

King Of Israel (2 Sam. 4, 5)

Ishbosheth Loses Heart... And More (2 Sam. 4:1-7)

1 When Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost heart, and all Israel was troubled. 2 Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of troops. The name of one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin. (For Beeroth also was part of Benjamin, 3 because the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there until this day.) 4 Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

5 Then the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out and came at about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who was lying on his bed at noon. 6 And they came there, all the way into the house, as though to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. 7 For when they came into the house, he was lying on his bed in his bedroom; then they struck him and killed him, beheaded him and took his head, and were all night escaping through the plain.

- Ishbosheth hears about Abner, and “his hands became weak.” Israel is troubled.

- We meet two of Ishbosheth’s captains, who led raiding bands. These are Benjamites, not local Canaanites.
 - The Gibeonites deceived Joshua into making a covenant with Israel, and the people of Beeroth were of the Gibeonites.
 - The violence of these men is yet another fulfillment of the prophecy that Benjamin would be *a ravenous wolf*. (Gen. 49:27) But this also tells us that they were not allied with David.
- We meet Mephibosheth, Saul’s grandson. Being lame, he is no threat to David.
- Mephibosheth, like Ishbosheth, has an altered name. Mephibosheth means *from the mouth of shame*. His true name was Meribaal, which may mean *hero of Baal*.
- Although the word Baal was once more or less inoffensive, eventually, to avoid confusion between the god Baal and Israel’s God, the word Baal was denigrated.
- Mephibosheth was made lame when he was apparently dropped by a nurse. This wasn’t a wet-nurse, but something more like a nanny.
- Notice the weakness that is symbolized in the lack of power in people’s members.
- Ishbosheth’s captains assassinate him as he is resting. They escape to the south through the deserted route.

A Surprise For The Assassins (2 Sam. 4:8-12)

8 And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, “Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life; and the LORD has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul and his descendants.”

9 But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, “As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all adversity, 10 when someone told me, saying, ‘Look, Saul is dead,’ thinking to have

brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag—the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news. 11 How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?” 12 So David commanded his young men, and they executed them, cut off their hands and feet, and hanged them by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner in Hebron.

- How often people do wickedness and stick God’s Name on it!
- They slander David because he was not interested in persecuting the family of Saul, as seen in his relationships with Jonathan and Abner.
- After killing the Amalekite who claimed to have killed Saul, how much more would David judge someone who murdered an innocent and unsuspecting man?
- David has them killed and hung up as a warning. Their being hanged by a pool creates an inclusio or set of brackets in the text.
 - All this plotting and scheming concerning the kingdom began by a pool, and now finishes it at another pool!
- He shows respect to Ishbosheth as he did to Abner. These acts of respect demonstrated David’s character and showed that he was innocent of their deaths.
- See how many people thought to help David obtain his throne or defend it by schemes and crooked means. But David knew that God alone must establish it. and that it must be established the right way, in righteousness. David was tempting in many ways and by many people to take the throne or solidify his position through unrighteous means.

A Shepherd Crowned (2 Sam. 5:1-5)

1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, “Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. 2 Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, ‘You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.’” 3 Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

- David’s life has been moving towards this moment since he was a teenager!
- When God moves (and because David did things right) the tribes of Israel came to him; he didn’t need to go to them, or make anything happen.
- The last time the tribes had come together, they had done so in foolishness.
- The elders speak and:
 - Recognized his **connection** to them.
 - Recognized his **competence**.
 - Recognized his **calling**.
- This is another prophetic foreshadowing of Jesus Christ as His return.

David Takes Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5:6-10)

6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, “You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you,” thinking, “David cannot come in here.” 7 Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).

8 Now David said on that day, “Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, who are hated by David’s soul), he shall be chief and captain.” Therefore they say, “The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.” 9 Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward. 10 So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

- The Jebusites were inhabitants of the land, remnants of the Canaanites who had never been completely defeated.
- Jerusalem was a fortified city-state and easy to defend because it was elevated. The Jebusites could hold out a long time because the city had its own internal water supply. David seems to have realized that the only way to win was to turn their own strength against them. Joab was the first to go up through this water shaft, and so some of the brave men were able to enter the city.
- Zion has become another name for Jerusalem, or even for the people of God, but at that time, it seems to have been just a stronghold on one corner of the city.
- Millo means Fill or Landfill, and it seems much of the city was situated on fill.
- Notice: David became great because of God’s Spirit working on and with him.
- Jerusalem was a brilliant choice for a capital: centrally located and defensible. It also had the advantage of not being connected to David’s tribe. That territory actually belonged to Benjamin.
- Jerusalem may mean “City of Peace,” or perhaps it means *the place where you will see peace*. How perfect that is, because this is where our God made peace!
- Jerusalem is a plural word in Hebrew, and it may literally indicate **two** places of peace, not one. This is also perfect, if we consider it.

Increasing Prosperity And Favor (2 Sam. 5:11-16)

11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house. 12 So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. 13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

- He begins to be noticed by powerful Gentile kings. But David knew that God did these things for the sake of His people Israel.
- The new concubines and wives here are a definite danger sign.
- More children here speaks of more blessing, and there are two important princes named in this new list of children: Solomon and Nathan.

The Lord Of The Breakthrough (2 Sam. 5:17-21)

17 Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. 18 The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. 19 So David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?” And the LORD said to David, “Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand.”

20 So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, “The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water.”

Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim. 21 And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away.

- The Philistines got nervous now, because David had gotten the entire kingdom.
- The Valley of Rephaim (Giants) runs down from Jerusalem towards the southwest. If the Philistines could defeat David here, they would divide Israel.
- This is a famous battle but, tantalizingly, we have no details! We know David continued his good habit of seeking God for direction.
- *Baal Perazim* means *Lord of the Breakthrough*.
- Another inclusio (bracket): at the beginning of Samuel, the Philistines had carried off the Ark of the Covenant, but now Israel carries off the Philistine gods!

A Second Battle Won With God’s Help (2 Sam. 5:22-25)

22 Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. 23 Therefore David inquired of the LORD, and He said, “You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. 24 And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines.” 25 And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

- A major Philistine defeat. David inquired of the Lord, even though God had previously given him a plan!
- Was this a natural wind or not?
- Notice now that God is going out ahead of them.

- This was a supernatural victory. Perhaps the key is that David did as Yahweh commanded him!
- The Philistines were driven back geographically, back towards their centers on the coast.
- And so, it had become literally true that David delivered Israel from the hand of the Philistines!

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