

# David Becomes King

1 Samuel 31 - 2 Samuel 7

Do we always know which way to go?  
Who is the one who knows the direction of our lives?  
Why might He allow twists and turns in our lives?



## Prayer

Dear Lord, we ask for your blessing as we study Your Word. Please open our hearts and our minds so we may be able to understand the greatness of Your blessings for David, and each of us. Help us remember especially the blessing of forgiveness because of Jesus. Amen.

## David Becomes King - 1 Samuel 31 - 2 Samuel 7

In a battle with the Philistines near Mt. Gilboa, many of the children of Israel died. Saul was wounded with an arrow, but three of his sons, including Jonathan, were killed. Afraid of falling into enemy hands, Saul asked his armorbearer to kill him, but was refused. Saul fell on his sword and died, and the armorbearer did the same. The children of Israel, seeing their leader was dead, abandoned nearby cities. The Philistines moved into them and hung Saul's and his sons' bodies on a wall. When the Israelites from Jabesh Gilead heard it, they traveled all night to remove the bodies and bury them.

After the battle, a man who'd escaped from the camp of Israel told David what happened. Wanting a reward, he claimed to have answered Saul's cries to be killed. David and his followers tore their clothes and mourned and fasted until

evening. The man was executed, at David's command, for striking down the Lord's anointed king. David wrote a beautiful song to honor Saul and his son Jonathan.

Then David, asking the Lord what to do, was told to go to Hebron. David brought his wives and his followers, and was anointed king over Judah. David commended the men of Jabesh Gilead for their kindness shown to Saul.

Abner, commander of Saul's army, made another of Saul's sons, Ishbosheth, king over the land of Israel. Abner's forces met David's forces, led by Joab, and after fighting all day, Joab won. During the battle, Asahel, Joab's brother, ran after Abner. When he wouldn't turn away, Abner killed him. Only 20 of David's army died that day, while 360 were lost on Ishbosheth's side. A short peace was



followed by a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. During this time, David was also blessed by the birth of many sons.

Abner, angry with Ishbosheth, promised David his loyalty if David would make a treaty with him. David agreed, but asked that his first wife, Michal, be returned to him. Abner also asked the elders of Israel to take David's side. After Abner and David met at a feast, Joab heard of it and called Abner back. Convinced Abner was tricking David and vengeful of Asahel's death, Joab killed him. David, greatly upset when he heard the news, mourned Abner's death. All Judah joined him.

When Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost heart, and all Israel was troubled. Afterward, two army captains came to Ishbosheth's house and killed him in his bed. Going all night across the plain, they presented his head to David. Not pleased with what they had done, David had them executed.

Then every tribe of Israel swore allegiance to David, and the elders anointed him king over all. In Hebron David reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. He was thirty years old when he first became king.

Jerusalem, controlled by the Jebusites, was David's next conquest. Not deterred by their taunts that the lame and the blind would defeat him, he took over the city, named it the city of David, and added many buildings. So David went on and became great, and the Lord of Hosts

was with him. Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house. So David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for His people Israel's sake.

When the Philistines heard David was king, they came ready to fight. Asking the Lord's guidance, David was told the Philistines would be delivered into his hand. After the battle, he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." On another occasion, the Lord instructed David to circle the Philistines from behind, and when their marching was heard in the mulberry trees, to advance quickly. "For then the Lord will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines," David was told. And David did so, as the Lord commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

Afterwards, David retrieved the Ark of the Covenant from Baale Judah. On route, a man named Uzzah touched the ark when the oxen pulling it stumbled. Angry at Uzzah's disrespect, the Lord struck him dead. Showing mercy to those who fear Him, the Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom, where the ark was kept for a time. After the ark had been carried into Jerusalem six paces, David sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. He also danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. When his wife Michal disdained his actions, David said "It was before the Lord...Therefore I will play music

before the Lord."

During a time of peace granted by the Lord, David wished to build a temple for the ark. "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains," he said to Nathan the prophet. However, the Lord instructed

David through Nathan that his son, who would rule a greater kingdom, would build the temple. The even greater descendent, the "king of kings and lord of lords," would also come from David's line. His kingdom would be eternal. David thanked the Lord for His great mercy and praised God.

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**Outer Aim - The Lord richly blessed David as King of Israel.**

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**What The Story Tells Us** - Put the answers to the questions in the blanks. If a letter has a number below it, put that letter in the blank at the bottom of the page.

1. What wounded Saul? \_ \_ \_ \_  
1
2. What did the man who told David he'd killed Saul want? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
2
3. How did David react? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
3
4. What did David's men do to the man? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
4
5. Who did David turn to? \_ \_ \_ \_  
5
6. What did the people do to David at Hebron? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
6
7. What part of the land did David rule first? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
7
8. Who was crowned Israel's king? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
8
9. What did Joab do to Abner? \_ \_ \_ \_  
9
10. Where did Ishbosheth die? \_ \_ \_  
10
11. Where did David drive the Philistines to? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
11
12. David said his dancing was " \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the Lord."  
12

WORD BOX
Ishbosheth
before
fasted
kill
execute
arrow
Gezer
Judah
reward
LORD
anoint
bed

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
11 1 5    3 6 9 10 8    4 6 2 10    1 12    7 8

## What God's Word Tells Us - List 7 twists and turns in David's life that God worked out for good.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

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### Inner Aim - The Lord richly blesses us.

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#### Passages

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Matthew 28:20 Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age

1 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.

#### Hymn - TLH #391

Blessed are the sons of God,  
They are bought with Christ's own blood;  
They are ransomed from the grave,  
Life eternal they shall have:  
With them numbered may we be  
Here and in eternity!

They are justified by grace;  
They enjoy the Savior's peace;  
All their sins are washed away,  
They shall stand in God's great Day:  
With them numbered may we be  
Here and in eternity!

They are lights upon the earth,  
Children of a heav'nly birth;  
One with God, with Jesus one;  
Glory is in them begun:  
With them numbered may we be  
Here and in eternity!

**Prayer** - Read David's prayer of thanksgiving in 2 Samuel 18-29. Write your own prayer of thanksgiving for some things God did for you.