

Lesson 11 6 January 2013

David Enthroned at Jerusalem

Lesson Scope: [2 Samuel 5](#)

Lesson Focus

The long years of strife and confusion between Judah and Israel had ended. Abner, captain of Israel's army, had been treacherously murdered. Then Ish-bosheth, king of Israel, was assassinated. David's response in both incidents clearly indicated that he had not perpetrated either of these murders.

After Ish-bosheth's death, the ten northern tribes pledged their allegiance to David at Hebron. First Chronicles 12:23-40 records that large numbers of armed men joined the elders of Israel in this third anointing of David as king over all Israel. David's second anointing had been by the tribe of Judah at thirty years old and the first as a young shepherd by Samuel.

David's coronation over all Israel came to pass according to the word of the Lord by Samuel (1 Chronicles 11:3). It extended into a three-day festivity, "for there was joy in Israel" (1 Chronicles 12:40). This event, and especially the making of Jerusalem as Israel's capital city, introduced a new era in the history of Israel. Through David's faithfulness, God fulfilled His word and chose to place His Name at Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 26:2; 1 Kings H: 13). In many ways, David's forty-year reign beautifully foreshadows the glorious reign of David's greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God at times leads His servants on to greater responsibilities. He empowers and establishes them for the good of His people.

David's character had the favor of God and man. He was careful to seek and follow God's direction and to give God the glory for his accomplishments, remembering that God always went before and worked it out. *Baal-perazim* means "plain of breaches." David acknowledged God's work in defeating the

Philistine army, comparing Israel's divinely ordered strategy to the flood from a broken dam.

David also realized his need to have others excel with him as in the case of his reward to Joab. Joab in turn helped David in fortifying strategic defenses.

Lesson Aim: To see how the Lord blesses the faithful.

Theme Verse: [2 Samuel 5:12](#). And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

Lesson Text

Coronation Over All Israel

[2 Samuel 5:1-5](#) ¹ Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh. ² Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. ³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over 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 and three years over all Israel and Judah.

Fortification of Jerusalem

[2 Samuel 5:6-10](#) ⁶ And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: 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. ⁷ Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same *is* the city of David. ⁸ 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. ⁹ So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. ¹⁰ And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts *was* with him.

Exaltation Among the Nations

2 Samuel 5:11-12 ¹¹ And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house. ¹² And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

2 Samuel 5:17-25 ¹⁷ But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard *of it*, and went down to the hold. ¹⁸ The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁹ And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. ²⁰ And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim. ²¹ And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them. ²² And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. ²³ 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. ²⁴ And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. ²⁵ And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

Questions for Study

Coronation Over All Israel

1. From these verses, list specific details that now gave the northern tribes confidence in David.
2. How important is day-by-day faithful service?

Fortification of Jerusalem

3. Give the details that lead up to the word nevertheless (5:7).
4. What were David's immediate actions after victory?
5. How can we fortify ourselves today without the knowledge of specific future conflicts?

Exaltation Among the Nations

6. Discuss David's response to the tests that came to him by Hiram's generosity and the Philistines' bold battle affront.
7. What can we learn from David's seeking God the second time the Philistines approached?
8. Name some things that will stand in the way of God's blessing the church today.

Analyzing the Passage

The people of the northern tribes at last acknowledged the facts. David was their kinsman (2 Samuel 5: 1). He had proved himself faithful and capable in the past, and he had been specifically called of God (2 Samuel 5:2). The references to the Lord's presence (2 Samuel 5:100-12) indicate David's faithfulness in that call.

Now as king over all Israel, David immediately proceeded to make Jerusalem his first priority in conquest. The Jebusites held tenaciously to this city. Years before, the tribe of Judah had set the city on fire (Judges 1:8). But when the Benjamites received Jerusalem as part of their inheritance, the Jebusites were still there (Joshua 18:28). Both Judah and Benjamin had failed to drive them out, apparently leaving them in control of the city (Joshua 15:63; Judges 1:21).

The Jebusites used the expression "blind and lame" sarcastically against the new king of Israel, intimating that Jerusalem was so impregnable as to be easily held by lame and blind guards. This served only to increase David's zeal (2 Samuel 5:8). First Chronicles 11:6 records that Joab received the reward of being named "chief and captain" (5:8) for breaking into the city.

