

**STORY**

David Becomes King - I Samuel 31 - II Samuel 7

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Lord, Your holy Word is “a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.” Those who listen to It and treasure It will be richly blessed. Continue to bless my study of Your Word and those who hear It proclaimed by me. “It is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” Amen.

**VOCABULARY****OUTER AIM**

David becomes the second king of Israel.

**INNER AIM**

The Lord richly blessed David and enabled him to become Israel’s greatest king.

**BACKGROUND**

*(Rupprecht, Bible History References, Vol. 1, pp. 306-311)*

David was anointed by Samuel the prophet at about the age of 18. David didn’t become king until he was about 30. For 12 years David waited to become king while Saul sat on the throne. During this time the Lord was preparing David. Saul made David’s life very miserable. Again and again he tried to kill him. David was hunted like an outlaw. During these years of adversity, the Lord strengthened David spiritually. During these years David wrote some of his greatest, and most beautiful psalms. With the Lord’s blessing, he became one of the best kings Israel ever had.

I Samuel 31 (The tragic end of Saul and his sons)

The Philistines defeated the army of Israel near Mt. Gilboa. They pursued Saul and his three sons. Jonathan, Albinadab, and Malchishua were slain. Saul, himself, was severely wounded by archers. He asked his own armorbearer to kill him before the Philistines could. The armorbearer refused. Saul therefore killed himself and so did his armorbearer.

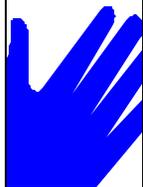
Samuel 1 (The report of Saul’s death)

One man who escaped from Saul’s camp reported to David all that had transpired. He hoped for a rich reward. This man claimed to have been there when Saul and his sons died. He even claimed to have taken Saul’s life, as Saul requested. David had the man executed. David then mourned for Saul and Jonathan and wrote a song in memory of them.

II Samuel 2 (David anointed king of Judah)

David was anointed by Judah at Hebron as the next king. But Abner, commander of Saul’s army, took Saul’s son Ishbosheth (40 years old) and made him king over the remainder of Israel. Only Judah followed David. David ruled over Judah for 7 ½ years.

Joab was David’s commander-in-chief. There was a fierce battle between the forces of Joab and Abner. Judah prevailed. Abner and his men fled. Joab’s brother pursued him and was killed. There was a temporary truce between Judah and Israel.



### II Samuel 3 (Abner switches sides)

Fighting continued between Judah and Israel. The house of David grew stronger and stronger. The house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. There was a disagreement between Abner and Ishbosheth, king of Israel. Abner chose to join forces with David and delivered all Israel and Benjamin to him at Hebron.

Joab didn't trust Abner, and he told David so. Without David's knowledge, Joab later killed Abner in a trap. David mourned greatly for Abner.

### II Samuel 4 (The reaction in Israel)

Ishbosheth and all Israel lost heart and were deeply troubled over Abner's death. Two of Ishbosheth's military leaders turned against him and killed him. They went to David for reward; but they, in turn, were killed.

### II Samuel 5 (David anointed king of Israel)

David became king over all Israel at the age of 30, and he reigned for 40 years. He ruled over Judah for 7 ½ years and over all Israel and Judah for 33 years. Jerusalem became the city of David. David became a great king, and the Lord was with him.

The king of Tyre sent messengers to David along with cedar trees and workers. They built a house (palace) for David in Jerusalem. David's family grew. Twice the Lord helped him defeat the Philistines.

### II Samuel 6 (The ark of the covenant)

David had the ark of the covenant moved to Jerusalem and a new tabernacle. There was a joyful procession with music and dancing. One man died when he touched the ark. David offered sacrifices before the Lord and blessed the people of Israel. Israel now truly had a king who feared the Lord.

II Samuel 7 (God's covenant with David) The Lord graciously granted David peace with his neighbors for a time. David, himself, lived in a beautiful house built out of cedar, but the ark of the Lord sat in a tent (tabernacle). David wanted to build a house for the Lord and the ark. He spoke to Nathan the prophet about his concerns and desires. The Lord told Nathan to tell David that his son and heir would build the Lord's house. He also predicted that David's son would become a great king with an even greater kingdom. The Lord also promised David that His descendant (Jesus) would be "king of kings and lord of lords." He would have an everlasting kingdom. David then offered up a prayer of praise and thanks to the Lord.

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, You have loved each of us with an everlasting love. You have promised to be with us always, even unto the end of the world. Assure us continually of Your grace and blessing in our daily lives. Forgive our many, many sins. Strengthen our weak faith. Help us to live God-pleasing lives more and more. Amen.

## **PRESENTATION**

This particular Bible story covers eight chapters in the Bible. The background notes summarize those chapters and condense the material. Not all the events recorded in them need to be taught in this lesson. They are noted here simply for the teacher's information.

Stress how the Lord was with David-how He richly blessed him and carefully prepared him for his reign as king. Similarly the Lord blesses us and prepares us for our life in this world. We need to remind ourselves and our students of this truth: "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (I Cor. 10:31)

## **APPLICATIONS**

Much is told us in Scripture about David's life and rise to the position of king. There is much that we can learn from it. The Lord also guides us in our life and blesses us. He wants us, as a fruit of faith, to live our lives unto Him and in His service.

## **PASSAGES**

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

### Lower

Psalms 37:25 - "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."

Psalms 115:3 - "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."

Matt. 28:20b - "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 15:16 - "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:32 - "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

I Peter 2:9 - "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (cf. v. 10)

I John 3:1 - "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called children of God."

Middle any of the above and...

Upper any of the above and...

## **HYMN CHOICES**

"Come Thou Precious Ransom, Come" (TLH #554)

"Blessed Are The Sons Of God" (TLH #391)

"Take My Life and Let It Be" (TLH #400)

"Jesus, Lead Thou On" (TLH #410)

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" (TLH #436)

"For All Thy Saints, O Lord" (TLH #468)