

2 Samuel 4-7 Chapter Study

INTRO

I. David's Reign Over Judah Chs. 1-4

A. David Learns of Saul's Death Ch. 1

B. David Takes the Throne of Judah Chs. 2-4

With the death of Saul at the Battle of Jezreel, Israel split into 2 factions; Judah to the South & the other tribes of Israel to the north.

Ishbosheth, Saul's son became king of Israel while the tribe of Judah crowned David king.

There was a civil war that lasted for 7 years between the 2 groups.

But when Ishbosheth offended Abner, the leader of Israel military force, Abner defected to David & the decline of Ishbosheth's power began.

Joab, David's chief general murdered Abner in revenge for killing his brother in battle.

David was furious about this act of treachery, but knew at that point there was little he could do about it.

He knew Joab's hot-headedness & scheming would one day catch up with him & extract their own just payment.

In ch. 4, we read of Ishbosheth's end.

8. Ishbosheth murdered 4:1-12

¹When Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost heart, and all Israel was troubled.

After Saul's death, Abner had been the real leader of & power in the north.

Ishbosheth was little more than window dressing.

With Abner's demise, there was a massive leadership vacuum.

²Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of troops. The name of one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin. (For Beeroth also was part of Benjamin, ³because the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there until this day.)

Beeroth was one of the towns in the disputed border region between Israel & Philistia in the territory of Benjamin.

Because it was subject to so many battles, the Benjamites had fled from it to live at Gittaim.

The brothers Baanah & Rechab were Beerothites who'd become 2 of Abner's commanders.

[Their Beerothite names were Miller & Guinness. ☺]

As members of the tribe of Benjamin, they ought to have been loyal to Ishbosheth, a fellow Benjamite.

But they were little more than crass opportunists who saw the winds of political change blowing toward David.

V. 4 is a short parenthesis in the story of these brothers.

⁴Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was

five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

Mephibosheth's nurse knew the victorious Philistines would immediately move against the now vanquished Saul's headquarters at Gibeah.

So she gathered up 5 year old son of Jonathan, grandson of Saul, and took off.

But she dropped the poor kid and his legs broke.

They were never set properly, leaving him permanently lame.

⁵Then the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out and came at about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who was lying on his bed at noon. ⁶And they came there, all the way into the house, as *though* to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. ⁷For when they came into the house, he was lying on his bed in his bedroom; then they struck him and killed him, beheaded him and took his head, and were all night escaping through the plain. ⁸And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life; and the LORD has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul and his descendants."

These guys thought David would reward them for killing Ishbosheth.

After all, Judah & Israel have been at war for years and Ishbosheth was the enemy king.

As in a game of chess – take the king – game's over!

But these guys have no clue as to David's outlook on how he's to come to the throne over the entire nation.

Killing the son of Saul was not the route he'd planned or wanted.

He was willing to wait till the people of Israel *willingly* welcomed him as their king.

⁹But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all adversity, ¹⁰when someone told me, saying, 'Look, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag—the one who *thought* I would give him a reward for *his* news. ¹¹How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?" ¹²So David commanded his young men, and they executed them, cut off their hands and feet, and hanged *them* by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried *it* in the tomb of Abner in Hebron.

David executed these guys for their treachery & treason against Ishbosheth.

He didn't want anyone to think his rise to the throne of Israel had been by some sinister, back-stabbing, assassination conspiracy.

II. David's Reign Over All Israel Chs. 5-10

A. David Takes Throne of All Israel 5:1-5

¹Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we *are* your bone and your flesh. ²Also, 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.'" ³Therefore 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. ⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years. ⁵In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

While each tribe had its own elders who served as local leaders, they knew none of them had the ability to assume the throne of the entire land – only one man possessed that capability – David.

And they knew IN FACT that God had called him to that role.

Even when Saul reigned, it was obvious David was the real leader, as his previous skill at leading the army against the Philistines had so amply shown.

David was 30 when he ascended to the throne of Judah at Hebron.

That was the age at which the priests began their service in the temple. [Num. 4:3; 1 Chron. 23:3]

He reigned for 40 years; the first 7 were over just the tribe, of Judah, the balance was over the entire nation following Ishbosheth's death.

[MAP]

Once the northern tribes aligned under David's rule, he wisely moved his capital away from Hebron which was deep inside Judah, to a location that was more central.