The "strong hold of Zion" (2 Samuel 5:7) referred first to a fortified hill in Jerusalem. The words fort (2 Samuel 5:9), hold (2 Samuel 5:17), and castle (1 Chronicles 11:5) all likely refer to the same place. Zion was later used as a name for the entire city. Millo (2 Samuel 5:9) seems to refer to some fortification on the outskirts of Zion because David began building from Millo inward (2 Samuel 5:9).

Having heard of the new king of Israel, the Philistines, one of Israel's bitterest enemies, challenged David to battle in the valley of Rephaim. This fertile plain, approximately eight miles southwest of Jerusalem, was a prime productive territory of Israel. David, upon hearing the chal-

allenge, went to the hold to prepare for battle, but before he ordered a battle, he sought God's direction.

The words "fetch a compass" are translated from one Hebrew word meaning to "revolve, surround, or border."

Principles and Applications

Coronation Over All Israel

1. Constant faithfulness in responsibility inspires confidence among God's people (2 Samuel 5:1-2). The years of David's life from Samuel's anointing until his present coronation were lived day by day in faithful service to God. His life is an inspiration to us.

Godly parents by word and faithful example inspire a love for God and the church in their children. There are aged grandparents who still hold forth the Word of the Lord and faithful leaders who administrate the church in the fear of God, rightly dividing the Word. Let us each be faithful in our calling.

2. Faithfulness in present responsibilities prepares a person for further service opportunities (2 Samuel 5:2-5). The faithful walk by faith. They are trustworthy, not despising "the day of small things." "It may not be on the mountain's height, / Or over the stormy sea; / It may not be at the battle's front, / The Lord will have need of me." The daily work of faithful brethren and sisters behind the scenes lays the very groundwork that those in the foreground depend on. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10).

Fortification of Jerusalem

3. The faithful refuse to be intimidated by the enemy (2 Samuel 5:6). They stand by faith on the promises of God's Word. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them" (2 Kings 6:16). When God's people faithfully claim His promises, He makes His power effective in their lives.

4. Preparing for future conflict is an essential aspect of present responsibility (2 Samuel 5:9-10). After gaining control of Jerusalem, unpressed by any foe, David immediately strengthened his defenses, building round about and then within. He enlisted Joab to help build the defenses (1 Chronicles 11:8). When the Philistines came, he was ready and resorted to the hold, seeking wisdom from God. We too must pre-

pare for future conflict. We must grow in our practice of trusting God's direction. We must fortify ourselves round about with the whole armor of God and fervent prayer. We must fortify ourselves within by diligent study of the Word of God. We must enlist other faithful saints to help uphold and declare "those things ... most surely believed among us." Thus, by diligent preparation and God's presence, we can face life's unknown but certain conflicts.

Exaltation Among the Nations

5. A faithful servant fills his role humbly (2 Samuel 5:12). Humility is a lifetime requirement (Micah 6:8). God dwells with those of humble heart (Isaiah 57:15). Therefore "be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the

mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:5-6). David did not glory in the fact that he was exalted, but he received the generosity of King Hiram as a token of God's blessing on him for Israel's sake. We all face the test of responding properly to commendation. We must not touch the glory that belongs only to the Lord. Rather, as faithful servants, we must say as Jesus taught us, "We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).

6. The faithful seek God's direction in every circumstance (2 Samuel 5:19, 23-24). Every day brings new challenges from the enemy. We dare never think that now we know how or that it will be easy to defeat the enemy this time. We must constantly seek counsel and strength from the Lord.

7. Fulfilling present responsibilities requires a willingness to deal with failure and wrong influences (2 Samuel 5:21). Otherwise, spiritual vitality is lost, which results in more spiritual casualties and more effort needed to stop the deadly process. This willingness is required first on a personal level, carrying over into home, business, school, and church levels. We do well to evaluate what "images" may be lurking among us that need to be destroyed: the unprofitable book that "somehow" got into our library, the fancy extra in apparel, that worldly business profile, the unequal yoke relationship, and so on. "The dearest idol I have known, / Whate'er that idol be, / Help me that idol to dethrone / And worship only Thee." "Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Amen" (1 John 5:21).

8. The faithful persevere in fulfilling their responsibilities (2 Samuel 5:25). Our love for God is our first responsibility (Jude 21). Keeping His commandments goes hand in hand with loving God. When all in the brotherhood faithfully persevere in love for Christ and the church, we can experience the blessings of restful, Scriptural church life. Rest after victory is right, but like David, we must constantly persevere in proper worship of our God (2 Samuel 6).

