

DAVID CROWNED KING; THE ARK RESTORED

BIBLE TEXT : **II Samuel 2:1-7, 11; 5:1-5; 6:1-15, 17**

LESSON 229 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "The LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation" (Psalm 132:13).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

2 Samuel 2:1-7

¹ And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

² So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

³ And his men that *were* with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

⁴ And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, *That* the men of Jabeshgilead *were they* that buried Saul.

⁵ And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabeshgilead, and said unto them, Blessed *be* ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, *even* unto Saul, and have buried him.

⁶ And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

⁷ Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

2 Samuel 2:11

¹¹ And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

2 Samuel 5:1-5

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I David's Entrance into Hebron

1 After Saul's death David enquired of the Lord whether he should return to the land of Israel, II Samuel 2:1-3;

1 Samuel 30:8

⁸ And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.

1 Chronicles 14:10

¹⁰ And David enquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto him, Go up; for I will deliver them into thine hand.

1 Chronicles 14:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

¹⁵ And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, *that* then thou shalt go out to battle: for God is gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines.

¹⁶ David therefore did as God commanded him: and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gazer.

2 David was anointed king over Judah in Hebron, where he reigned seven and a half years, II Samuel 2:4, 11

3 A message of encouragement was sent to the men of Jabesh-gilead for the consideration they showed to Saul, II Samuel 2:5;

1 Samuel 31:11-13

¹¹ And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;

¹² All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

¹³ And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

II King over All Israel

1 The tribes of Israel sent representatives to make a league with David and anoint him king over all the people, II Samuel 5:1-3;

1 Samuel 16:1

¹ And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1 Samuel 16:12-13

¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

1 Chronicles 12:23-40

²³ And these *are* the numbers of the bands *that were* ready armed to the war, *and* came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

¹ Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh.

² Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in 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 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 6:1-15

¹ Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen *men* of Israel, thirty thousand.

² And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims.

³ And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

⁴ And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵ And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of *instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on

²⁴ The children of Judah that bare shield and spear *were* six thousand and eight hundred, ready armed to the war.

²⁵ Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valour for the war, seven thousand and one hundred.

²⁶ Of the children of Levi four thousand and six hundred.

²⁷ And Jehoiada *was* the leader of the Aaronites, and with him *were* three thousand and seven hundred;

²⁸ And Zadok, a young man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains.

²⁹ And of the children of Benjamin, the kindred of Saul, three thousand: for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept the ward of the house of Saul.

³⁰ And of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand and eight hundred, mighty men of valour, famous throughout the house of their fathers.

³¹ And of the half tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, which were expressed by name, to come and make David king.

³² And of the children of Issachar, *which were men* that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them *were* two hundred; and all their brethren *were* at their commandment.

³³ Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: *they were* not of double heart.

³⁴ And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty and seven thousand.

³⁵ And of the Danites expert in war twenty and eight thousand and six hundred.

³⁶ And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, forty thousand.

³⁷ And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle, an hundred and twenty thousand.

³⁸ All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel *were* of one heart to make David king.

³⁹ And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking: for their brethren had prepared for them.

⁴⁰ Moreover they that were nigh them, *even* unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, *and* meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for *there was* joy in Israel.

Acts 13:22

²² And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

2 The total length of David's kingship was 40 years, II Samuel 5:4, 5

3 The capital of Israel was moved to Jerusalem, II Samuel 5:5-9

III Consideration for God's Ark

1 Thirty thousand men went with David to bring the Ark out of the house of Abinadab, II Samuel 6:1-4;

1 Samuel 7:1

¹ And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

1 Chronicles 13:1-8

¹ And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, *and* with every leader.

² And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, *If it*

psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

⁶ And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*.

⁷ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his error*; and there he died by the ark of God.

⁸ And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.

⁹ And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

¹⁰ So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obedom the Gittite.

¹¹ And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obedom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obedom, and all his household.

¹² And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obedom, and all that *pertaineth* unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obedom into the city of David with gladness.

¹³ And it was *so*, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod.

¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

2 Samuel 6:17

¹⁷ And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place,

seem good unto you, and *that it be* of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, *that are* left in all the land of Israel, and with them *also* to the priests and Levites *which are* in their cities *and* suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us:

³ And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul.

⁴ And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

⁵ So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjathjearim.

⁶ And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, *that is*, to Kirjathjearim, which *belonged* to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth *between* the cherubims, whose name is called *on it*.

⁷ And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

⁸ And David and all Israel played before God with all *their* might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

2 One man was smitten because he took hold of the Ark, II Samuel 6:5-8;

Numbers 4:15

¹⁵ And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear *it*: but they shall not touch *any* holy thing, lest they die. These *things are* the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.

1 Chronicles 13:9-10

⁹ And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.

