

David Anointed King Over Israel

2 Samuel 5

Lesson Outline

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David's Position as King

2 Samuel 5:1-16

David Ascended to the Throne: 2 Samuel 5:1-5

David Reigned Over Israel

The tribes of Israel sent a large contingent of fighting men to Hebron looking to make David king (1 Chronicles 12:23-40). This gathering of over 350,000 men must have been quite a scene. With Abner their mighty warrior slain and Ishbosheth their king assassinated, the troubled nation turned to David. The people were humbled and broken. Hardships are sometimes allowed in order to bring about the LORD'S will (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4). The leaders approached David and offered three reasons for seeking him to be king.

1. *His nationality* – their relationship to him, David being their kin was an Israelite like them (Deuteronomy 17:15).
2. *His experience* – their memory of his past success in leading them into battle (1 Samuel 18:6-7).
3. *His promise from the LORD* – their understanding of David's calling (1 Samuel 16:11-13). This was really all that mattered so should have been mentioned first. The fact it was last indicates their stubbornness, they knew this yet refused to follow it for over seven years.

David had proven to be a good and faithful leader and they believed that would continue. Being king would require much from David. The office was not for his personal gain but for the benefit of the people. The LORD chose David to lead the nation after Him (Psalm 62:8). David was reminded of his responsibilities, which he would take seriously (Psalm 78:70-72).

1. *David was to provide* – he was to feed the people of Israel like a shepherd feeds the flock.
2. *David was to protect* – he was to be the captain of Israel, both ruling and defending the people.

David and the leaders of Israel agreed together making a league. It was probably based upon the scripture concerning kings (Deuteronomy 17:14-20). They committed to follow him as he followed the LORD and he committed to lead them according to the LORD'S direction. David was anointed King over all Israel (Psalm 133). The ceremony was a cause for great celebration (1 Chronicles 12:23-40). It was a time of rejoicing, for the LORD had given them a king and united the nation. There has yet to be another day like that in Israel.

David Reigned For Forty Years

David was thirty years old when he ascended to the throne and reigned as king. The same age the Levites began their work and Jesus Christ began His earthly ministry (Numbers 4:3; Luke 3:23). He reigned for seven and one half years over Judah and for 33 years over the entire nation of Israel. The nation was blessed under David's reign with its borders expanding greatly. When the LORD'S chosen leader follows Him, the LORD'S people will be blessed.

In the thirty years before David reigned, he was prepared to lead the nation. While living in the palace and learning the ways of royalty, he led the army and became experienced in battle (1 Samuel 18:1-5). Eventually chased from the palace, he lived on the land learning to trust in the LORD (1 Samuel 26; Psalm 11). The LORD had a plan for David's life with the hardships serving a purpose, preparing him to lead the nation (Romans 8:28). God will always lead correctly, at times He challenges by allowing trials but He will never forsake (1 Corinthians 10:13). The LORD knows the future and how to prepare for it, so it is best to trust Him in all things. David did not receive what he desired immediately, so when it was given it was probably greatly appreciated.

David Captured Jerusalem: 2 Samuel 5:6-10

David's Decision

David's first act as king was to march upon Jerusalem, which was under Jebusite control. Jerusalem was an ancient and established city. It is believed to have been the city Melchizedek reigned over (Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 76:2). It was a renowned city in Joshua's time, however the tribe of Benjamin allowed the Jebusites to take possession of it (Joshua 10:1-3; Judges 1:21, 19:11). In capturing Jerusalem, David would reclaim what belonged to the nation while establishing a centrally located capital.

David led the combined army up to Jerusalem where they were ridiculed and scorned. The Jebusites claimed their blind and lame were all required to protect the city from David's army. Years of inhabiting the city combined with strong fortifications, led to a false confidence. Their proud arrogant hearts would be humbled (Proverbs 16:18).

David's Dwelling

The details of the battle are not provided but we know David successfully took the city. With the LORD as his guide he began to lead the nation.

1. *David had a plan* – apparently he found a weakness in their defenses and entered the city through a culvert.
2. *David challenged his men* – Joab successfully led the way earning the position of captain of the army.

Afterwards, David established residence in the city, moving his capital from Hebron to Jerusalem. It was enlarged under David's direction. Apparently, David built structures for his men and the government. David went on or continued in his reign as king, he grew great, and was blessed because of the LORD. Neither defeat nor victory prevented David from walking with the LORD (Philippians 3:13-14).

