

## KING DAVID GETS OFF TO A ROCKY START

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with Pastor Dan Betzer

After the death of King Saul at the hands of the Philistines, matters did not get much easier for David to become the monarch over all Israel.

II Samuel 3:1-5

*Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.*

*[2] And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; [3] And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; [4] And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; [5] And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.*

*“You can see that David had more than two wives. He had others, and this will cause great problems for him. God did not approve, and David did not get by with this. Among the list of David’s sons is one by the name of Absalom. Later on we will see him lead a rebellion against his father. This is the son that David apparently wanted to follow him as king but he was brutally killed by Joab in battle. That broke David’s heart. Who was Absalom’s mother? Maacah who was the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur (which was located north of the Sea of Galilee). If you go back to 1 Samuel 27:8 (And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt,) you will find that David and his men invaded the Geshurites and the Amalekites. I believe David was wrong in doing this. He slew these people, including the king of Geshur, and apparently took his daughter captive. She eventually became one of his wives and they had a son, Absalom. It was he who led a rebellion against David. My friend, God saw to it that David did not get away with his sin. It is important for us to note this.”* Thru the Bible / McGee/ Nelson Publisher / Volume 2/ page 198

Friend, it costs a person dearly to transgress God's laws. There is always a price to pay. That consequence may come immediately or perhaps later; but it will come. Here is a case in point, right from our scripture:

II Samuel 3:7-8

***And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and Ish-bosheth said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine? [8] Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ish-bosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman?***

The former king, Saul, had a mistress (concubine) named Rizpah. The temporary king, Ishbosheth, Saul's son, confronted his general, Abner, about his dalliance with Rizpah. This made Abner so mad that he switched sides from Ishbosheth to David. The king was well within his rights to confront Abner about it. Ishbosheth had not been raised a warrior like his brothers, Jonathan, Malchushua and Abinadab. He was kind of a mama's boy, a stay-at-home boy. So for him to confront Abner was more than he could handle; he was frankly afraid. So:

II Samuel 3:12-13

***And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee. [13] And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.***

It seems to me that David was wise enough not to trust Abner so he made the stipulation in verse 13: "First, bring me Michal," his wife and Saul's daughter. Remember, Saul had promised Michal to any man who could kill Goliath. But Saul hated David so much (jealousy!) that instead he gave Michal to Phaltiel. Now the way is open for David to become the king of all twelve tribes of Israel. Abner thought he had done something

quite wonderful. However, he had made a terrible enemy in Joab, David's general. And Joab had not forgotten that some time ago, Abner killed his brother.

II Samuel 3:27

***And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.***

It sounds as if no one is safe. Then in verse 4, we come across another rather famous name... another son, this time a son of Jonathan who was a son of King Saul. The boy's name was Mephibosheth. He was lame. How come? When word reached Jonathan that his father's days were numbered, one of his staff tried to hide the boy:

II Samuel 4:4

***And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.***

He needn't have been whisked away for David had no intention of harming him. Remember how much the boy's father, Jonathan, and David cared for each other. As we will see, later on David will look for family members of Saul and Jonathan to show them kindness. So, in the midst of all these killings, these assassinations, we see a glimmer of the heart that eventually made David so beloved across his nation.

But not quite yet! Another assassination:

II Samuel 4:5-8

***And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ish-bosheth, who lay on a bed at noon. [6] And they came thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the***

*fifth rib: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. [7] For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night. [8] And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the Lord hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.*

Once again, messengers of ill tidings assumed that David would rejoice over their news. It was contrary! Any news that revealed harm to Saul or his family was not good news to him. Look what he did:

II Samuel 4:12

*And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron.*

This was the proverbial “straw that broke the camel’s back” to those who had any thoughts of overcoming King David. Now for the first time in years, the nation would come together:

II Samuel 5:1

*Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.*

As we come to II Samuel 6, we will enter probably the greatest period in Israel’s history, a golden age, if you will.

II Samuel 5:3-5

*So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the Lord: and they anointed David king over Israel.*



Inside the ruins of what many believe to be David's palace. There is much excavation going on now in this place, located on the southern edge of the old city of Jerusalem.

***[4] David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. [5] In Hebron, he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem, he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.***

One of David's first major projects was to move the nation's capital from Hebron to Jerusalem.

II Samuel 5:6-7

***And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. [7] Nevertheless, David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.***

David's power and prestige grew quickly, and his fame was recognized internationally.

II Samuel 5:10-12

***And David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him. [11] And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house. [12] And David perceived that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.***

Hiram was a strong king himself (current-day Lebanon just to the north of Israel) and allied himself with David and Israel.

David's great problem with women:

II Samuel 5:13

***And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.***

Again, let it be clear: God did not approve of this and those women and the children they bore became millstones around David's life. God not only created us, but He laid down rules and regulations for our lives, which would bring to the human family the ultimate in happiness and blessing.

## THE PHILISTINES

II Samuel 5:17-21

***But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. [18] The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. [19] And David enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the Lord said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. [20] And David came to***

***Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim. [21] And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.***

As one reads the Old Testament, it seems that the constant enemy of Israel were the Philistines. So, from where did these people come?

Most likely, they originated from Crete and evacuated shortly before the massive Tsunami, which was created when the island of Santorini, a volcano, erupted about the time the Jews were led across northern Africa by Moses. They settle along the western coastline of Israel and primarily lived in five cities:

Ashkelon, Gath, Ashdod, Ekron and Gaza

Some of the major conflicts between the two nations occurred when:

1. Samson was captured by the Philistines
2. The Philistines defeated Israel at the battle of Aphek and captured the Ark of the Covenant
3. The Philistine giant Goliath was killed by David
4. The Philistines defeated Israel on Mount Gilboa where Saul died
5. The Philistines were defeated by Israeli king Hezekiah

II Kings 18:8

When the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant, Israel was hurt badly. David determined to get it back with mixed success. That story next time in II Samuel 6.