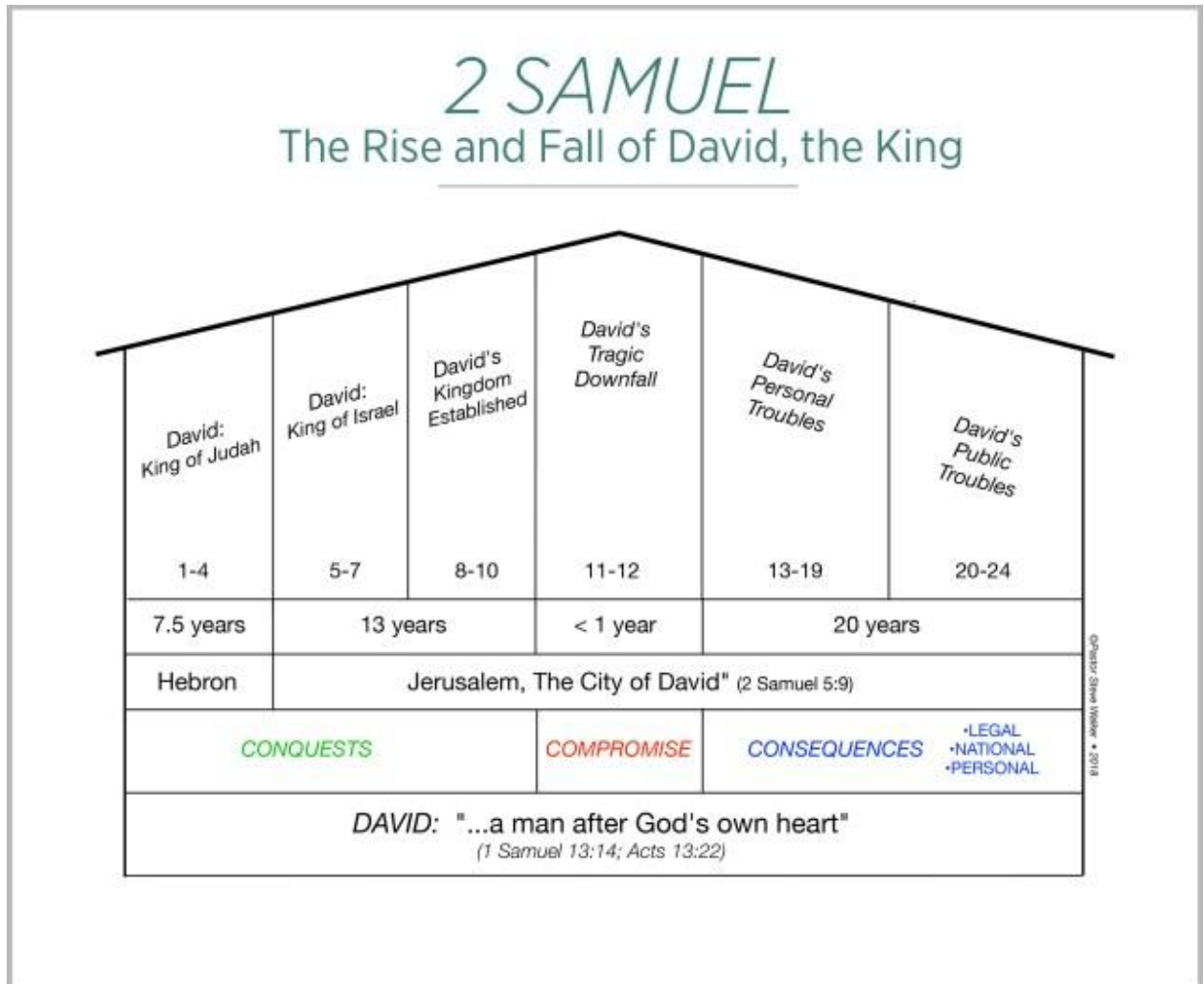


"KING DAVID'S CORONATION"

2 Samuel 3:1—5:5



David's Sons Born in Hebron

2 Samuel 3:1–5... Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; and David grew steadily stronger, but the house of Saul grew weaker continually. **2** Sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; **3** and his second, Chileab, by Abigail the widow 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 David's wife Eglah. These were born to David at Hebron.

The conflict was fundamentally between two families vying for undisputed control over one nation, not two nations at war with each other.¹

Sons were born to David: During David's 7 1/2 year reign in Hebron, his six different wives gave birth to six sons. This shows that David stepped out of the will of God.

