

2 Samuel 5 - Thursday, December 11th, 2014

- In the previous chapter, which was one of the more bloodier and violent chapters in God's Word, we turned a corner of sorts in David's life.
- This as David continued to simply wait upon the Lord and His timing, as to when it was that he would finally take his rightful place as king.
- Make no mistake about it, David was handed several opportunities to seize the throne over the years, but he chose instead to simply wait.

Charles Spurgeon expounds on this saying, "David waited seven years and more before he came to the throne of Israel. He reigned meanwhile with great wisdom and justice over that portion of the land, which owned his sway, and by his conduct commended himself to general esteem. It was far better to be preparing for the crown than to be plotting to obtain it."

- It's for this reason as we'll see here beginning in verse one, that all of the tribes of Israel come to David to make him the king over all Israel.
- Here to fore, only the tribe of Judah had anointed him king, and this while he dwelt only in Hebron, as he waiting patiently for God's timing.
- Here in lies a priceless life lesson as it relates to God's perfect timing in granting us that which our striving for will only mar and devalue.

1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. 2 Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.' " 3 Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel.

- Couple of thoughts here right at the start, the first of which has to do with all of the tribes of Israel finally acknowledging David as their king.
- Here's what I'm thinking, they accept David as their king only after the prior puppet king that Abner made, Ishbosheth, had been murdered.
- In other words, they were sort of out of options, as it were and as such, David had become a last resort such that there wasn't anyone else.

- Here's where I'm headed with this, in many ways, we're just like the tribes of Israel when it comes to accepting Jesus as our Lord and King.
- It's when we come to the end of ourselves, and we're out of options and have exhausted all of our resources, that we finally accept Christ.
- On balance, this isn't necessarily a bad thing in the sense that "better late than never" as the saying goes, especially if it means salvation.

- However, the question remains, why is it that we look to or call upon the Lord, when it's a last resort instead of that being our first response.
- Often times we're prone to only come to the Lord after we've run out of options or exhausted all of our resources in the energy of the flesh.
- The good news is, that David, like our greater than David Jesus Christ is still willing to be our king if you will even when He's our last resort.

- The second thought has to do with what I'll call the three-pronged reason as to why all the tribes finally accept David as king of all Israel.
- First, he was flesh and blood as a fellow Israelite. Second, he had already demonstrated that he was a good leader of Israel under Saul.
- It's this third one that will ultimately seal the deal, in that the Lord had called and anointed David to be the king and ruler over all of Israel.

- 1 Chronicles 12 records more detail concerning this account where we're told there were more than 340,000 men who came to Hebron. - 1 Chronicles 12 :38-40 -- 38 All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. 39 And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. 40 Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen—provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel.

4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

- So, if my math is right, David would end up spending a minimum of fifteen years being prepared by the Lord for that which God had for him.
- I suppose if you put it into perspective, fifteen years of preparation for forty years of reigning as King of all Israel, does not seem too long.
- The point being is God's seasons of preparation are always perfect when it comes to the season of doing that which we were prepared for.

Again, Charles Spurgeon says it best; "...Without David's having made a single violent grasp at the crown it came to him by general consent. When providence has ripened a blessing for us, it will drop into our lap; but we must not put forth an unholy hand to seize it before the time. ...The united tribes were right glad to crown the man who was so worthy to wear the diadem."

6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here." 7 Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). 8 Now David said on that day, "Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul), he shall be chief and captain." Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." 9 Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward. 10 So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that up to this time, Jerusalem was still in the hands of the Jebusites.
- However, the time had now come for Israel to possess Jerusalem, which, in part would ultimately come to be known as "the City of David."
- By the way, at the risk of making a shameless plug for our Israel tour in May, we'll see this very area that today is called the City of David.

- Be that as it may, there's something here that we would do well to take note of before we move on, and it has to do with the city's security.
- Let me explain, Jerusalem was an easy city to defend by virtue of its location and it's elevation, which is why the Jebusites were so cocky.
- What's interesting is we're told David captured the city by way of the water shaft known as Hezekiah's tunnel, which we'll also see in Israel.

- There's one more thing I would like to point out before we move on, and it has to do with an interesting detail that's recorded in verse six.
- Namely, where the Jebusites tell David he can't get in because the blind and lame will repel him. It's thought that is in response to David.
- In other words, they likely responded to David telling them that their gods were lame and blind and would not prevail over the one true God.

11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house. 12 So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.

- It seems God deemed it necessary to include this detail of Hiram, who was king of Tyre, blessing David by building him a very nice house.
- The question becomes one of why, why do we need to know this? I believe verse 12 gives us one of the answers at least for now anyway.
- We're told that it was a confirmation for David that David would know the Lord had established him as king over Israel for the sake of Israel.

- Actually, we have here yet another one of the "three-pronged" templates, that's woven into the fabric of the text, this time it's about David.
- More specifically it is a three-pronged confirmation the first of which is that David knew he was called. Second, he knew it belonged to God.
- Third, David knew that God was choosing him and using him as a conduit to bless the people of God. It was for the sake of God's people.

13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhara, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

- Oh how I wish these verses were not in our Bibles. However, sadly, they are, which means that they are here for very important reasons.
- While not so easily seen or understood at first read I would suggest one of the reasons is that God delaying doesn't mean He's dismissing.
- By that I mean, though the consequences of sin may be delayed, it in no way means God turned a blind eye to them as if to be dismissed.

17 Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. 18 The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. 19 So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand."

- Notice the specificity with which David inquires of the Lord, and in response, notice the specificity with which God answers David's inquiry.
- The reason I point this out is twofold, first, often, the more specific our prayers are to the Lord, the more specific the answers from the Lord.
- The second reason is that sometimes, our greatest spiritual attack and warfare will come on the heels of our greatest spiritual experiences.

- I'll take it a step further and suggest that not only are specific petitions directly proportionate to specific answers, so too is this true for trials.
- The more specific the prayer for victory, the more specific the answer of victory, and thus, the greater the victory, then, the greater the trial.
- This begs the question of, why aren't we the recipients of such specific answers and with them the greater and grander victories as well?

Adam Clarke in his commentary provides us with a very blunt answer when he asks, "How is it that such supernatural directions and assistances are not communicated now? Because they are not asked for; and they are not asked for because they are not expected; and they are not expected because men have not faith; and they have not faith because they are under a refined spirit of atheism, and have no spiritual intercourse with their Maker."

20 So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim. 21 And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away. 22 Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. 23 Therefore David inquired of the LORD, and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. 24 And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines." 25 And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

- The chapter ends with what I believe is one of the most, if not the most powerful and profound lessons we as Christians can possibly learn.
- Here's why, David could have easily assumed that God would have him do the same thing he had just done simply because it had worked.
- To his credit, he does not make this assumption, and according to the narrative it's a good thing he didn't, as God had a very different plan.

- Before we bring tonight's Bible study to an end, I would like for us to take note of three take away's from just these last verses in 20-25.
- First, one can never go wrong by inquiring of the Lord even when it might seem that doing so is unnecessary given what God already said.
- Second, never assume that just because God answered your prayer and gave you the victory last time, that it will be the same at this time.

- Third, and perhaps more importantly, there is no such thing as an A+B=C formula in our Christian experience. It just doesn't work that way.
- Maybe better said, you can't just insert "Tab A into Tab B" when it comes to discerning the God's will, God's call, or in this case, God's way.
- We do err greatly when we make these assumptions and employ these formulas because in so doing, we trust in them instead of the Lord.

Psalm 20:7-9 (NKJV) — 7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. 8 They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright. 9 Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call.

Proverbs 3:5-7 (NKJV) — 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.