Notes

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The Daily Bible Reader 2015

MAY 2015
1 & 2 SAMUEL

1&2 Samuel

Memory Verse: *"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." - 2 Samuel 7:12-13 (NKJV)*

Schedule

May 1-2
1 Samuel 1-3

May 3-9
1 Samuel 4-18

May 10-16
1 Samuel 19-31

May 17-23
2 Samuel 1-12

May 24-31
2 Samuel 13-24

Our schedule is divided into weekly readings. By reading at least four chapters each day you should be able to finish the readings each week. It is a good idea to have a note pad and pen handy to jot down questions you may have or make a note of a passage that perhaps applies to your life. May God bless you as you feast on his Word each day!

The books of 1 & 2 Samuel were originally one in the Hebrew text. During the next month we will be reading through these two books of history. You may have to step up the pace to finish these two great books, but you should not have too much problem. The three prominent characters in these books are Samuel, Saul, and David.

The book of 1 Samuel describes the transition of leadership for Israel from judges to kings. It covers the time period from the birth of Samuel to the death of Saul. The book focuses on the three characters: Samuel (Ch.1-7), Saul (Ch. 8-31), and David (Ch.16-31) The book proclaims the growing desire of Israel for a king. Kingship is depicted as a theological rather than political matter. God remains the true of king of Israel. The success of each earthly king was determined by their obedience or disobedience to the law. (Dt. 17:14-20)

Samuel functioned as the last of the judges. His prophetic ministry led to a revival in Israel, the return of the ark, and the defeat of the Philistines. When Samuel was old and his sons corrupt the people requested a king "like the nations". (Ch.8:5) Saul was anointed the first king of Israel. Samuel warned the people of the pitfalls of a monarchy, but followed God's command and gave Israel its first king. Saul's rule ended tragically because of his disobedience. (Ch.15:26) The rise in popularity of David, the shepherd boy, led to Saul's downward spiral and ultimate death.

The book of 2 Samuel records the reign of David. It traces his ascension to the throne, his sins of adultery and murder, and the tragic consequences of those sins on his family. This book can be divided into three sections: 1) David's triumphs (Ch.1- 10), 2) David's transgressions (Ch.11), 3) David's troubles (Ch. 12-24). The first ten chapters depict God rewarding David for his obedience. (Dt. 17:14-20) The last twelve chapters chronicle David's misery for his disobedience. The highlight of 2 Samuel is recorded in chapter 7 when God promises David an eternal kingdom, throne, and seed. This promise would be fulfilled in Jesus.

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