Deuteronomy 17:17... "He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself."

Genesis 2:24... For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

- **Amnon**— He raped his half-sister (Tamar) and was murdered by his half-brother.
- **Chileab**— We don't know anything about him.
- **Absalom**— He murdered Amnon who raped his sister, Tamar. He led a coup against his father, David.
- **Adonijah**—He tried to seize the throne from David's appointed successor, Solomon. He asked for one of David's concubines and was executed for his arrogance.
- **Shephatiah**—We don't know much about him.
- **Ithream**— We don't know much about him.

David's polygamy was *common* in this time period. Adding many wives was one way great men and especially kings expressed their power and status.

¹ Robert D. Bergen, [1, 2 Samuel](#), vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 305.

Even though this action was out of God's will, the Scripture simply states the fact and later records how David reaped the consequences for his behavior.

Abner and Ish-bosheth

2 Samuel 3:6–11... It came about while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David that Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul. **7** Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah; and Ish-bosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?" **8** Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, "Am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah? Today I show kindness to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers and to his friends, and have not delivered you into the hands of David; and yet today you charge me with a guilt concerning the woman. **9** "May God do so to Abner, and more also, if as the LORD has sworn to David, I do not accomplish this for him, **10** to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba." **11** And he could no longer answer Abner a word, because he was afraid of him.

It seems that Abner supported a weak man like Ishbosheth so he could be the power behind the throne. Ishbosheth accused Abner of a serious crime. Taking a royal concubine was regarded as treason and as a bid to take the throne. Abner's response gives the impression that Ish-bosheth's accusation was false.

Abner's decision to lead Israel to crown David as their king was the right thing to do even though it was for the wrong reason. Instead of joining David because Ishbosheth offended him personally, he should have joined David because he knew that David was God's choice to be king!

Abner Reaching Out to David

2 Samuel 3:12–16... Then Abner sent messengers to David in his place, saying, "Whose is the land? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring all Israel over to you." **13** He said, "Good! I

will make a covenant with you, but I demand one thing of you, namely, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see me." 14 So David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, to whom I was betrothed for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines." 15 Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish. 16 But her husband went with her, weeping as he went, and followed her as far as Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "Go, return." So he returned.

You shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter— David received Michal in marriage (1 Samuel 18:20-29). The dowry was 100 Philistine foreskins. David brought back 200 foreskins. Eventually Saul took her away to spite David (1 Samuel 25:44). David insisted on receiving Michal as his wife again for at least three reasons.

- **David remembered that Michal was his wife and that King Saul took her away as part of a deliberate strategy to attack and destroy David.**
- **David wanted to show that he harbored no bitterness towards Saul's house, and he would show this through his good treatment of Saul's daughter.**
- **David was legally repositioning himself back into the house of Saul. Thus, he was legitimizing his claim of being qualified to rule over territories once ruled by Saul.²**

David and Abner Meet

2 Samuel 3:17–21... Now Abner had consultation with the elders of Israel, saying, "In times past you were seeking for David to be king over you. 18 "Now then, do it! For the LORD has spoken of David, saying, 'By the hand of My servant David I will save My people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies.' " 19 Abner also spoke in the hearing of Benjamin; and in addition Abner went to speak in the

² Robert D. Bergen, [1, 2 Samuel](#), vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 309.

hearing of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel and to the whole house of Benjamin. **20** Then Abner and twenty men with him came to David at Hebron. And David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him. **21** Abner said to David, "Let me arise and go and gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may be king over all that your soul desires." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

It is significant that this word came from Abner regarding David instead of coming from David himself. Though he was the rightful king, David would not reign over Israel until they submitted to him freely.

This is an illustration of Jesus' lordship over our lives. He is in fact King of Kings and Lord of Lords. However, He chooses (for the most part) to exercise His sovereign lordship over the lives of those who willingly submit to Him! In the Bible, Jesus is referred to as "Savior" 24 times. He is referred to as "Lord" over 700 times!

Luke 6:46... "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Romans 10:9... that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 14:8–9... for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15... For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; **15** and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Is it your desire to have Jesus to be the Lord of your daily life? What would that look like for you?

The early Christians were not fed to wild beasts or dipped in wax and set ablaze as lamps in Nero's garden because they thought Jesus was a helpful life coach or role model but because they witnessed to Him as the only Lord and Savior of the world.

Michael Horton

Abner is a good example of someone who eventually surrendered to God's king. Now he wanted to influence others to also surrender to God's king.

