

## 2 Samuel 2:1-3:5 New International Version (NIV)

### David Anointed King Over Judah

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. <sup>3</sup> David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. <sup>4</sup> Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah.

When David was told that it was the men from Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul, <sup>5</sup> he sent messengers to them to say to them, “The LORD bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him. <sup>6</sup> May the LORD now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this. <sup>7</sup> Now then, be strong and brave, for Saul your master is dead, and the people of Judah have anointed me king over them.”

### War Between the Houses of David and Saul

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

<sup>10</sup> Ish-Bosheth son of Saul was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he reigned two years. The tribe of Judah, however, remained loyal to David. <sup>11</sup> The length of time David was king in Hebron over Judah was seven years and six months.

<sup>12</sup> Abner son of Ner, together with the men of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, left Mahanaim and went to Gibeon. <sup>13</sup> Joab son of Zeruiah and David’s men went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. One group sat down on one side of the pool and one group on the other side.

<sup>14</sup> Then Abner said to Joab, “Let’s have some of the young men get up and fight hand to hand in front of us.”

“All right, let them do it,” Joab said.

<sup>15</sup> So they stood up and were counted off—twelve men for Benjamin and Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, and twelve for David. <sup>16</sup> Then each man grabbed his opponent by the head and thrust

his dagger into his opponent's side, and they fell down together. So that place in Gibeon was called Helkath Hazzurim.

<sup>17</sup> The battle that day was very fierce, and Abner and the Israelites were defeated by David's men.

<sup>18</sup> The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai and Asahel. Now Asahel was as fleet-footed as a wild gazelle. <sup>19</sup> He chased Abner, turning neither to the right nor to the left as he pursued him. <sup>20</sup> Abner looked behind him and asked, "Is that you, Asahel?"

"It is," he answered.

<sup>21</sup> Then Abner said to him, "Turn aside to the right or to the left; take on one of the young men and strip him of his weapons." But Asahel would not stop chasing him.

<sup>22</sup> Again Abner warned Asahel, "Stop chasing me! Why should I strike you down? How could I look your brother Joab in the face?"

<sup>23</sup> But Asahel refused to give up the pursuit; so Abner thrust the butt of his spear into Asahel's stomach, and the spear came out through his back. He fell there and died on the spot. And every man stopped when he came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died.

<sup>24</sup> But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner, and as the sun was setting, they came to the hill of Ammah, near Giah on the way to the wasteland of Gibeon. <sup>25</sup> Then the men of Benjamin rallied behind Abner. They formed themselves into a group and took their stand on top of a hill.

<sup>26</sup> Abner called out to Joab, "Must the sword devour forever? Don't you realize that this will end in bitterness? How long before you order your men to stop pursuing their fellow Israelites?"

<sup>27</sup> Joab answered, "As surely as God lives, if you had not spoken, the men would have continued pursuing them until morning."

<sup>28</sup> So Joab blew the trumpet, and all the troops came to a halt; they no longer pursued Israel, nor did they fight anymore.

<sup>29</sup> All that night Abner and his men marched through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, continued through the morning hours and came to Mahanaim.

<sup>30</sup> Then Joab stopped pursuing Abner and assembled the whole army. Besides Asahel, nineteen of David's men were found missing. <sup>31</sup> But David's men had killed three hundred and sixty Benjamites who were with Abner. <sup>32</sup> They took Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb at Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night and arrived at Hebron by daybreak.

**3** 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.

<sup>2</sup> Sons were born to David in Hebron:

His firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel;

<sup>3</sup> his second, Kileab the son of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel;

the third, Absalom the son of Maakah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

<sup>4</sup> the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith;

the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

<sup>5</sup> and the sixth, Ithream the son of David's wife Eglah.

These were born to David in Hebron.

### **Romans 8:28-32 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

#### More Than Conquerors

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

## The King is Dead, Long Live the King (2 Samuel 2:1-3:5 & Romans 8:28-32)

12-July-20

We're continuing our series on 2 Samuel.

We're looking at 2 Samuel chapter 2 - and then Romans 8:28-32.

Please have your Bibles handy.

Let me pray before we begin...

Let's pray...

### Intro

You may have heard the saying:

[PowerPoint 1-King is dead]

***The King is dead. Long live the King!***

*[The original **phrase was** translated from the French *Le Roi est mort, vive le Roi!*]*

Which was **first used** at the coronation of **King Charles VII** after the **death** of his **father Charles VI** in 1422.

The saying "***The king is dead, long live the king!***" or simply "***long live the king!***" is now often used, in many countries, whenever a new monarch comes to the throne.

The seemingly contradictory saying - simultaneously announces the death of the previous monarch and assures the public of continuity - by saluting the new monarch.

We left the story last week where David heard the news that King Saul and his son Jonathan are dead.

*King Saul is dead - long live King David!*

But it's **not quite as simple** as that as we'll see.