Important Teachings

1. Constant faithfulness in responsibility inspires confidence among God's people (2 Samuel 5:1, 2).
2. Faithfulness in present responsibilities prepares a person for further service opportunities (2 Samuel 5:2-5).
3. The faithful refuse to be intimidated by the enemy (2 Samuel 5:6).
4. Preparing for future conflict is an essential aspect of present responsibility (2 Samuel 5:9, 10).
5. A faithful servant fills his role humbly (2 Samuel 5:12).
6. The faithful seek God's direction in every circumstance (2 Samuel 5:19, 23, 24).
7. Fulfilling present responsibilities requires a willingness to deal with failure and wrong influences (2 Samuel 5:21).
8. The faithful persevere in fulfilling their responsibilities (2 Samuel 5:25).

Answers to Questions

1. From these verses, list specific details that now gave the northern tribes confidence in David.

David was their kinsman. He had proven himself faithful and capable in the past in spite of difficulty. He had been called by God specifically to be king over Israel.

2. How important is day-by-day faithful service?

The Christian life is a daily walk of faith that prepares us for future service as God directs. It also gives inspiration to others, encouraging them in daily faithfulness. The daily work of faithful men and women behind the scenes lays the very groundwork that those in the foreground depend on. Moses spent as many years on the backside of the desert as he

did leading Israel. Daniel lived ninety years or more, but we have recorded only a few highlights of his long and faithful life.

3. *Give the details that lead up to the word nevertheless (2 Samuel 5:7).* Jerusalem was a stronghold within the territory of Israel, but not presently in their control. The comments about "the blind and the lame" almost certainly were the Jebusites' sarcastic way of saying that they considered their city impregnable and that nothing more than such defenders were needed. They used this method to intimidate the new king of Israel. "Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion"!

4. *What were David's immediate actions after victory?*

He possessed the city and called it the city of David. More importantly, he fortified the city round about and inward, thus preparing the "hold" for present security and for future protection against the enemy.

5. *How can we fortify ourselves today without the knowledge of specific future conflicts?*

We must have our anchor secure on the Rock, Christ Jesus. We must fortify ourselves round about with the whole armor of God and fervent prayer. We must fortify ourselves within by diligent study of the Word of God. We must grow in our practice of asking for and trusting in God's direction. We must enlist other faithful saints to help uphold and declare those things most surely believed among us.

6. *Discuss David's response to the tests that came to him by Hiram's generosity and the Philistines' bold battle affront.*

Hiram's generosity moved David to humbly conclude that God had established him king over Israel and that He had exalted his kingdom for His people Israel's sake. David did not touch the glory that belonged to God.

The Philistines heard that David was the new king of Israel and boldly spread themselves out on fertile Israelite territory in the valley of Rephaim not far from Jerusalem. David also heard and promptly resorted to his prepared "hold" (Zion) to ask counsel of God. God said, "Go." David's testimony after battle was that "the LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies *before me.*" God went before as David followed His direction.

7. *What can we learn from David's seeking God the second time the Philistines approached?*

We must not allow ourselves to become self-confident, thinking that "it will be easier this time" or that we know how. We must seek God's help in every conflict.

8. *Name some things that will stand in the way of God's blessing the church today.*

God will not bless the church if we take pride in our accomplishments rather than give Him the glory. He will not bless the church when we tolerate enemy strongholds in our midst. He will not bless the church when the lines of separation from the world are not kept clear. God will not bless the church when church leaders fail to deal with wrong influences and failure in the church. He will not bless the church when we become lax in our love for and devotion to Him.

Summarizing the Lesson

To fulfill our God-given responsibility we must, like David, perceive that God is at work in our lives and be careful to give Him all the glory for every accomplishment. "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). Will Jesus find us faithful when He comes?

Research Guide

1. Study the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 11, 12.
2. Study the Philistines from the perspective of their being a type of the flesh, which continually strives against the Spirit to destroy our "good ground" in Christ and which insidiously leaves "images" on our minds that must be dealt with. The Philistines long remained one of Israel's bitterest enemies. See Amos 6:2; Zephaniah 2:5; Zechariah 9:6. Likewise, our own flesh is one of our greatest enemies.