



Our sermon text for this morning is 2 Samuel 5 (p. 240 in the pew Bible). In this chapter, David *finally* becomes king of Israel. This momentous occasion is not only fascinating from a historical perspective but also a Christocentric perspective as we see how David foreshadows the ultimate King, David's greater descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, David's coronation and its connection to Christ bear direct relevance to our lives today. Before we begin our study of this chapter, let us pray once again:

*Lord, the words that you speak are spirit and life. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. So, please help us to pay attention as your Spirit speaks to us today. Pierce our hearts. Convict us of our sin. Convince us of your truth. Give us a heart to believe and obey it. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**THE KINGDOM COMES**  
2 Samuel 5:1-25

That's the title of today's sermon. Let's begin by reading verses 1-5, where we are introduced to *the covenantal king*.

**The Covenantal King**  
**(vv. 1-5)**

<sup>1</sup> Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. <sup>2</sup> 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.'" <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

- 2 Samuel 5:1-5

There was a gap of about five years between the events of chapters 4 and 5. We know from 2:10 that Ish-bosheth reigned in northern Israel for two years before being murdered in chapter 4. The Israelite elders may have acknowledged David as their king shortly after Ish-bosheth's death but made no attempts to do so formally until five years later. In the meantime, David did what he had been doing all along – waiting patiently on the Lord while caring for the people that God had already placed under his charge.

But the time came when “all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron” (v. 1). They gave David three reasons why they wanted him to be their king.

1. *You're our brother* – our own flesh and blood (see Deuteronomy 17:15).
2. *You're the best qualified*. Even when Saul was king, you were the real leader.
3. *You're the Lord's pick*. He said you would shepherd his people and rule over Israel.

So, they all came together to anoint him as their king. The word “all” appears three times to show that the kingdom established under David was a *united* monarchy.

This was the third time that David had been anointed as king. The first anointing had come from the Lord well over a decade earlier, in 1 Samuel 16, when the Lord said to Samuel, “Arise, anoint him; this is the one” (v. 12). The second anointing occurred in 2 Samuel 2 when “the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah (2 Sam. 2:4 NLT). Now in 2 Samuel 5 is the third anointing when *all* the tribes of Israel gather to anoint David as their king for the three reasons they stated: *You're our brother*, our own flesh and blood ... *you're the best qualified*, our true leader ... and *you're the Lord's pick*. He said you would shepherd his people and rule over Israel.

These are three good reasons why we should receive Jesus as our King! Hebrews 2:14 says, “Because God’s children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death” (NLT). In this same chapter we are told that Jesus is the champion of our salvation, that he is not ashamed to call us brothers, and that God has crowned him with glory and honor.

Whereas all the tribes of the Israel gathered to honor David as their king, one day all the tribes of the earth will gather to worship Jesus as their king. In Revelation 7, the apostle John records a vision God gave him, saying,

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!” ... And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God.

- Revelation 7:9-11 NLT

Do you celebrate Jesus as your Savior? Do you worship him as your King?

In verses 3-5 of 2 Samuel 5, the narrator points out that David’s kingdom advanced in stages until he ruled over all Israel. The same is true of Jesus’ kingdom. It advances in stages as the gospel spreads throughout the world. One day the kingdom will culminate when Jesus returns in power and glory at God’s appointed time. Scripture says, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

David reigned for forty years (1010 to 970 BC). Many critical scholars believe that the Bible's record of David's reign is more or less a fabrication – sort of like the legend of King Arthur in England. But in 1993 a huge archaeological discovery was made at Tel Dan – an excavation site in northern Israel. Archaeologists found a stone slab (or stela) with an inscription that mentions “the house of David” and dates to the ninth century BC.<sup>1</sup>  
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This archaeological discovery provided extrabiblical evidence that David was an actual historical figure rather than a folk-hero or legend. King David really existed and reigned for forty years. King Jesus really exists and will reign forever and ever. The evidence is there. The question is, do you believe it? The Bible is trustworthy because God is trustworthy. Jesus is the ultimate covenantal King, “for,” as Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:20, “all the promises of God have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding ‘Yes!’ And through Christ, our ‘Amen’ (which means ‘Yes’) ascends to God for his glory” (NLT).

Throughout the remainder of 2 Samuel 5, we see *the conquering king*.

### **The Conquering King (vv. 6-25)**

In verses 6-10, David conquers the Jebusites and makes Jerusalem the new capital of Israel. In verses 17-25, David defeats the Philistines – twice – when they attack him.

#### The Conquering of the Jebusites

Let's begin with David's conquering of the Jebusites and the taking of Jerusalem, which are described in verses 6-10:

<sup>6</sup> 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.”

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David.

<sup>8</sup> 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.”

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<sup>1</sup> John D. Currid, “1-2 Samuel,” *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*, gen. ed. D. A. Carson (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015), 553. For more information about this discovery, visit the Biblical Archaeology website at <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/the-tel-dan-inscription-the-first-historical-evidence-of-the-king-david-bible-story/>.

<sup>9</sup> And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward. <sup>10</sup> And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

- 2 Samuel 5:6-10

Jerusalem was so well fortified, that the Jebusites told David, "You'll never get in here! Even the blind and lame could keep you out!" This kind of taunting and trash-talk before a battle was a common practice in the ancient Near East, much like it is in sports today.

⇒ One of my favorite examples of this kind of exchange is found in 1 Kings 20, about a century later, in the days of the divided kingdom when King Ahab ruled the northern kingdom of Israel from its capital city, Samaria. Ben-hadad, the king of Aram, mobilized his army against King Ahab and swore there wouldn't be anything left of Samaria but handfuls of dust. King Ahab responded, "He who puts on his armor should not boast like one who takes it off." In other words, "don't count your chickens before they hatch!" Ahab was an evil king and cowardly at times, but on this occasion he had a witty comeback and ended up winning the battle.

