

David Becomes King

Life of David—part 6

March 3, 2019

1 Samuel 31; 2 Samuel 1-5

DAY 1: David mourns over the death of King Saul

1, Israel clamored for a king. Saul was anointed king. He was a disaster. His judgment was terribly clouded, he made terrible decisions, and almost brought Israel to ruin against the Philistines. He had been given tremendous privilege by God, but he disobeyed God, and rebelled against Him.

2. Although David had been anointed king by Samuel, Saul remained king, while David became a fugitive, running for his life.

3. Finally, King Saul and his son, Jonathan die in battle.

4. Saul's last thoughts and words have nothing to do with God or the life after the grave. At the end he fell on his sword to evade any final humiliation at the hands of the Philistines. He died as he lived—proud, jealous, a little man becoming ever smaller.

5. The way was now open for David to become king, or so it seemed. What happens next and in the next seven years is shocking to modern ears and so-called “modern man,” but is tremendously instructive and illustrative in what God is trying to build in people!

2 Samuel 1:11 Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them.

¹² They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

6. If you had been David, what would your response to King Saul's death have been?

7. David's lamentation continues...

2 Samuel 1:22 From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied. ²³ "Saul and Jonathan-- in life they were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. ²⁴ "O daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold. ²⁵ "How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

8. What surprises you about David's response to the news of King Saul's death?

DAY 2: David Anointed king of Judah (2 Samuel 2)

1. One of the things so striking about David is that he never saw Saul as the impediment to him becoming king. He was not glad because there was an empty throne. He was grieving from his own empty heart.

2. When the way is now clear to become king, we self-restraint, not taking the bull by the horns to “make it happen.”

2 Samuel 2:1 In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked. The LORD said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron," the LORD answered.

3. What is the first action David takes after King Saul's death?

4. Why do you think he asks God, “What's next?”

5. “But,” usually gives us “the good news is... BUT, the bad news is ...”

6. Somewhere during the intervening years as a fugitive, David has not done everything well.” Here is the very next verse...

2 Samuel 2:2 So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

7. It is very easy to over-glamorize David. Though he was near the “top of his class” in Old Testament history, we see here the beginning of his Achilles Heel. The amount of heartache, drama, and dysfunction that will be played out is enormous, and will last the rest of his life.

8. Meanwhile, David is anointed king over the tribe of Judah.

2 Samuel 2:4 Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

9. David was not anointed king over the other eleven tribes of Israel.

2 Samuel 2:8 Meanwhile, Abner son of Ner, the commander of Saul's army, had taken Ish-Bosheth son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim. ⁹ He made him king over Gilead, Ashuri and Jezreel, and also over Ephraim, Benjamin and all Israel.

10. Right when you thought David would finally be king over all Israel, Saul's leading general takes Saul's son and makes him king over the rest of Israel, instead of David!

11. What things strike you most from today's devotional?

DAY 3: David tested

1. Did David think his days of waiting were over? We don't know. But not only did David not become king of all Israel, but General Abner led Israel to conduct a civil war with David, king of Judah!

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

2. We sometimes feel the truth of, "When it rains, it pours."

3. David was tested again, even without Saul around!

4. But v. 1 tells us something else that is important while David is biding his time. What is it?

5. It would be five years before this war would end, and David would become king, not just of Judah but of all twelve tribes of Israel.

6. If you had been David, how would you have thought about all this? What thoughts about God would you have had? About God's plan?

7. While you may have wondered about why God was seemingly so slow about David finally becoming king of all Israel, perhaps the next verses will allay some of the mystery!

2 Samuel 3:2 Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel; ³ his second, Kileab the son of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah daughter of Talmi king of Geshur; ⁴ the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; ⁵ and the sixth, Ithream the son of David's wife Eglah. These were born to David in Hebron.

8. David's Achilles Heel shows up again, in the text. How many wives do you count in these verses?

9. Though polygamy was "practiced" by people, it was never God's ideal for family and marriage. That standard is one husband, one wife for life.

10. What strikes you from today's verses?

DAY 4: David anointed king over all Israel

2 Samuel 5:1 All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. ² In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'"

1. From the time when Samuel anointed David to be king back before defeating Goliath to this moment in time had been between fifteen and twenty years!!!

2. The tribes of Israel now tell David that they want him as king. They make this appeal on the basis of four reasons. What are they? (You can underline them, above).

3. As you read what the tribes of Israel are now telling David, how would you characterize their words and attitude?

4. Though they sound genuine and gracious, consider their past over the last seven and a half years. They refused to allow David to be their king, and even conducted a civil war against the tribe of Judah and King David!

5. Such is a picture of our fallen human nature! Out of one side of their mouth they appear gracious and genuine, yet for over seven years they KNEW God's hand was on David giving him military victories for Israel and that God had called David to be their king!

6. The nice word for this is "disingenuous." The more accurate word is "duplicitous."

7. How would David respond to these words that appear genuine?

2 Samuel 5:3 When all the elders of Israel 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.

8. David graciously received them and made a covenant with them, becoming their king.

1 Chronicles 12:38 All these were fighting men who volunteered to serve in the ranks. They came to Hebron fully determined to make David king over all Israel. All the rest of the Israelites were also of one mind to make David king. ³⁹ The men spent three days there with David, eating and drinking, for their families had supplied provisions for them. ⁴⁰ Also, their neighbors from as far away as Issachar, Zebulun and Naphtali came bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules and oxen. There were plentiful supplies of flour, fig cakes, raisin cakes, wine, oil, cattle and sheep, for there was joy in Israel.

9. David could have rubbed this in their faces. He didn't. Instead, he made joy possible!

10. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Psalm 18

1. Psalm 18 was penned about this time. The days of being a fugitive are finally over. God has delivered him out of the “lion’s” mouth.

2. Before verse 1 begins, David writes a dedication for this psalm. Here is what he writes:

“For the director of music. Of David the servant of the Lord. He sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:”

3. David doesn’t refer to himself as “the king.” Instead, he sees a nobler title, “servant of the Lord.” What does this tell you about David?

Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

4. Through all of David’s tests and trials, God has been

- Revealing Himself to David, and
- Building character in David.

5. David uses eight metaphors to describe what he now knows about God!

6. Which metaphors mean the most to you?

7. Why?

*Psalms 18:29 With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.
³⁰ As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.*

³¹ For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?

³² It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.

8. What did David learn about God?

9. What had David learned about trusting God?

10. What strikes you from today’s devotional?