

## II Samuel – An Overview

About 40 years covered, in the lands surrounding Israel.

1. David receives word of the death of Saul and Jonathan. (chapter 1, or c1)
2. David crowned king of Judah at age 30; civil war between David and Saul's son Ishbosheth. (c2-4)
3. David crowned king of all Israel at age 37, takes Jerusalem as his capital city, and defeats Philistines. (c5)
4. Ark of the covenant brought into Jerusalem. (c6)
5. God promises to build David an everlasting house. (c7)
6. David leads Israel to victory. (c8)
7. David shows kindness to Jonathan's son. (c9)
8. Ammonites and Syrians provoke Israel, and are defeated. (c10)
9. David sins against God and Uriah. (c11)
10. God declares David's chastisement. (c12)
8. David's son Amnon forces half-sister Tamar; Absalom slays him, flees, and then comes home. (c13-14)
9. Absalom takes kingdom; civil war occurs, Absalom slain. (c15-18)
10. David returns as king, but Sheba leads another revolt, and is slain. (c19-20)
11. David placates Gibeonites in order to relieve Israel from famine. (c21)
12. David's song of praise. (c22)
13. David's final words, and his mighty men. (c23)
14. David sinfully numbers Israel, plague results, but God has mercy, and David offers sacrifice. (c24)

# David Mourns Saul and Jonathan (chapter 1)

- After the battle which Israel lost to the Philistines, a young Amalekite came to David and his men, carrying what he claimed were Saul's crown and bracelet, and reporting that Saul was dead.
- David asked how he knew that Saul was dead, and the man said that he was in the battle and saw Saul being pursued by the Philistines, and that Saul had asked him to slay him before he was captured, and so he obliged Saul.



- This was a lie, since Saul had slain himself. The Amalekite may have been attempting to gain David's favor for slaying Saul and bringing him the crown.
- David tore his clothes, as did his men, and David composed a song to mourn and commemorate Saul and Jonathan.
- He then rebuked the Amalekite for daring to harm the king of Israel, who was the Lord's anointed.
- Then David commanded his men to slay the Amalekite, and they obeyed this command.

# War With Saul's Surviving Son (chapter 2)

- David asked God what city he should dwell in, and God directed him to Hebron.
- The men of Judah came to him, and anointed him king over their tribe. He was 30.
- David wrote to thank the men of Jabesh-Gilead for recovering Saul's body.
- Abner, Saul's general, made Ishbosheth (40), Saul's surviving son, king over Israel.
- War began between the house of Saul and the house of David.
- At the first conflict, David's men won the battle and began pursuing Abner's men.
- David's nephew, Asahel, the brother of Joab and Abishai, was a fast runner, and began to chase Abner himself.
- Abner warned Asahel to chase someone else, for he did not want to kill him, but Asahel continued the chase.
- As he drew near, Abner stabbed Asahel with the back part of his spear.
- Joab called an end to battle, and everyone marched home.



# Abner and Ishbosheth Slain (chapters 3-4)

- David's forces grew stronger, but Ishbosheth's forces grew weaker.
- Abner took one of Saul's former concubines, and Ishbosheth rebuked him about it.
- This made Abner mad, and so he contacted David about peace talks. David said he would not negotiate unless Abner brought him David's first wife, Michal.



- Michal was taken from her second husband and brought back to David. Abner talked peace to David.
- Joab missed the talks, and went after Abner when he learned of them. He then murdered Abner.
- David mourned, and made it clear that he had not sought Abner's death.
- Two of Ishbosheth's servants came into his room while he slept, and murdered him, cut off his head, and brought the head to David.
- When David heard their story he was angry that they had done such a treacherous deed, even to his enemy.
- He told them about how he had commanded the deaths of the man who claimed to have slain Saul.
- He commanded his men, and they slew these two murderers, also.
- David arranged honorable funerals for Abner and for the head of Ishbosheth.



