

## Sunday Night Message

March 15, 2020

### *2 Samuel 2 – David is Anointed; Ishbosheth is Appointed*

Topics – David; Hebron

Series – *2 Samuel*

Text – 2 Samuel 2

#### Introduction

In 2 Samuel 1, David received word from an Amalekite that Saul and Jonathan were dead, along with many thousands of others from the army of Israel. The Philistines had won a humiliating victory and had moved in to occupy some of the cities near the battlefield in the Jezreel Valley.

Though Saul had been a bitter enemy to David, David had always respected Saul as his king, and when David heard of Saul's death, he wept and mourned for both him and Jonathan.

In chapter two, David is beginning the process of receiving the kingdom from King Saul. At first, he will reign over the tribe of Judah from the city of Hebron, but eventually the entire nation of Israel will make David their king.

In chapters two and three there is a story that I have preached through the years involving the city of Hebron, and also including Abner and Joab, the military leaders of Israel and Judah (respectively). I was tempted to just reproach that message, but have opted instead to not rush through these two chapters. I will, however, develop the same theme from that message when we get to chapter three.

We will also see in this chapter two contrasting methods of selecting a king. David will be anointed by the people of Judah to be their king, and Saul's son will be appointed by Abner to be the king of Israel. There is a big difference between the two.

#### **I. David is Anointed King Over Judah in Hebron (vs. 1 – 4a)**

Here is the moment that David has been waiting for. He was anointed by Samuel to be king several years prior to this moment (1 Samuel 16), and now he is being recognized by at least some of the people of Israel. This will be somewhat of a process, but at least he is moving forward. In 2 Samuel 5:3, David will be anointed over all of Israel.

Before David does anything, he enquires of the Lord. The Lord not only tells him to go, but when David asks for clarification, God tells him where he should go.

Practical Point - When you are not sure what to do – ask God. He will guide you.

Notice that his family and all of his followers go with him.

Practical point – David's leadership and influence is attracting people, not turning people away. Not only will the 600 men and their families continue on with David in this journey, but he will now be anointed by all of the tribe of Judah as their king.

#### **II. David Honors the Men of Jabeshgilead for Honoring King Saul (vs. 4b – 7)**

David is informed by the men of Judah of what was done for Saul by the people of Jabeshgilead. See 1 Samuel 31:11 – 13.

The men of Jabeshgilead honored Saul as David was honoring Saul. Because of that, David honored the men of Jabeshgilead.

I think that David is offering his support to the people of Jabeshgilead. He has been anointed king over Judah, and he is offering to be their king as well. Unfortunately, Saul's son will set up his kingdom from the land of Gilead, which would make it very hard for them to swear allegiance to David.

### **III. Abner Appoints Saul's Son to Be King Over Israel (vs. 8 – 11)**

David was anointed by the people. Ishbosheth was appointed by the military leader. His appointment may have taken a few years. It may have been that Israel needed time to recover from their military defeat at the hands of the Philistines. At any rate, he only reigned for two years while David reigned for over seven in Hebron.

Ishbosheth reigned from Mahanaim, which was the same place that Jacob saw the angels while travelling to Peniel (Genesis 32:1 - 2). Mahanaim was also a Levitical city (1 Chronicles 6:80). Ishbosheth was a weak leader, and was probably subservient to Abner (See 2 Samuel 3:11; 4:1). "Ishbosheth" means "man of shame."

### **IV. The Death of Asahel (vs. 12 – 32)**

This story speaks for itself. The people of Judah with Joab (David's nephew – the son of David's sister, Zeruiah – 1 Chronicles 2:16) as their military leader go to war in Gibeon with Abner and his army. Though the Israelites lose decisively to the army of David, Asahel (Joab's brother) is killed by Abner. This event will play a big part in what takes place in the next chapter, and will also paint a vivid picture for us as we seek to stay inside of the will of God.

## The Battle of Gibeon

- Route [Abner](#) and the servants of [Ishbosheth](#) from [Mahanaim](#) to [Gibeon](#)
- Route of [Joab](#) and the servants of [David](#) from [Hebron](#) to [Gibeon](#)
- Route of [Joab](#) and [Abishai](#) to pursue [Abner](#) from [Gibeon](#) to [Mount Ammah](#)
- Route of [Abner](#) and his men from [Mount Ammah](#) to [Mahanaim](#)
- Route of [Joab](#) and his men from [Gibeon](#) to [Bethlehem](#) to bury [Asahel](#)
- Route of [Joab](#) and his men from [Bethlehem](#) to [Hebron](#)

