

Heir to the Throne

This week marks the half-way point of our study together. When we started our study, David was a young man of about fifteen, fresh from the sheep pastures. He entered King Saul's service at somewhere between 18 and 20 years of age, but is soon forced into exile where he spends nearly the next 10 years of his life, beyond the borders of the promise land. Last week we saw King Saul's life and reign come to an abrupt end just as Samuel had prophesied. Before David took the throne as God's anointed ruler over Israel, he mourned the death of not only Jonathan, but Saul as well. In humility and grief he joined the Northern tribes of Israel in their grief over the death of Israel's first King.

This week marks a turning point in David's life and career. Ever humble and obedient to the Lord, David waits upon the Lord for His sovereign timing in approaching the throne of Judah, the first passage we will study in our homework this week. While David receives the kingship of the Southern tribes, the Northern tribes will follow Saul's sons into battle against David. Finally after an additional seven years of warfare between the House of Saul and the House of David, King David will become King of all Israel at the age of 37, some twenty years after being anointed as Israel's future king.

David Anointed King Over Judah



Read 2 Samuel 2:1-32 and answer the following questions

In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of _____?" he asked.

At this time where is David still residing? _____

♥ Why do you think David inquired of the Lord before moving forward to his promised position in Israel?

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Where does the Lord tell David to go? _____

The region of Hebron has a long history in the Bible. It is located in the hill country of Judah about 20 miles south of Jerusalem. The area has been consistently occupied since about 3300 B.C. Look up the following references and describe what happened in those verses.

- Genesis 13:18
- Genesis 18: 1-15 (Hint: what dynasty was started?)
- Joshua 14: 13-14

Who went with David?

What happened in Hebron?

What three things did David's message say to the people of Jabesh Gilead?

What did Abner (Saul's general) do in Mahanaim? What territories were aligned with them?

War between the Houses of David and Saul

There are now two kings over the nation of Israel. In the north Saul's son Ish-Bosheth is crowned king in what remains of the northern territories. The Philistines are still quite strong in the north after the defeat of Saul and occupy a large portion of the northern tribes' land. David is now king over Judah, including the tribal territory of Simeon which was in the southern part of Judah. The scriptures tell us that David ruled over Judah

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for 7½ years before becoming King of all Israel. Ish-Bosheth ruled for only 2½ years. It is unclear exactly when Ish-Bosheth became king, but certainly within that 7 ½ years Abner was the unifying force in northern Israel. Making Ish-Bosheth king would have given legitimacy to the House of Saul claiming the kingdom, at least in the eyes of the northern tribes. This sparked a civil war between the House of Saul and the House of David that would last these seven years.

2 Samuel 2:12-32 recount a battle during this time frame. The battle was a contest of champions. Twelve warriors on from each side would fight against each other. Whichever side won the contest would win the battle. It was a type of battle designed to minimize losses on each side, very similar to the contest between David and Goliath's hand to hand combat.



Read 2 Samuel 2:8-3:5 and answer the following questions.

Who does it say won the battle in verse 17?

Unfortunately David's men did not let the battle end there. Who does it say pursued Abner?

What does David say about them in 2 Samuel 3:39? "...*these sons of Zeruiah are too*
for me..." How does this apply to the events of 2 Samuel 2: 18-32?

Despite the planned contest, what were the final tallies of men lost on each side that day?
David's men _____ Abner's men _____

"*The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew*
_____ and _____, *while the house of Saul grew _____ and*
_____. 2 Samuel 3:1

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List these sons of David and their mothers:

1 st born, Amnon	Ahinoam
Kileab	Abigail
Absalom	Maacah
Adonijah	Haggith
Shephatiah	Abital
Ithream	Eglah

Where does it say these sons were born?

One of the ways we can see that House of David is growing stronger is the number of his sons, the size of his family. The House of David appears to have a viable future. What about the House of Saul? (Consider 3:9-11 and 4:4)



Read 3:6-19 and briefly describe the events:

When Joab (David's general) returns and hears of the treaty, what does he accuse Abner of doing?