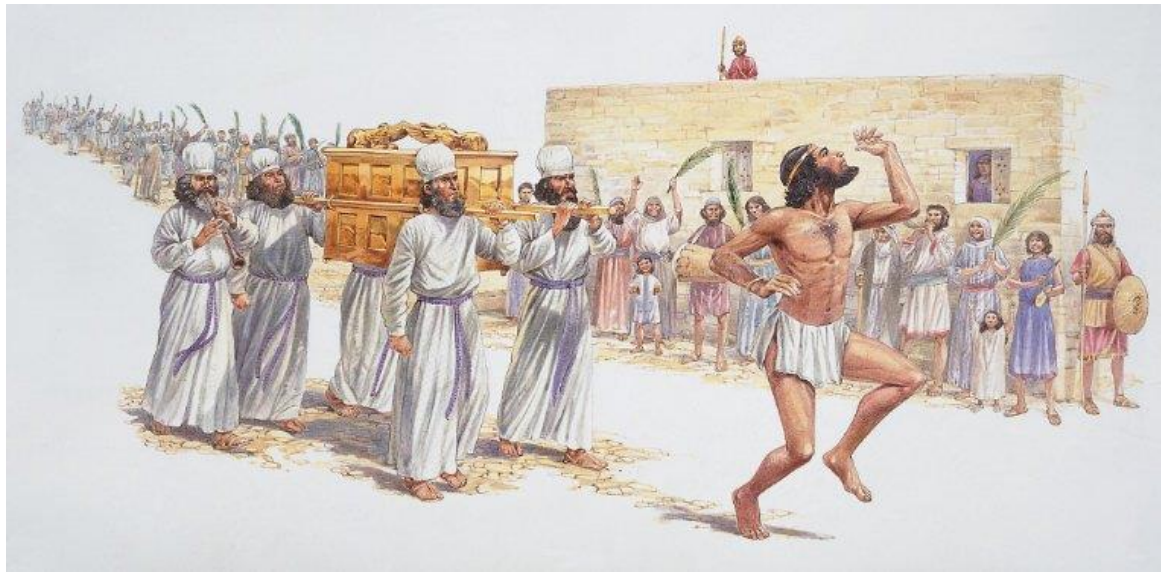
# David Crowned King of all Israel (chapter 5)

- After the death of Ishbosheth, all the tribes of Israel came to Hebron to ask David to serve as king over the entire nation. David had been reigning over the tribe of Judah from Hebron for seven years, and he was now 37 years old.
- David agreed to reign, and led the army to take Jerusalem back from the Jebusites.
- The Jebusites did not think the Israelites could overcome the fortifications of Jerusalem.
- David said that the first person to take the gutter of Jerusalem would lead his armies. His nephew Joab did it, and David took the city.
- David built up the city, built himself a house, took more wives, and begat more children.
- When the Philistines heard that David was now king over all the nation, they attacked Israel.
- David asked God if he should meet them in battle, and God said yes. Israel won a good victory.
- The Philistines reassembled in the same place to attack again.
- David again prayed, and God said for him to march around the Philistines, and attack when they heard a commotion in the mulberry trees.
- David obeyed God, and Israel won a major victory.



# David Desires Worship in Jerusalem (chapters 6-8 )

- David commanded that Israel bring the ark from the house where it had been for decades, and bring it into Jerusalem. They put it on a cart, as the Philistines had done.
- The ox stumbled, and a man named Uzzah put his hand on the ark. God slew him.
- In fear, they left the ark in another man's house until they saw the Lord's blessing on him.
- Then they carried the ark on staves on the priests' shoulders, as commanded by Moses.
- As the ark came into Jerusalem, David danced and played in an ephod before the Lord.
- His first wife, Michal, despised and rebuked him for this, and so died childless.
- David told Nathan the prophet he wanted to build a house, or temple, for the ark, because it was now in a tent in Jerusalem. Nathan said it sounded good to him.
- The Lord then sent Nathan to David, that he would not build such a house, but that his son would. God said he would build David a house, and that his descendants would rule.
- David was grateful to God for the great promise, and prepared materials for the temple. He won victories over Moab, Syria, Zobah, and Edom, dedicating the spoil unto the Lord.





