

### David is Anointed King Over All Israel

#### 2 Samuel 5

2 Samuel 5 - *"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 out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, "You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel." <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. <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.*

<sup>6</sup> *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." <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). <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." Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." <sup>9</sup> Then David dwelt in the stronghold, 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.*

<sup>11</sup> *Then 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. <sup>13</sup> And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David. <sup>14</sup> Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua,<sup>[a]</sup> Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, <sup>15</sup> Ibhar, Elishua,<sup>[d]</sup> Nepheg, Japhia, <sup>16</sup> Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.*

<sup>17</sup> *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. <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? 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." <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away.*

<sup>22</sup> *Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves 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 as far as Gezer.”*

## Background Notes

After the death of Saul’s son Ishbosheth, the northern tribes of Israel realized that the time had come for David to be made king over all Israel. There was no leader in the north to take Ishbosheth’s place since Abner had been killed, and further civil war would serve no purpose. Furthermore, the northern tribes recognized that David was God’s appointed ruler over all Israel. Verse 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.’”* So David was anointed for the third time as king over Israel: first by Samuel (1 Samuel 16), then by the tribe of Judah (2 Samuel 2), and finally, seven years later, by the leaders of the northern tribes.

A covenant was made before the Lord at this time. 1 Chronicles 12 tells us that along with the leaders of the northern tribes, the military divisions of these tribes also came to Hebron to pledge their allegiance to David and crown him as king. Thousands of men of war from all of Israel were there on this occasion to swear their allegiance to David. As a result, there was a great celebration at David’s coronation as king over all Israel. 1 Chronicles 12:38-40 - *“All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen—provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel.”*

These verses present us with a spiritual picture of the coronation of the greater David, our Lord Jesus Himself. In a coming day when He will begin His reign over this earth, the whole world will recognize Him as King! What a time of rejoicing and celebration and feasting that will be!

## Doctrinal Points

### 1. Successful believers realize that their prosperity is from the Lord.

Verse 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 rightly realized that it was the Lord who had brought him to power. It was the Lord that had given him victory, and it was the Lord who had exalted his kingdom.

To consolidate the kingdom, David wanted to move his capital from Hebron to Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a more central location between the north and the south. But Jerusalem was still in the hands of the Jebusites - Canaanites that had not been fully removed from the land back in Joshua’s day. Jerusalem, with its walls and its surrounding valleys, was easily

defended - so much so that the Jebusites taunted David, saying that even the lame and the blind could defend their city from attack (v6)!

David challenged a volunteer from among his men to climb up the water shaft, get inside the city, and open the gates. 1 Chronicles 11 tells us that Joab successfully took up that challenge. Archaeologist Charles Warren uncovered this water shaft, and it can be seen in the ancient city of Jerusalem today. If you visit Warren's shaft, you'll be amazed at Joab's ability and agility, to be able to climb up that shaft and get inside the walled city of Jerusalem!

After David captured Jerusalem, he built all around from the Millo and inward. The Millo was a reinforcing wall that was filled in from behind to make more terraced level ground. Many believe that the so-called "Step-Stone Structure" that has been excavated in ancient Jerusalem is the Millo. Hiram, king of Tyre in Phoenicia, established good international relationships with David by supplying him with material and expertise to build his palace. The foundations of David's palace have recently been excavated in ancient Jerusalem.

David realized that all this prosperity was from the Lord, and that it was not just for himself, but for God's people Israel. Do we realize that all our blessing and prosperity is from the Lord? Often believers don't give God the credit for their prosperity. Believers who aren't thankful and don't give God the credit may seem prosperous in the world's eyes - but not in God's eyes. Let's be more like David! Truly successful believers know that their prosperity is from the Lord.

## **2. Successful believers receive their directions from the Lord.**

Again in this doctrinal point, we're talking about "success" by God's standards, rather than by the world's standards. The key to success by God's standards is obedience to His Word and following His directions. As Joshua 1:7-8 says, *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*

In verse 17-25, David followed the specific directions of the Lord in defeating the Philistines. Twice the Philistines attacked David's forces in the valley of Rephaim (not far from Bethlehem), and twice David defeated them. In both cases, David inquired specifically of the Lord, and the Lord answered and gave David specific directions. Most likely David inquired of the Lord by means of Urim and the Thummin, which were in the care of the high priest.

Notice that the directions the Lord gave to David for defeating the Philistines were not the same in both cases, even though it was the same location. In the first case, David met the Philistines head-on and the Philistines fled, leaving their idols behind, which David burned (1 Chronicles 14). In the second case, David was to circle around the Philistines and come at them from a grove of trees. They were not to advance until they heard the sound of marching in the tops of the trees. Undoubtedly this was the sound of God's heavenly hosts moving out to defeat the enemy and protect David's forces, who were given supernatural ability to hear the marching of the angelic hosts.

God uses different means in our lives to defeat the enemy and accomplish His purposes today. Sometimes He leads us to use different means at different times, even though the situations may be similar. The important point for us is to stay obedient to God's Word and follow His directions. Successful believers receive their directions from the Lord.

## Practical Application

### How many “meanwhiles” are in your life as a believer?

One translation of verse 13 says, *“Meanwhile David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem after he had come from Hebron.”* On the one hand David was wholly following the Lord and the Lord was blessing him in matters of the kingdom - but *“meanwhile,”* in his personal life, there were some very serious “loose ends.” According to the Law in Deuteronomy 17:17, David knew that the king should obey this command: *“Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.”* It was wrong for David to have multiple wives, and later he would reap the disastrous consequences of his disobedience in this important area of life.

Now let's ask ourselves - Are there any “meanwhiles” in our lives? Are we following the Lord in most areas of our lives – but seriously disobeying in some important areas? Think about it. How many “meanwhiles” are there in your life as a believer?