

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- David and Abner engaged in a seven-year period of conflict in which David reigned from Hebron, he had continued to grow stronger while Saul's dynasty had grown weaker.
- After being accused by Ish-boshet of trying to seize control of the throne of Saul, Abner abandons his allegiance with Ish-bosheth. Abner was to swing his support to David, thereby assuring himself of a powerful spot in David's regime.
- Abner was intercepted by Joab, who ruthlessly murdered him, ostensibly as an act of revenge for the death of his own brother Asahel. More likely, Joab saw the covenant with Abner as a threat to his own position as military leader.

Biblical Considerations

- At this point the book of **1 Chronicles** begins its parallel account of Israel's history. The purpose of this book of unknown authorship was to record the history of Israel from the viewpoint of the Davidic dynasty.
 - ▶ It is a history that avoids **repetition of certain facts** already well known through 2 Samuel but retells or amplifies events in David's life and career that are essential to the Chronicler's own purposes. He is above all interested in stressing that the **messianic king** also functions as the anointed **priest of Yahweh**.
 - ▶ The Chronicler is careful to point out that already in the years of David's exile there were those in Israel as well as Judah who **recognized his election** (**1 Chron. 12:1-2, 16-17, 19-22**). Clearly, then, seeds of reunification between Israel and Judah had already been planted before Abner undertook formal negotiations to bring it to pass.

David Anointed King

- After the death of Ish-bosheth, David became king over all Israel, as the tribes of Israel (that is, the tribes other than Judah) came to David at **Hebron** and claimed him as a **kinsman** (**2 Sam. 5:1-5; 1 Chron. 12:23-40**).
 - ▶ In 2 Samuel 5-8, the story cycles several times through a "**victory-house building**" pattern. Three times David fought Israel's enemies, and then the text gives notice about the construction of a house.

	Battle	House
Cycle 1	Jerusalem, 2 Sam. 5:6-10	Family/palace, 2 Sam. 5:11-16
Cycle 2	Philistines, 2 Sam. 5:17-25	Yahweh's house, 2 Sam. 6:1-7:29
Cycle 3	Various wars, 2 Sam. 8:1-14	Royal Household, 2 Sam. 8:15-18

- The need to face up to reality led David to **relocate the capital** shortly after his coronation. (**2 Sam. 5:6-10**).

 - ▶ David realized that he could not locate the capital at some northern site such as **Shechem** or **Shiloh** because that would be interpreted by his Judahite kin as a **betrayal** of them. Certainly he could not take over Saul's capital at **Gibeah** because that represented everything abhorrent to Judah. David's task was clear: he must find a central site that, at the same time, would be relatively **neutral**.
 - ▶ By far the best choice was **Jerusalem**, the largest, most impressive, and most strategically situated city in the central region. But this would mean a war with the **Jebusites** – the current occupants of the city (**Gen. 15:18-21**).
 - ▶ After initial sarcastic response from the Jebusites, David through **Joab**, quickly takes the city (**1 Chron. 11:4-9**). The real puzzle, however, comes with the further explanation in **2 Sam. 5:8**, that seems to hint at how the Jebusites were taken. **Archaeology** has suggested a possibility for how Jerusalem was taken this way (**INSERT DRAWING**).
- Once he had conquered, David got to work on various building projects. He built up all around the **stronghold** from the Millo and inward, and David also built himself a **house of cedar and stone**. The King of Tyre assisted with this project, a Gentile pitching in to build the house of the Yahweh's anointed (**2 Sam. 5:11-16**).

 - ▶ David was also building his house in another sense, the **people house**, which increased by eleven sons and an undisclosed number of daughters. Again, however, there is an ominous reference to "concubines and wives" (v. 13), indicating that David was continuing his habit of **taking women**.
- David's wars were a new conquest and David a new **Joshua**. Over the next few chapters (5-8), Israelite territory will grow to unprecedented size. David conquered portions of the land that Israel had not conquered during the days of Joshua, particularly Jerusalem (**2 Sam. 5:6-10; Judg. 1:8, 21**).

 - ▶ Joshua's conquest culminated with a **sanctuary** at Shiloh (**Josh. 18:1**), and David's conquest likewise resulted with the **tent** for the ark in Zion (**2 Sam. 6:17**).

