

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[2Sa 4:1-12 NKJV] 1 When Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost heart, and all Israel was troubled.

In our study last week, Abner defected from Israel after being accused of a power grab by Ishbosheth.

So Abner goes down to Judah to form an alliance with King David.

However, Joab – seeking to avenge his brother's death at the hands of Abner – kills Abner.

Ishbosheth, here in verse 1, he gets word that Abner is now dead – and he knows that his time as king is coming to an end because Abner was the one who made him king over Israel.

Abner was the one that was really calling the shots – Ishbosheth was simply a puppet king.

And now there is a massive leadership vacuum in Israel.

Keep in mind that all this happened because they chose to go against God's will. God had already anointed David as King of Israel but Abner and Ishbosheth chose their will over His.

2 Now Saul's son [had] two men [who were] captains of troops. The name of one [was] Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin. (For Beeroth also was [part] of Benjamin, 3 because the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there until this day.)

These two individuals here in verse two, they are captains in Ishbosheth's army.

I had you make a note that they were from the tribe of Benjamin -

As members of the tribe of Benjamin, they ought to have been loyal to Ishbosheth, a fellow Benjamite.

But they were little more than crass opportunists who saw the winds of political change blowing toward David.

4 Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son [who was] lame in [his] feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name [was] Mephibosheth.

It was customary in those days, that whenever a new king ascended into power over another king, everyone in the previous king's family would be killed.

That is how one prevented any attempt at a claim to the throne.

So when word got out that Saul and Jonathan had died in battle, Jonathan's son's nurse picks him up to flee to protect him because she feels that people will be coming for him.

And as they flee, she drops him – and that drop cripples Jonathan's son for life.

His name is Mephibosheth and we will see more of him in a few weeks in Chapter nine.

We will see Mephibosheth be the recipient of David's amazing grace – as David is going to treat him like his own flesh and blood.

5 Then the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out and came at about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who was lying on his bed at noon. 6 And they came there, all the way into the house, [as though] to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

The two opportunist – they pretended to come into Ishbosheth's house in order to get provisions for their men.

But instead of getting the provisions, they stab Ishbosheth to death while he lay asleep.

7 For when they came into the house, he was lying on his bed in his bedroom; then they struck him and killed him, beheaded him and took his head, and were all night escaping through the plain.

Not only did they kill Ishbosheth – they cut his head off, this is important because this will be the physical evidence that they provide David when they get to Hebron.

8 And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life; and the LORD has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul and his descendants."

These guys think that when they bring the news of Ishbosheth's death to David that David is going to reward them –

They felt that they have done David a huge favor by killing Ishbosheth - especially since they have been at war with each other for seven years.

Ishbosheth was the one individual who stood in the way of David being king over all Israel.

Notice how they even sound spiritual as they present the news to David –

But these guys have no clue as to David's outlook on how he's to come to the throne over the entire nation.

Killing the son of Saul was not the route he'd planned or wanted.

Turn to 1 Samuel 24 –

Here in 1 Samuel 24 – David had an opportunity to kill Saul but he spared him.

Let's pick it up in verse 17

[1Sa 24:17-22 NKJV] 17 Then he said to David: "You [are] more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil. 18 "And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. 19 "For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. 20 "And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. 21 "Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house." 22 So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

David never had any intentions of going after Ishbosheth.

Even though David was Ishbosheth's enemy – he was going to allow the Lord to handle it just like he did with Saul.

He was willing to wait for God's timing -

9 But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "[As] the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all adversity, 10 "when someone told me, saying, 'Look, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag--the one who [thought] I would give him a reward for [his] news.

David tells the two brothers that show up with Ishbosheth's head that it was about seven years earlier that someone else showed up with the news that Saul was dead.

It was the Amalekite in chapter one that showed up with Saul's crown and bracelet expecting a reward because he had finished off David's enemy.

And David had him killed.

11 "How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?" 12 So David commanded his young men, and they executed them, cut off their hands and feet, and **hanged [them] by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried [it] in the tomb of Abner in Hebron.**

In the same way that David had the Amelekite killed in chapter one – he has these guys killed for their treachery and treason against Ishbosheth.

You see, he didn't want anyone to think that his rise to the throne of Israel had been by some sinister , back-stabbing, assassination conspiracy.

He was willing to wait for Israel to willfully submit to him.

I had you make a note that David hanged them after cutting off their hands and feet – David was aware of Deuteronomy 12:23 which says that a hanged man is cursed by God.

God's judgment rests on sinners.

The hanging of these two men was a vivid image of this truth.

God's judgment will fall on us unless we turn to Jesus and ask him to have God's judgment fall on him.

[2Sa 5:1-25 NKJV] 1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we [are] your bone and your flesh. 2 "Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.' " 3 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.

Since King Ishbosheth is now dead – the remaining tribes come to David so that he can rule over them.

The thing to notice is that the northerners knew all along that David was God's choice to be king.

Even while Saul was alive it was David whose military exploits brought glory to God and defended Israel.