"(Verse 18) Now then, do it! For the LORD has spoken of David, saying, "By the hand of My servant David I will save My people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies"—The fact that Abner knew these prophecies and the fact that he could ask the leaders of Israel to consider them means that these prophecies of David were widely known. Sadly, they were not widely respected. Most of Israel was lukewarm and unenthusiastic in their embrace of David as king.

Surely during the intervening years following Saul's death the other tribal leaders thoughtfully considered the advantages of following the tribe of Judah's lead in making David, the most successful military commander in Israel's history, their king. **Abner encouraged them to stop thinking about it and "do it".³**

David prefigures His greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who fulfilled numerous prophecies regarding the Messiah, yet He was rejected by all but a remnant of Israel.

Verses 20-21— Abner wanted David's reign to be fully realized over the people of God.

³ Robert D. Bergen, [1, 2 Samuel](#), vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 310.

Joab's Resistance to Abner

2 Samuel 3:22–25... And behold, the servants of David and Joab came from a raid and brought much spoil with them; but Abner was not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace. **23** When Joab and all the army that was with him arrived, they told Joab, saying, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has sent him away, and he has gone in peace." **24** Then Joab came to the king and said, "What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you; why then have you sent him away and he is already gone? **25** "You know Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive you and to learn of your going out and coming in and to find out all that you are doing."

Why was Joab so dead set against Abner joining up with David? There could be at least three reasons. . .

- Joab feared that Abner was a deceiver, a double agent working on behalf of Ishbosheth, the pretender king.
- Joab was obsessed with avenging the blood of his brother, Asahel whom Abner had killed in a military skirmish.
- Abner had a lot of top-level military experience. Abner might take Joab's place as David's top military general.

2 Samuel 3:26–27... When Joab came out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah; but David did not know it. **27** So when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the middle of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the belly so that he died on account of the blood of Asahel his brother.

Joab took him aside into the middle of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the belly so that he died on account of the blood of Asahel his brother. Joab carefully engineered this murder so that the killing was done *outside* the gate of Hebron. This was because Hebron was a city of refuge (Joshua 20:7), and it was against the law for Joab, as Asahel's blood avenger, to kill Abner *inside* the city.

The Torah did permit surviving adult males in a murder victim's family to kill the murderer of their kinsman if circumstantial evidence warranted and it could be demonstrated that the killer was motivated by malicious forethought (**Num 35:20–21**).

But the fact that Abner was fleeing from Asahel when death occurred as well as the fact that the deathblow was administered with the blunt end of a spear suggest that no malicious forethought motivated Abner's actions. Following the Torah-mandated trial (Num 35:24), Abner probably would have been exonerated and permitted to live out his days in a city of refuge like Hebron (Num 35:25). Joab's actions against Abner were not only unwarranted but a flagrant violation of God's law.⁴

Joab may have justified this by the thought, *"I'm doing this to defend the honor of my king."* But listen to this now. Our sin and treachery never honors our King. We must avoid the trap of deceiving ourselves into the belief that we are honoring our Lord and Master when we are, all the while, bringing disgrace upon his name."

David's Response to the Murder of Abner

2 Samuel 3:28-30... *Afterward when David heard it, he said, "I and my kingdom are innocent before the LORD forever of the blood of Abner the son of Ner. 29 "May it fall on the head of Joab and on all his father's house; and may there not fail from the house of Joab one who has a discharge, or who is a leper, or who takes hold of a distaff, or who falls by the sword, or who lacks bread." 30 So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon.*

David had nothing to do with this murder. It gave David's administration a reputation for brutality and made it harder for David to win the rest of Israel over to his side. David pronounced a severe curse against Joab, but

⁴ Robert D. Bergen, [*1, 2 Samuel*](#), vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 312.

he *did nothing* to correct Joab. Perhaps David was afraid to lose Joab as a general.

Abner's Funeral

2 Samuel 3:31–39... Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes and gird on sackcloth and lament before Abner." And King David walked behind the bier. **32** Thus they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept. **33** The king chanted a *lament* for Abner and said, "Should Abner die as a fool dies? **34** "Your hands were not bound, nor your feet put in fetters; As one falls before the wicked, you have fallen." And all the people wept again over him. **35** Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was still day; but David vowed, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else before the sun goes down." **36** Now all the people took note *of it*, and it pleased them, just as everything the king did pleased all the people. **37** So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been *the will* of the king to put Abner the son of Ner to death. **38** Then the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? **39** "I am weak today, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah are too difficult for me. May the LORD repay the evildoer according to his evil."

