

David's Reign 1

Lesson 4

2 Samuel 1 - 10

In our last lesson, we talked about how Saul tried many times to kill David. Saul was jealous because the people liked David more than him. David could have killed Saul, but did not. And then, as Samuel had said, Saul and his sons were killed in the battle with the Philistines.

When Saul was in the battle with the Philistines, David was in a different battle with the Amelekites. After the battle, David went to Ziklag.

On the third day there, David met a man that looked very tired. His clothes were dirty and torn. The man bowed down before David. The man told David that Saul and Jonathan had been killed. (2 Sam. 1:4) The man brought Saul's crown and bracelet to David to prove to him that Saul was dead. (2 Sam. 1:10)

David was very sad. He cried because Saul and Jonathan were dead. David wrote a song about Saul and Jonathan. David told the people to teach the song to their children. The song told how much he loved Saul and Jonathan. It told how great Saul and Jonathan were in their battles. It told how sad he was that they were dead.

David asked the Lord where he should go. The Lord told him to go to Hebron. The people who were with David went with him. The men of Judah went to Hebron. They anointed David the king over Judah. (2 Sam. 2:4) David was not the king over all Israel at that time. He was only king over the tribe of Judah, and his capitol was at Hebron.

Abner had been the captain of Saul's army. He did not want to lose his important position. Abner had a plan so he could control the kingdom. Saul had a son named Ishbosheth. Abner made Ishbosheth king over Israel. (2 Sam. 2:8-9) Abner knew that Ishbosheth was not a very strong leader. Abner knew that if Ishbosheth was king, Abner could tell him what to do. Ishbosheth was king of the Israelites in the north.

One day, Abner and Ishbosheth had an argument. Abner was angry. He sent messengers to David asking David to make a covenant with him. He wanted David to agree not to hurt him. (2 Sam. 3:12) David agreed not to hurt Abner. Abner told David he would go with him and not Ishbosheth.

Abner met with the elders of Israel. He reminded them of how they had wanted David to be their king. He told them to make David their king. Abner told the people that the Lord had said He would save Israel from the Philistines through David. (2 Sam. 3:17-18)

A man named Joab was over David's army. When Joab found out that David made a covenant with Abner, he did not like it. He told David that Abner had come to spy on him. (2 Sam. 3:25) Joab sent a messenger to get Abner and bring him back to Hebron. Joab killed Abner. David was very upset when he heard Abner was dead. David and all the people cried because Abner was dead.

David received word that Ishbosheth was dead. Some time later, men from all the tribes of Israel went to David and asked him to be the king over Israel. (2 Sam. 5:3) David moved from Hebron to Jerusalem. David was 30 years old when he became king. He was king over Judah for seven and one-half years. He was king over all Israel for 33 years.

David chose 30,000 men to go with him to get the ark of the covenant and take it to Jerusalem. (2 Sam. 6:2) The ark was placed on a new cart. The sons of Abinadab, Uzzah and Ahio, drove the cart. As they traveled, the oxen stumbled. Uzzah put out his hand to keep the ark from falling. This made God very angry and He struck Uzzah dead. (2 Sam. 6:7)

After Uzzah died, David was afraid to carry the ark into the city. David left the ark of God with Obed-Edom for three months. David saw how God blessed Obed-Edom. David then carried the ark into the city of Jerusalem. (2 Sam. 6:11-12) David and the people were very happy. They were shouting and blowing trumpets.

David wanted to build a temple for the ark of God. But that was not in God's plan. That would come later in God's plan with David's son. David reigned over all of Israel. God was with David.

Do you remember the promise that David and Jonathan made to each other? Jonathan was dead, but David wanted to know if any of Jonathan's children were living. One of Saul's servants, Ziba, was still alive. Ziba told David that Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth fell when he was 5 years old and was crippled. David sent for him. David gave Mephibosheth the things that had belonged to Saul.

David kept his promise to Jonathan. He showed kindness to the son of his good friend. David was a great king because of his goodness and love for God.