

# THE AGES DIGITAL LIBRARY COMMENTARY

## COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

### **2 Samuel**

*by Matthew Henry*

*To the Students of the Words, Works and Ways of God:*

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# AN EXPOSITION, WITH PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS, OF

## THE SECOND BOOK OF

# SAMUEL

This book is the history of the reign of king David. We had in the foregoing book an account of his designation to the government, and his struggles with Saul, which ended at length in the death of his persecutor. This book begins with his accession to the throne, and is entirely taken up with the affairs of the government during the forty years he reigned, and therefore is entitled by the Septuagint. *The Third Book of the Kings*. It gives us an account of David's triumphs and his troubles.

**I.** His triumphs over the house of Saul (2 Samuel 1-4), over the Jebusites and Philistines (2 Samuel 5), at the bringing up of the ark (2 Samuel 6 and 7), over the neighbouring nations that opposed him (2 Samuel 8-10); and so far the history is agreeable to what we might expect from David's character and the choice made of him. But his cloud has a dark side.

**II.** We have his troubles, the causes of them, his sin in the matter of Uriah (2 Samuel 11 and 12), the troubles themselves from the sin of Amnon (2 Samuel 13), the rebellion of Absalom (2 Samuel 14-19) and of Sheba (2 Samuel 20), and the plague in Israel for his numbering the people (2 Samuel 24), besides the famine of the Gibeonites (2 Samuel 21). His son we have (2 Samuel 22), and his words and worthies (2 Samuel 23). Many things in his history are very instructive; but for the hero who is the subject of it, though in many instances he appears here very great, and very good, and very much the favourite of heaven, yet it must be confessed that his honour shines brighter in his Psalms than in his Annals.