

David Anointed King Of Judah (2 Sam. 2:1-3:1)

About Samuel

- The two Books of Samuel are just one book in the Hebrew Bible
- Main characters: Samuel the Prophet; King Saul; King David
- *Samuel* takes place 1100-1000 B.C.
- God's purposes: raise up the prophetic, kingly, and priestly ministries
- Begins with the birth of Samuel, ends with David buying the land for the Temple.

Leadership in Samuel: being led by God and leading others for God

- Samuel raised up to be a righteous priest
- Israel wanting to be like the Gentiles, and choosing Saul for carnal reasons.
- Saul's disobedience and his failure to seek God.
- David the king of God's choosing, because he was according to God's heart.
- Saul's intense jealous and murderous hatred of David
- David's forgiveness of Saul
- David flees when he realizes that Saul's oath meant nothing.
- David being trained by God for leadership
 - Always seek God
 - Always take counsel
 - Never surrender to fear
 - Don't seek to fulfill God's Will with your own hands.
 - Let your highest concern be the welfare of God's people

David Anointed King Over Judah (2 Sam. 2:1-4a)

1 It happened after this that David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron." 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite. 3 And David brought up the men who were with him, every man with his household. So they dwelt in the cities of Hebron. 4 Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

- The question in everyone's mind was what David would do next. Everyone knew that David had prophecies concerning his kingship.
- A happy sign is that David inquired of the LORD.
- He was asking God whether or not it was time to settle down.
- There are five occasions in the first three verses where some form of the Hebrew verb "go up" is used. This shows us that David is ascending to his throne.

Going Up To Hebron

Hebron is the gate into the Promised Land, and the second holiest city in Judaism.

- This is where Abraham first lived after he finally obeyed God.
- Abraham and the patriarchs are buried there.
- Judah conquered the territory of Hebron, then called *Kiryat Arba*, the city of Arba, the giant.
- It was the most natural thing that David's kingship should begin there, as this connected him with Abraham, and all of God's promises.
- Hebron is still greatly argued over, as the Bible would say it, even unto this day.

David's Journey to Hebron

David goes up to Hebron with a great company of people.

- The men of Judah come and anoint him as king.
- He has earned their trust and their love.

David Reaches Out To Jabesh-Gilead (2 Sam. 2:4b-7)

(4b) And they told David, saying, "The men of Jabesh Gilead were the ones who buried Saul." 5 So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "You are blessed of the LORD, for you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him. 6 And now may the LORD show kindness and truth to you. I also will repay you this kindness, because you have done this thing. 7 Now therefore, let your hands be strengthened, and be valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

- Recall that the men of Jabesh Gilead had undertaken the dangerous mission of retrieving the bodies of Saul and his sons.
- They had reason to be grateful to Saul.
- How would David react to hearing that these people had shown loyalty and done a great kindness to his great enemy?
- But David had conquered all resentment:
 - he blesses them
 - he wants God to bless them
 - he says that he himself will also repay their kindness
 - he seeks to encourage them by telling them that he is nearby to help

Abner Makes Ishbosheth King (2 Sam. 8-11)

8 But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim; 9 and he made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, over Benjamin, and over all Israel. 10 Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. Only the house of Judah followed David. 11 And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

- But there is no great bandwagon to receive David as king.
- At least one other son of Saul had survived the recent fighting with the Philistines, named Ishbosheth.
- This name means “man of shame,” but it’s likely that his real name was Ishbaal, which means *man of Baal*.
- Apparently, Ishbosheth was just the puppet of Abner, Saul’s general and cousin.
- An interesting bit of wordplay: Abner’s headquarters was *Mahanaim*. This was where Jacob saw angels traveling back into the Promised Land. It means “**two camps.**” God is telling us that Abner has divided Israel into two camps.
- Abner might also have had personal reasons to dislike David.
- These events seem to have happened a few years after Saul’s death, and we don’t know why. Ishbosheth only reigned for two years, and David reigned over Judah for seven years and six months.
- In so many of these things, David is a prophetic picture of Jesus. His kingdom had come, but nevertheless he was only accepted by his friends.

Outbreak Of Hostilities (2 Sam. 2:12-17)

12 Now Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. 13 And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out and met them by the pool of Gibeon. So they sat down, one on one side of the pool and the other on the other side of the pool. 14 Then Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men now arise and compete before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise."

15 So they arose and went over by number, twelve from Benjamin, followers of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve from the servants of David. 16 And each one grasped his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side; so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called the Field of Sharp Swords, which is in Gibeon. 17 So there was a very fierce battle that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

- Joab was David's three nephews by Zeruiah. All were troublesome!

Bad Blood; A Day Of Battle (2 Sam. 2:18-32)

18 Now the three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab and Abishai and Asahel. And Asahel was as fleet of foot as a wild gazelle. 19 So Asahel pursued Abner, and in going he did not turn to the right hand or to the left from following Abner. 20 Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Are you Asahel?" He answered, "I am."

21 And Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and lay hold on one of the young men and take his armor for yourself." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him. 22 So Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? 23 However, he refused to turn aside.

Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the blunt end of the spear, so that the spear came out of his back; and he fell down there and died on the spot. So it was that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died, stood still.

24 Joab and Abishai also pursued Abner. And the sun was going down when they came to the hill of Ammah, which is before Giah by the road to the Wilderness of Gibeon. 25 Now the children of Benjamin gathered together behind Abner and became a unit, and took their stand on top of a hill. 26 Then Abner called to Joab and said, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitter in the latter end? How long will it be then until you tell the people to return from pursuing their brethren?" 27 And Joab said, "As God lives, unless you had spoken, surely then by morning all the people would have given up pursuing their brethren." 28 So Joab blew a trumpet; and all the people stood still and did not pursue Israel anymore, nor did they fight anymore.

29 Then Abner and his men went on all that night through the plain, crossed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron; and they came to Mahanaim.

- People came around to see Asahel's body, most likely to honor him.
- Joab's strange saying may mean that by morning they would have caught them all and killed them, so there'd be no need to chase.

Civil War In Israel (2 Sam. 2:30-3:1)

30 So Joab returned from pursuing Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel. 31 But the servants of David had struck down, of Benjamin and Abner's men, three hundred and

sixty men who died. 32 Then they took up Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb, which was in Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at daybreak. **3:1** Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

- David's troublesome nephews are looking to David, perhaps, as a father figure, but apparently not learning very much from his ways.
- Gradually, the power of Saul's family was eroded, while David's house grew stronger.

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