# David Fulfills his Promise to Jonathan (chapter 9)

- David asked if any of king Saul's family were still alive, and someone knew of Ziba, a prosperous servant of Saul's.
- Ziba told David that Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, had been dropped and made lame in the day Saul and Jonathan died, and that he lived with someone in a distant area.

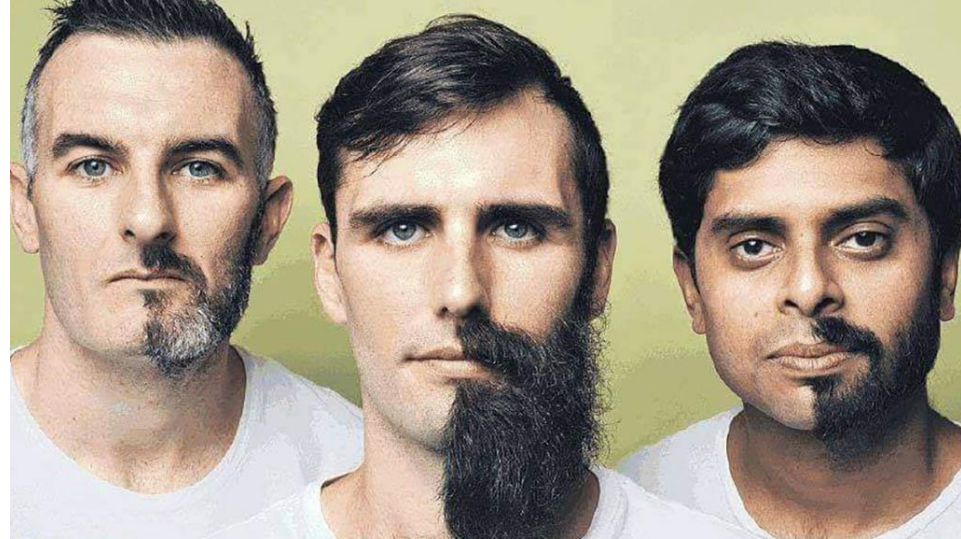


- David sent for Mephibosheth, who came before the king and fell at his feet.
- David lifted him up, and told him that he would restore all the properties that belonged to his fathers, and that Ziba and his family would look after his possessions.
- David wanted Mephibosheth himself, however, to live nearby, and join him at his table for meals.
- Mephibosheth did this, and sat at David's table.
- These actions fulfilled David's promise to his friend Jonathan, which he swore before he ran from Saul and became a fugitive as a young man.

# The Ammonite Insult

## (II Samuel chapter 10)

- Nahash, the king of the Ammonites, died, and his son Hanun sat on his throne.
- David sent messengers to Hanun to express his condolences.
- Hanun's advisors told Hanun they were spies, and so Hanun had half their beards shaved off, and half their garments, and expelled them. The men were ashamed.
- David told them to wait in Jericho until their beards were grown, and then return.
- Knowing Israel was mad, Hanun prepared, and also hired many Syrian mercenaries.
- David sent forth the army, with his nephews Joab and Abishai to lead it.
- When they arrived, Joab and Abishai were surrounded by huge forces, with Ammonites in front of them, and Syrians and others behind them.
- Joab chose a group of soldiers he wanted, and set them to face the mercenaries. He told Abishai to organize the rest of the men against the Ammonites.
- Joab told Abishai if he needed help, he would come, and if Joab needed help, Abishai should come his way. He stated they should both be of good courage, and trust in God.
- When the battle started, the Syrians grew afraid and ran from Joab's men. This made the Ammonites afraid, and they ran from Abishai's men.
- After fleeing, the Syrians regrouped with more of their countrymen. Joab called for David to come, and they beat Syria so badly that they would not help Ammon any more.





