

## **Agenda for ENGL 115: March 20**

Announcements/Clarifications: The oral presentations should be 5-7 minutes; you can do a PPT or outline to support your presentation – you’d need to email that to me and Jean Shiota [jean.shiota@sjsu.edu](mailto:jean.shiota@sjsu.edu) for uploading. Your presentations should cover the following (these are on the handout called “Oral Presentations” on the ENGL 115 Handouts page)

- A. Present your claim, argument, perspective, thesis – what were you trying to explain, explore, examine or prove
- A. Discuss the evidence – the specific passages you used or references from *The Bible and Its Influence* which you used to support your claim
- B. Explain how the evidence and/or your review of the text expanded or clarified your understanding of the text
- C. Share your conclusions

D. If you can provide a handout with your references or an outline of your paper, that will help your peers with the commentary

- \*\*\*Remember that compilers/redactors have put together the books of the Bible; so “the God says” or “the God wants” are not really accurate.

**3:00-3:10**

## 2. II Samuel cont.

### II Samuel

#### Overview:

- the title of “II Samuel” is even less appropriate for this book; Samuel’s death is recounted in 1Sam. 25:1
- Ch. 1: David learning of the death of Saul and Jonathan; key line of the “song” vs. 17-27: “How the mighty have fallen”;
- Ch. 2:4 – David becomes King of house of Judah (the southern region); vs. 8ff Abner (Saul’s general) makes Ishbaal, Saul’s son the king of Israel (northern regions);
- 2: 12 –a “sparring of Abner’s soldiers and those of Joab (David’s general) – Joab’s men defeat Abner and the Israelites
- Vs. 18ff – Joab and his brothers, Abishai and Asahel are pursuing Abner; Abner kills Asahel

- 3: 1 -- the strife between Abner and those of Saul's kingdom and Joab, David's commander and the followers of David;
- 3:2 – the many sons of David and multiple wives; becomes an issue in the inheritance of the throne;
- 3:12ff – Abner tries to get David to compromise – will get all of Israel on David's side; David asks for Micah (Saul's daughter – D had been promised her if he presented Saul with the 100 foreskins of the Philistines;
- Joab isn't "happy" with David for supposedly making a pact with Abner; Joab and Abishai pursue Abner and kill him (vengeance for Abner killing Asahel;
- Ch 4: 1, 5-8 – two raiding captains: Baanah and Rechab (on David's side) think they are doing a good thing – they kill Ishbaal. Note again, that David always comes off as not being the initiator of nor responsible for any of these deaths
- Vs. 4 --Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, is given protection and land in David's kingdom; Ch 9 explains what David will do for Mephibosheth
- Ch 5--David made king at Hebron (over Israelites)
- Ch 6 – David wants the Ark of the Covenant brought up; Uzzah, one of those guiding the transport, reaches out to steady the Ark; is struck dead – a boundary issue

- Ch 7 – introduces Nathan, the prophet; his first challenge to David regards the fact that David wants to build the “house” (temple) for the Ark of the Covenant; Nathan shares the God’s perspective – not David, but one of David’s line will build;
- Ch 7: 18-29 – David’s response – the genre of prayer
- Ch 8 – David’s victories; vs. 15 ff – Zadok and Ahimelech – David’s priests
- Ch 11 – “lust on the rooftop” – saga of Bathsheba and her husband Uriah, the Hittite; David impregnates Bathsheba, then arranges for Uriah’s death
- Nathan challenges David, with parable of the poor man and his lamb; key line “You are the man” **12:7**;
- Ch 13 --Amnon, David’s oldest son, raping his half-sister, Tamar; Absalom’s pursuit of Amnon and Absalom killing Amnon;
- Ch 14 – woman of Tekoa, set up by Joab, to plead for
- Ch 15-- Absalom’s rebellion and jockeying for the kingdom; David and his men flee before Absalom;
- Ch 16 --Shimei cursing David for the “blood of the Household of Saul”;
- Ch 17 -- Ahithophel, counselor to Absalom gives advice, but is thwarted by counter advice from Hushai (one of Saul’s men); Ahithophel eventually hangs himself (John Dryden, English neoclassic poet, has a long poem “Absalom and Ahithophel”)