Right on the border between Judah & the north was a hilly region Joshua & the army of Israel had defeated in the original conquest of the Promised Land, but had been *reclaimed* by the local Canaanites. [Judges 1:8,21]

The main city that controlled the area was a small but strong fortress called *Jebus* or *Jerusalem*.

The Canaanites who'd reclaimed it were known as *Jebusites*.

Because up to this point Jerusalem wasn't the possession of any one tribes of Israel & was located in a kind of no-man's land – yet geographically was in the very center of the nation – it made a *prime spot* for the new capital.

That it was a fortress that was easily defensible recommended it as well.

But first, it had to be captured, taken from the Jebusites – who weren't going to just open their doors & welcome David in.

B. Jerusalem Captured 5:6-16

⁶And 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.”

The walls of Jerusalem gave the defenders great confidence in the safety of their homes.

Built at the top of a cliff, they afforded those who stood on the wall such an advantage. Even if they were blind or lame they’d be able to defeat an attacker – or so they thought.

What the Jebusites hadn’t planned for was an attack by less obvious means.

So while they were bragging about their defenses, David was figuring out an *alternative* way into the city.

⁷Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). ⁸Now 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.”

Scholars are at a loss in interpreting vs. 7&8 because they contain archaic Hebrew they’re unsure the meaning of.

The thought is that some of the words may be loan words from the Jebusites who issued this taunt about the blind & lame.

Their taunt incited David’s anger. When he took the city, as punishment, he blinded the Jebusites who survived & made them lame. From that day forward they were banned from entering the city.

David knew that a frontal assault on the walls & gate of the city would be suicide, so he devised another strategy for getting in.

Remember that his hometown of Bethlehem was just over 4 miles south of Jerusalem, so he’d heard stories of the city and knew there was no water supply inside the city walls.

[Diagram] The city’s water was drawn from the Gihon Spring which was located on the western side of the Kidron valley that lies on the east of Jerusalem.

The Jebusites had dug a trough along the hillside which channeled the water inside the city walls.

They then covered the spring and trough so no one outside the city knew where it was.

The people then lowered buckets via ropes down a long shaft to the water .

David knew this secret water supply system could provide a secret way into the city.

He gave an incentive to his troops, saying the one who found the shaft would get a promotion.

1 Chronicles 11 tells us once the shaft was discovered, Joab led some men in a raid that captured the city.

[Picture of Warren’s Shaft]

⁹Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward.

Archaeologists aren’t sure what the Millo was but the general consensus is that it’s the system of terraces that line the eastern slope of the hill the City of David

was built on.

There's a deep cut in the ridge the oldest part of the city of David was built on.
So the people had filled it in to enlarge the space to build on.

This meant they had to build several retaining walls, which they then filled with dirt, building it up, layer by layer. [Picture]

10 So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

Of course – that's why he became great, because God was with him.

11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house.

The relationship between David & the king of Tyre up north in Lebanon was fantastic.

Lebanon grew fantastic stands of cedar.

Tyre had master carpenters who were skilled in the latest forms of architecture & construction.

Hiram sent wood and workers to help in the construction of David's new palace.

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.

This is a key statement – and marks a turning point in the story of David.

What he'd long hoped for is now realized.

His throne is secure, and the nation will rise to it's potential as a people blessed by God.

While David was far from perfect, the failure that had ruined Saul was not something David had a hard time with; in other words, David wasn't corrupted by power.

As it says here – he understood his role as king to be a place of service for the people.

Rule wasn't *power* to *control* others – it was *position* to *serve* them.

There's a well-worn axiom that says – "Power corrupts."

That's a universal truth, but there is one way to avoid the trap of power's corruption, and that's to hold power with a mindset that sees it as a tool to be used in the benefit & blessing of others, not self.

In politics, many live by the credo;

1st Rule: Get Power at all costs

2nd Rule: Increase Power by any means

3rd Rule: Preserve Power from every challenge

These are the ones who fall to corruption precisely because they see power as something to wield over others instead of as a tool to serve them.

If v. 12 reveals David's *glory* in the *political* arena, v. 13 highlights his *failure* in the *domestic* sphere.

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, ¹⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, ¹⁶Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

It's not clear if these additional wives & concubines were women he thought he could have a genuine romantic relationship with, or if he was merely adopting the custom of the time which required a king to have a harem – the larger and more lovely – the greater his supposed grandeur & glory.

