

# The Kingdom of David

2 Samuel 8 – 10

# Summary: Conquest and Expansion



- Philistia (8.1)
- Zobah / Arameans (8.3-8)
- Hamath (8.9, 10)
- Ammon (8.12)
- Amalek (8.12)
- Edom (8.14)
- These all became vassal states

# David's Administration

- Joab: commander of army
- Jehoshaphat: recorder
- Seraiah: secretary (→ official correspondence)
- Benaiah: over Cherethites & Pelethites
  - foreign divisions in the army from the Negev area
- Prophets to David
  - Gad
  - Nathan



# Religious organization

- Zadok, Abiathar: high priests
- 24 courses of priests established, each serving for 1 week at central sanctuary
- Levites divided
  - musicians
  - gatekeepers
  - officials and judges
  - general assistants to priests

# Other Details of David's Reign

- Man after God's Heart: Kindness to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)
- Ammonite – Aramean Conquests (2 Samuel 10)
  - David's overture at the death of the Ammonite king
  - Hanun's humiliating treachery
  - Fearing retaliation, Ammon hires the Arameans
  - Israel's victories

# The Sins of David and Their Consequences

2 Samuel 11 – 20

# Bathsheba (11, 12)

- Setting
- Sin: adultery
- Further sin: Uriah's murder
- Bathsheba becomes wife
- Summary: did not fulfill the role of king

# Bathsheba

- Nathan confronts David (2 Sam 12.1-4)
- David's response to Nathan's narrative (2 Sam 12.5-6)
  - David knew the law (12.6 [Exodus 22.1])
  - However, he ignored what did not suit him (Deuteronomy 17.17-19)
- Nathan's counter (2 Sam 12.7-9): "You're the man!"
- Pronouncement against David's home: the sword shall never depart from your house



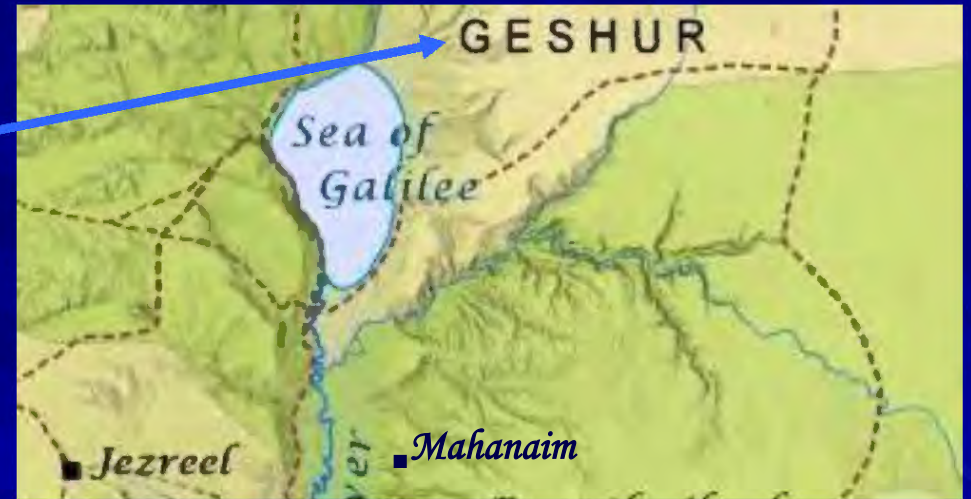
# Bathsheba

- David's repentance (Psalm 51.1-4, 17)
  - Immediate
  - Complete
- Forgiven
- Nevertheless, consequences: when sin is accomplished, it brings forth *death*

# A House Undone

## 2 Samuel 13 – 18

- Incest of Amnon with Tamar (13)
- The Rebellion of Absalom (14-18)
  - 3 years at Geshur in the royal court: growing bitterness
  - Return to common life in Jerusalem for two years
  - Absalom's plotting and revolt
- David flees
- The battle
- David's remorse



