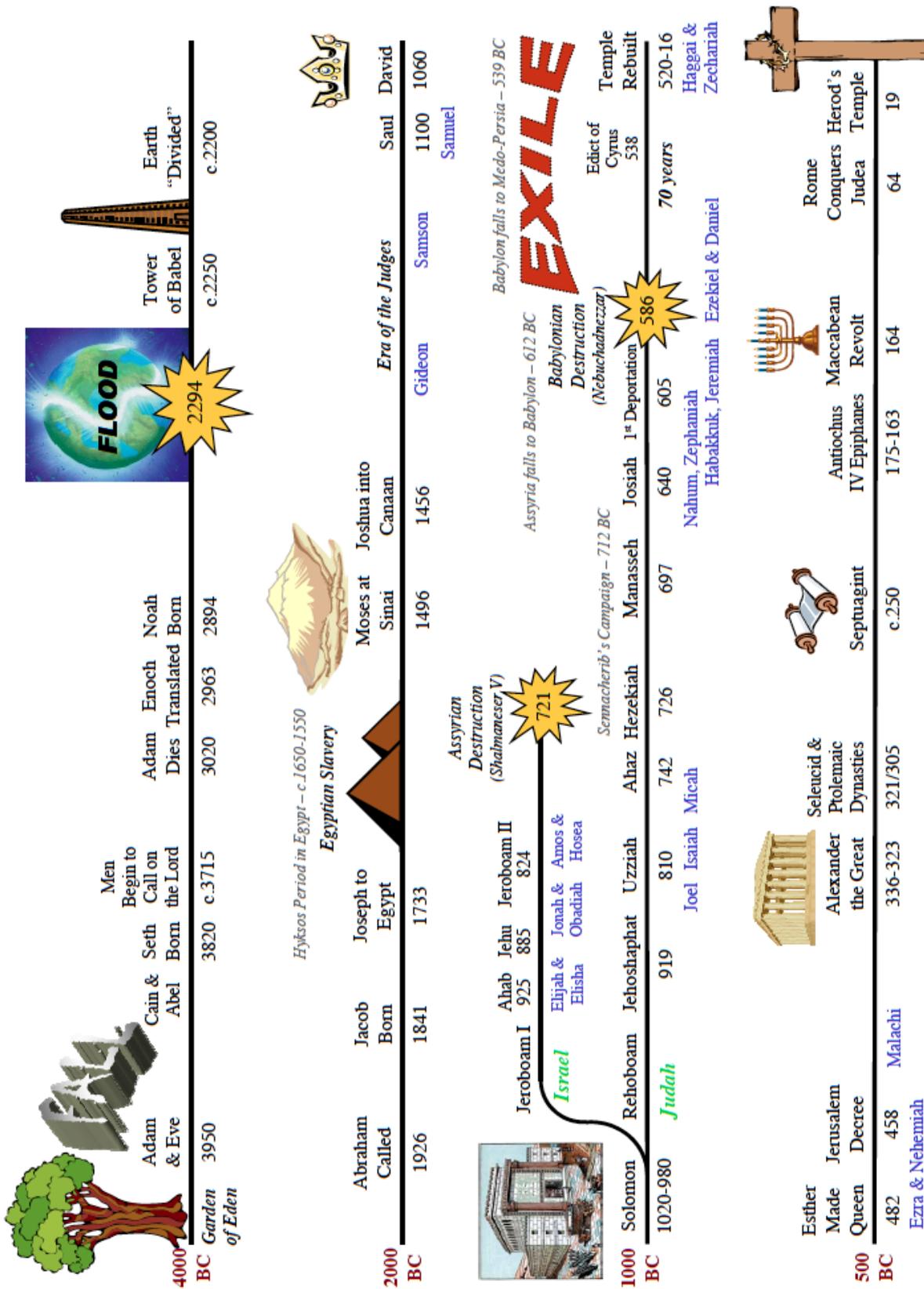
Appendix 1



## Appendix 2 - David's Family Tree



# Appendix 3 - Timeline



**Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke**  
**August/September 2020**

**Resources:**

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

The Message of Samuel (Mary J. Evans)

The Books of Samuel (Keil and Delitzsch)

**Notes/Prayer Points**