

2 SAMUEL

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To record the history of David's reign, to demonstrate effective leadership under God, to reveal that one person can make a difference, to show the personal qualities that please God, and to depict David as an ideal leader of an imperfect kingdom and to foreshadow Jesus who will be the ideal leader of a new and perfect kingdom.

Author

Perhaps Zabud (the son of Nathan). The writings of the prophets Nathan and Gad are included.

Date

c.930 BC, soon after David's reign (1010-970 BC).

Audience

The people of Israel during David's rule.

Setting

The land of Israel during David's rule.

Special Features

This book was named after the prophet who anointed David and guided him in living for God.



Key Verses

"And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel." (5:12 ESV)

Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." (12:21-23 ESV)

Key People

David, Joab, Bathsheba, Uriah, Nathan, Absalom.

Key Places

Hebron, Jerusalem.