

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 1-5

David finds out about Saul's death: David returned from fighting the Amalekites and recovered all that they had taken, and he remained in Ziklag for two days. (Remember it had been burned by the Amalekites). On the third day, a man from Saul's camp came to David and fell to the ground and paid homage. He told him that the people of Israel had fled from the battle, that many had fallen and were dead, and that Saul and Jonathan were dead too. David tore his clothes, mourned, wept and fasted until evening for all of those who had fallen by the sword. David made up a lament (song of sorrow/grief) about Saul and Jonathan and taught it to the people.

David becomes king over Judah: Years ago, Samuel had anointed David years ago to be king. Now that Saul was dead, Israel was without a king, and he was without a home for Ziklag had been burned. He could have gone in and announced to the Israelites that he was the new king. But instead, he inquired of the Lord what he should do. He waited on God and His timing. God told him to go to Hebron. So, he moved there with his two wives, and the men that were with him.

The men of Judah came, and anointed David king over the house of Judah.

But Abner, the commander of Saul's army, made Saul's son Ish-bosheth king over Israel. Ish-bosheth was 40 when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned 2 years. The house of Judah followed David. David reigned over Judah 7 ½ years.

Civil War in Israel: Abner (the commander of Israel), and Joab (one of David's men...also his nephew), met at a pool. Abner wanted each side to get the young men together and compete with each other. It turned into a very fierce battle. Joab had two brothers—Asahel, and Abishai—nephews of David. Asahel was very quick and he pursued Abner. But Abner killed Asahel. Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. They finally called off the pursuit of their fellow Israelites. David lost 20 men that day, Israel lost 360 men.

There was a long war between David's house and Saul's house. David grew stronger and stronger, while Saul became weaker and weaker.

David's family began to grow. He took 4 more women as wives, and they had six sons while he was at Hebron.

Abner is killed: While there was war between the houses of Saul and David, Abner kept making himself strong in Saul's house. Ish-bosheth accused Abner of something. This made Abner mad, and he went to David to tell him that he would bring Israel over to him. Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, and also spoke to the house of Benjamin. Abner, along with 20 men, came to David at Hebron to tell him that Israel and Benjamin thought this was a good idea. They were ready to make David king.

David made a feast for him and the men with him. Abner planned to gather all of Israel to make David king. David sent Abner away in peace.

Just then, David's servants arrived in town with Joab from a raid, and they brought much spoil with them. When Joab found out that David had let Abner go in peace, he questioned David on what he had done. "You know that Abner came to deceive you and came to spy on you and to know all that you are doing."

Joab left David's presence, and sent messengers for Abner to return. David did not know Joab had done this. When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside to speak to him privately, and there he stabbed him in the stomach and he died. Joab was repaying him for killing his brother Asahel in battle.

When David heard what Joab had done, he told him and all the people to tear their clothes, put on sackcloth and mourn before Abner. And King David followed the bier (casket). They buried Abner at Hebron, and the king lifted up his voice and wept at Abner's grave and lamented for Abner.

David would not eat until the sun went down. The people took notice of it and this pleased the people. And the people and Israel realized that day that it was not the king's will to put Abner to death.

Ish-bosheth is murdered: When Ish-bosheth found out that Abner had died, he lost his courage. Two men came in while Ish-bosheth was resting and killed him in his bed. They brought his head to David.

But David was NOT pleased that they had killed him in his own house on his own bed. It cost them their lives for killing Ish-bosheth.

David Anointed King of Israel: Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. They realized it was David who led them while Saul was their king. They were ready for David to be their shepherd and prince. So the elders made a covenant with David and anointed David king over Israel.

David was 30 when he began to reign and he reigned forty years. He reigned over Judah for 7 ½ years, and he reigned over all Israel and Judah for 33 years. And the king and his men went to Jerusalem and took that city and called it the city of David. And they built the city all around the Millo inward. (8-1)

And David became greater and greater for the Lord, the God of hosts was with him. And David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

Israel was without a king. David waited on God's timing on making him king. David was made king over the house of Judah, and reigned there for 7 ½ years.

Abner, commander of Saul's army, made Ish-bosheth king over Israel. And continued to make war between the houses of Saul and David. When he finally agreed to bring Israel over to David to make David king over all, Joab took his revenge on him and killed him. David made sure that people knew he had nothing to do with his death.

Finally, David was anointed as king over the whole country of Israel. He became greater and greater because the Lord was with him and established him as king and exalted his kingdom.