

## ***Session 17 David Anointed King in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5)***

### **I. ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL ANOINTED DAVID AS KING (2 SAM. 5:1-5)**

- A. The humbled, desperate elders received David after the murders of Abner and Ishbosheth (5:1-2). David's generous response to them unified the nation as he refused to yield to bitterness. He forgave them for 7 years of resistance after Saul's death (2 Sam. 2-4) as well as the previous 5-7 years in the wilderness when Saul chased him with the support of these very leaders of Israel (1 Sam. 21-31).

***<sup>1</sup>Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. <sup>2</sup>Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel...the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.' "*** (2 Sam. 5:1-2)

1. ***All the tribes of Israel:*** Israel remembered God's blessing on David's leadership in the military while serving under Saul (1 Sam. 18:5), prophetic words about his call to be king (1 Sam. 16:1), Abner's desire to make him king (3:10, 21), David's honor of people who had been loyal to Saul—men of Jabesh Gilead (2:6), Abner (3:20, 32) and Ishbosheth (4:12)—and especially the way in which David spared Saul in En Gedi (24:10) and in the Wilderness of Ziph where many heard Saul proclaim that David would do great things and succeed (26:25).
  2. ***The Lord said to you:*** The elders acknowledged that they knew that the Lord had chosen him. His prophetic call to be king was spoken by Samuel (1 Sam. 13:14; 15:28; 16:1, 13), Jonathan (1 Sam. 23:17), Saul (1 Sam. 24:20; 26:25), Abigail (1 Sam. 25:30), Abner (2 Sam. 3:9-10, 17-18), David's team (1 Sam. 24:4), Israel's elders (2 Sam. 5:2), and Ethan (Ps. 89:19-20).
  3. ***Shepherd and ruler:*** They saw David as the man who could unify the nation and heal the wounds between the north and south. Shepherds lead by caring and serving.
  4. ***We are your flesh and bones:*** They appealed to David as part of their family even after they had resisted him for over seven years after Saul's death. In this appeal they were asking for his forgiveness and seeking to make peace with him saying, "We all came from Abraham."
  5. ***In time past:*** They remembered that the Lord anointed David in battle against the Philistines. There is a time when the Lord causes the value of one's past service to come to light.
- B. The elders traveled to Hebron to ask David to be their king (5:3). David didn't *seek* to be king but *waited* on the elders to ask him. He did not use his superior military power to impose his authority on the tribes of the north. 1 Chronicles 11-12 provides much more information about 2 Samuel 5.
- <sup>3</sup>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. (2 Sam. 5:3)***
- C. David was king for forty years (5:4-5). He ruled 7 years in Hebron and 33 years in Jerusalem.
- <sup>4</sup>David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup>In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. (2 Sam. 5:4-5)***

## II. DAVID CONQUERED JERUSALEM (1 SAM. 5:6–8)

- A. David's first recorded act as king over Israel was to establish a capital city in Jerusalem (5:6-8). David and his men marched to Jerusalem to fight the Jebusites and drive them from the city. He captured Jerusalem—which was one of the few cities in Israel that was still occupied by the enemy.
- <sup>6</sup>And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites...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."<sup>7</sup>Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David) (2 Sam. 5:6-7)*
- B. **Jerusalem:** Jerusalem, the main city in salvation history, now entered David's personal story. David made Jerusalem the capital for all Israel, as he needed a neutral city to be the capital of the newly united nation. Hebron was in the territory of Judah—it would have sent a wrong message to Israelite tribes in the north to make it the capital city of unified Israel. Jerusalem was on the border between the north and the south, and it did not have a negative history associated with Israel or Judah. Bordering Judah, Jerusalem was actually in the territory of Saul's tribe of Benjamin (Josh. 18:28)
1. The Jebusites were Canaanites who still had a stronghold in Jerusalem almost 500 years after Joshua entered the Promise Land. Jerusalem continued to be occupied by these native people. The children of Judah took Jerusalem, but the Benjaminites had allowed the Jebusites to live among them; it grew fast and became a strong Jebusites city (Josh. 15:63; Judges 1:21).
  2. The Lord spoke to Moses about a city where He chose to put His name (Deut. 12:5). Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem; Jesus called Jerusalem the city of the great king (Mt. 5:35).
- <sup>5</sup>But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. (Deut. 12:5)*
- <sup>5</sup>"Since...I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I have chosen no city...in which to build a house [the temple], that My name might be there...<sup>6</sup>I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people..." (2 Chr. 6:5-6)*
- C. **The blind and the lame will repel you:** They boasted that Jerusalem was so well defended that if the blind and lame were posted on the wall instead of their seasoned warriors, they could defend it. They used this language of contempt to taunt David. Jerusalem was a very difficult city to capture because there were deep valleys on three sides of it. The Jebusite archers could easily hit soldiers attacking them. In the ancient world some dropped stones or poured boiling water from high walls.
- D. **David took the stronghold of Zion:** A stronghold was a military fortress protected by strong walls. Zion was an eleven-acre property on the top of a hill surrounded by steep valleys on three sides. Therefore the fortress of Zion seemed inaccessible to the attack of an invading army.
- E. There were two hills on Zion. One hill was called Mount Moriah (where the temple was built) and one called Zion (where David's palace was built). Strictly speaking, Zion is the hill, and Jerusalem is the city around it. Zion spoke of the walled portion of the Jebusite hilltop settlement serving as David's personal residence within Jerusalem. *Zion* and *Jerusalem* are used throughout Isaiah as synonyms (Isa. 2:3; 4:3-4; 31:4-5, 9; 33:20; 40:9; 41:27; 52:1; 64:10) much like *Israel* and *Jacob*.

