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**C&T 202 E**  
**Class notes – 20 March, 2006**

**David the King: 2 Samuel 1, 5-7, 11-19:8, 1 Kings 1-2 [Readings Book X]**

**Important passages**

- X-2: David finds out about Saul's death and mourns/fasts
- X-3: David becomes king and makes covenant with God
- X-4: God kills Uzzah for touching the Ark of God
- X-4: David gives the Ark of God to Obed-Edom
- X-4: Michal, David's wife, becomes upset at his behavior
- X-5: God's covenant with David
- X-6: David discovers Bathsheba and takes her as his wife
- X-6: God gives David's wives to his neighbors + God kills David's son
- X-7: Rape of Tamar by her brother Amnon
- X-8: David wouldn't punish his firstborn Amnon
- X-8: Absalom takes punishment of Amnon in his own hand
- X-9: Absalom returns after three years from killing Amnon
- X-9: David the King is referred to as the "angel of God"
- X-10: Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel
- X-10: Absalom takes Israelites to Hebron
- X-12: Absalom gets his head stuck in oak and soldiers kill him with spears
- X-13: Joab proclaims that David cares more for his son than his people
- X-14,15: Adonijah requests Abishag and Solomon realizes his plot and kills him

**Important ideas**

- Philistines are dubious about David's loyalty to them and send him to fight the Amalekites.
- David's character between the last and present reading: he was never against the Lord's word (in both stories) but now he is drunk of power.
- David broke one of God's commandments: he coveted the wives of other men.
- The fact that David didn't punish his son Amnon for raping Tamar probably weakened his authority over his sons and his people.
- David didn't punish his sons because he loved them very much.
- In 2 Samuel 19, Joab criticizes David for mourning Absalom in front of the people. They had defeated the enemy and were celebrating their victory, only to see their king weeping. Joab is probably right: David should have mourned his son quietly, and not in front of the people.
- Both David and Saul are kings who have disobeyed God at some time in their reign. It would be interesting to see how Solomon, David's son and successor, behaved.
- Israelite kingship is a kind of drama: sons want to overthrow their fathers, as we have seen with Absalom and Adonijah.

- A question to keep in mind as we read further: Are the people better off with a king?