What do you think motivates Joab's response?

What does Joab do?

♥ How are the deaths of Asahel and Abner different? What does it tell you of the man who kills in each incident?

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- What is David's response? (verse 28-35)

- In verse 39 David confesses "*these sons of Zeruiah are too strong for me*". (The sons of Zeruiah being Joab, Abishai and Asahel) Why do you think David lets them get away with so much? Look also at 1 Chronicles 2:13-17, what is their relationship?

38 *Then the king said to his men, "Do you not realize that a _____ and a _____ has fallen in Israel this day? What does this statement about Abner tell you about David's heart?*

Death in the House of Saul

In our scripture passage today we will see David standing strong and just in his role as King of Judah. We will revisit the episode in 2 Samuel 1 recounting the scene when David learns of Saul's death. We will compare that episode to a similar account in Chapter 4 recounting the death of Ish-Bosheth and the report to King David.



Review 2 Samuel 1:1-15 and answer the following questions.

Who has come to tell David of the news of Saul's death? What are the details mentioned in these verses (of 2 Samuel 1):

- V2:
- V3:
- V6-10:
- V8, V13:

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What do you think this man was seeking at David's court:

♥ What is David's response to the message from this man?



Next we'll look at the death of Ish-Bosheth. Turn to Chapter 4:1-12 and answer the following questions.

Verse 1 says: "*When Ish-Bosheth son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost _____ and all Israel became _____.*" What do these two words tell us about Ish-Bosheth and how he is perceived by his people?

How and where was Ish-Bosheth murdered?

What do you think they expected from David?

What was David's response?

♥ In both of these cases David acted swiftly and justly. What does this tell you about David's character?

♥ Now reread 3:28-38. What kind of justice does David mete out in this instance of murder? Why do you think his response is so different and what does this tell you about his heart?

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David Becomes King Over Israel

"When all the elders had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel." v3

Finally the time has arrived and David now becomes King over all of Israel. He is about 37 years old. It has been a long time since his anointing by Samuel back in Bethlehem. In fact, it has been about 20 years for the Lord to shape this man into the King he desired for his people.



Read 2 Samuel 5:1-25 and answer the following questions.

What are the three reasons that the elders of Israel site for recognizing David as their king? (Look also at 1 Chronicles 11:1-2)

Verse 3 tells us that a compact, or treaty, was made between David and the elders of Israel (the northern tribes). This was an agreement between both parties. It is interesting to note that when Rehoboam, David's grandson takes the throne after Solomon, this treaty is not renewed and thus began the divided kingdom.

Where do David and his men go and what city do they attack?

*David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the _____.
He built up the area around it, from the supporting terraces inward. And he became more and more powerful, because the _____." v9-10*

♥ What does it say that David knew in verse 12?

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- Compare this with Jesus' words in Luke 12:48:
"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

David knew that his success was not about him. He knew the Lord had placed him at the pinnacle of his success. The Lord could have chosen someone else, but it was because the Lord chose him and molded his heart that he was the chosen one. It was the Lord's doing. And it wasn't even for the benefit of David. The Lord did this for his people. David recognized the vast responsibility that came with the vast blessing. Receiving the throne of all Israel was not the end. David knew he still had work to do. He was entrusted with shepherding the flock of Israel for the Lord God Almighty. When God entrusts us with a position of authority, he expects us to serve with great responsibility those whom he has entrusted us.



The last episode we will look at is a battle with the Philistines. Read 5:17-25. Verse 17 says *"When the Philistines heard that David had been _____ over Israel, they went up in _____ to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold."*

It does not appear the Philistines wasted any time in going after the new king. What does David do?

Where does David defeat the Philistines?

The Philistines, not being ones to give up easily, come after David again. Where?

What does David do?

♥ Fortunately David does not proceed based on the assumption that the Lord will hand over the Philistines again in the same way. He receives different instructions this time. *"Do not go*

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straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching _____, move quickly, because that will mean that the Lord has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army. ”(v23-24)

Upon hearing these instructions what did David do?

♥ What does this tell you about the man after God's own heart?