David is still a **long way from being the King of Israel**

For **starters** he's not even living in Israel; he's living in a **region occupied** by Israel's arch enemy - the **Philistines**

So, let's see what happens - looking at 2 Sam 2 - verses 1 to 7

### 1. David Anointed King of Judah (2 Samuel 2:1-7)

- David does not **presume** he should **just move back to Israel** now that King Saul is dead
- Neither does he **assume** that he will **naturally be crowned king**
- Instead

[PowerPoint 2 Sam 2:1]

- David **inquires of God** (presumably with the **ephod** used in 1 Sam 23:6; 30:7) to see - if he should **return to one of towns** in southern Israel, **Judah?**
- God says - **Yes**.
- David asks where?
- God says **Hebron**.

Application: A **lesson for us** - to always inquire of God before every decision we make and every action we take.

As **Proverbs 3:5-6** says:

[PowerPoint 3-Proverbs 3:5-6]

Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
 and lean not on your own understanding;  
 6 in all your ways submit to him,  
 and he will make your paths straight.

- So, **David listened to God** and **took his 2 wives** - Ahinoam and Abigail - and his family - and his men - to Judah - and **settled in Hebron**.

#### [PowerPoint 4-Anointed]

- The **men of Judah** gathered in Hebron and anointed David as King of Judah
- David is not King of all of Israel though - only Judah - the **southern** part of Israel
- There's still a long way to go for David to be King of all Israel

#### [PowerPoint 5-kindness]

- David also shows his kind heart - in vv4-6 - when he **deals kindly** with the people of **Jabesh Gilead** - sending them his **heartfelt thanks** for giving Saul a proper burial. David asks that the Lord show the people of Jabesh Gilead **kindness** for their kindness.

Application: A lesson for us that **giving messages** of **thanks** and **appreciation** to those who have **performed** some particular act of **service** is always the **right thing to do**.

## 2. Kingship not received well by everyone vv8-32

David's kingship not received well by everyone - that's in **verses 8 to 32**.

- The **commander** of **Saul's army** - **Abner (Saul's cousin)** - **crowns Saul's surviving son, Ish-Bosheth**, as King of Gilead, Ashuri, Jezreel, Benjamin and all of Israel

### [PowerPoint 6-Map]

- [Discuss Map] -
- **Green** is **Ish-Bosheth's kingdom**
- **Pink** is **David's Kingdom**
- **Ish-Bosheth** was king over Israel for **2 years**
- **David** king over Judah for **7 ½ years**
- It's going to be a **long time before David** will be **king over all of Israel**
- Now having **2 Kings in the same land** was **always going to cause problems**
- There's **no diplomatic discussion - to decide** who should be the **real king**
- And **there's no inquiry of the Lord either!**
- **Instead** it comes down to **military action** to resolve the dispute
- Basically - a civil war!

### [PowerPoint 7-Civil War]

- So, **Abner - commander of Saul's army** - **plus Ish-Bosheth's men** went to **Gibeon**
- And **Joab** (the nephew of David) and **commander of David's army** - **plus some of David's men** - **met Abner** and his men at a **pool in Gibeon**
- But it's **not for a pool party!**
- **Each group** sat on **opposite sides** of the **pool**

- **Abner suggested to Joab - that some of their young man - have a hand fight**
- It seems the idea was to avoid massive bloodshed
- **12 young men from each side fought** - each opponent grabbed the head of the other and **stabbed each other with daggers** - so the place where they fought was called **Helkath Hazzurim = field of daggers**
- **Nothing was resolved by this fight** - so a full battle took place - v17
- And it was a fierce battle - and **David's men defeated Abner and the Israelites**
- As if there hadn't already been enough bloodshed...
- **Joab's brother, Asahel chased Abner**
- The experienced **Abner warned the youthful Asahel** - to stop chasing him,
- But **Asahel refused and so Abner speared Asahel in the stomach and killed him**
- Of course, **Asahel's brothers Joab & Abishai were not happy** about their brother being killed - so they pursued Abner
- **So, Abner called to Joab - v26 - "Must the sword devour forever? Don't you realize that this will end in bitterness? How long before you order your men to stop pursuing their fellow Israelites?"**
- **So, Joab agreed to stop the pursuit**

### [PowerPoint 8-Map]

- **Abner and his men marched overnight to Maha-naim [Red Circle]**
- And the result of the fighting was - **20 of David's men missing in action or killed and 360 Benjamites dead on Abner's side**
- **Joab and his men return to David's HQ at Hebron [Blue Circle]**

**Application**: A lesson here: **often angry conflict resolves very little - especially when we justify it as being for a "good cause". Peaceful dialogue often achieves far more.**

[PowerPoint 9-Proverbs]

As Proverbs 15:1 says:

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

And as Proverbs 16:7 says:

When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone's way,  
he causes their enemies to make peace with them.

And as the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

### 3. God's Plan is for King David to succeed (3:1-5)

Moving into chapter 3 of 2 Samuel...

[PowerPoint 10-2 Sam 3:1]

- Even though, David's kingship had not been accepted by everyone - it's God's plan for David to succeed - even if it's not plain sailing -
- See chapter 3 - v1 - the war between the house of Saul and house of David went on for a long time
- But still v1 - David grew stronger and stronger - and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker?
- Why did David grow stronger and stronger?