Still they followed Saul and, afterward, his son Ishbosheth.

They therefore willfully refused to acknowledge what they knew and believed to be true - that David was their king, and he was to shepherd them.

We can relate to this on a personal level.

If we are Christians we know and believe that Jesus is Lord and intends to shepherd us.

But in one or more areas of our lives we may cling to some other 'ruler.'

It may be self, or some idol that we have set up. We may struggle against it or we may grow comfortable with it.

It may be a habit we've chosen or an addiction that has us in chains.

We may find ourselves making the excuse, "That's just the way I am."

The encouragement of God's Word for us today is that overcoming that kind of stronghold in our lives, no matter how fiercely held or for how long, is possible if we will yield to the lordship of Jesus Christ in that area.

I had you make a note that the elders anointed David in verse 3.

God had already anointed David as king as a teenager – what the elders are doing here is simply acknowledging what God had already done for them.

Church, so much of our growing in Christ is fully acknowledging what He has already done for us.

On the Cross Jesus defeated the devil. He conquered death and Hell.

We're told that as we identify with Him on the Cross and in His resurrection that we are dead to sin and alive to Him - meaning we have power to not sin and to walk in victory over it.

4 David [was] thirty years old when he began to reign, [and] he reigned forty years.

I had you make a note that David was 30 when he began to reign.

Throughout scripture, the age of 30 seems to be significant.

Joseph was 30 when he began his reign as prime minister over Egypt at the age of 30.

The priests began their ministry in Israel when they reached the age of 30

Jesus began His public ministry at 30 as well.

5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

Check this out –

From the time that Saul killed himself in battle to the day that David became king over all of Israel was 7.5 years. From the time that he was anointed by God to be the next king of Israel to when he became king over Judah was about 15 years.

That was 22 years that God prepared David.

In those 22 years he learned how to kill Goliath, he learned how to serve Saul, how to run from Saul, how to defeat the Philistines and most importantly he learned how to wait upon the Lord.

**6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, 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."
7 Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that [is], the City of David).**

In the book of Joshua, as the land is being divided among the tribes, we find that Jerusalem is given partly to Judah and partly to Benjamin

Jos 15:8 and Josh 18:28

Judah had used Hebron as their capital – but now David is king over all of Israel and he looks to move the capital to a more strategic area.

The Jebusites occupied Jerusalem during this time and they felt that their city was so well protected that they started to taunt David and his men.

8 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]." Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house."

David offers up a challenge to his men – whoever is the first one to penetrate the city of Jerusalem – they will be given the position of chief and captain.

1 Chronicles 11:6 tells us that good ole Joab – the one who killed Abner is the one who wins the challenge.

Some have suggested that Joab had been demoted after killing Abner. With the taking of Jerusalem, Joab once again becomes the top general in David's army.

Another thing I want to point out is where it appears to state that David hated the lame and blind – it is not referring to David hating the handicap – it is referring to the Jebusites that used the taunt against David.

9 Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward. 10 So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts [was] with him.

11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house. 12 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.

David understood that God was blessing his kingdom for His people's sake. It was not for David's sake that he was lifted up, but for the sake of His people Israel.

In other words, David concluded that God has blessed him to be a blessing to others. This ought to be the attitude of the godly leader. It's not about "me", it's about "others".

[Mat 20:25-28 NKJV] 25 But Jesus called them to [Himself] and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- 28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 Now

these [are] the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

I have already talked in detail about David adding more and more wives – we will see the consequences of adding more wives and the heartache and difficulty that they will bring.

17 Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard [of it] and went down to the stronghold. 18 The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. 19 So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand."

The Philistines hear that David is the new king and they want a piece of him.

The name Valley of Rephaim means Valley of the Giants –

Although David was a giant killer – notice that he didn't say to himself – I have already killed the biggest giant of them all – I can take them on –

No, he goes to his stronghold and seeks the Lord.

As David sought God and looked to Him for guidance, he was blessed. God honored David's dependence on Him and gave him the promise of victory.

20 So David went to Baal Perazim, and 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. 21 And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away.

God defeats the Philistines so badly that the Philistines leave behind their idols.

When we did the study on 1 Samuel, you might remember that the Israelites would bring the Ark of the Covenant into battle – the Philistines would bring their good luck idols too.

22 Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

The Jewish historian Josephus writes that when the Philistines reassembled their army here – they came back with an army three times the size of the original one.

Now, think about what would have happened if David would have said, "I beat them already – I can do it again"

But he didn't – he sought the Lord again.

23 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.

24 "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." 25 And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

It's important to remember that if we are going to be led by the Lord, there are going to be times when He simply does things differently.

David faced two battles, and both battles worked differently.

Yet God was involved in both battles.

It's important that we learn to face our battles like David did – always asking God for directions.

What if God wanted to do something new in your life?

Will you be aware of it?

Jesus said,

(Jn 3:8 NKJV) The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The Spirit will work the way He wants to work. The real issue is whether or not I'm going to be open enough to the work of the Spirit to follow where He's going.

Let's pray...