

WEEK 18 — DAVID'S LATER YEARS

Date: mostly roughly 980-970 BC (some portions come from any time in David's reign, about 1010-970 BC)

- the psalms of the Sons of Korah probably come from about 970 BC or later

The Story: God never leaves David, even through another rebellion, another costly sin committed by David, and an attempted coup. And David, though flawed, continues to serve and praise God. He prepares for the construction of the temple and for Israel's worship there. He elevates Solomon to the throne as his co-regent. God, for his part, continues to correct David as needed and to bless all the good David does.

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

MAY 1 2 SAMUEL 20-22

Today's reading finds David's reign in trouble again as another rebellion forms. Once it is dealt with, an injustice from Saul's reign has to be righted—and is, in horrific fashion. War with the Philistines comes again. Then this reading closes with a psalm of praise to God for the victories he has given David.

Date: probably sometime between roughly 984 and 975 BC (2 Samuel 20) • sometime between about 1010 and 970 BC (2 Samuel 21-22)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Samuel 20-21

Kids' Reading*: 1 Chronicles 21:1 to 22:1 • Psalm 42

MAY 2 1 CHRONICLES 20 • PSALM 18 • 2 SAMUEL 23

Today's reading features repeats of yesterday's readings, including a recount of two conflicts (1 Chronicles 20), David's psalm of praise to God for the victories God has given him (Psalm 18), and a recounting of the exploits of David's mighty men (2 Samuel 23:8-39, which 1 Chronicles 11 repeats). 2 Samuel 23:1-7 offers some new material: David's "last words," a sort of official final message from God to Israel through David.

Date: sometime between about 1000 and 970 BC (1 Chronicles 20) • sometime between about 1010 and 970 BC (Psalm 18 & 2 Samuel 23:8-39) • perhaps between about 975 and 970 BC (2 Samuel 23:1-7)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Psalm 18 • 2 Samuel 23:1-7

Kids' Reading*: Psalm 37

MAY 3 2 SAMUEL 24 • 1 CHRONICLES 21-22

Today's reading tells the same story twice: the story of David's sin of counting Israel's fighting men. What made this act sinful is unclear; perhaps David wanted to feel secure or powerful, or even attack some enemies unnecessarily, on the basis of Israel's military strength rather than God's strength. In any case, God is greatly displeased and disciplines David and Israel. In the process, he reveals the location for the future temple, and David earnestly begins preparations for its construction. Notice the subtle differences between how 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles tell this story.

Date: possibly between about 975 and 970 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Chronicles 21-22

Kids' Reading*: 1 Kings 1

MAY 4 PSALM 37 • 1 KINGS 1

Today's reading opens with Psalm 37, a psalm David apparently wrote when he was old (37:25). The beginning of 1 Kings follows. David appoints Solomon as his co-regent, stopping another of his sons, Adonijah, from taking the throne for himself.

Date: perhaps between 980 and 970 BC (Psalm 37) • probably just before or during 970 BC (1 Kings 1)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Kings 1

Kids' Reading*: Psalms 43-44

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

MAY 5 1 CHRONICLES 23-25

Today's reading picks up after Solomon has been made king (23:1). David, nearing the end of his reign and his life, continues his preparations for the temple to be built, arranging for the service of the priests and the Levites who will minister before the Lord there.

Date: probably just before or during 970 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Chronicles 23-24

Kids' Reading*: Psalms 45-47

MAY 6 PSALMS 42-46

Today's reading takes us to a selection of the psalms of the Sons (descendants) of Korah. The Korahites, as we will see in 1 Chronicles 26, are Levites appointed to serve as gatekeepers at the temple. Some of them, though, apparently become musicians/singers (see 1 Chronicles 9:17-33, especially verse 33; also notice 2 Chronicles 20:19) who assist with Israel's worship at the temple. Several psalms of worship written by "the Sons of Korah" are preserved in the book of Psalms. In today's group, worship of God and trust in God are emphasized. Psalm 45, though, is unique; it is a wedding song for the king. These psalms cannot be dated; they could come from the time of David or Solomon, or much later (Israel and Judah had kings until 586 BC).

Date: about 970 BC or later

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Psalms 42-45

Kids' Reading*: Psalms 48-49

MAY 7 PSALMS 47-49 • PSALMS 84-85

Today's reading is made up of more psalms from the Sons of Korah. Psalms 47 and 48 honor God for his greatness, the latter celebrating Jerusalem's strength and security as a sign of the strength of God who secures his city. Psalm 49 is a wisdom psalm, warning Israel against a wicked love of wealth. Psalm 84 celebrates the blessing of being close to God. Psalm 85 calls on God for forgiveness and a restoration of rain that will lead to a good harvest.

Date: about 970 BC or later

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Psalms 47-49 • Psalms 84-85

Kids' Reading*: Psalms 84-85

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

2S 20:3 (S)
2S 21:15-22 (V)
2S 22:4-5 (T), 15 (V)
2S 23:8-23 (V)
2S 24:15-17 (V)
1K 1:1-4 (S), 51-52 (V)
2Chr chapter 20 (V)
2Chr 21:14-15 (V)
Ps 18:4-5 (T), 14 (V)
Ps 37:14-15 (V)
Ps 44:9-25 (T)
Ps 45:5 (V)
Ps 49:5-20 (T)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

2S 20:8-22 (V)
2S 21:1-14 (V)
2S 22:38-43 (V)
Ps 18:37-45 (V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

C = Circumcision
N = Nudity
S = Sexuality
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes
V = Violence