

## SYLLABUS FOR SECOND SAMUEL BIBLE STUDY

### Introduction:

Our study takes a look at David and his kingship with all its ups and downs. While it would be useful to familiarize yourself with the First Book of Samuel, it is not necessary, since I shall be giving short summaries of the related passages. There is no one perfect translation of the Hebrew Bible (which is the way I shall be referring to the Old Testament). Therefore, use your favorite bible and bring it to the sessions. At times I shall be asking for a volunteer to read a short section; the different translations enhance our understanding of the passage.

Before each meeting I'll be emailing each of you my PowerPoint presentation for that session. This is done at the suggestion of past participants, who use them for preparation, printing and note-taking etc. In addition, at the start of the first get-together I'll pass out a couple of maps. While these will probably not help in your theological understanding of the text, they should help you to visualize the geography of the areas being discussed. These are yours to keep, love and cherish.

Although I present each section in a rather didactic form, I am EXTREMELY open to questions, comments, suggestions etc. As I see it, the ultimate purpose of a bible study is to grow in faith and understanding. We all have different ways of accomplishing that. Sharing those learning experiences with the group is strongly encouraged.

### Week 1: Chapters 1-6

1. A messenger with a different story of Saul's death
2. David's respect for the anointed office of king
3. David's anointing at Hebron in Judah
4. Battle of Gibeon: Joab vs. Abner
5. Abner defects to David (ch. 3)
6. David's innocence proclaimed in Abner's death
7. David captures Jerusalem (ch. 5): comment on the blind and lame
8. Rout of the Philistines
9. Ark of the covenant brought to Jerusalem amidst dancing (ch. 6)

### Week 2: Chapters 7-12

1. house of God
2. house of David (ch. 7)
3. discussion of kingship
4. David's wars and expansion of the kingdom
5. David's fulfilment of his promise to Jonathan
6. David's sins: Bathsheba and Uriah (ch. 11)
7. Nathan's parable: "That man is you!" (ch. 12)
8. "The sword shall never be far from your family....."

### Week 3: Chapters 13-19:9

1. Amnon and Tamar: the family plot thickens
2. David does nothing
- + 3. murder of Amnon by Absalom
4. A wise woman saves the day (again!) – ch. 14
5. David's 3<sup>rd</sup> great sin (refusal to forgive)
6. the rise of Absalom
7. David's flight from Jerusalem and his plan for victory (ch. 15-16)
8. Absalom's counselors vs. David's spies
9. Death of Absalom and David's lament

### Week 4: Second Samuel 19:10 – 24:25 and First Kings 1-2

1. David seeks reconciliation with Judah (his home town!)
2. David's "forgiveness" of Shimei
3. David renews his promise of protection to Jonathan's son
4. Sheba's rebellion (ch. 20)
5. Joab adds Amasa to his list of victims
6. A woman saves the day again!
7. Chapters 21-24 are addenda to the David story
  - a) ritual intercession (and the goodness of Rizpah – another woman)
  - b) a different version of the respectful act performed by the people of Jabesh-Gilead (as told in the last chapter of First Samuel)
  - c) David's life is saved
  - d) song of Thanksgiving
  - e) David's last words (almost) – ch. 23
  - f) the census: It sounds so harmless! – ch. 24
8. Adonijah's ambition (1Kings 1)
9. Bathsheba intervenes with David for her son Solomon
10. Abiathar is dismissed from the office of priest (The fall of the Levites!)

### Bibliography:

1. Anderson, A.A.; *Word Biblical Commentary, 2 Samuel*; Word Books; Dallas, TX
2. Brueggemann, Walter; *First and Second Samuel*; Westminster John Knox Press; Louisville, KY
3. Magennis, Feidhlimidh; *New Collegeville Bible Commentary, First and Second Samuel*; Liturgical Press; Collegeville, MN
4. Peterson, Eugene H.; *First and Second Samuel*; Westminster John Knox Press; Louisville, KY