David Enlarged His Home: 2 Samuel 5:11-16

David Built a House

Hiram, King of Tyre, sent messengers to David congratulating him on his endeavors. The two nations appear to have been allied, which was profitable to both sides, seeing that David and Israel controlled the land with trade routes to the Far East and Africa. Hiram generously sent supplies and workers to build a house for David.

David understood the LORD blessed him. He perceived or recognized that God worked on his behalf (Philippians 2:13).

1. *David Established* – he knew the LORD established him as king and allowed him to dwell in Jerusalem (2 Thessalonians 3:3).
2. *David Exalted* – he knew the LORD exalted his kingdom, not for him personally but for the sake of the LORD'S people (James 4:10).

David Added to His Family

Going directly against scripture, David added more women to his house (Deuteronomy 17:17). David is neither excused nor justified in taking concubines and more wives. It is believed he was influenced by the ancient eastern custom of a king having many children to advance his kingdom. Because they were immoral, many kings justified any means necessary to advance their cause, so polygamy was acceptable. David knew better but mistakenly followed the example of the world.

David had numerous children (1 Chronicles 3:1-9). Most remain unknown except for their name. David's indiscretion eventually produced problems too great for him to deal with.

David's Prominence over the Philistines

2 Samuel 5:17-25

First Battle in the Valley of Rephaim: 2 Samuel 5:17-21

David and Israel Threatened

The Philistines found out David had taken the throne uniting the nation of Israel. This was taken seriously since David was legendary for his exploits in battle against them. Some may have known him personally from the time he spent in Gath and allied with Achish (1 Samuel 27:1-3, 28:1-2). Perhaps the Philistines saw an opportunity to destroy the nation before it was strengthened under David's leadership.

The Philistines arrived in the area looking for David, who went to the hold. Perhaps it was the stronghold on Mt. Zion where David could have gazed over the valley and observed the Philistine movements in the Valley of Rephaim near Jerusalem. Evidently, the Philistines planned to take the city. If successful their rule over the Israelites would have continued.

David Looked to the LORD

David looked to the LORD before making a decision (Psalm 46:1; James 4:8). He asked two very important questions.

1. *Shall I go up to the Philistines* – David desired to know what the LORD would have him do. Should he attack them, make a defense, or look to make peace?
2. *Wilt thou deliver them into mine hand* – David wanted to know if the LORD would allow them to succeed. He knew his victories were due to the LORD and not himself.

The LORD answered, directing David to go into battle with the promise of being delivered. Immediately following the LORD'S direction, David went into battle and was victorious. Afterward, he gave God the glory for the victory, knowing He made it possible (Psalm 115:1). In their hasty retreat, the Philistines left their images or idols on the field of battle. Like all false gods, they failed and were worthless. David and the Israelites gathered and burned the images (Deuteronomy 7:5).

Second Battle in the Valley of Rephaim: 2 Samuel 5:22-25

David and Israel Threatened Again

After the humiliating defeat the Philistines returned for another battle. Perhaps they gathered more forces looking to regain what had been lost. Apparently their numbers remained strong as they assembled in the Valley of Rephaim.

David's New Direction

Upon seeing the enemy preparing for war David looked again to the LORD (Psalm 5:3). No matter what the situation it is best to seek the LORD'S direction (Psalm 25:2). David was directed to go

into battle, however the LORD provided a new strategy. Instead of attacking the Philistines directly, David was ordered to take the army and attack from behind. This would offer an element of surprise to an army expecting a frontal attack. This would also test the obedience and patience of David and his men. They were required to make a long march and then wait upon the LORD (Psalm 27:14). David would know the LORD was about to bless when the mulberry trees rustled. In waiting on the LORD his attack would come at the correct time, neither too early nor too late. It is important to follow the LORD'S direction, knowing that sometimes He blesses immediately and other times we must wait. Remember, His timing is always correct and those that wait will be blessed (Isaiah 40:31).

David followed the LORD'S instruction and led the army to victory. He defeated the Philistines sending them back to the borders of their nation. Geba is believed to have been Gibeah. If that is the case, it was about 18 miles from there to Gazer or Gezer. The Philistines were soundly beaten. The victory was amazing and greatly affected others (1 Chronicles 14:16-17; Proverbs 16:7). David trusted the LORD and found Him to be faithful. As he continued to lead the nation, this experience would be priceless.