# David Sins Grievously (chapter 11)

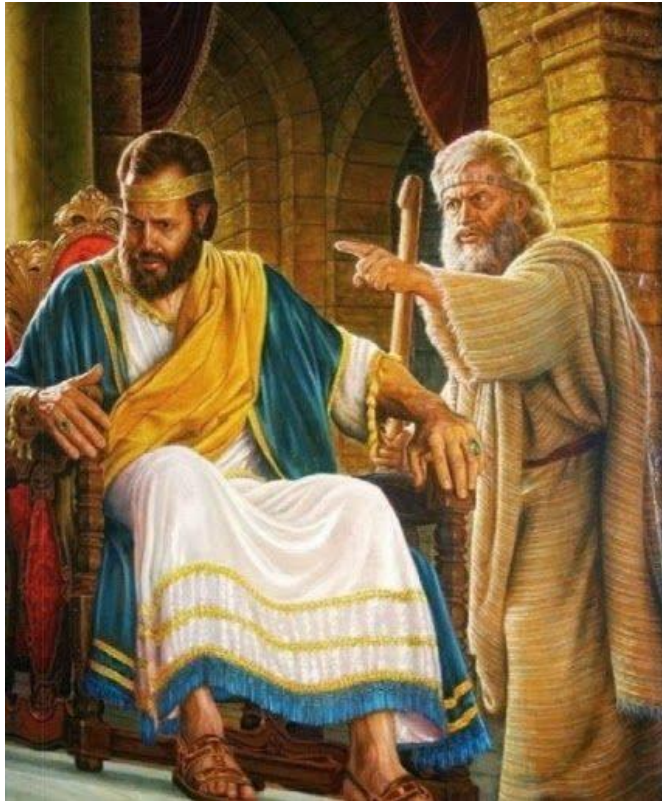


- When kings go to battle, David stayed home during the war with Ammon.
- He got out of bed at dusk, and saw a lovely woman, Bathsheba, bathing on her roof.
- His servants warned him that she was married to Uriah, one of his mighty men, but he made them bring her to him.
- When she later told David she was with child, David sent for Uriah to come home.
- He took a report from Uriah, and dismissed him to go home to see his wife.

- David hoped that Uriah would later think the child was his, but Uriah would not go home.
- David kept him and got him drunk the next night, but Uriah would still not go home.
- David wrote a letter to Joab, telling him to put Uriah in the worst part of the battle, and then desert him so he would be killed. He sealed the letter and sent it back by Uriah!
- Joab obeyed David's order, and Uriah was slain in battle,
- Joab sent word to David, reporting on the battle and on Uriah's death.
- David sent word back to Joab, criticizing his tactics, recognizing frequent losses in war, and encouraging him to keep up the fight.
- After a mourning period, David sent for Bathsheba and took her as another wife.
- The thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

# God Rebukes and Chastises David in Mercy (chapter 12)

- God sent Nathan the prophet to speak with David.
- Nathan told of a rich man who had many flocks and herds, and of a poor man with one little ewe lamb which he cherished. The rich man, having a guest for dinner, stole the poor man's only lamb, slew it, cooked it, and served it for dinner.
- David was angry at the injustice, and said the rich man would die, and pay fourfold!
- Nathan said to David, "Thou art the man." He meant the rich man, worthy of death.
- He showed David how God had been so good to him, and how he had taken Bathsheba from Uriah, and used the sword of the enemy to slay Uriah. David confessed his sin.



- Nathan said that God had put away David sin, and that he would not die, but that Bathsheba's son would die.
- He said that the sword would not leave David's house.
- David and Bathsheba's son grew sick, and then died.
- David had fasted while he was sick, but after his death, he ate, washed, and worshipped, saying his son would not come to him, but he would go to his son.
- David comforted Bathsheba, and she bore another child. Nathan loved this child, naming him Jedidiah.
- David named him Solomon, and made him heir, and the Lord loved Solomon.
- Israel won the war over the Ammonites, and David took the crown of their king.

