

The King God Promised

Text: 2 Samuel 5

Introduction: God always keep His promises. He always does exactly what He says He is going to do.

In 1 Samuel 13, Samuel spoke to King Saul on the Lord's behalf and said to him, "Your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

Then in 1 Samuel 16, Samuel went to Bethlehem at the Lord's command to anoint a new king. After Samuel considered the most likely candidates from among Jesse's sons, the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint David as Israel's next king.

That was the beginning of a long journey that has led us to our text this morning in 2 Samuel 5. The events of 2 Samuel 5 take place approximately 21 years after David was first anointed as Israel's king back in 1 Samuel 16. And a lot has transpired in those 21 intervening years.

In fact, there have been times when God's promise to elevate David to the throne in Israel seemed to be in serious jeopardy. Saul's jealousy of David caused him to try to kill David on a number of occasions. David also made a questionable decision when he fled to the Philistines in 1 Samuel 27. Things got quite dicey for David at times.

Even after Saul died in battle on Mount Gilboa, David was not immediately elevated as Israel's king. He became king in Judah. But Saul's son Ish-bosheth was made king over the rest of Israel. And it was not until after he reigned for 7.5 years in Judah that David was elevated to the throne in all Israel.

21 years is a long time. It's a long time to wait on God. It's a long time to wait on the fulfillment of God's promise. Maybe you've had the experience where you had to wait on God for a long time. Maybe you're still waiting. If so, perhaps you can relate to David this morning.

David has been waiting. And by-and-large, he has been extremely patient. He has refused to take matters into his own hands. He has trusted God and His purposes. And in 2 Samuel 5, we see the fulfillment of God's promise to David back in 1 Samuel 16.

I encourage you to open your Bible to 2 Samuel 5 if you haven't already. You can find it on page 240 in the black pew Bible in front of you. If you don't own a Bible, we encourage you to take the pew Bible with you when you leave. If you haven't yet gotten one of the 1-2 Samuel Scripture journals, we do have a few more available. Please feel free to take one and use it for sermon note taking and your own personal study.

(Read 2 Samuel 5...Pray)

I want you to see this morning that **God shows His goodness and faithfulness to His people through His anointed King.**

We'll see that as we make our way through 2 Samuel 5. We see it first in the fact that...

I. God elevates David as king (2 Samuel 5:1-5).

A. God has promised to make David king of all Israel, and now we see Him fulfilling that promise.

1. **God is faithful. He always keeps His promises. He always does exactly what He says He is going to do.**
2. **Sometimes it takes time. Sometimes it takes a LOT of time. As it did for David. But God always does exactly what He says He is going to do.**

B. The text tells us that all the tribes of Israel came to David to make him king over all Israel.

1. **We see down in verse 3 that it was the elders of all the tribes of Israel who came to David at Hebron.**
2. **You'll remember that these elders had been approached by Abner in 2 Samuel 3 about making David king of all Israel.**

3. But that was while Ish-bosheth was officially still on the throne in Israel. Now Ish-bosheth is dead, and God's people need a king.
 4. So, they come to David at Hebron (vs. 3).
 5. The elders of Israel had finally come to their senses. They should have made David king over all Israel 7.5 years ago instead of elevating the coward Ish-bosheth.
 6. But better late than never. Maybe this should even be a reminder to us that disobedience to God in the past should never be an excuse for continued disobedience to God in the present and the future. It's always the right time to do the right thing.
 7. And making David king over all Israel was certainly the right thing to do.
- C. The text gives us three reasons for their coming to David to make him king.
1. First, they say, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh" (vs. 1b).
 - a. It didn't make sense for Israel to remain divided. They all came from a common ancestor, namely Jacob. He was the father of the 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel. And they were all his descendants. Including David.
 - b. One of the requirements for Israel's king was that he be a descendant of Jacob. David certainly met that requirement.
 2. The second reason they came to David to make him king was David's military prowess.
 - a. The elders said to David, "In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel" (vs. 2a).
 - b. Remember that this was why the people of Israel wanted a king in the first place all the way back in 1 Samuel 8. They wanted a king who would go out before them and fight their battles.
 - c. Saul had been that to some extent. But the truth is that Saul wasn't even half the warrior that David was.
 - d. It was David who defeated the Philistine giant Goliath, not Saul. Saul was afraid of Goliath.
 - e. Even while Saul was still king, it was David who led the people out against their enemies and brought them back safe and victorious.
 - f. Remember the song that the women sang in chapter 18? "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands" (1 Sam. 18:7).
 - g. David's role in saving God's people from their enemies had been evident for a long time.
 - h. The tribes of Israel had been foolish in their refusal to embrace David as their king at the same time as the tribe of Judah.
 - i. How much trouble could have been averted if they had simply embraced David as their king to begin with when Saul died rather than trying to continue Saul's legacy through Ish-bosheth.
 3. The third reason the elders gave for coming to David to make him king was God's promise to David.
 - a. They said, "And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel' " (vs. 2b).
 - b. It's interesting that this is the third reason they give for coming to David at Hebron rather than the first reason.
 - c. It seems quite obvious that this was not their primary concern. If it had been, they would have recognized David as king of all Israel 7.5 years ago.
 - d. Interestingly enough, Abner was the one who reminded them of the Lord's promise in chapter 3 when he said to the elders, "Now then bring it about, for the LORD has promised 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' " (3:18).