At least one of the 11 sons mentioned here was the result of a romantic relationship – Solomon, the son of David & Bathsheba.

C. Philistines Defeated 5:17-25

Covered 2 Sundays ago.

D. The Ark Comes to Jerusalem Ch. 6

Will cover this Sunday.

E. God's Covenant with David Ch. 7

1. David's desire to build the temple 7:1-3

¹Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, ²that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." ³Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that *is* in your heart, for the LORD *is* with you."

David's palace is complete and the army of Israel has defeated here numerous enemies on all sides.

New wealth flows into the nation every year as *what used to be oppressors* now send tribute to David.

The ark of the covenant is with David in the new capital, and it irked him that it was sitting in a tent while he enjoyed the luxury of his new palace.

So in conversation with Nathan one day, he shares his desire to build a permanent home for the ark.

Nathan thinks that's a great idea & gives Dave a big thumbs up, pronouncing the blessing of God on the venture.

But Nathan spoke presumptuously.

2. God's reply through Nathan 7:4-17

⁴But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, ⁵"Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? ⁶For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"'"

There's a *hint of surprise* in God's response to David's offer – "You want to be build ME a house when all I've ever known is a tent? No one else has ever

been concerned about this before.”

The tabernacle had to be mobile for obvious reasons as they made their way from Egypt to Canaan.

But now that they’re safely settled in the land and secure under David’s reign, maybe it’s time for a change.

⁸Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth. ¹⁰Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, ¹¹since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. ¹²“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”” ¹⁷According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

God was blessed by David’s desire to build a permanent temple for the ark, but it will not be for him to do it – his son will.

In v. 10, God says that He will make it clear WHERE that temple is to stand.

We’ll see later how God does that.

Then God goes on to say that while David’s desire has been to build God a permanent house, God will instead build him one.

His throne will not be given to another as Saul’s was.

David’s dynasty will be eternal.

Both David & Nathan understood that this was nothing less than a narrowing of the prophecies about the Messiah who would one day come to redeem the Earth & fallen humanity.

That promise had first been spoken to Adam & Eve just after the Fall.

Then in Gen. 12, it was narrowed to the family of Abraham, then to Isaiah, then to his son Jacob, who narrowed even further to the tribe of Judah.

Now it’s narrowed to the sons of David.

What God says here about David’s son applied *equally* to *both* Solomon & Jesus. Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus made us into a living temple through the cross & resurrection.
As v. 14 says, Solomon fell away from God for a time & suffered for it.
Jesus never committed sin, but the Heb. word “commit” here can also mean
to be bowed down by.
Our sin was placed on Christ on the cross – He was *made sin for us*, the we
might be *made righteous in Him*.

3. David's praise of God 7:18-29

18Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said:
“Who *am I*, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have
brought me this far? **19**And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O
Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a
great while to come. *Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?*

He's overwhelmed with the goodness of God.

When he first spoke to Nathan of his plan to build a temple for the ark – it just
seemed like the right thing to do. God's response is off the chain!

20Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know
Your servant.

Do you ever feel this way? I do – all the time.

“God, You know me! And yet You love me and work tirelessly to bless me.”

If I knew about *another person* what I know about *me* – I'd call the tip-line & turn
them in!

Certainly the FBI or CIA or IRS or somebody needs to know about the
hideous evil that lurks inside!

God sees all of that and still loves & is committed to our good.

21For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have
done all these great things, to make Your servant know *them*.

David remembers that in the end, all God's love & goodness results in His own
glory!

22Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For *there is none like You,
nor is there any God besides You*, according to all that we have heard
with our ears. **23**And who *is like Your people, like Israel, the one
nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a
people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and
awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You
redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? **24**For
You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and
You, LORD, have become their God. **25**“Now, O LORD God, the word
which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his
house, establish *it* forever and do as You have said. **26**So let Your
name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The LORD of hosts *is* the God
over Israel.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established
before You. **27**For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have
revealed *this* to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’
Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to*

You.

Note that – David’s prayer was a *response* to what God had already revealed to him.

That’s what prayer ought always to be – a *response to & application of* God’s revealed will.

28“And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. 29Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken *it*, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”

28“And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant.

What a fantastic thing to meditate on!