



# Bible Reading Journey

## Key Study Points by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

### Each day, using the notes on this page:

- Pray for Spirit-filled insight as you read God's Word.
- Look for Law and Gospel themes that point us to Jesus.
- Apply the readings to your life.
- Pray to Jesus, as the readings inspire you, for yourself, your family, your church and your world.

**Historical Context:** Saul has just died. David is anointed as king of Judah & then of all Israel. His reign prospers as he is faithful to the LORD. (~1009-970 BC)

### Law & Gospel Themes:

David's response to Saul's "assisted suicide" shows great respect for God's anointed & for life. (1:14) David will not delight in the destruction of his enemies, esp. within Israel. In-fighting hurt both sides (as seen in Abner vs. Joab, etc.). David notes it is not for us to avenge. (3:26-30) David corrupts himself by marrying Jebusite wives. (5:13) Uzzah is struck dead when he takes hold of the

Ark of the Covenant which was wrongly being moved on a cart rather than being carried by Levites. (6:6-7) Lesson learned, after three months the Ark is carried to Jerusalem with rejoicing. (6:13) David honors God properly even if Michal is offended. (6:20-23) David's promised "house" from God would not be a building, but an eternal dynasty in Jesus. (7:16)

### Life Application Starters:

What does David's godly attitude about the death of Saul teach us about the practices of assisted suicide & euthanasia? Who should take care of

vengeance against evil? How does in-fighting hurt your family? ... your church? What items today are "holy" & how should we treat them? If our worship practice aligns with God's will, how should we respond to the criticism of others? Is David's "house" enduring?

**Prayer Starters:** That we would respect & defend ALL life. For God to have mercy on our enemies & heal our divisions. For unity in the body of Christ. That we will properly honor the holy things of God & worship without fear. In thanks for Jesus as our lasting temple.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 2 Samuel 1:1-2:32

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 3:1-4:12

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 5:1-25

Thursday: 2 Samuel 6:1-23

Friday: 2 Samuel 7:1-29

Saturday: 2 Samuel 8:1-10:19

## July's Memory Verses:

*2 Samuel 6:21b, "...I will make merry before the LORD."*

*2 Samuel 7:16, "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me."*

*2 Samuel 22:2&3, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation...."*

*2 Samuel 22:32, "For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?"*

*1 Kings 8:23, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ...."*

**Author of 2 Samuel:** Unknown    **Date 2 Samuel Was Written:** c 970 BC

**NOTE:** 1 & 2 Samuel were originally one long document that was later divided.

***New Insights:***

***Questions to Pursue Further:***

*Insights from My Accountability Partners:*

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**Historical Context:** David continues his reign over all Israel, falls into sin, loses control to his son Absalom & regains it, partially, again. (~1002-970 BC)

**Law & Gospel Themes:** David fails to carry out his vocation as king, staying home in security & falling into adultery, deceit & murder. David repents of his sins & is freely forgiven, but there are terrible & lasting consequences. David's son, Amnon, follows his father's sexual sin against his sister, Tamar. Absalom wrongly takes God's authority & murders his brother Amnon. David fails to discipline Absalom properly, neither

condemning or pardoning. Absalom turns further from the LORD & takes the kingdom from David. David re-takes the kingdom, but loses Absalom. David shows mercy to his enemies, both in Israel and beyond, but still faces opposition & bloodshed. Still, David's heart remains true to the LORD as he sings in praise to Him.

**Life Application Starters:** When have you failed to follow your God-given vocation & it resulted in a fall into sin? How does a failure to fully discipline children result in ongoing evil consequences for David, for you, for a

nation? What can we learn from David about the proper response to a Godly rebuke? (See 12:13, 16:10 & 19:8) Should we expect life on earth to get easier for us if we're faithful to the LORD?

