THRU *the* BIBLE

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2 Samuel 3—5 | "David's Reign Over Israel"

I. DAVID'S <u>WAR WITH</u> ISHBOSHETH. (3)

A. **(v. 1)**

    1. *"Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker."*

        a. *"long war"*

           1) Probably lasted about 7 1/2 years (2:11).

B. **(v. 2-5)**

    1. *"And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron."*

        a. These are the sons of David born in Hebron:

           1) *"Amnon"* - Heb. *"Faithful"*

               a) His mother was *Ahinoam the Jezreelitess*.

               b) Later on, he will be the one to rape his half-sister and be murdered by a half-brother.

           2) *"Chileab"* - Heb. *"Restraint of His Father"*

a)   His mother was *Abigail*, the widow of Nabal.

b)   Also went by the name of Daniel (1 Chron. 3:1).

3)   "*Absalom*" - Heb. "*My Father Is Peace*"

a)   His name comes from 2 Hebrew words: 1) *ab* ("*father*") & *shalom* ("*peace*")

b)   His mother was *Maacah* ("*Depression; Bruised*"), who was not a Jewish woman, but the daughter of a Gentile king in Geshur, which is on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee (i.e. Golan Heights).

c)   He will kill his half-brother Amnon and revolt against his father David.

4)   "*Adonijah*" - Heb. "*My Lord Is Yahweh*"

a)   His name comes from 2 Hebrew words: 1) *Adonai* ("*Lord*; *Master*") & 2) *YHVH*.

b)   His mother was *Haggith* ("*Festal; Festival*").

c)   He will later try to usurp the throne from Solomon and will be executed by Solomon.

5)   "*Shephatiah*" - Heb. "*The LORD has judged*"

a)   His name comes from 2 Hebrew words: 1) *shaphat* ("*judged; avenged; governed*") & 2) *YHVH* ("*the LORD*").

b) His mother was *Abital* ("*My Father Is Dew/ Light Rain*").

    i. Maybe her father was the founder of Mt. *Dew*! 😂

c) We know nothing else about him.

6) "*Ithream*" - Heb. "*Exellence of People*"

a) His name comes from 2 Hebrew words: 1) *yether* ("*preeminence; excellent; remnant*") & 2) *am* ("*people; nation*").

b) His mother was *Eglah* ("*Heifer*"). 😂

c) Nothing else is known of him.

C. (v. 7)

1. "*And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and Ishbosheth said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?*"

a. Abner, the cousin of King Saul, established Ishbosheth on the throne over Israel (2:8-9), and is now being accused of sleeping with Saul's concubine.

1) In ancient times, a king's harem would be passed on to his successor, so for Abner to claim one of Saul's concubine was really a claim to the throne.

a)   Later on, we will see Saul's harem passed on to David because David claims the throne (2 Sam. 12:8).

b)   We will also see Absolam claim David's concubines in his trying to claim the throne (2 Sam 16:21-22).

c)   After Solomon will be crowned king, Adonijah wanted David's concubine (1 Kings 2:17, 22), in essence claiming the throne, therefore Solomon has Adonijah executed for that request.

D.   (v. 9)

1.   "…*as the LORD hath sworn to David…*"

a.   Abner recognizes that *David* is the king that the LORD has anointed, yet he has been going against David and helping Ishbosheth.

E.   (v. 20)

1.   "*So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that were with him a feast.*"

a.   David probably had *Haggith* ("*Feast*") make the *feast*. 😂

F.   (v. 27)

1. *"And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother."*

   a. Abner did not murder Asahel, but accidentally killed him in self defense (2 Sam. 2:19-23) and "*in battle*" (v. 30), yet Joab is personally murdering Abner in revenge.

   b. **NOTE**: This happened in the city of *Hebron*, which ironically was a city of refuge (Num. 35:6-15; Josh. 20:7) where Abner should have been safe.

II. THE ASSASSINATION OF ISHBOSHETH. (4)

   A. (v. 2-3)

   1. *"...(for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin: And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)"*

      a. Originally, Beeroth was a Hivite city (Josh. 9:7) and a member of the Gideonite league that deceived Joshua (Josh. 9:17). However, by this time it had become a Benjaminite town, and the people from that city fled to *Gittaim* and were there until the day the author of this book wrote it.

   B. (v. 4)

   1. *"And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as*

she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth."

    a.   "*Mephibosheth*"

        1)   His real name was *Meribbaal* ("*Baal is my Advocate*") (1 Chron. 8:34; 9:40), but it was changed to *Mephibosheth* ("*Puff of Shame; Shameful Breath*").

