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## **BIG WORD: 2 Samuel**

Homework for Chapters 19—21

Discussion Dates: 28 November 2012 (in house)  
and 29 November 2012 (online)

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### **DAY ONE: Overview**

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God's Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 2 Samuel 19—21.

If possible, read all three chapters in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

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### **DAY TWO: Mourning Absalom**

Last time we discussed the death of Absalom and the responses of Joab and David. Here the story continues.

READ: 2 Samuel 18:31—19:8.

Andrew Bonar, a Scottish pastor in the 1800s used to say, *"Let us be watchful after the victory as before the battle."*

Biblical scholar Warren Wiersbe adds, *"It is possible to win the battle but lose the victory."* He asserts that this is what happened to David after Joab defeated Absalom and his army. Rather than celebrated for their courage and success, David's army returned to confusion and a king who seemed distraught over their defense of him.

What happened to the moral of the army? Of the nation?

What impact did this have on David's leadership?

What action did Joab take?

We can often possess tunnel vision when facing trials. We get so focused on one aspect of our circumstances that we fail to see the bigger picture. Can you think of a time like this when you may have won the battle but lost the victory?

How could you have managed the situation differently?

READ: Romans 8:16—19, 28, 31; 37—39

What do we learn from these verses about the bigger picture, even when facing trials?

How can we live with a daily assurance of these truths?

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### **DAY THREE: David Returns as King**

Throughout 2 Samuel 19 one phrase is repeated. How many times do you see “bringing back the king” in this chapter?

What purpose exists behind this repetition?

List the references and the groups behind each instance.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What approach did David take to ensure the support of Judah?

What approach did he take with Israel?

There was some dispute between Israel (10 northern tribes) and Judah (2 southern tribes). Describe that. What was the catalyst? What was the outcome?

The nation's loyalties seem shallow. First they align with Saul, then David while in exile. Then back to Saul before uniting behind David for good ... well, at least until his son launches this plan. What do you make of all this? Why can't they stand firm behind one leader?

READ: 2 Samuel 15:11 and 16:1—4

Consider these two passages in light chapter 19's account. Which were true?

Did the 200 men from Jerusalem truly align with Absalom or were they "innocent" conspirators?

Did Mephibosheth really betray David in honor of his grandfather or was Ziba a liar seeking to betray his master and gain the favor of the king?

Very little is said of David's response to all this. What do you make of it?

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#### **DAY FOUR: Sheba's Rebellion**

READ: 2 Samuel 20

Who was Sheba?

What was his problem?

Who followed him?

Why?

For the first time in quite a while, David takes confident command. What are his instructions?

When Amasa is delayed, more action is required. Who initiates that? What action is taken?

What came of Sheba?

Whom did David put in charge of the army next?

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### **DAY FIVE: Joab vs. Amasa**

Let's back up and get a fuller look at the story around David's military commanders. During David's attempt to reunite all of Israel under his restored reign, he approached Judah first and offered an unexpected promise to Amasa.

READ: 2 Samuel 19:11—15.

Who was Amasa? (See 2 Samuel 17:25)

What implications would result from David's proclamation?

How do you think Joab felt about all of this?

David's plan worked; Judah soon shifted all their allegiances back to David as king. But the story doesn't end there. The account of Sheba's rebellion in chapter 20 reveals the continued battle for power over David's army and a ruthless murder.

How would you assess the loyalty of each commander – Joab and Amasa?

After killing Amasa, what came of Joab? What punishment or promotion did he receive?

Were you king in David's place, how would you have handled this situation? What action might you have taken with Joab?

Reviewing our study, how many instances can you recall in which Joab acted on his own without the king's consent? Or perhaps, even, against the king's orders?

How many times has he been reprimanded by King David for these actions?

READ: 1 Kings 2:5-6 and 28—35.

What were David's final orders regarding Joab?

Who was ultimately responsible for dealing with Joab?

What end did he reach?

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### **DAY SIX: The Gibeonites' Revenge**

READ: 2 Samuel 21:1—14

We don't know when or why Saul slaughtered the Gibeonites; it's not recorded in Scripture. We do know that Joshua had made a vow with them (even if it was ill-informed) in Joshua 9-10 and that Saul had a spotty track record for following God's commands.

There is much more information we can collect about the Gibeonites. Gibeon became a Levitical city (Joshua 21:17) and the tabernacle was once housed there (1 Kings 3:4-5). In 1 Chronicles (8-9) we also learn that Saul's great-grandfather was the forefather of the Gibeonites, so whatever Saul's attempts at genocide, it was against his own relatives.

So, here we are in 2 Samuel 21. After three years of famine, David seeks the LORD and learns of the cause of the famine. What does he discover?

Numbers 35:30-34 explain that the sin of murder pollutes the land. Deuteronomy 28:1—14, however, promises that if the Israelites would honor and obey God, He would send them rain and prosperity. David knew the Law and knew that this pollution of "bloodguilt" must be eradicated.

What course of action did he take?

What retribution did the Gibeonites demand?

How was this accomplished?

Are there any other observations you take from this passage?

What application could we take from this account for us today?

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**DAY SEVEN: Psalms and Philistines**

The following psalms were likely written during this time in David's life.

READ:

- Psalm 38
- Psalm 41
- Psalm 42

What insights do you gather from these poems?

READ: 2 Samuel 21:15—22 and 1 Chronicles 20:4—8.

Another battle with the Philistines, another young man conquering giants. What parallels do you see here between David and his nephew?

Are there any other details that stand out to you?

Why do you think this story is included here in Scripture?