

David's Time Has Come – 2 Samuel 5:1-25

Introduction:

It was many years ago that David was anointed as king by the prophet Samuel. He was just a teenager at the time, but already God could see that David was a man after his heart (1 Samuel 13:14). Over a dozen years have passed, and with each passing year God has shaped and formed David into the kind of king Israel needed.

David was first recognized as king in the southern part of the kingdom, and in chapter five we find the northern kingdom is ready to receive David as king. Finally we have a united kingdom, which is the first step in solidifying David's reign.

He will also have to establish a place from which the kingdom will be ruled. It needs to be a place recognized by the whole nation as an important city. Finally, David has to prove he is a military leader as well. Above all else the people wanted a king to protect them from their enemies (1 Samuel 8:19-20). If the king could not protect them, the people would soon be looking for a new leader.

2 Samuel 5 addresses all three of these concerns to establishing David as king of Israel. After much waiting and many trials, David's time had come to be king.

David Anointed King of Israel – 2 Samuel 5:1-5

1. In verse one who comes to David in Hebron? What qualification for leadership do they confirm David has according to this verse?
2. In verse two the leaders of Israel point out more of David's qualifications to lead them. What two things do they highlight in this verse? What two titles do the Israelite leaders say were given to David by God?
3. According to verse three, what does David do in response to the invitation of the Israelite lords to make him king? The word in verse 3 translated "made" [a covenant] literally means "cut" [a covenant]. (cf. Genesis 17:7-21)

4. It says David made a covenant and the leaders anointed David as king. When was David first anointed king (cf. 1 Samuel 13:16)? Why was he anointed again? The “Anointed One” would become a title for the coming Messiah. In what way was David pre-shadowing the coming Messiah in this passage?
5. How old was David when he started to reign as a king? (v. 4) How long would he reign as king?
6. David’s reign is divided into two periods (v. 5). What are they and why this division?

David Captures Jerusalem – 2 Samuel 5:6-16

7. Who lived in the city of Jerusalem (v. 6)? How secure did they feel they were in their fortress city?
8. Despite the confidence of the Jebusites, how does David’s army fare against this formidable city? (v. 7)

Background:

Jerusalem became a great capital city for the united Kingdom because:

- a. It was easily defended. With an elevation of 2460 ft it was difficult for opposing armies to penetrate its defences.
- b. It was strategically situated on a major north-south trade route.
- c. It was politically neutral. Not belonging to Israel or Judah when David becomes king it shows no favouritism to live there.
- d. As a developed city-state it already had infrastructures for good governance David could assume and learn from.

9. Jerusalem is given two other names in verse 7 that will stick with it to this day. What were those names, and what was their significance?

10. According to verse 8, how was the protection of the city breached by David's men? According to 1 Chronicles 10:4-9 this was the occasion that put Joab at the head of David's armies.
11. According to verse 9, David moved into Jerusalem with his family. What else did he do according to this verse?
12. What summary do we get in verse 10? Compare that to the story line in King Saul's life. Why is David experiencing such success?
13. By what title is God identified in verse 10? Why is this significant?
14. Tyre is a port city north of Jerusalem. What gifts does he present David as the new king (v. 11)? Why might Hiram want to forge a good relationship with David?
15. David reveals an important truth about leadership in verse 12. What is it?
16. A sign of power, wealth and prestige is to have many wives and many children. How is David doing in this department? (v. 13-15)

Military Success – 2 Samuel 5:17-25

17. What was the response of the Philistines to the news that David had been made king (v. 17)? Why?
18. The valley of Rephaim (or Giants) is not far from Jerusalem (v. 18). What does this tell us about the Philistine armies?
19. The secret to David's success as a warrior and a king is found in verse 19. What is his secret?
20. What message does God give David in regards to attacking the Philistines (v. 19)?
21. What in verse 21 tells us that the Philistine army had not only been routed but they fled in a hurry?

22. In verse 22 we find the Philistines reassemble their army. Where do they gather to do battle?
23. God gives specific directions about how the battle is to be fought. What is David (and his army) to do this time (vss. 23-24)?
24. David followed the directions of the Lord. How did things turn out for him (v. 25)?

Conclusion:

It was time for David to assume the role of King in all Israel. He needed unity, and God provided that. He needed a capital city, and God gave him Jerusalem. He needed to prove his military abilities. Twice God allows him to defeat the Philistines. It appears David's time had come.

Though the people desired a king so that they would be like the nations around them, God's king would be different. Yes, he would be a military leader and a provider for the people as other kings were, but he would do it under the authority and leadership of God himself.

David is called to "shepherd" (v. 2) the people and be their prince. The image of the shepherd was one of leadership, yes, but also care and protection and concern. In fact, the greatest leaders under God have been called shepherds, like Moses. David was now in the tradition of Israel's greatest leaders. So when Samuel finds David, what is he doing? Shepherding his father's flocks. (By the way, what was Saul doing when he was anointed king? Chasing donkeys!)

Of course David's leadership would foreshadow the greatest shepherd of all, who told his disciples, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

David understood that his role as a king meant he needed to care for the people as a shepherd cares for the sheep. He also knew that the people were not his, but they belonged to God. Even before Jesus said it, David knew God was the good shepherd who watched over his people. So David would pen these famous words, "The Lord is my shepherd."