

THE HISTORICAL ANNALS OF 2 SAMUEL

This book contains numerous references to “happenings” under the general phrase “and it happened”. I have packaged these under the hopefully felicitous term *“history tells (us)”* in cursive script.

The words “it came to pass” which we meet within historical contexts of the N.T. as well (for instance in the book of Acts) have in Hebrew a dynamic meaning. The little adjunct carries the idea that God as theocratic monarch is in Israel’s history as in that of the church and it is not a matter of “things working out” but “God working in all things”. The actual word used in one of its derivatives “it/he is” or “it/he will be” means Yahweh. The passing of God leaves lasting lessons and the best example of this is Israel’s “Passover” when the LORD passed by. Another example is Moses’ experience in the cleft of the rock.

I will set out the texts in series below where you can find and give further thought in the commentary itself to these historical annals. They are too numerous to easily summarise the lessons which they present.

BIBLICAL HISTORY TEACHES

1. 2.1 Like David we need to enquire God’s season-of unity
2. 2.17 Like Abner toward Asahel compassion is of the essence
3. 2.23 History teaches righteousness-be fair-play by the rules
4. 3.1 Wars are implacable unceasing till Messiah
5. 3.2 Not all attain fame-David had six sons born at Hebron
6. 3.6 Army commanders can eclipse kings and rulers
7. 3.17 History has kingmakers-Abner was one
8. 3.37 (31) History bows to heroes-Abner was heroic
9. 4.2 Subalterns flee like hirelings-so Ishboeth’s captains
10. 6.13 History says “try again”-David’s six step rule
11. 6.16 Shut God out shut out your future-Michal
12. 7.1 Labour’s reward is rest –David had rest from his enemies
13. 7.6 God walks with his people in fire and in desert.
14. 7.9 Greatness is thrust on men by God –Gods heroes are born for it.
15. 8.15 Righteousness rules –David
16. 9.1 God cares for and delivers the handicapped
17. 10.1 Kindness spurned spells ruin
18. 11.1 history warns against resting on laurels
19. 11.2 Evil grows apace-sin incubates fast-David & Bathsheba
20. 11.14 History in part is letters
21. 11.16 Great men do dirty tricks
22. 12.18 If I regard sin in my heart God will not hear me
23. 13.1 Big defeats follow big victories-of Rabbah & Absalom
24. 13.23 The worldly settle scores, the just forgive.
25. 13.30 Enemies at home-home grown adversity
26. 15.1 Grace hardens the apostate. Pride runs to nemesis-Absalom
27. 15.5 Political power courts favour
28. 15.7 False religion wears a cloak
29. 15.10 Evil grows with righteous silence

30. 15.13 Men follow those who deliver what they want
31. 15.32 Certainty and uncertainty stand on similar Dizzy Heights
32. 16.16 Courage & wisdom prevail over naked power
33. 17.21 Two men can save a kingdom
34. 19.25 Muck sticks-Slander does permanent damage
35. 21.1 Spiritual failure has physical consequences
36. 21.15 Old heroes often suffer in new wars-David & Ishbi Benoth
37. 21.18 New foes forever threaten
38. 21.19 Fat Goliath has a namesake
39. 21.20 Victory demands perseverance

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