**THE KINGS**

**1 & 2 Samuel**

***David Becomes King***

The Bible does not take place in a vacuum. Our beloved stories can frequently be dated. There were other nations and peoples living in other parts of the world. The kings of Israel began about one thousand years before the birth of Jesus.

In all of these stories we want to keep in mind God’s promise of a savior (Genesis 3:15) and God’s promise to old Abraham that he and Sarah would have descendants as numerous as the stars (Genesis 12:2-3). As Israel lives, sins, dies, and is given new life again we must ask “what happens to these promises?”

Before looking at King David, remember the first king, King Saul. Against God’s wishes the people of Israel wanted, even demanded a king. God had been their king. An earthly king would bring consequences (1 Samuel 8:10-17). However, God answered their desires by giving them Saul who would reign for 42 years. At first all seemed well, until King Saul took matters into his own hands and disobeyed God. God’s Spirit left him and he was filled with an evil spirit. He became a very temperamental man. During these times God chose another to be king, a young boy by the name of David.

As you study the kings do not forget, God is always faithful to his promises even as His people turn from God’s promises to their own desires and sins.

**KING DAVID**

1. **1 Samuel 16** We meet David for the first time.

What do we learn about David?

* 1. **1 Samuel 16:11**
  2. **1 Samuel 16:12**
  3. **1 Samuel 16:13**

1. In **1 Samuel 17:45-51**. David proves himself to be more than a shepherd boy.
   1. What happened?
   2. **1 Samuel 17:4-7** Who was the mighty Philistine David killed?
2. Even though David has been chosen to be King, he will not become king immediately. He will be a servant to King Saul. He even became a close friend to Saul’s son Jonathon.

Saul became very temperamental and paranoid, fearful someone was trying to take his throne from him. He chased after David believing he was the one who was trying to take over the throne.

**1 Samuel 18:12** Why was Saul afraid of David?

**1 Samuel 31:4-6** Saul and his three of his sons die on the battlefield. The time is now right for David to become king. However, David’s becoming king over all of Israel would not be easy.

1. **2 Samuel 2:1-4** David is finally anointed to be king.
   1. Where does God send him?
   2. Who goes with him?
   3. Why this place? Does your bible include some footnotes?

This place is in Judah. Even though the twelve tribes of Israel have formed one united country there was frequent tension between the North and the South. Read on to learn more about David’s struggle to be king over all of Israel and bring unity to the nation.

1. Even though David was chosen by God and anointed to be King of Israel, his ascension to the throne would not be easy. Saul’s sons and followers claimed the throne.
   1. **2 Samuel 2:8-10** Who became king (over Israel, i.e. the Northern Tribes) after Saul died?
   2. Which part or tribe of Israel followed David?
   3. **2 Samuel 3:1** How long did the war between the House of Saul and the House of David last?
2. David has been growing stronger but he has not been able to rule over all of Israel. Abner makes the difference. Ish-Bosheth (also Ishbaal or Ishbosheth), son of Saul accuses Abner of sleeping with his Saul’s concubine, a serious accusation. Sleeping with the concubine of a former king was seen as a plan to take over the throne. The accusation is very serious.
   1. **2 Samuel 3:8-10** What is Abner’s response to the accusation?
   2. **2 Samuel 3:12** What does Abner offer to David?
   3. **2 Samuel 3:17-21** Abner confers with the leaders of Israel and with their agreement all of Israel is placed under David’s rule.
      1. What is significant about **2 Samuel 3:17:18**?
3. What do these verses tell us about David becoming king as opposed to others who wanted to become king?

Israel is coming together, uniting under David to become a reasonably independent and unified nation. However, a king cannot have anyone around who might threaten his rule. In **2 Samuel 4:1**, Ish-Bosheth, son of Saul must be dealt with. When Abner was killed he lost his courage as Abner was the military leader and unifier of Israel. Baanah and Recab kill Ish-Bosheth without David’s knowledge.

1. In **2 Samuel 5** David *finally* becomes King over all of Israel. In **2 Samuel 5:2**, how does the Lord refer to David?
2. There is one more important task to be done as David is established as King. He must have a central city as the capital.
   1. **2 Samuel 5:6-7** Who inhabits Jerusalem?
   2. What do they say about David?
3. **2 Samuel 5:8-10** David moves in.
   1. What name is given to Jerusalem?
   2. Why does David become more powerful?
4. **2 Samuel 5:11-12** The King of Tyre sends messengers and gifts to David.
   1. What is the message behind these gifts?
5. **2 Samuel 5:13-15** notes that David took on more concubines and wives in Jerusalem and more sons and daughters were born to him there. As we continue our study next time, we will see the importance of these children being born in Jerusalem. David has moved his family into Jerusalem. Will these many wives and concubines be a problem for David later on? See what **Deuteronomy 17:17** has to say about having many wives.

**For Reflection**

Reflect devotionally on the beginnings of the establishment of David as King. In other words, how can the story of David becoming king affect your faith life? You may or may not come up with some answer at first. You may need to look back over the study, reading again the passages from the Bible while praying and thinking.

Note how often David is seen as being filled with the Spirit of the Lord and how he becomes king because the Lord has chosen him. Reflect & discuss: Where is the promise of the Savior (the Gospel) as David is chosen and becomes king?

The Law is still there, that is God’s commandments along with natural law and the law of the land. Even though David was chosen and filled with the Spirit, he was still a sinner. As far as we have gone in this study, is there anything in beginnings of David’s reign that could be seen as sin and may be leading to troubles later on?

Look through some Advent and Christmas hymns. The theme David is sometimes important. Can you think of any examples?