# A Sword in David's House – Amnon (chapter 13)

- David now had multiple wives and children. His oldest son was Amnon, the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel.
- Amnon greatly desired his half sister Tamar, whose mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur, and whose brother was Absalom.
- Amnon's cousin Jonadab was a subtil man, and advised him to act sick, and asked David to send Tamar to visit him in his sickness and cook something for him.
- David told Tamar to visit Amnon, and when she had cooked him a meal, he asked her to serve it in his bedroom.
- She did this, and he then grabbed her. She begged him to stop.
- He did not, but forced her, and then threw her out of his house.
- She went into mourning, and her brother found out the crime.
- Absalom waited two years, and hosted a party for his brothers.
- At this party, he instructed his servants to wait for his signal, and then to kill Amnon. This happened, and the brothers fled.
- At first, David heard that Absalom had killed all of his sons, but then later found out that he had only killed Amnon.
- Absalom fled to Talmai, his grandfather who was a king.
- David's family mourned, and eventually was comforted about the death of Amnon.





# A Sword in David's House – Absalom's Coup (chap 14-15)

- Joab could tell that David was missing Absalom, so he instructed a wise woman to appeal to David with a tale about one of her two sons slaying the other, and how her family wanted to execute her remaining son.
- David said he would help her, and she pointed out that he had not forgiven his own son.
- David perceived this was a device of Joab, and instructed Joab to send for Absalom.
- Joab fetched Absalom home, but David would not yet see him.
- Absalom burned Joab's barley field to get his attention, and then demanded David either see him or execute him.
- David finally received and kissed Absalom, who then started to win support in Israel.
- Absalom was handsome and magnetic, and made promises that his reign would be more just than David's. He thus won the hearts of the majority of Israelites.
- When he thought the time right, Absalom went to Hebron and proclaimed himself king.
- He had such great support that when word came to David, David's family fled Jerusalem.
- David left ten of his concubines to watch over his house.
- David went up the Mount of Olives, barefoot and weeping. A few friends declared loyalty.
- The high priests brought David the ark, but he said to take it back to the city, and he would trust in God to bring him back to it.
- His friend Hushai came, but David asked him to go work within Absalom's council. 85





# A Sword in David's House – David Escapes (chap 16-17)

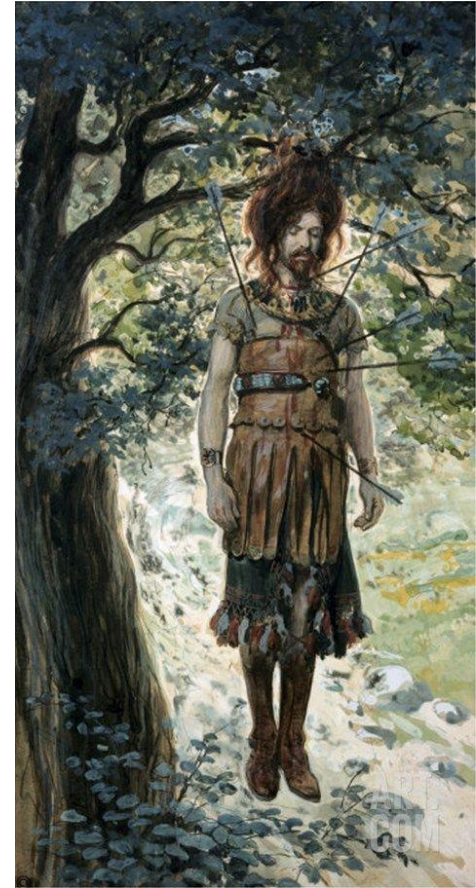


- Ziba the servant met David with some supplies, and told him that Mephibosheth was hoping to be crowned king. David gave him land.
- Shimei of Benjamin came to curse David and throw rocks at him. David spared him.
- Hushai made it back to Jerusalem for Absalom's triumphal entry, and was taken into council.
- The smartest councilor, Ahithophel, who was Bathsheba's grandfather (see II Samuel 11:3 and 23:34), advised Absalom to lie with David's concubines in public, to make it clear that he despised his father and wanted him dead.