III. DAVID ANOINTED OVER ISRAEL. (5)

    A.   **(v. 2)**

        1.   **"...and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel."**

            a.   This quote of the LORD has not been previously given in the Text, yet it is something that the LORD had said that became known among the people.

                1)   Samuel declared to Saul that the kingdom would be given to someone else (1 Sam. 15:28-29).

                2)   Samuel then anointed David by God's command (1 Sam. 16:1-12).

                3)   Samuel mentioned David by name when Saul summoned Samuel by the witch at Endor (1 Sam. 25:28-31).

                4)   It had become generally known that God chose David to be Saul's successor.

            b.   Cf. Psalm 78:70-72 - Later on, one of David's worship leaders, Asaph, would write, "*He chose David also his*

servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands."

B. **(v. 6)**

1. ***"And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land:..."***

   a. Jerusalem was a place that Joshua and the Judges were not able to capture during the conquest of the Land of Canaan.

      1) Jerusalem was still in Jebusite control after Joshua's conquest (Josh. 15:63).

         a) It was temporarily smitten by Judah (Judges 1:8), and later given to the Tribe of Benjamin, but Benjamin was unable to take it (Judges 1:21).

2. ***"...which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither."***

   a. The idea in the Hebrew is that this is a taunt against David. They are basically saying, "The blind and the lame won't let you in here!" In other words, "You're too weak to come in here!"

C. **(v. 7)**

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1. **_"Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David."_**

    a. "_Zion_"

        1) This is the first mention of the word "_Zion_" in the Scriptures.

        2) Originally, "_Zion_" was applied to Mount Ophel, which was where Jebusite Jerusalem was located.

        3) The word "_Zion_" later was extended to include Mt. Moriah behind Mt. Ophel, and still later extended to the whole city of Jerusalem.

    b. "_the same is the city of David_"

        1) David would name it "_the city of David_" (v. 9).

        2) Originally, the city was given to the Tribe of Benjamin (Josh 8:28), but Benjamin failed to take it (Judges 1:21). So, as a result of David's conquest, it became David's private property.

    c. **NOTE**: By taking this city, David removed the Canaanite bottleneck of the North/South trade route that runs along the ridge of the mountains on the north and south of Jerusalem.

    d. **KEY**: Since David privately owned it by conquest, it made Jerusalem an independent city without any tribal jealousy over the site of the capitol!

        1) **Illust**. - Our nation's capitol, Washington D.C., is a separate district and does not belong to any specific state, so it was of Jerusalem at this point.

D. **(v. 8)**

1. **"And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house."**

    a. "*gutter*" - Heb. *tsinnor* - "*pipe; conduit; water tunnel; water shaft*"

    1) This word is used only 2x in O.T. (2 Sam. 5:8; Psalm 42:7).

    2) This vertical shaft (like a chimney) was discovered in 1867 by archeologist, Sir Charles Warren, and is referred to today as "Warren's Shaft"[1] after its founder.

    3) It is a 230-foot tunnel, and is connected to the Spring of Gihon, and so they were able to get the water from inside the city and not have to worry about a siege and have their water supply cut off.

    b. "*Whosoever getters up to the gutter*"

    1) We find out later that it was actually Joab that climbed up through the water shaft and smote the city.

        a) Cf. 1 Chronicles 11:6 - "*And David said, Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites first shall*

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[1] DMS 31° 46′ 23.12″ N, 35° 14′ 9.86″ E   Decimal 31.773089, 35.236072

be chief and captain. So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief."

E. **(v. 13)**

1. ***"And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron…"***

a. These were "*more concubines and wives*" after he came to Jerusalem, adding to the 7 wives he already had while in Hebron.

1) There were the 6 wives already mentioned — Ahinoam, Abigail, Maacah, Haggith, Abital, and Eglah (3:1-5) — plus Michal that he got back (3:14-16).

F. **(v. 23)**

1. ***"And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees."***

a. "*when David enquired of the LORD, He said, Thou shalt not go up*"

1) So often, we make the mistake of not praying because we had victory in this are before!

a) We think, why pray? Let's go get them! God gave us victory last time! So, we think that God has established a pattern.

b) We get the idea that because God does a thing one way, one time, then we think that this is the way God does it.

c) **NOTE**: God is not limited to a pattern! He reserves the privilege of being free and to work the way He wants to.

    i. **Q** = Isn't it interesting that we are often guilty of trying to put things to a formula?

2) David was so wise to seek the LORD *again* and not just step out and do something!

a) This time, the LORD changed it on him! He said, "Don't go up like last time! This time, go around and wait for the signal."

3) **KEY**: It is so important that you not only pray the first time, but continue to pray for God's leading in your life!