¹⁰ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.

3 David feared to bring the Ark into his city, II Samuel 6:9-11;

1 Chronicles 13:12

¹² And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God *home* to me?

Psalms 119:120

¹²⁰ My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

4 The presence of the Ark brought blessings, so David took courage to bring the Ark into the City of David, II Samuel 6:12-15

5 The Ark was placed in a tabernacle that David had pitched for it, II Samuel 6:17;

1 Chronicles 15:1

¹ And *David* made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.

1 Chronicles 16:1

¹ So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.

NOTES:

Knowing God's Will

When David heard that Saul was slain in the battle with the Philistines, there was no rejoicing in David's heart, but rather lamentation. "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth" (Proverbs 24:17). It was not a feigned sorrow that David had for Saul; another soul had gone into a lost eternity. A true Christian could not wish that fate for even his worst enemy.

in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

Faith had assured David that some day, in some way, the Lord would remove Saul from the scene of activity; but when that faith became sight, David stood in awe of God's judgment. He did not rush forward in haste, with a display of power, to claim the throne of Israel, even though Samuel, through God's direction, had anointed him for this position many years before. The same faith that had held David steady through the years of his waiting now dictated to his heart that what the Lord had begun to accomplish He was well able to bring to a successful conclusion. However, David did enquire of the Lord as to what the next step should be. He did not make a move until he knew the mind of his God. True faith does not signify inaction on the part of the believer; but true faith does have in it the element of waiting until the mind of the Lord is fully known, then acting upon that knowledge.

There are some things clear in God's plan for His children, such as justification, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and divine healing for those who are sick. These graces and gifts are for every one who is called into the Gospel and should be eagerly sought until they are received; however, there are other offices and callings that are given to only those who wait upon the Lord in prayer and consecration. The most sacred place on earth to every soul should be the center of God's will. Many covet to know His will, but they do not live in close touch and constant communion with Him, with a consecrated heart and a life open to God, so that He might continually reveal His will to them. The joy of Heaven on earth is to know God's will, and to do it. David realized that his call to office was beyond the ordinary call, and he knew that God's will must be absolutely clear to him before he could take one step forward.

Walking in the Light

David and his army of 600 men were still in the land of the Philistines when they heard of Saul's death. The Lord was faithful to David's honest inquiry and directed him to go into the land of Israel to the city of Hebron. In this ancient city, where Abraham had dwelt and where his wife Sarah was buried, the men of the tribe of Judah gathered and anointed David king over the house of Judah. In reality the men of Judah only sanctioned the anointing that David had received from the hand of God through Samuel. Any man who walks in the light of God's holy Word will see God's promises performed in his behalf every time.

It might be said that the kingdom of Judah was but a part of the promise made to David. That is true, but a promise of God need not be fulfilled in its entirety at the outset of a man's life or Christian experience. The Lord in wisdom may withhold a portion of a promise or blessing, that He may teach some valuable lesson and make a "vessel . . . meet for the master's use." David had many things yet to learn before God allowed him to rule over all Israel. He had learned the art of arms and generalship during the years he had to flee from Saul; now in this minor kingship God taught David the use of power and authority. Every child of God is called to go through a schooling — times of testing and trials — that will fit him into the Master's plan.

God's Strong Soldiers

David was called from his father's sheepfolds to be the shepherd of Israel; many of the Apostles were called from their trade as fishermen to be fishers of men; and today God

is calling men from every walk of life to be "kings and priests unto God." The path to God's service and Kingdom has always been the same — the straight and narrow way. If David learned obedience by enduring hardship; if the Apostles and other heroes of faith were made strong out of weakness, opposition, and persecution (**Hebrews 11:34** ³⁴Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens); then how can any Christian expect to enter the pearly gates of Heaven without tasting a portion of these things? God uses the same methods today to create His strong soldiers' of Christian warfare.

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him" (II Timothy 2:12). But the Christian's experience is not all hardship, by any means. The rewards of faithfulness beckon God's warriors always onward. The full overcomer shall live and reign with Christ a thousand years upon this earth. (**Revelation 20:4** ⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.) It may take patience to see all God's good promises fulfilled in an individual life, but the soul who puts his faith and trust in God has already the earnest of his inheritance. "The LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

David as King

When a man was anointed as king to succeed the previous dynasty, many times his first action was to depose all who might have any claim to the throne. This was not only considered legitimate, but it was considered necessary in those days to slay all persons who might be pretenders to the throne or might in any wise threaten the reigning monarch. However, David was not a man of this spirit, for he did not lift his hand against the descendants of Saul. Abner, the captain of Saul's hosts, took one of Saul's sons and anointed him king in place of his father; but "David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker" (II Samuel 3:1). David reigned seven and a half years in Hebron, and by the end of that time the Lord had brought all the tribes of Israel into a united kingdom under David's ridership, thus fulfilling God's promise to David.

