

DAVID IS MADE KING OF ISRAEL

Introduction:

1. David had been anointed King over Judah.
2. However, Abner had worked to have Ishbosheth, Saul's son, anointed as King of Israel.
3. Finally, after 7 years of conflict, David will be made King over all Israel.

I. The Death of Ishbosheth

(4:1-12)

- A. Though Ishbosheth had stood up to Abner earlier, he remained a weak man of little power.
- B. When he heard of Abner's death, his hands were slackened – that is, he lost the strength and courage to act as king.
- C. As a result, all Israel was troubled (alarmed, disturbed, anxious, confounded).
- D. Thus, two of Ishbosheth's captains took matters into their own hands.
 1. They were leaders of military companies.
 2. They were from the tribe of Benjamin (same as Saul).
 3. Their names were Baanah and Rechab.
- E. They came to Ishbosheth's house in the middle of the day while he was resting.
- F. Pretending to get wheat, they stabbed Ishbosheth, killed him, and then beheaded him.
- G. Taking his head, they fled all night and came to David at Hebron.
- H. They presented the head of Ishbosheth to David, thinking he would be pleased and honor them.
- I. Instead, David rebuked them and had them put to death.
- J. The head of Ishbosheth was buried in the tomb of Abner.
- K. The only remaining successor to Saul was his grandson, Mephibosheth.
 1. He was the son of Jonathan.
 2. He was 5 years old when his father was killed.
 3. His nurse fled with him to go into hiding.
 4. As they were running, he fell (or, perhaps, was dropped) and became lame.
 5. *{The name Mephibosheth means "dispeller of shame" or "exterminator of the idol." He is also known as Merib-baal, meaning "quarreler with Baal" or "resistor of Baal."}*
- L. Because he was not fit to rule Israel as king, the dynasty of Saul ended.

II. The Anointing of David

(5:1-5)

- A. After the death of Abner and Ishbosheth, the leaders of the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron to make him their King.
- B. Their appeal to David is three-fold:
 1. The ties of blood and brotherhood that bind them together
 2. David's abilities as a leader, especially militarily
 3. The command and promise of Jehovah
- C. It is significant that God's will was the last thing that they mentioned, for it was the last thing on their minds!
 1. Notice that there is no repentance on their part.
 2. Consider that their choosing David as King was a last resort – it seemed that there was no one else.
 3. The unity of all 12 tribes was fragile and would not last 75 more years.

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- D. Read Psalm 133; cf. John 17:21; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-6
- III. The Taking of Jerusalem (5:6-11; 1 Chron. 11:4-9)
- A. Since the time of Joshua, the Jebusites had not been driven from Jerusalem.
1. The men of Judah originally had fought against and taken the city (Josh. 15:63; Jud. 1:8).
 2. However, because it belonged to the tribe of Benjamin, it was their responsibility to inhabit and hold it (cf. Josh. 18:28).
 3. They failed and soon the Jebusites retook the city (Jud. 1:21).
- B. The Jebusites had fortified the city and felt that it was impregnable.
- C. They taunted David and his army, claiming that the blind and lame could defend their city.
- D. In answer to their insult, David easily took their stronghold.
- E. His method was to use the “gutter” – the conduit, watercourse, or water shaft – to infiltrate the city.
1. During time of war, the city of Jerusalem accessed water through tunnels and shafts used for drawing water.
 2. Some relate these to the Gihon Spring in the Kedron Valley while others, such as Josephus, refer to the Pool of Siloam.
 3. Either way, it seems that David’s men navigated these tunnels and climbed a steep shaft to secretly enter into the fortified city.
 4. The Jebusites were taken by surprise and little fighting had to be done.
- F. David promised that the man who led his company in this attack would be promoted to “chief and captain.”
- G. Joab took the lead and thus was restored to his previous position (1 Chr. 11:6).
- H. The stronghold fort of Zion became the location of David’s dwelling – thus, it came to be called “the city of David.”
- I. He began to repair the city and its fortifications. *{The word “Millo” refers to the ramparts or mounds that helped to protect the city.}*
- J. Because God was with him, David grew greater in the eyes of men and as King of Israel.
- K. One result of this was respect from and alliances with other nations – such as that with Hiram, King of Tyre.
- IV. The Family of David (5:12-16)
- A. This passage seems to cover David’s time in Jerusalem.
- B. As was customary of kings in those days, David began to grow his family.
- C. He married more wives and concubines, resulting in the births of more children. *{This passage lists only the children of his wives (cf. 1 Chron. 3:9).}*
- D. The first four listed are the sons of Bathsheba (1 Chron. 3:5).
- E. As mentioned previously, David’s many wives and their children will cause him difficulties in the future.
- V. The Victories over the Philistines (5:17-25)
- A. As David became King over all Israel, the Philistines began to fear.
- B. Thus, they sought to launch an attack against Israel and gathered in the valley of Rephaim.
- C. When David heard of their approach, he went down the mountain to a hidden stronghold.
- D. He asked God if he should go out against the Philistines and the Lord told him to attack.

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- E. David and his smaller force completely routed the Philistines – so that they fled, leaving behind their idols.
- F. David commanded his men to burn the idols with fire, demonstrating that God had given them the victory (cf. 1 Chron. 14:11-12).
- G. After some time had passed, the Philistines came back into the valley of Rephaim to attack Israel again.
- H. This time, when David asked God what to do, he was told to attack them from behind.
 - 1. They were to wait by a grove of Balsam (“weeping”) trees.
 - 2. When they heard a sound of marching in the tops of those trees, it was a sign from God that it was time to attack.
- I. David obeyed the Lord and again the Philistines were soundly defeated.
- J. This effectively ended the Philistines attempts to attack Israel.