# A Nation Undone

2 Samuel 19, 20

- David's remorse disheartens the people
- Israel rallies after Joab convinces David to resume leadership
- Judah, from whom were Absalom's main followers, returns after a delay
  - David appoints Amasa (leader of Absalom's army) as commander of the army in place of Joab (probably for Joab's role in Absalom's death)
  - Animosities flare up between Judah and Israel
    - Revolt of Sheba the Benjaminite

# The Conclusion of David's Reign

2 Samuel 21 – 1 Kings 2.12;  
1 Chronicles 28, 29

# Other Events

2 Samuel 21 – 24

- Famine (21.1-14)
- Exploits of David's mighty men (21.15-22; 23.8-39)

# Other Events

## □ The census and the plague (24)

Now again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and incited David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.” (2 Samuel 24.1)

Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel. (1 Chronicles 21.1)

# The census and the plague (24)

- God's response to the numbering
  - The sin
    - pride
    - confidence in human strength and numbers
  - David's repentance
- God's three-part proposition for discipline
- David's choice

# Succession

1 Kings 1.1 – 2.12



# Adonijah's Thwarted Attempt to Usurp the Throne

- 4th son, heir apparent
- David's ailment: old; could not keep warm
- Adonijah gathered chariots and guard
  - Joab and Abiathar come to his aid
- Nathan thwarts the succession

# Final Days

- Last public words (2 Samuel 23.1-7)
  - an instrument of the Sovereign God:
    - as king (“The man who was raised on high”)
    - as psalmist (“the sweet psalmist of Israel”)
    - as conduit of God’s word (“The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me”)
  - the Davidic covenant: the house that the LORD built
- The Temple
- David’s death
- Solomon’s (second) succession

# Solomon

Wisdom for a Period

# Consolidation of His Rule

1 Kings 2.1 – 3.1

David's final instructions to Solomon

- Joab
- Sons of Barzillai
- Shimei

# Consolidation of His Rule

- Solomon's purge
  - Adonijah
  - Abiathar the high priest
  - Joab
  - Shimei
- Solomon's kingdom established

# Consolidation of His Rule

Solomon's marriage to the Pharaoh's daughter

- Alliance with Egypt
- Most significant wife (special house for her in Jerusalem)

# Contrast with David

- David grew up in the fields as shepherd boy
- David learned skills of war & could expand the kingdom
- David had simple court
- David did not impose burdensome taxes
- David a man of the people
- David maintained a vibrant faith in God as a man after his heart
- Solomon in luxury as prince
- Solomon was a man of peace who only was concerned with maintaining empire
- Solomon followed the ANE custom with lavish court
- Solomon had to provide for court and administration
- Solomon a man of the court
- Solomon soon lost his fervor for God

**High Places:** An allusion to worship in high places in the context of the need for a house of Yahweh

- Often on the hill above the town
- There were a stele, the seat of the deity; a wooden post or pole (*asherah*), which marked the place as sacred and an object of worship



The people were still sacrificing on the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the LORD until those days. (1 Ki 3.2)



- a stone altar, often of considerable size and hewn out of the solid rock or built of unhewn stones on which offerings were burnt
- a cistern for water
- low stone tables for dressing the victims
- a hall for the sacrificial feasts



# The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3.2-28; 4.29-34

- Solomon's dream/vision
  - Solomon loved the LORD
  - Went to Gibeon
  - Solomon's response
  - The LORD's delight

# The Wisdom of Solomon

- Example of wisdom: the prostitutes and the baby
- Summary (4.29ff): wisdom, discernment, breadth of mind (greater than those of the East; greater than those of Egypt)
  - 3,000 proverbs
  - 1,005 songs (psalms)
  - knowledge of botany & animal husbandry

# Administration

4.1-28

- Expanded 'bureaucracy'
- 12 provinces
- Finances
- Daily provisions
- Military