- Absalom did this on the top of the house in Jerusalem. Ahithophel then advised Absalom to give him 12,000 men to quickly pursue David, kill him, and end the coup.
- Absalom thought this was good, but then asked for Hushai's advice. Hushai said that David would stay well hidden, and the pursuit would be a failure that would get Absalom a reputation for uncontrolled bloodshed. He advised Absalom to gather all Israel to surround David and defeat him openly. Absalom did this, and Ahithophel hung himself.
- Hushai sent word by the sons of the priests, telling David to cross Jordan quickly.
- The young men ran, and Absalom's men almost caught them, but they hid in a well.
- They escaped and made it to David, who quickly got his people across Jordan.
- Some of the Israelites who lived east of Jordan came to bring David's people supplies.
- Absalom named his cousin Amasa as general, and prepared to attack David.

# A Sword in David's House – Absalom's Defeat (chap 18-19)

- David prepared for the coming battle, and organized what army he had under three generals: Joab and Abishai (nephews), and Ittai.
- He publicly instructed them to deal gently with Absalom himself.
- He wanted to go, but the people would not let David go to battle.
- The battle took place in the wood of Ephraim, and many died.
- David's forces won, and Absalom rode a mule under an oak tree, and his hair caught in the branches and he was suspended.
- A soldier reported this to Joab, who threw three darts into him, and then commanded his men to finish him off. They cast his body into a deep pit in the woods, and covered it with a big pile of rocks.
- Joab blew a trumpet to end battle, and sent messengers to David.
- When David heard he had won but Absalom was dead, he mourned.
- He kept mourning loudly, until Joab told him he must appear and encourage the people who had supported him, or it would be bad.
- David came out and greeted the people who had stood by him.
- David sent word to the high priests to speak with the tribe of Judah.
- David also sent word that he would be forgiving, and he reconciled the people to his rule.
- Shimei the Benjamite came begging forgiveness, and David spared his life.
- Mephibosheth came and said Ziba had slandered him, and David divided their land.
- David invited some of the people east of Jordan to join him in Jerusalem, and some did.
- The tribe of Judah and the other tribes then got into a bad competition about who was a bigger fan of David.



## Another Rebellion (chapter 20)

- The argument about who liked David the most was intense, and the tribe of Judah was more intense than any other tribe.
- A man of Benjamin named Sheba blew a trumpet, and said they had no part in David.
- Many of the other tribes of Israel followed him, and rebelled against David's reign.
- The tribe of Judah remained loyal, and so David commanded Amasa, his nephew who had supported Absalom, to assemble an army from Judah and met him in three days.
- Amasa was late doing this, and David became concerned that the nation would split.
- David commanded another nephew, Abishai, to go after Sheba, and Abishai's brother Joab went also with his men.
- Joab caught up with Amasa, who was his first cousin, and dropped his sword as he went up to greet him. He picked it up as he was drawing near, and then stabbed Amasa.
- One of Joab's men encouraged everyone to follow Joab. At first, the men were hesitant, but then the man through a cloth over Amasa's body, and the men followed Joab.
- Joab's forces caught up with Sheba in the city of Abel, which he besieged and began to batter.
- A wise woman from the city came to Joab to ask why he was attacking her town, and Joab explained they were after rebellious Sheba.
- She said they would take care of the matter, and went back to speak to the men of the city.
- They beheaded Sheba, and threw his head out, and the revolt ended.



# Famine and the Gibeonites (chapter 21)

- As David reigned, Israel went into three years of famine.
- David prayed to God to inquire what the cause of the famine was, and God said that it was because Saul had slain many of the Gibeonites, whom the Israelites had sworn to spare in the days of Joshua (See Joshua chapter 9).
- David went to the Gibeonites to ask what he could do to make amends for their loss.
- The Gibeonites required that seven of Saul's descendants should be delivered to them.
- David spared Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, but delivered up two sons that Rizpah bare to Saul, and five sons of Michal (nephews, born by her sister Merab), Saul's daughter.
- The Gibeonites hung these seven men, and left them hanging a long time.
- Rizpah staid beside the bodies of her two sons, chasing away the scavengers.
- David gathered their bones, and the bones of Saul and his other sons, and gave them honorable burial.
- God ended the famine.
- Israel had to fight the Philistines again, and slew four more giants.
- David almost lost to one, and was not allowed to go forth to battle after that.





