



**DAVID'S REIGN 1**  
**Lesson 4 - 2 Samuel 1-10**

**What happened before?**

Even though Saul was king, David was more popular. This made Saul very jealous of David. Saul made several attempts to kill David but God protected him. Saul was killed after a battle with the Philistines.

**BIBLE STORY:**

A strange looking man came into David's camp at Ziklag. His clothes were torn and his face was streaked with dirt as a sign of grief. The man fell on the ground in front of David. The stranger told a sad story. He told David that he had just escaped from the battle between the Philistines and the Israelites. The Israelites had lost the battle and Jonathan had been killed. He explained that Saul had been badly wounded and asked him to take his sword and finish the job of putting him to death. The young man said he was sure Saul could not live so he did as Saul commanded and killed him. He then gave Saul's crown and the bracelet to David.

The young man was an Amalekite. He thought David would be happy that his enemy was dead and he believed David would reward him for killing Saul. David did not reward him. He had the young man executed immediately because he claimed to have killed Saul, the one the Lord had anointed as king.

David was very sad over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. Although Saul had treated him so terribly, David grieved when he heard of the death of these two men. He and his men tore their clothes, mourned, ~~went and fasted~~ until evening after hearing of this tragic event. As a  
1 OT4-L4-P1-R01 David wrote a song that was called the "Song of the Bow." It began: "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high place! How the mighty have fallen!" David was deeply grieved for his friends.

Later, God told David to go to the city of Hebron. After David came to Hebron, the people of Judah gathered themselves together and made David their king. David was not made king over all of Israel at this time, but he was king of only Judah. He set up his capitol at Hebron.

Abner had been the captain of Saul's army and did not want to lose his high place, so he made a plot to keep part of the kingdom under his own control. Saul had a son still living named Ishbosheth. He was forty years old and seems to have been a weak man. Abner made Ishbosheth king in his father's place and kept him as king for two years over the

northern part of the country of the Israelites.

The people of Israel were now divided. Only the people of the tribe of Judah served David, while the other tribes served King Ishbosheth. The men who were following David fought against those who were following King Ishbosheth. As the war continued, David's army grew stronger, but Ishbosheth's army, led by Abner, grew weaker and weaker. The long war finally came to an end when Abner realized what a weak king Ishbosheth was. At that point, Abner decided not to keep up the fight against David.

Abner called the elders of Israel together and told them how God had promised that by David He would save His people from their enemies and that it was time to make David king over all of Israel. The elders agreed to have David as their king. Abner went to the tribe of Benjamin (Saul's tribe) and spoke to them the same way. They, too, were willing to have David as their king. Abner sent word to David that he wanted to talk with him. David told him he would meet with him on one condition—that Abner would bring Michal, Saul's daughter to him. Remember that Michal was David's wife.

Abner went to Hebron and talked with David about reuniting the kingdom of Israel. Abner said he would gather all the tribes together and they would make David king over all of Israel. David liked what Abner promised to do and made a feast for Abner and his men. Abner went away from David in peace.

When Joab, David's captain, learned that David had made a peace agreement with Abner, he was very angry. Abner had killed Joab's brother in battle and he thought David should have killed him. Since David did not, Joab killed Abner himself. David was very upset over Abner's death. He declared, "A prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel."

Two men later went into Ishbosheth's house and killed him. They came to David thinking that he would be happy to hear about this, but instead, he had them killed. Earlier, David had put to death the one who claimed to have killed Saul and now he did the same thing to the ones who killed Saul's son.

Men from all the tribes of Israel came down to Hebron to recognize David as their king. David had been made king when he was 30 years old, but only over Judah. He served as Judah's king for 7 years and 6 months with his capital at Hebron. When David was recognized as king over all Israel, he moved his capitol to Jerusalem where he ruled for 33 years.

Soon after David became king of all the Israelites, their old enemy, the Philistines came up to fight them again. David prayed to God asking whether he should go up and face them. God told him not to go out to meet them, but to make a circle and come upon them from the rear. God

then told David to listen for a sound in the tops of the mulberry trees like an army marching. When he heard this, he was to attack the Philistines. David followed these instructions and won the battle.

David gathered together 30,000 men of Israel and went to the house of Abinadab to get the Ark of the Covenant. They placed it on a new cart and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the cart. As they were going along, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah put out his hand to steady the ark. Immediately, God struck Uzzah dead and he fell by the ark. The reason Uzzah was struck dead was because they were not moving the ark according to God's instructions. God had given specific instructions that the ark should be carried on the shoulders of the Sons of Kohath. (Numbers 7:9) In Numbers 4:15 God warned that if the sons of Kohath touched any of the holy things they would die.

David was afraid of the Lord that day and refused to take the ark into the city of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom where it remained for three months. God blessed Obed-Edom and his household.

After three months, David carried the ark into the City of David, shouting and sounding the trumpets as they went. This time, they moved the ark the right way. It was brought into the tabernacle David had built at Jerusalem.

Finally, David was at peace with his enemies. He built a fine palace for himself in Jerusalem. He had always loved God and had been obedient to His instructions. Now, he wanted to build a very fine house where the people could worship God—a temple.

David told the prophet Nathan about his plans to build a temple. Nathan thought the plan was good and told David to go ahead with it, and God would be with him. But, that very night God appeared to Nathan and told him to go back to David and say that he was not to build the temple. David's son, Solomon, would be king after David and he would be the one to build the temple.

While Jonathan was alive, he and David promised each other that whoever remained alive longer would do what he could for the other's children. Jonathan was dead and David wondered whether there were any of Jonathan's children still living. He learned from one of Saul's servants, Ziba, that there was a son of Jonathan, named Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth had been crippled by a fall when he was five years old. David sent for Mephibosheth and gave him all the things that had belonged to Saul. Mephibosheth himself was brought into David's household and lived there and was cared for. King David showed kindness to the son of his old friend. David's goodness and his love for God made him such a great king.

God was with David and helped him defeat all his enemies. He made promises to David that his kingdom would continue. At this time, David had the land, a strong army, and the people were willing to serve him as their king. But, the most important thing was that he had the approval of God.