

Sunday Night Message

March 29, 2020

2 Samuel 4 – The King of All Israel

Topics – David; Ishbosheth

Series – *2 Samuel*

Text – 2 Samuel 4

Introduction

In chapter three we discovered that Abner who had control of Ishbosheth's military, had officially brought those loyal to him to choose David as their king. King Saul's son, Ishbosheth was now the last holdout of power from the former reign of Saul. Here in this chapter, we will see that Ishbosheth is assassinated, but not by David, nor at David's command. David will now finally take over the kingdom that was promised to him by God many years earlier.

As we examine this chapter, one of the things that we will pay close attention to is how David uses this new power of his. Will he be an insecure tyrant, as Saul was. Or, will he demonstrate true Christ-like leadership, demonstrating compassion to the people he serves, and submission to the God who gave him the position.

I. The Termination of the Reign of King Saul (vs. 1 – 8)

David had been promised the kingdom of Israel, and God had also told Saul that the kingdom would be taken from him.

God always does what He say that He will do.

He always keeps His promises.

Verse 1 – Ishbosheth is terrified because his military leader had jumped ship, and then he died. He knew that he had very little actual power at this point, and it would only be a matter of time until he lost it. He was a very weak leader at this point. Notice also in v. 5, Ishbosheth is on his bed at noon. He is sleeping away his problems instead of facing them.

Notice also that all Israel was troubled. Weak leadership will lead to troubled people. Leadership needs to be both good as well as bold. David would be both bold and good.

Verses 2 – 8 – Two of the captains of Saul's (and (Abner's) army rebel against Ishbosheth and assassinate him, and then bring his head approximately fifty miles southwest to David in Hebron.

Notice v. 4 – Mephibosheth is mentioned here. He was Jonathan's son, and he will be a major player in future chapters. This verse informs us that Mephibosheth became lame after a fall after he fell from the arms of his nurse as the nation of Israel fled away from the Philistines after the Battle of Mt. Gilboa.

II. David's Mitigation of the Rift Between the Two Kingdoms (vs. 9 – 12)

Here is where we see the leadership of David. One would think that David would reward these men for killing his enemy, but David is very much opposed to what they had done to Saul's only

remaining son. He has them put to death for killing Ishbosheth. David knew the kingdom was his, but he did not want to be part of anything wrong in order to get the kingdom.

He did the same thing to the Amalekite who claimed to have helped Saul die, after Saul was wounded by the Philistines (see 2 Samuel 1:15).

David demonstrated that same kind of godly leadership on two different occasions when he and his men had opportunity to kill Saul but refused to “put forth their hands against the Lord’s anointed.”

David also demonstrated both compassion and forgiveness long after becoming king.

See 2 Kings 9 for the story of Mephibosheth.

David never forgot his friend, Jonathan.

Illustrate – My family has been in the candy and nut business now for seventy years. They started back in the late 1940’s supplying small grocery markets. Also back in the 1950’s, the Saker family owned a small grocery market in Freehold, NJ. My dad’s company supplied the candy for this small store, and my dad became good friends with Joe Saker, the son of the original owner. The Saker family were very good business people and prospered greatly, and eventually became part of a co-op that we all know about called Shoprite. Saker ShopRites now owns over thirty multi-million dollar super stores all over NJ. My dad’s company grew as well, but did not prosper anywhere near as much as ShopRite. My dad’s company would always be, and still is, considered a small business. However, Joe Saker never forgot my dad. Even though, he became a billionaire (or nearly a billionaire), he always was very loyal to my dad and his company. Through the years, ShopRite would hire people who wanted to strong arm my dad’s little company; some even tried to get rid of us as suppliers. However, Mr. Saker made a final statement to all of his corporate executives by telling one of them that as long as he was alive, Rayge Candy would be in his stores. He was loyal. He never forgot.

Conclusion

Though we have only seen a small glimpse of David’s reign so far as king, we certainly can see the contrast between him and Saul.

Saul was very insecure and became completely insane at times while David so far has shown that he is very secure – to the point that he does not have anything to prove. He makes good decisions, God decisions, which demonstrate that he is depending on the Lord. David is more concerned about pleasing the Lord and doing right than he is about winning the favor of the people.