- F. David offered the position of “chief captain” over the entire army to anyone who climbed up the water shaft to capture the city (5:8). After examining the city’s defenses, David concluded that the best strategy was to go up the water shaft. To attempt to come up by way of a steep valley would have been certain death, but no one was protecting the water supply.

***<sup>8</sup>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.” (2 Sam. 5:8)***

- G. ***Water shaft:*** There was a tunnel in Jerusalem that provided access during a siege to the spring Gihon just outside the city wall. Many think this tunnel was used to penetrate the fortification. In 1867, Sir Charles Warren discovered such a tunnel that has currently been proven to have been built 700 years prior to David’s taking of the city; it is believed to be this water shaft.
- H. ***The lame and the blind were hated by David’s soul:*** David used the Jebusites’ mocking statement to speak back to them with a sarcastic tone in answering their taunt that lame and the blind soldiers could easily defeat him. The statement was not a reflection of David’s view of the handicapped. Both David and Jesus entered Jerusalem as king to proclaim God’s authority over the city, though when Jesus the son of David entered Jerusalem, He healed the lame and blind (Mt. 21:14).

### III. THE LORD GREATLY BLESSED DAVID IN JERUSALEM (1 SAM. 5:9-16)

- A. David dwelt in the stronghold or the fortress of Zion. He renamed the conquered hill of Zion after himself (5:9). The city of David was not initially a reference to Jerusalem, but to Zion.

***<sup>9</sup>Then David dwelt in the stronghold [fortress of Zion], and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward. <sup>10</sup>So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him. (2 Sam. 5:9-10)***

- B. ***Millo:*** The word describes “supporting terraces” (NIV) created by landfill—bringing dirt and rock to the hilltop. This provided a larger surface on which buildings could be built (2 Kgs. 12:20, 1 Chr. 32:5). Around the Millo David built buildings used by his government.

- C. King Hiram honored David’s success by building David a house in his new city (5:11-12). Hiram was the king of Tyre, a powerful city-state in northern area of the coastal region. Hiram saw God’s hand on David; therefore he wanted a friendly relationship with him. Hiram sent a delegation with a group of carpenters and stonemasons, along with cedar logs to build David a palace.

***<sup>11</sup>Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house. <sup>12</sup>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. (2 Sam. 5:11-12)***

- D. ***David knew the Lord established him as king:*** David knew that the Lord put him on the throne. He had acted righteously toward Saul and Ishbosheth and refused to establish himself as king. Thus he could rest without worrying about *keeping* his kingdom. Some work hard to establish their position yet live in anxiety over keeping it because they don’t know if God gave it to them in the first place.

***<sup>27</sup>...“A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. (Jn. 3:27)***

#### IV. DAVID DEFEATED THE PHILISTINES (1 SAM. 5:17-25)

- A. When the Philistines learned that Israel had anointed David as king, they attacked him twice (5:17-25). The Philistines brought down Saul’s kingdom and were determined to do the same to David. The Valley of Rephaim was a canyon about one mile southwest of Jerusalem. David renamed the valley, calling it *Baal Perazim*, which literally means “the Lord of the breaking through.”
- <sup>17</sup>... the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel...<sup>18</sup>The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. <sup>19</sup>So David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines?”...The LORD said to David, “Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand”...<sup>20</sup>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. (2 Sam. 5:17-20)*
- B. The Philistines attacked a second time in the very same place (5:22-25).
- <sup>22</sup>The Philistines went up once again...in the Valley of Rephaim. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.”<sup>25</sup>And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba [Gibeon] as far as Gezer. (2 Sam. 5:22-25)*
- C. The Lord gave David a tactic that involved the element of surprise when the Philistines retreated. Israel’s army was to circle around behind the Philistines and hide behind the mulberry trees (5:23) and then attack them in front of the mulberry trees when the Lord struck their camp in the front.
1. Israel was to delay the attack until they heard the sound of marching in the tops of the trees (5:24). To the Philistines, it probably sounded as if a large army was attacking them so they fled in panic. It was a sign from the Lord that it was time to attack the fleeing Philistines.
  2. The Lord had released a supernatural intervention through nature in a previous battle against the Philistines in the days when Samuel was judge (1 Sam. 7:10).
- <sup>10</sup>...the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. (1 Sam. 7:10)*
3. David and his army pursued the Philistines defeating them over 20-mile stretch of land from Geba [NIV, “Gibeon”] to Gezer.
- D. Two battles occurred in the Valley of Rephaim. The same enemies in the same place, yet God’s direction was different each time—first it was, “Go up.” Then it was, “You shall not go up.” The circumstances seemed identical, yet on *each* occasion God was to be sought and then obeyed.
- E. **Leadership lesson:** Ask the Lord for His timing and method in each battle without assuming that He will use the same approach as He did in a previous battle when helping you gain a victory.