- e. What's interesting is that Abner was the one who made Ish-bosheth king in Israel to begin with. Abner could have done the right thing from the very beginning and encouraged the elders to make David king of all Israel.
- f. But just because the fulfillment of God's promise is delayed, that does not mean that it is denied. God always accomplishes His purposes. He always does exactly what He says He is going to do. But He also does it in His own time and in His own way.

D. Upon the elders coming to David at Hebron, the text tells us that David made a covenant with them (vs. 3a).

- 1. The text says, "So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD" (vs. 3a).
- 2. A covenant is a promise. In making this covenant, the elders promised something to David. And David promised something to them.
- 3. The elders promised to submit to David's rule and reign as king. And David promised to lead God's people in a way that was faithful and honoring to the Lord.
- 4. Notice that the covenant was made "before the LORD." David understood that his leadership of the nation was under God.

E. Upon the covenant being ratified, the elders anointed David as king over Israel (vs. 3b-5).

- 1. God's promise to David was finally fulfilled. Because God always keeps His promises. He always does exactly what He says He is going to do.
- 2. The author tells us that David was thirty years old when he began to reign. We take this to refer to the time when he began to reign in Judah. And we know he reigned for 7.5 years in Judah.

- 3. That's how I got 21 for the number of years between the time David was first anointed as king in 1 Samuel 16 and the time that he actually ascends to the throne of all Israel here in 2 Samuel 5. We think David was probably 16 or so years old in 1 Samuel 16. If he was 30 when he assumed the throne in Judah, that's 14 years. And if he reigned there another 7.5 years, that would be 21 years.
- 4. David's entire reign as king was 40 years. 7.5 of those years were in Judah. The other 33 years were over all Israel.

The thing that I want you to see in these first 5 verses of 2 Samuel 5 is that God is the one who elevated David to the throne over all Israel. It wasn't David. It wasn't anyone else. It was God. Because God always keeps His promises. He always does exactly what He says He is going to do. Next we see that...

II. God establishes David as king (2 Samuel 5:6-16).

When I say that God establishes David as king, I mean that He secures David's reign.

A. We see this first in the establishment of David's city (vs. 6-10).

- 1. The text says in verse 6, "And the king and his men went to Jerusalem" (vs. 6a).
 - a. We know that Jerusalem became a significant city in Israel, but it wasn't yet a very significant city.
 - b. Ish-bosheth had previously established his capital at Mahanaim. David had established his capital at Hebron. But neither would work going forward if David wanted to unite the nation under his leadership.
 - c. Jerusalem, however, was on the border of Benjamin (Saul's tribe) and Judah (David's tribe).
 - d. Jerusalem had never belonged to any of the tribes, so no one could accuse David of playing favorites in setting up his new capital there.

- e. Jerusalem also had some security advantages for David. The topography of Jerusalem made it an ideal capital city. It was built on a rocky hill and surrounded on three sides by valleys and hills. The city was vulnerable only on the north side.
- f. Warren Wiersbe remarks, “The Lord must have guided David in a special way when he chose Jerusalem to be his capital, because Jerusalem would play a strategic role in the working out of His great plan of salvation” (Wiersbe, 48).

