2 Samuel: The Rise and Fall of King David (13)

Literary Outline

**David’s Rise (1:1-10:19)**
- David and the death of Saul (1:1–27)
- David becomes king (2:1–5:5)
- God’s Earthly Dwelling—David captures Jerusalem (5); God resides in Zion (6)
- God Promises David and Eternal House/Dynasty (7:1–29)
- David’s Military Might (8:1–18 & 10:1-19)
- David’s Magnanimous Mercy – Mephibosheth (9:1–13)

**David’s Fall (11:1-20:26)**
- David and Bathsheba (11:1–12:25)
- End of Israel-Ammon war (12:26–31)
- Absalom's banishment and reinstatement (13:1–14:33)
- Absalom's rebellion (15:1–19:43) – Passivity vs.

**David’s Finale (21:1-24:25)**
- Famine and the death of Saul's sons (21:1–14)
- Philistine wars (21:15–22)
- Song of David (22:1–51)
- Last words of David (23:1–7)
- David's mighty men (23:8–39)
- The census and the threshing floor (24:1–25)

**Christological Themes in 2 Samuel**

**Messianic Pattern**
- (1) Anointed; (2) Save God’s People; (3) Restrain them from evil
- This pattern is begun with Saul (1 Sam. 9:16-17; this is exceeded by David)
- David anointed three times (1 Sam 16:16; 2 Sam 2:2; 5:3)
- David defeated the Philistines et al decisively (1 Sam 17; 2 Sam 5; 8; 10)
- David restrained evil people by ‘discipling’ a band of malcontents (cf. 1 Sam 22:2; 2 Sam 23:8–39), by ignoring suggestions to strike Saul (1 Sam 24:4; 26:8) and punishing the one who did kill Saul (2 Sam 1:1-16)
- Jesus fits this pattern – *anointed by HS, sent to save, defeat evil, make disciples*

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Unexpected King

- David’s selection in 1 Sam 16 surprised Samuel, Jesse, and his brothers
- Saul anticipated his own son to reign after him (1 Sam 20:31)
- David was opposed by the establishment, provoking Saul’s ire
- Jesus is likewise unexpected and opposed (cf. Mk 6:1-4; Jn 7:1-9; 27; 8:48), yet like David is upheld by God and raised to sit eternally at God’s throne

Sojourning

- David was constantly on the run; hiding in caves; eluding Saul (1 Sam 23:4)
- David was fed by priests (1 Sam 21:1-10), resided with Gentiles
- Jesus had no place to lay his head, eluded Pharisees often, outside of Jerusalem

Other

- David is betrayed by those he serves (Absalom; Ahitophel; Keilah & Ziph)
- David entrusts himself to God (2 Sam 22; cf. the Psalms)
- David initiates the construction of the temple (cf. 1 Kings 1-10)
- In the same way, Jesus is betrayed, entrusts himself to God, and does all God commands, so that he could build a temple of living stones—the church

Davidic Covenant (7:1ff)

- Davidic Covenant expands the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:1-3; 15; 17; 22)
  - God promises David a great name (v. 9); God promises a place (v. 10)
  - God promises a royal ‘house’ / offspring (v. 10, 11, 12) / eternal throne (v. 12, 13)
  - God promises a blessing & rest (v. 10-11)
- Davidic Covenant demands holiness & obedience, a.k.a. Sinai Covenant (Exod 19-24)
  - I will be to him a father and he shall be to me a son (v. 14; cf. Israel = YHWH)
  - Discipline comes to the one who disobeys (v. 14)
  - More completely than anything else in the OT, God’s covenant with David defines the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

David’s Sin with Bathsheba (11:1ff)

- Historically: The sword enters David’s House
  - This shows the tension of the Davidic Covenant; Explains Absalom’s defection
  - Sets the stage for the Divided Kingdom and the vacillation of good / bad kings
- Typologically: Shows that David is a fallen man – Pattern of Failed Messiahs
  - Noah: God’s Savior thru judgment. Failed to bring rest, becoming drunk w/ wine.
  - Moses: God’s Rescuer of Israel out of Egypt. Fails to lead Israel into Canaan.
  - David: God’s Chosen King. Fails to Rule with Righteousness.
- Ethically: Demonstrates that all have sinned, even the most godly
  - David was one of the greatest saints and one of the worst sinners
  - David’s sin is programmatic for temptation/sin, but also repentance/restoration
  - Another King is Coming (2 Sam 23:2-4) who can atone for sin (2 Sam 24:15-17)