This whole affair was a mess, but it would not be the last mess of David's kingdom. He desperately wanted God to establish his kingdom and to punish his enemies. He believed that *vengeance belongs to the Lord* and he lived by this principle.

2 SAMUEL 4

Ish-bosheth Is Assassinated

2 Samuel 4:1–8... Now when Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel was disturbed. **2** Saul's son *had* two men who were commanders of bands: the name of the one was

Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin (for Beeroth is also considered *part* of Benjamin, **3** and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been aliens there until this day). **4** Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the report of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened that in her hurry to flee, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. **5** So the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, departed and came to the house of Ish-bosheth in the heat of the day while he was taking his midday rest. **6** They came to the middle of the house as if to get wheat, and they struck him in the belly; and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. **7** Now when they came into the house, as he was lying on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and killed him and beheaded him. And they took his head and traveled by way of the Arabah all night. **8** Then they brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, "Behold, the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life; thus the LORD has given my lord the king vengeance this day on Saul and his descendants."

Ish-bosheth trusted in Abner to gain his position and to keep his position. Now that Abner was dead, the king of Israel realized that his royal rule was over. Ishbosheth was weak because he trusted in man, not the Lord!

2 Chronicles 32:7–8... "Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria nor because of all the horde that is with him; for the one with us is greater than the one with him. **8** "With him is *only* an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people relied on the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Psalms 118:8–9... It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man. **9** It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in princes.

Proverbs 3:5–6... Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Mephibosheth was the last male descendant of Saul with a strong legal claim to the throne of Saul. At this time, he was only 12 years old – and he was lame.

Rechab and Baanah murdered Ish-bosheth and then they beheaded him. This took place when he was taking a midday siesta. Ironically, he didn't have any guards providing security for him. These two guys were from the tribe of Benjamin, the same tribe as King Saul and his son, Ish-bosheth.

David Executes Ishbosheth's Assassins

2 Samuel 4:9–12... David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, **10** when one told me, saying, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him in Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for *his* news. **11** "How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood from your hand and destroy you from the earth?" **12** Then David commanded the young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hung them up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the grave of Abner in Hebron.

David couldn't relate to this because he didn't think of Saul as his enemy. He viewed Saul as "*the anointed of God.*" Rechab and Baanah thought David would be pleased to see the severed head of Ishbosheth. They underestimated David's loyalty to God and the house of Saul. David was loyal to his pledge to honor and preserve Saul's family and descendants.

1 Samuel 24:20–22... "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. **21** "So now swear 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 household." **22** David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

"David acted with strict justice in this case also, not only to prove to the people that he had neither commanded nor approved of the murder, but from heartfelt abhorrence of such crimes, and to keep his conscience void of offense towards God and towards man." (Keil and Delitzsch)

2 Samuel 5

David is coronated as king over all of God's covenant people—*Israel and Judah*.

2 Samuel 5:1–5... Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. 2 "Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and in. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.' " 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them before the LORD at Hebron; then they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he became king, *and* he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

Prior to this, only one of the tribes of Israel recognized David as king. That tribe was Judah, David's own tribe. The other tribes recognized the pretender-king, Ishbosheth. The elders of the northern kingdom of Israel received David as their king because he was a proven leader and because he was an Israelite.

Here's what they knew— **The LORD said to you, "You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be a ruler over Israel."**

Look at verse 3-5— "They anointed David king over Israel. He was 30 and he reigned for 40 years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah for 7 ½ years and in Jerusalem he reigned for 33 years over both Judah and Israel.

1 Chronicles 12:23-40 describes the great assembly that gathered in Hebron to recognize David as king over all Israel. Chronicles describes the impressive army that came to Hebron and numbers the soldiers at over 340,000 men. It then describes the scene:

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.... for there was joy in Israel.

1 Chronicles 12:38-40... All these, being men of war who could draw up in battle formation, came to Hebron with a perfect heart to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one mind to make David king. **39** They were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their kinsmen had prepared for them. **40** Moreover those who were near to them, *even* as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought food on donkeys, camels, mules and on oxen, great quantities of flour cakes, fig cakes and bunches of raisins, wine, oil, oxen and sheep. There was joy indeed in Israel.

David is a marvelous example of patiently waiting for God's timing. God had promised him that he would rule over all Israel when he was about 15 years old. He didn't rush ahead and try to make things happen in his own power. He trusted the Lord to keep His promise! We must learn to wait on the Lord. . .

Psalms 27:14... Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalms 37:34... Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

August 26, 2026
CFBC... "David"