- Ch 18 – set up for the face-off of David vs Absalom; vs 5 David to Joab, “deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom”; Absalom – long hair – gets caught in a tree and as he hangs there is stabbed by Joab; vs 33 – Ch 19: 8 – As David laments, Joab is angered; William Faulkner’s major novel: *Absalom, Absalom*
- Ch 19 --Amasa (replacement of Abner) made a general over Judah;
- Ch 20 – Joab kills Amasa; Joab also kills Sheba, who led a minor rebellion of the Israelites
- Ch 21 – David says “bloodguilt” from Saul killing Gibeonites; David kills seven of Saul’s sons
- Chs 22-23 – songs of David
- Ch 24 – one last “failure” on David’s part--**3:10 – 3:40**

Presentation of Ch. 10 from *The Bible and Its Influence*  
--**3:40 – 3:45**

## I Kings

Ch 1 – David is old; Abishag, young woman brought to “keep David warm”; Adonijah (next oldest of David’s living sons) wants to make himself king; he is allied with Joab and Abiathar; Nathan, David’s prophet, and Zadok, the priest, side with Bathsheba and her son Solomon; they want Solomon on the throne;

Ch 2 – as David is about to die, he commissions Solomon and basically says “get rid of Joab; get rid of Shimei”; Adonijah comes pleading to Bathsheba for one thing – the woman, Abishag, who kept David warm; Bathsheba tells Solomon; Solomon responds angrily – arranges for Adonijah’s death; banishes Abiathar;

Ch 3 – First indicates Solomon takes many wives; vs 5-14 – Solomon’s prayer for wisdom (in a dream); vs 16ff – example of his wisdom in dealing with two women claiming the same child; “don’t cut the baby in half”

Ch 8: Solomon, who has been responsible for seeing that the Temple is built, now has the Ark of the Covenant brought to the Temple.

Vs. 22-53 – are a combination of prayer and sermon of Solomon to God about being allowed to build the Temple and about God protecting the Temple

Vs. 56 to the end of the Chapter: Solomon blesses the people and they offer sacrifice

Ch 10: The Queen of Sheba comes to visit Solomon; she’s coming to confirm whether Solomon truly is the person of wisdom she’s heard about. She gives him riches/precious spices. In turn, Solomon gifts her.

Chs 11-13: Solomon’s many wives, many loves—especially from groups God had told the people they

should not marry with. Vs. 4 tells of how Solomon is being led astray and begins building altars to the gods/goddesses of other cultures. Vs. 9 God is angry, tells Solomon (Vs 11) about “tearing the kingdom from you” though this will not happen in Solomon’s lifetime; also God will give one tribe to “your son, for the sake of my servant David”

Adversaries of Solomon arise; major person is Jeroboam, who is given 10 tribes—the Northern Kingdom encompassed in the name Israel; Jerusalem must be kept for the descendants of David. Jeroboam eventually establishes himself at Shechem and creates places of worship at Bethel and Dan, so that the people will not go up to Jerusalem to the Temple to worship. But establishing other places of worship is displeasing to God. Rehoboam, son of Solomon, has Jerusalem and Judah, the Southern Kingdom.

Chs 17-19: Stories of the Elijah, the major prophet of Israel during the reign of Ahab, a wicked king and his wife, Jezebel. Elijah is first sent to a widow, during a time of famine and works miracles there—one is to raise the widow’s son from the dead.

Ch 18 the story of the battle between Elijah, prophet of Israel, and the hundreds of prophets of Baal and Asherah (Canaanite gods)—great story. Elijah, eventually tries to run and hide from the forces of Ahab; God calls him and

tells Elijah to look for God to reveal himself. A famous passage follows—God is not in the wind, not in the earthquake, not in fire, but “in the sound of sheer silence” Ch 19: 12 (sometimes translated as in a small whispering sound.)

Ch 22: summarizes more problems for Israel under corrupt kings;-- **3:45 – 4:10**

For Monday, March 25: II Kings 1-5, 23-25; Presenters for Chap. 13 from *The Bible and Its Influence* prepare; No key quotes for Monday, March 25 – the first essay is due!