

**SECOND SAMUEL.****A Continuation of the History of Israel.**

By A. P. Collins.

David established in the City of Jerusalem, subdues Philistines, Ammonites, Edomites, Amalekites and the Assyrians; thus extending his domain to the utmost bounds of the land, fulfilling Gen. 12:2, "I will make of thee a great nation."

So Second Samuel is the book of kingly rule under David. There is a striking contrast in the lessons of the two books, First and Second Samuel

1st Samuel — "Saul — disobedience rejection and death."

2nd Samuel — "David — obedience, acceptance and life."

Second Samuel begins with a very sad chapter, telling the death of Saul and Jonathan.

David's treatment of Saul as an enemy surpasses anything in history. Saul was great in the world, David was a man after God's own heart. Saul was king, David was kingly. Saul was weakness in the place of power, David was power in the place of weakness. "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted. He that exalteth himself shall be abased." How truly illustrated.

David's lament over Jonathan is the most pathetic (1:26): "I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: Very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women." David's tenderness with erring Saul was unsurpassing, commending the men who buried Saul and invoking the blessing of God upon them (2:3). A good lesson for us. Be considerate of the welfare and memory of our rulers, praying for them and giving them due honor as we are taught in the Word (Rom. 13:1-7).

Mark the working of God's purpose to give the kingdom to David: Saul dead, Abner appoints Ish-bosheth king over ten tribes, David waxed stronger and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker (3:1). At last Abner deserts to David.

The perfidy of Joab in slaying Abner. David's lament over Abner, "Died Abner as a fool dieth" (3:33). Why? Hebron is a city of refuge. Joab invited Abner to come to speak peaceably with him OUTSIDE the gate and thrust him through. When if Abner had said, "I will meet you INSIDE," Joab could not have slain him, as it was against the law to kill inside the gate of the city of refuge. So dies every sinner as a fool. When Jesus the refuge is so near by, and all who will may enter in and be safe from the devil (Heb. 6:18).

Murder of Ish-bosheth punished by David (Chapter 4).

David king over all Israel (Chapter 5).

David's efforts to bring the Ark to Jerusalem (Chapter 6). Note the smiting of Uzzah for touching the Ark. Touch not the Lord's anointed, Acts 23:4. House of Obbedom blessed, while the Ark was in his house. The bars were down and the oxen walked in, drawing the cart with the Ark. Always

keep the gate open to your souls for the blessing of the Lord to come in. Thence the Ark was brought to Jerusalem amid shouting, dancing and feasting. God blessed, and Satan cursed through David's wife.

God's covenant with David (Chapter 7).

David reigned over all Israel, executing judgment and justice to all the people (8:15).

Mephibosheth, Saul's son, was lame in both feet, like all sinners (Study this Chapter). But David, for Jonathan's sake, had him come to the King's house and eat at his table continually. So God for Christ's sake forgives the sinner, and spreads a table before him in the presence of enemies (Chapter 9; Ps. 23). O friends, eat!

Chapter 11 is the saddest Chapter in David's life, his awful sin. All men have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The terrible retribution (Chapter 13) David's family troubles (Chapter 16-18); Amnon's nameless crime, Absalom's treachery and rebellion, his death, David's lament, "O Absalom, my son, my son, would God I had died for thee." Now is the time, fathers and mothers, to do your crying over your children.

The cursing of David by Shimei. When reviled, revile not again (Chapter 16). The wicked council of Ahithophel to Absalom. Hushai was sent of the Lord to defeat the council of Ahithophel. So God is able to bring to naught the councils of the wicked (Chapter 17). Chapter 22, same as Ps. 18.

Last words of David: "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God," 23:3.

David's pride: We are astonished at the word, but for his pride in numbering the people, he repented and suffered the penalty. He wisely chose to suffer at the hands of God rather than at the hands of his enemies (Chapter 24). After the chastisement he offers a sacrifice to God, but not of that which costs him nothing (24:24). Give your best to the Lord, for He gives you His best—His son, the Holy Spirit, eternal life, a home in heaven.

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT.**

Of the World Conference on Christian Fundamentals, Philadelphia, Pa., May 25 to June 1.

Philadelphia has recently been the scene of a great congress of leaders of the evangelical churches who have made a strong protest against the atheistic "Modernism" that is sapping the life of the churches of today. The doctrinal statement sent forth by this Conference is so good that we gladly print the same for our readers. We would like to have seen in this statement a word showing the importance of repentance, for there is no real moral, saving faith in Christ until there has been repentance towards God. It will also be noticed that there is no reference to either baptism in

water or of the baptism of the Holy Ghost in this statement.

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.

2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.

4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also that spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and, in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed.

5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.

6. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in his ascension into heaven, and in his present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.

7. We believe in "that blessed hope," the personal, premillennial and imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

8. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become the children of God.

9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

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