

Purpose

To record the history of David's reign and to demonstrate effective leadership under God

Meaning of Name

Literally "asked of God" since Hannah asked for Samuel

Penman

Unknown — some suggest that Nathan's son Zabud may have been the author (*1 Kings 4:5*); the book includes the writings of Nathan and Gad (*1 Chron. 29:29*).

Date Written

Written soon after David's reign, approximately 930 BC

Setting

Israel under David's rule

Key People

David, Joab, Bathsheba, Nathan, and Absalom

Key Verse

"David realized that the Lord had made him King over Israel and had made his kingdom great for the sake of His people Israel."

2 Samuel 5:12

Used Tyndale's "Life Application Bible" (NLT)

An Overview (24 Chapters)

- David's Successes (*1:1-10:19*)
- David's Struggles (*11:1-24:25*)

Major Themes

- *Personal Greatness*: David's popularity and influence increased greatly. He realized that the Lord was behind his success because He wanted to pour out His kindness on Israel. God does not regard personal greatness as something to be used selfishly, but as an instrument to carry out His work among His people.
- *Justice*: Although David was the most just of all Israel's kings, he was still imperfect. His use of justice offered hope for a heavenly, ideal kingdom. This hope will never be satisfied in the heart of man until Christ, the Son of David, comes to rule in perfect justice forever.
- *Consequences of Sin*: David abandoned his purpose as leader and king in time of war and committed adultery with Bathsheba. Temptation quite often comes when a person's life is aimless. We sometimes think that sinful pleasures and freedom from God's restraint will bring us a feeling of vitality; but sin creates a cycle of suffering that is not worth the fleeting pleasures it offers.