- a. **Because** - God promised David he would be king (In 1 Sam 16:1 - The LORD said to Samuel, "... *Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.*")
- b. **Because** - David is a man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22)
- c. **Because** - God rejected Saul's as king (1 Sam 15:10-35)
- d. **Because** - God was with David (as 1 Sam 18:14 says -*In everything he [David] did he had great success, because the LORD was with him*)
- e. And **because** - David loves and trusts God - **and** inquires of God - 9 times in the books of Samuel we're told David inquires of God - [1 Sam 23:1-3; 4-5; 10-11; 12-14; 30:8-9; 2 Sam 2:1-2; 2 Sam 5:17-21; 22-25; 2 Sam 21:1]
- **Because** David is **growing stronger and stronger** - in v2-5 - we are told of **David's family** - and of **six children from six different wives**
  - We're told of his family - because **some** of them will **feature** in rest of the book of **2 Samuel**
  - **As we read** through the chapters of **Samuel** there is **no doubt** of the **writer's conviction** that **David was God's chosen replacement for Saul**, but that **does not mean** that **David's every action is approved of** (including his many wives!)
  - **Despite** the **plans** of Saul's commander **Abner** and his **crowning** of **Ish-Bosheth as King**.
  - **God's plans for David to succeed cannot be thwarted.**

#### 4. God's Plan for us (Romans 8:28-32)

[PowerPoint 11-Romans 8:28-32]

- As our NT reading says in Romans 8:28 [Please turn there now]

And we know that in ***all things God works for the good of those who love him***, who have been called according to his purpose.

- The Apostle Paul is saying here - all things (David killing Goliath; Saul being rejected as King; David being chosen by God; David's friendship with Jonathan; Saul's jealousy of David; David on the run; Saul and Jonathan's death, Abner crowning Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth as king, the civil war that followed) - all those things **God works for the good of** the one who loves Him (that's David) - why? Because David has been *called by God* - according to *God's purpose* - that purpose is for David to be the next king -and because *David is a man after God's own heart* (despite David's many faults).
- Just like **God** had a plan for David
- **He has a plan** for us too
- For us it means **God is able to** make all the things in our lives (the good, the bad, the ugly) - **work together** for our good and His good.
- As Paul goes on to say in v29
- **God foreknew** all this - **God knew** what **Saul would be like** - and what **David would be like** -
- and **God predestined** David to be the image of God's Son, **Jesus**, - David is a **Christ like figure** - **Jesus** is even referred to as the **Son of David**.

- For us - as Christians - it means God has **predestined** us - to be **conformed** in the **image** of **Jesus** - and to **become Jesus' brothers and sisters and adopted into Jesus' family** (Rom 8:15)
- **And what's even more amazing** - v30
- Just as God **predestined** and **called David** to be King
- God **predestines** and **calls each Christian** - to be **justified** and **glorified**
- **Justified** = found not guilty of our sins - and made right with God - just as if we'd never sinned
- And glorified = made glorious = **honoured** = and **treated like Jesus**
- How is that **possible**?
- Only because as v32 says - **God did not spare His Son Jesus - but gave Him up for all of us -**
- **God allowed Jesus to die** on that cruel **cross** for our sins to be **forgiven**
- **As Paul says in v31 - If God is for us who can be against us?**
- **In our story of David - if God is for David - it doesn't matter how many soldiers are on the other side - David still wins - David still becomes king**
- And it's the same for us - **if God is for us** - which Paul says God is for all Christians - it doesn't matter who is against us or what is against us - we have **God and His Son on our side** - and **we're predestined for forgiveness and predestined for eternal life** - no matter what else goes on in our lives.
- Personally - when I was at a point in my life that I felt completely crushed - I read this verse - **Romans 8:31** - and **became a Christian through this verse speaking to me**

- At a time when my first marriage broke up and I was unable to see my children for a while - and my Dad had just died - and I was feeling pretty broken - this verse - hit me like a thunderbolt -
  - if God is for me - as a new believer in Jesus - it doesn't matter what's coming my way - God is in my camp - and He will help me,
  - He will never leave me nor forsake me; He is a heavenly Father who doesn't die like my earthly father did;
  - God always keeps His promises - whereas anyone else in my life could break their promises at any time
  - God will always love me - even if others in my life stop loving me
  - God accepts me - even if everyone else rejects me
  - God won't hurt me - even when others hurt me
  - God will always be the source of truth - even when others lie to me or lie about me
  - God won't give up on me - even when others give up on me
  - God brought me from brokenness to - using me for His purposes in ministry
- How do I know God can do all this?
- Because - of the love of the cross - because God let His Son die for my sins.
- Because - in Jesus we have an everlasting King - a King who will never die.
- A King who is available to all - if they care to accept His kingship - and not reject it - like some rejected David's kingship.

So, our response?

- **Accept King Jesus** (if you haven't already)
- **And be forever thankful to King Jesus** - and **make Him truly Lord & King of our lives** - **and walk with Him daily in our lives**

As Colossians 2:6-7 says:

[PowerPoint 12-Col 2:6-7]

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith** as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness.**

Let's pray...

**Benediction: 1 Timothy 1:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.