Part 6: The Kingdom

<p>1 Chronicles 12:1-2</p>	<p>1 Now these are the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he could not move about freely because of Saul the son of Kish. And they were among the mighty men who helped him in war. 2 They were bowmen and could shoot arrows and sling stones with either the right or the left hand; they were Benjaminites, Saul's kinsmen.</p>
<p>1 Chronicles 12:16-17</p>	<p>16 And some of the men of Benjamin and Judah came to the stronghold to David. 17 David went out to meet them and said to them, "If you have come to me in friendship to help me, my heart will be joined to you; but if to betray me to my adversaries, although there is no wrong in my hands, then may the God of our fathers see and rebuke you."</p>
<p>1 Chronicles 12:19-22</p>	<p>19 Some of the men of Manasseh deserted to David when he came with the Philistines for the battle against Saul. (Yet he did not help them, for the rulers of the Philistines took counsel and sent him away, saying, "At peril to our heads he will desert to his master Saul.") 20 As he went to Ziklag, these men of Manasseh deserted to him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, chiefs of thousands in Manasseh. 21 They helped David against the band of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor and were commanders in the army. 22 For from day to day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army, like an army of God.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:1-5</p>	<p>1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. 2 In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the Lord said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.' " 3 So 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. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.</p>
<p>1 Chronicles 12:23-40</p>	<p>23 These are the numbers of the divisions of the armed troops who came to David in Hebron to turn the kingdom of Saul over to him, according to the word of the Lord. 24 The men of Judah bearing shield and spear were 6,800 armed troops. 25 Of the Simeonites, mighty men of valor for war, 7,100. 26 Of the Levites 4,600. 27 The prince Jehoiada, of the house of Aaron, and with him 3,700. 28 Zadok, a young man mighty in valor, and twenty-two commanders from his own fathers' house. 29 Of the Benjaminites, the kinsmen of Saul, 3,000, of whom the majority had to that point kept their allegiance to the house of Saul. 30 Of the Ephraimites 20,800, mighty men of valor, famous men in their fathers' houses. 31 Of the half-tribe of Manasseh 18,000, who were expressly named to come and make David king. 32 Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command. 33 Of Zebulun 50,000 seasoned troops, equipped for battle with all the weapons of war, to help David with singleness of purpose. 34 Of Naphtali 1,000 commanders with whom were 37,000 men armed with shield and spear. 35 Of the Danites 28,600 men equipped for battle. 36 Of Asher 40,000 seasoned troops ready for battle. 37 Of the Reubenites and Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh from beyond the Jordan, 120,000 men armed with all the weapons of war. 38 All these, men of war, arrayed in battle order, came to Hebron with a whole heart to make David king over all Israel. Likewise, all the rest of Israel were of a single mind to make David king. 39 And they were there with David for three days, eating and drinking, for their brothers had made preparation for them. 40 And also their relatives, from as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, came bringing food on donkeys and on camels and on mules and on oxen, abundant provisions of flour, cakes of figs, clusters of raisins, and wine and oil, oxen and sheep, for there was joy in Israel.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:6-10</p>	<p>6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." 7 Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. 8 And David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack 'the lame and the blind,' who are hated by David's soul." Therefore it is said, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." 9 And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward. 10 And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.</p>

<p>Genesis 15:18–21</p>	<p>18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”</p>
<p>1 Chronicles 11:4–9</p>	<p>4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, that is, Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. 5 The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You will not come in here.” Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. 6 David said, “Whoever strikes the Jebusites first shall be chief and commander.” And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, so he became chief. 7 And David lived in the stronghold; therefore it was called the city of David. 8 And he built the city all around from the Millo in complete circuit, and Joab repaired the rest of the city. 9 And David became greater and greater, for the Lord of hosts was with him.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:8</p>	<p>And David said on that day, “Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack ‘the lame and the blind,’ who are hated by David’s soul.” Therefore it is said, “The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.”</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:11–16</p>	<p>11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house. 12 And David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. 13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.</p>
<p>Judges 1:8</p>	<p>And the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.</p>
<p>Judges 1:21</p>	<p>But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.</p>
<p>Joshua 18:1</p>	<p>Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land lay subdued before them.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 6:17</p>	<p>And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.</p>