**2 Samuel**

1. *Introduction*:

This book is the story of approximately forty years covering the reign of King David, first over the tribe of Judah, then over all Israel.

2. *Authorship*:

Many believe a clue to the authorship of this book is found in 1 Chronicles 29:29--*All the events of King David’s reign, from beginning to end, are written in The Record of Samuel the Seer, The Record of Nathan the Prophet, and The Record of Gad the Seer.* These three men wrote the accounts found in 1 and 2 Samuel and the opening part of 1 Kings.

3. *Situation*:

The theme of 2 Samuel is the expansion of the kingdom. The pivotal chapter in this book is chapter 12, which tells of David’s terrible sin with Bathsheba. Chapters 1-11 record David’s triumphs and the following chapters (13-24) report David’s troubles. One can pull from this book some idea of the awfulness of sin and the limits of forgiveness. The author offers a very candid portrait of the strengths and weaknesses of David. God shows no respect of persons. The heroes of the Bible are not sanitized and whitewashed. The good, the bad, and the ugly episodes are there for all to examine.

The key purpose in the book is to reveal the divine origin of the messianic house of David—the family through which the Messiah would come (chapter 7).

4. *Of Special Interest*:

-William Faulkner’s novel *Absalom, Absalom* (the story of a southern aristocrat who returned from the Civil War to find his son missing and his plantation ruined) was inspired by the tragic story of King David and his son.

5. *A Brief Outline of 2 Samuel:*

2 Samuel 1:1-5:25 David made King of Israel

2 Samuel 6:1-9:13 The Prosperous Period of David’s Reign

2 Samuel 10:1-14:33 Trouble in David’s family

2 Samuel 15:1-19:43 Absalom’s Revolt

2 Samuel 20:1-24:25 David’s Last Days and Song

6. *May Reading Guide*

Week of Apr 25-May 1 2 Samuel 1-5

Week of May 2-8 2 Samuel 6-10

Week of May 9-15 2 Samuel 11-15

Week of May 16-22 2 Samuel 16-20

Week of May 23-29 2 Samuel 21-24