

69 David Becomes King

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1-7

Memory Verse: I have been with you wherever you have gone. 2 Samuel 7:9

After Saul's defeat by the Philistines, David's supporters recognized that it was time for David to become king. However, there were still many of Saul's supporters who did not trust that the Lord had chosen David. So, as it turned out, the men of the tribe of Judah accepted David as their king. But the commander of Saul's army went to the other tribes, and convinced them to accept Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth as king of the rest of Israel.

That was the beginning of a long war between those who were loyal to Saul and those loyal to David. As time passed David became stronger and stronger, while Saul's dynasty became weaker and weaker.

Some time later all the tribes of Israel went to David at Hebron and told him, "We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the LORD told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be Israel's leader.'" So, King David made a covenant before the LORD with all the elders of Israel. And they accepted him as king of Israel.

Next, David then led his men to fight against the Jebusites, who had re-taken Jerusalem. The Jebusites taunted David, saying, "You'll never get in here! Even the blind and lame could keep you out!" They thought they were safe. But David captured the fortress of Zion, which is now called the City of David.

When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. David asked the LORD, "Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?"

The LORD replied to David, "Yes, go ahead. I will certainly hand them over to you."

So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. "The LORD did it!" David exclaimed. "He burst through my enemies like a raging flood!" So he named that place Baal-perazim (which means "the Lord who bursts through").

After that, David had one last important task before him: to return the Ark of the Covenant, which had been captured by the Philistines, back to Israel. David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns.

When King David was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all the surrounding enemies. He thought, "I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of God is out there in a tent! Surely I should build a temple for the ark." So David asked Nathan the prophet to ask God about this.

God's answer was VERY surprising. God told David, "I am not so interested in a temple here on earth as I am in fulfilling promises made long ago. It is I who will make an ever-lasting house for you, and through you, I will establish an ever-lasting kingdom, where my people will be safe and have rest."

Then King David prayed and gave thanks to the Lord.

David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in all. He had reigned over Judah from Hebron for seven years and six months, and from Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.