2. But there was also a problem with Jerusalem.

- a. Jerusalem was occupied. It was occupied by the Jebusites. When Joshua and the people of Israel were driving God’s enemies out of the land of Canaan, they didn’t complete the task. They didn’t drive the Jebusites out of Jerusalem.
- b. In fact, Joshua 15:63 says, “But the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the people of Judah could not drive out, so the Jebusites dwell with the people of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.” That is until the events of 2 Samuel 5.
- c. The text says here in 2 Samuel 5 that “the king and his men went to Jerusalem AGAINST the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land” (vs. 6a-b).
- d. But the Jebusites thought they had everything under control. They reasoned that the people of Israel had not been able to drive them out in Joshua’s day, and they would not be able to drive them out now either.
- e. In fact, they were so arrogant about it that they said to David, “You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off” (vs. 6c).
- f. It seems like a mistake to tell David that even a group of blind and lame people could stop him. We’re talking about the man who killed Goliath with just a sling and a stone.

- g. Of course, it turns out that the Jebusites were terribly wrong (vs. 7-8). David and his men did take Jerusalem. The details in verses 7-8 are kind of fuzzy and hard to follow exactly, but it is clear that David and his men accomplished their mission.

3. And David made Jerusalem his city and the seat of government (vs. 9-10).

- a. Look at verse 10. (Read vs. 10)
- b. Remember we saw at the beginning of chapter 3 that David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.
- c. Now the house of Saul is essentially no more, and the text says that “David became greater and greater.” Why? Because “the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.”
- d. God was establishing David as Israel’s king.
- e. God’s people had craved this kind of leadership. Now, God, in His goodness and faithfulness, was giving it to them through David, His anointed king.
- f. We should remind ourselves here that this was the key to David’s leadership as king. God was with him. It was the number one problem for Saul. Because of his sin, God had forsaken him. And it showed in his life and leadership in significant ways. Let us be reminded this morning of our great need for God. May it be said of us, “For the LORD, the God of hosts, [is] with [them].”

B. We also see God’s hand upon David in His establishing David’s house (vs. 11-12).

- 1. Look at verse 11. (Read vs. 11)
- 2. Now look at David’s interpretation of Hiram’s generosity in verse 12. (Read vs. 12)
- 3. David understood that everything he had was ultimately given to him by God. God made him king. God exalted his kingdom. And it wasn’t just for David’s sake. It was for the good of God’s people Israel.

4. **Isn't it good to know that God acts for the good of His people? The sovereign God of the universe cares for His people and acts on our behalf. That's good news. In this case He acts for the good of His people through David. But we know now, as NT Christians, that God has acted on our behalf through David's Son, the Lord Jesus.**

C. After establishing David's house, we see God establish His household in verses 13-16.

1. **Now, this one gets complicated. Because as we noted before in our sermon on chapter 3, polygamy stands in opposition to God's design in creation.**
2. **Not only that, but Deuteronomy 17 states very clearly that Israel's king was not to have multiple wives. Polygamy was clearly prohibited in Scripture for Israel's king. And it's not just multiple wives that David took, but concubines as well.**
3. **So, I don't want to gloss over David's sin here. David had a problem with sexual sin that gets much, much worse just a few chapters later.**
4. **But we also know that God is sovereign over everything, including our sin. And through the birth of all these children, David's reign as king was further established. His household grew. From the perspective of the ancient Near Eastern world, a lot of sons equaled power and strength. It also meant that David would have a secure line of succession and a strong future.**
5. **The Bible doesn't hide sin or try to sugar coat it. It tells us the truth about what actually happened with David and his household. We'll see as we keep making our way through 2 Samuel that David faced further household problems in the years to come. Perhaps they stem from him allowing sin to take a foothold in his heart and life through his many wives and concubines.**
6. **The truth is that sin begets sin. That's true in our lives too. When we give in to sin, it starts us down a path that inevitably leads to more sin unless we truly repent and turn to Jesus in faith.**

Now, we've seen that God elevates and empowers David. And through it all, God is keeping His promise to David. Because He always does exactly what He says He is going to do. God is also demonstrating His goodness and faithfulness to His people through David. That becomes really clear in the rest of the chapter where we see that...

III. God empowers David as king (2 Samuel 5:17-25).

A. The text tells us that the Philistines heard that David had been anointed as king over all Israel (vs. 17).

1. **I don't know exactly how they heard. I don't think anyone tweeted it out or put it on Facebook. I don't think the Philistines watched Fox News or CNN. But apparently they had their way of getting their news about what was going on around them.**
2. **And once they heard, they went up to search for David (vs. 17b). The Philistines apparently determined that they had a problem on their hands. They knew about David. They had experienced defeat at the hands of David before. He was the one who killed their warrior Goliath with just a sling and a stone. They couldn't let David establish himself as king too much. He needed to be put in his place. And that is what the Philistines intended to do.**