To bring about the return of all Israel to one kingdom, the Lord allowed the death of Abner and of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul whom Abner had placed on the throne of Israel. When the men of Israel realized that the last support of the house of Saul was gone, they came to David in Hebron to make him king. They remembered that David had been their captain in years past, and that the Lord had promised to David, "Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel." The elders of Israel made a league with David in Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel, to the joy of all the people.

The Kingdom of Heaven, which is the kingdom of the Son of David according to earthly lineage, has many similarities to the kingdom of David. David was anointed many years before the promise came to fulfillment. The people of Israel said in a sense, "We will not have this man to reign over us"; and he felt it was necessary to flee from the

land of Israel to save his life. David kept his faith in God, however, and saw the day when the Lord prospered him more and more to the extent that the whole of Israel came under his dominion. Satan and the rulers of darkness have opposed Jesus' reign in every conceivable way. The inhabitants of the world have rebelled against the Son of God's claim to their allegiance; yet the Kingdom has waxed stronger and stronger through the years. On the surface today, Satan might seem to have the upper hand, but the hour will soon come when his power will be broken with the sword of Christ's mouth. Jesus will be recognized in that day as "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:16), and all who are in Heaven and on earth will rejoice to give Him allegiance and pay Him homage. If the men of Israel rejoiced in their earthly king, how much more will the saints of God rejoice in their heavenly Monarch.

The Ark of the Covenant

As the life of David the king is studied, it will be noted that an outstanding trait in David's life was an honesty that caused him to recognize God as the supreme Ruler and himself as a human representative of God's government. David realized that the capital of the nation should also be the city of God and headquarters for the religious worship that the Israelites enjoyed. The Tabernacle that had been pitched in Shiloh had been in disuse for many years; while the Ark of the Covenant, after its return from the land of the Philistines, had been placed in the house of Abinadab and apparently forgotten. When David was established king over all the tribes of Israel he soon felt the need of having the Ark of God in the city of Jerusalem. He gathered 30,000 chosen men to go with him to move the Ark of God into the city in triumph.

How careful men must be to do all things according to God's instructions, if they expect to enjoy God's favor upon their lives! Had the Children of Israel been careful to study God's Word at this time, they would have found that the Ark should be securely wrapped to prevent people from gazing upon it, and that it should be borne by staves upon the shoulders of the Levites. The Ark or any of the holy things were not to be touched by any man, under the penalty of death, except the priests who ministered in the Tabernacle.

The Philistines returned the Ark of the Covenant to the Children of Israel on a new cart. David and his men disregarded God's command and tried to move the Ark in the same way from the house of Abinadab to the city of Jerusalem. As the procession made its way through the country toward the city, the Ark pitched forward upon the new cart as the oxen stumbled upon the rough ground. Immediately Uzzah, an attendant of the Ark, put forth his hand to steady the Ark, but the action displeased God because it was a breach of His commandment. God smote him there for his error, and he died. Uzzah's death brought great distress to the heart of David and he feared to bring the Ark into the city. The procession turned aside to place the Ark in the house of Obed-edom.

Obtaining the Blessing

The Lord blessed the house of Obed-edom during the time that the Ark was in his house. When the things of God are rightly used and revered, the blessing of the Lord will always attend. David again felt his need of having God's Ark with him in the city; and seeing the blessing that Obed-edom

enjoyed from the Ark's presence, David took courage to bring the Ark into Jerusalem. The Ark was carried upon the shoulders of the Levites on this second occasion, and the blessing of the Lord rested upon all the people. They brought the Ark into the city of Jerusalem with great shouting and with the sound of the trumpet, and put it in its place in the tabernacle that David had pitched.

This incident should serve as a fresh warning to all men, even today, that the God of Heaven is particular about details. It shows how easy it is to make a misstep — to get out of the order of the Lord — and the tragic consequences of such action. If the Lord was particular about David's service to Him, is He not just as particular about the Christian's walk now? It shows the absolute need of having the Lord by our side every moment to guide each step. If men are careful to walk in the footsteps of Christ and follow His every direction, they can be sure of success along the highway of holiness and an open door when they arrive at Heaven.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Where was David when he heard of Saul's death?
- 2 What did David do before he moved? and into what city did he move?
- 3 Who came to that city? What action did they take?
- 4 How many years passed before all the Children of Israel anointed David to be their king?
- 5 What city did David choose to be his capital city?
- 6 Why did David want the Ark of the Covenant in the city with him?
- 7 Why did the Lord smite Uzzah and cause him to die?
- 8 How was the Ark of the Covenant finally brought into the city?
- 9 What lesson can be learned from this example?