**Prayer Starters:** To fulfill our God-given vocations, keep busy & be preserved from temptations. To admit our sin when rebuked & flee to God for forgiveness. To have wisdom & courage in disciplining the next generations, showing Godly judgment & mercy. To persevere in faith in spite of continued attacks by Satan, the world & self.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 2 Samuel 11:1-12:31

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 13:1-14:24

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 14:25-16:23

Thursday: 2 Samuel 17:1-18:33

Friday: 2 Samuel 19:1-20:26

Saturday: 2 Samuel 21:1-22:51

## July's Memory Verses:

*2 Samuel 6:21b, "...I will make merry before the LORD."*

*2 Samuel 7:16, "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me."*

*2 Samuel 22:2&3, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation...."*

*2 Samuel 22:32, "For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?"*

*1 Kings 8:23, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ...."*

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**Historical Context:** 2 Sam. ends with the final exploits of King David. (~970 BC) 1 Kings picks up with the anointing of Solomon as king of all Israel & tells of his wisdom & accomplishments. (~970-947 BC)

**Law & Gospel Themes:** David speaks an oracle at the end of his reign that expresses his faith in God's eternal covenant promises. Still, David reverts back to pride & trust in might as he celebrates his warriors & takes a census, bringing a curse on Israel...until he flees back to God for mercy. David's spoiled son, Adonijah, sets himself up as king above his older brother,

Solomon, but God's plan is not confounded. Solomon takes his rightful throne and preserves the line to Jesus. Solomon receives the wisdom he seeks from God, but still acts foolishly as he acquires wives & wealth that distract him. The temple unites Israel in worship of the LORD & points ahead to the sacrifice to end all sacrifices, Jesus.

**Life Application Starters:** How does David's life reflect the tendency of success to lead to a fall? Have you seen this? Why are God's gifts of mercy & grace more important than his gifts of wisdom, wealth

& might? Sacrifices on the same mount (by Abraham, David & Solomon) point ahead to what greater sacrifice on a nearby mount that blesses us? How does Solomon focus on God's care for the gentiles including us? (See 1 Kings 8:43&60)

**Prayer Starters:** That we would never trust in our own wisdom & might more than God's mercy & grace. To share proper Law & Gospel with our family & be spared from the curse of sin. To honor God with our greatest sacrifices & boldly take on His mission of salvation for the world.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 2 Samuel 23:1-39

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 24:1-25

Wednesday: 1 Kings 1:1-2:46

Thursday: 1 Kings 3:1-4:34

Friday: 1 Kings 5:1-7:51

Saturday: 1 Kings 8:1-66

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*2 Samuel 7:16, "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me."*

*2 Samuel 22:2&3, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation...."*

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*1 Kings 8:23, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ...."*

**Author of 1 & 2 Kings:** Unknown

**Date 1 & 2 Kings Was Written:** c 560 BC

**NOTE:** 1 & 2 Kings were originally one long document that was later divided.

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### Historical Context:

Solomon's reign comes to an end & Israel is divided, being served by separate kings from then onward. This week we hear about kings through Asa & Ahab. (~947-871 BC)

### Law & Gospel Themes:

The LORD consecrates the temple built by Solomon. However, he warns that if Israel turns from the LORD, it will "become a heap of ruins." (9:8) Foreigners like the Queen of Sheba are drawn to Solomon's wisdom so he can teach them of the LORD. Yet, pagan women draw Solomon away from the LORD. Due to Solomon's sin, his son inherits a divided

kingdom. Death is as sleep, only temporary, for the LORD's faithful. (11:43) Elijah's raising of the widow's son reinforces this. (17:22) Kings come & go, but the Word of the LORD endures with its curses & blessings. Grace can break patterns of evil. (15:14) God gives courage & victory against the greatest of evil as He did for Elijah. (Ch 18)

### Life Application Starters:

Buildings mean nothing if there is no faith in the LORD. How should we apply this? How do we walk the balance of interacting with the world to be witnesses for Jesus

without being pulled into sin by the world? What's best to pass on/receive as an inheritance...money, houses, toys, skills, power, a great name, knowledge? How permanent is death? How can you be sure?

**Prayer Starters:** To offer up all we build to the glory of God. To never turn from the Word of the LORD or fail to live by it. That we will be witnesses to all. That we will resist the sin of all. To be courageous & victorious (at least in spiritual terms) in the face of evil enemies no matter how great. To await our resurrection with hope, confidence & joy.

### Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Kings 9:1-10:29

Tuesday: 1 Kings 11:1-43

Wednesday: 1 Kings 12:1-33

Thursday: 13:1-14:31

Friday: 1 Kings 15:1-16:34

Saturday: 1 Kings 17:1-18:46

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