# David's Sweet Words and Mighty Men (chap 22-23)



- Chapter 22 is a psalm of deliverance and praise, and is very similar to Psalm 18.
- Chapter 23 has David's last words, which include:

*“He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.”*

- David had 37 “mighty men” who were heroes of highest courage, more so than the knights of King Arthur's round table or Robin Hood's merry men. They were:

- |  |            |             |                   |                                  |
|--|------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Adino, 1.1                           | • Elhanan  | • Maharai   | • Shammah”        | • Bani                           |
| • Eleazar, 1.2                         | • Shammah’ | • Heleb     | • Ahiam           | • Zelek                          |
| • Shammah, 1.3                         | • Elika    | • Ittai     | • Eliphelet       | • Naharai                        |
| • Abishai, 2.1 (nephew)                | • Helez    | • Benaiah’  | • Eliam           | • Ira’                           |
| • Benaiah, 2.2 (chief guard)           | • Ira      | • Hiddai    | (Bathsheba’s dad) | • Gareb                          |
| • Asahel 2.3 (nephew, chief of the 30) | • Abiezer  | • Abi-albon |                   | • Uriah                          |
|  | • Mebunnai | • Azmaveth  | • Hezrai          |                                  |
|  | • Zalmon   | • Eliahba   | • Paarai          | • Joab (nephew, captain of host) |
|  |            | • Jonathan  | • Igal            |                                  |

# David Numbers Israel (chapter 24)

- Satan motivated David (see I Chron 21:1) to sin by ordering Joab to number Israel, but not in the half-shekel ransom way commanded (Exodus 30:11-16) by God.
- Joab hated it, but partially complied.
- God sent Gad the seer to offer David the choice among:
  - Three years of famine
  - Three month of defeat by foes
  - Three days of pestilence
- David chose 3 days of pestilence (as in Exodus 30:12) because the punishment would all be by God, who is very merciful, and by man, who is less merciful.
- The pestilence, or plague, began, and 70,000 men died.
- As the plague came to Jerusalem, God paused the destruction.
- David begged for mercy, and God's angel told him to offer a sacrifice on an altar built at the threshing floor of Araunah (or Ornan) the Jebusite.
- Araunah said he would give the property, livestock, and implements to David, but David would not offer a sacrifice that cost him nothing, so he purchased it all from Araunah.
- David built the altar, and prepared his sacrifice, and God sent fire from heaven, and stopped the pestilence.
- This became the location for the temple built by Solomon.



# II Samuel 24 and I Chronicles 21 Math Reconciliation

*[II Samuel 24:*

*[9] “And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.”*

*...*

*[15] “So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men.”*

<i>Red: a bible number</i> <i>Blue: a deduced no.</i> <i>Black: an assumed no.</i>	Joab's <u>Report</u> to David <u>Before</u> Pestilence	Number of Levites and Benjamites Joab Omitted	Sum of Previous Two Columns	Those who Died by the Pestilence	<u>Number</u> of Men who Drew Sword <u>After</u> Pestilence
Number in Other Tribes of Israel	800,000	340,000	1,140,000	40,000	1,100,000
Number in Tribe of Judah	500,000	-	500,000	30,000	470,000
Totals:	1,300,000	340,000	1,640,000	70,000	1,570,000
	II Samuel 24:9	I Chronicles 21:6		II Samuel 24:15 & I Chronicles 21:14	I Chronicles 21:5

*I Chronicles 21:*

*[5] “And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword.”*

*[6] “But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab.”*

*...*

*[14] “So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.”*