

- Recap of last week: One of David's sons, Amnon rapes Tamar the sister of one of his other sons, Absalom. Absalom kills Amnon and flees to a faraway land called Geshur where he lives for three years. (2 Samuel 13). David sends a message to Absalom that it is safe to come back. (2 Samuel 14). Absalom ends up taking over as king and David and those loyal to him flee (2 Samuel 15). Two people are noted as opposing David, Mephiboseth and Shimei (2 Samuel 16). David has had a strategy of using spies planted in the court of Mephiboseth and it works (2 Samuel 17). David's son Absalom dies in a freak accident during the battle and David mourns his death (2 Samuel 18). David returns to Jerusalem and pardons his enemies, notably Shimei and Mephiboseth. (2 Samuel 19).
- There was a "worthless" man named Sheba who started a rebellion against David. He got the people of Israel to follow him, but the people of Judah did not. (2 Samuel 20:1-2)
- David secures his house and concubines and sends someone named Amasa after Sheba but he takes too long (2 Samuel 20:3-4)
- David gets Abishai, Joab's brother to go after Sheba instead. Joab kills Amasa (presumably for "dilly-dallying") and they end up having to cover Sheba because he is "stopping traffic" (2 Samuel 20:4-13)
- Joab and his army pursue Sheba until he is holed up in a fortified city called Abel of Beth-Macaah. They lay siege to the city and a woman comes out and asks them to stop. They tell her that they will if they just give them Sheba. She tells the people of the town, so they cut off Sheba's head and tossed it over the wall. The rebellion is over then and everyone goes home. (2 Samuel 20:14-22)
- David sets up an administration (2 Samuel 20:23-25)
- There is a three-year famine and David asks God why. Saul had apparently violated a longstanding peace agreement Israel had with the Gibeonites and slaughtered them. God says this is why it is happening. (2 Samuel 21:1-4)
- Remember that the Gibeonites had deceived Israel as they were migrating from Egypt. They were the ones who pretended they were from a long way off when they weren't, made a pact with Israel, then refused to let them go through so they had to go around (Joshua 9)
- David goes to make things right with the Gibeonites but they don't want any material settlement. They want to hang 7 of Saul's sons, so David complies and they hang them. (2 Samuel 21:3-9)
- David gets all the bones together of the men who had died and the bones of Saul and Jonathan and buries them all together. Then God ends the famine. (2 Samuel 21:10-14)
- War breaks out again with the Philistines and David's army kills some giants including a guy with six digits on each hand and foot. (2 Samuel 21:14-22)
- David writes/sings a famous song about deliverance from the Philistines, Saul, etc. There is a song "I Will Call Upon the Lord" which is taken word of word from parts of this passage. (2 Samuel 22)
- David's last words are recorded as poetic verse. He emphasizes two things: 1) it is important for people in power to rule justly; and 2) "worthless" men will be thrown out. (2 Samuel 23:1-7)
- There is a theme here. David wrote about it a lot. (Psalm 1:1-5) His son Solomon who we will study but was one of the wisest men who ever lived also wrote about it. (Ecclesiastes 12:13) The prophet Micah will also sum up the need to live right. (Micah 6:8)

- There is a list of some of the greatest he men who fought for David and some of their greatest accomplishments. (2 Samuel 23:8-26)
- David orders an in depth census of the people. They come up with 800,000 men who were physically capable and old enough to pull out a sword in Israel and 500,000 men who were physically capable and old enough to pull out a sword in Judah (2 Samuel 24:1-9)
- David realizes he should not have taken it upon himself to do that and is repentant before God that he was prideful enough to order the census. (2 Samuel 24:10)
- God sends a prophet named Gad to tell David he has three choices: 1) three years of famine in the land 2) three months of being chased by enemies, or 3) three days of pestilence (2 Samuel 24:11-13)
- David choses option three and God sends an angel to carry out the punishment. It is so severe that 70,000 men die before the angel even gets to Jerusalem so God stops the angel. (2 Samuel 24:14-17)
- Gad tells David to build an altar to God right where the angel was when God stopped him so he does and God stops the plague from the land. (2 Samuel 24:18-25)

### Questions

1. Who was Sheba?
2. Who was Amasa?
3. Who killed Amasa and why?
4. Why does Joab have to cover Amasa's body?
5. What happens to Sheba?
6. How long is the famine going on before David asks God why it is happening?
7. Who were the Gibeonites and why did they want revenge?
8. What revenge do the Gibeonites ask for?
9. How is the famine finally ended?
10. What does David do to commemorate all the times God has delivered him?
11. What does David say it is important for rulers to do?
12. How many fighting men does David's census find?
13. What was David's reaction after the census is taken?
14. Who was Gad?
15. What three choices of punishment does David get?
16. Which choice does David make?
17. How many people die because of the choice David makes?
18. Why does the angel of the Lord stop what he is doing?
19. What does David do to finally get the plague to stop?