B. But notice what David did in response to the threat of the Philistines.

1. **Look at verse 19. (Read vs. 19a)**
2. **David inquired of the Lord. We've seen David inquire of the Lord before. We've also seen the Lord respond to David's inquiries. And we've seen David respond to the Lord with obedience.**
3. **Of course, in this David is a model for us, isn't he? David sought the Lord. He didn't depend on his own strength. He didn't depend on his own wisdom. He sought the Lord. David understood that if he was going to be successful in anything, he needed the Lord.**

4. Isn't that true of us as well? We like to think that we can make it on our own. We may not say that, but it's often how we live our lives, isn't it? We fail to seek the Lord. We fail to rely upon His strength and His wisdom. We think we are strong and wise on our own. Goshen, if David wasn't strong and wise on his own, then neither are we. If David needed the Lord, then we do too.
5. Notice the Lord's response to David's inquiry in the rest of verse 19. (Read vs. 19b)
6. And what was the result? Look at verse 20. David obeyed the Lord. And the Lord gave him the victory. God was showing His goodness and faithfulness to His people through David, His anointed king.
7. Verse 21 reminds us that there is no other god than the one true God. The idols of the Philistines were no match for David's God.

C. But that wasn't the end of the Philistines.

1. Look at verse 22. (Read vs. 22)
2. And what did David do? Again, he inquired of the Lord. This is a breath of fresh air for the nation, isn't it? They finally have a king who isn't perfect, but he seeks the Lord. He knows the Lord. He trusts the Lord.
3. Isn't this the most important quality in a leader? Whether we're talking about a family or a church or a workplace or a nation. Give me a leader who knows and seeks the Lord over one who is merely gifted or charismatic or whatever other characteristics the world looks for in a leader.
4. Perhaps this is one of the biggest problems in our society today. Few are the leaders who truly know and seek the Lord. Too few fathers are present for their families by knowing and seeking the Lord. Too few business leaders care anything about what God says. Too few church leaders truly know and seek the Lord. Few and far between are the government leaders who truly know and seek the Lord. Many of them pay lip service to our Lord. But they don't know Him. They don't trust Him. They don't seek Him.

5. But we, as God's people, must be different. Even if no one else knows Him, we know Him. Even if no one else trusts Him, we trust Him. Even if no one else seeks Him, we'll seek Him. Because we know we NEED Him. Just as David did.
6. The Lord responded to David. But this time He gave David a different instruction (vs. 23b-24). (Read vs. 23b-24)
7. And look at David's response in verse 25. (Read vs. 25)
8. After the first battle with the Philistines turned out so well, David could have thought that he had it under control. He could have gone out and did the exact same thing he did before without seeking the Lord. But that would have been problematic. See, just because David did it one way before, that didn't mean that God wanted him to do it the same way every time after that. David needed to seek the Lord again. David needed to hear the voice of God again. David needed to walk in obedience to the Lord again.
9. Sometimes in our lives as Christians we can begin to think that we have things figured out. We know what God requires of us. We know what He wants us to do. We even know how He wants us to do it. So we keep doing the same thing we've always done in the same way that we've always done it rather than seeking the Lord to see what He says about what we should do and how we should do it. That's a mistake.
10. Some things don't change. God doesn't change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His Word doesn't change. But sometimes we do have to be willing to seek the Lord and adjust our methods to ensure faithfulness to what God has called us to do. But we can only know that if we will seek Him and be ready to obey Him no matter what. David is an example to us as he sought the Lord and obeyed the Lord here in 2 Sam. 5.

Conclusion: We've seen how God elevated David, how He established David, and how He empowered David. And through it all, God was showing His goodness and faithfulness to His people through His anointed king.

But as we've seen throughout our study of 1-2 Samuel, David also reminds us of another King. See, the promises of God didn't end with David. They find their fulfillment in David's greater Son, Jesus Christ. The King whom God promised from before the foundation of the world.

Just as God elevated David, He exalted Jesus. Raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand. Just as God established David's throne, He established the eternal throne of Christ, whose kingdom will never end. And just as God empowered David to defeat the Philistines, He empowered Jesus to conquer sin, Satan, and death itself.

Goshen family, our God is so good. He is so faithful. He always keeps His promises. He always does exactly what He says He is going to do. We can trust Him. We know this because of Jesus. Who came. And lived. And died. To pay for our sin. To reconcile us to God.

God shows His goodness and faithfulness to us through His anointed King, the Lord Jesus Christ.