So did David on this occasion. Instead of being intimidated by the Jebusites' taunt, David became infuriated. He marshaled his men and had them attack the city by going through an underground water tunnel that went from an outside spring into the city walls.

⇒ In 1867, an archaeologist named Charles Warren discovered a water shaft near the Gihon Spring, the main water supply for Jerusalem. Since then, an extensive network of tunnels has been excavated, and one of them was probably the water shaft through which David's men entered the city.

⇒ According to 1 Chronicles 11:6, David's nephew Joab led the attack and therefore became David's chief military commander.

Jerusalem became known as "the city of David," who made it the capital city of Israel. This was a strategic move on David's part, because Jerusalem was much more central than the city of Hebron, which was further south. This assured the northern tribes that David was truly their king also. He was king over *all* Israel.

Two thousand years later, when Jesus was born, Jerusalem was still referred to as "the city of David." The angel of the Lord said to the shepherds, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

Jerusalem, which is also referred to as Mount Zion, is mentioned in the Bible more than any other city (from Genesis 14:18 to Revelation 21:10). At the beginning of Revelation 21, when the apostle John has a vision of "a new heaven and a new earth" (v. 1), he says,

"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself

will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

- Revelation 21:2-5

***God is bringing the promised kingdom  
to its appointed consummation.***

The new Jerusalem already exists in heaven but has yet to be established on earth. That’s why we pray, “Your kingdom come.” Yet the writer of Hebrews reminds us that even as we worship the Lord today, we “have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb. 11:22). Through Jesus, we have access to God’s presence right now, where thousands and thousands of angels gather in joyful assembly along with the souls of departed believers who are at home with the Lord – “the spirits of the righteous made perfect” (v. 23). What a wonderful thing worship is! It is far greater than what our senses can perceive, and it’s a foretaste of our coming glory.

Going back to 2 Samuel 5, we read in verse 11, “And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house.” Hiram was smart and formed an alliance with David. Tyre was a trading empire, a major seaport city on the Mediterranean coast, about a hundred miles north of Jerusalem. By forming an alliance with David, Hiram maintained access to the inland trade routes. Hiram and David enjoyed a friendly relationship throughout David’s reign, and Hiram later supported Solomon and supplied him with many of the resources used to build the temple.

Verse 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.” David’s rise to power and all his accomplishments were intended by God not to glorify David but to benefit God’s people. As David kept this in mind, he would continue to be a great leader. The same principle holds true for leaders today.

The Defeat of the Philistines

<sup>17</sup> When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. <sup>18</sup> Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. <sup>19</sup> And David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?” And the Lord said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.” <sup>20</sup> And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, “The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood.” Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. <sup>21</sup> And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away.

- 2 Samuel 5:17-21

The parallel account in 1 Chronicles 14 says that when the Philistines abandoned their idols, David had his men not only confiscate them but also burn them. David knew these idols were powerless, so he wasn’t interested in adding them to a pantheon of gods, as

was the practice of other nations. David knew that Yahweh alone was God, so he had all the counterfeit gods consumed in the fire. That's where they belonged.

<sup>22</sup> And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim.

<sup>23</sup> And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. <sup>24</sup> And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the Lord has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines." <sup>25</sup> And David did as the Lord commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

- 2 Samuel 5:22-25

David's two victories are described briefly, but with just enough detail to show us that David inquired of the Lord before every battle, and God gave him the victory.

- In the first battle, David hit the Philistines head-on. After the victory, he gave God the glory, saying, "The Lord burst through my enemies like a raging flood!" And David named the place accordingly.
- In the second battle, God gave David a different strategy. Instead of coming at the Philistines head-on, David circled behind them and attacked as soon as he heard the sound of marching in the tops of the trees. It's not clear whether only David and his army could hear the sound or the Philistines also heard it and thought that they were being attacked by a much larger force.<sup>2</sup>

Whatever the case, God gave David the victory this time too. Why? Because "David inquired of the Lord" (v. 23). "And David did as the Lord commanded him" (v. 25).

The same can be said in the ultimate sense regarding David's greater descendant, the Lord Jesus, who was "obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:8). Think of all the times that Jesus consulted and communed with his Father in prayer. Jesus didn't do anything apart from prayer. He prayed in all sorts of settings and situations, both publicly and privately. Jesus set the example of how we should trust God, submit to God, and seek fellowship with God. "And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God" (Heb. 5:7 NLT). By seeking God in prayer and submitting to the Father's will, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Heb. 5:9). "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57)!

This next week we'll be celebrating our victory in Christ and the price Jesus paid to secure that victory as we commemorate his death during our Good Friday service and then celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday a week from today.

For now, I'll leave you with four closing points of application:

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<sup>2</sup> For example, in 2 Kings 7:6, the Lord "caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, 'Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!' So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives."

1. **Unity comes by following one king.** This was true for Israel in the time of David. And it is true for the church today. In Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul reminds us, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all” (vv. 4-6 NLT). As we follow the Lord, we’ll be unified with one another.
2. **Different situations require different strategies and constant dependence on the Lord.** We see this in David’s warfare with the Philistines. Rather than assume the same strategy, he sought the Lord in each situation. God’s word is infallible, but our ways of doing things are not. Flexibility gives us the freedom to adapt to different situations and opportunities in a timely way so that we can keep moving forward in the direction that God would have us to go.
3. **Christ alone is the perfect king.** David was a faithful king not a flawless one. The narrator informs us in 2 Samuel 5:13 that “David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem....” Polygamy was never part of God’s plan, and David’s actions went directly against God’s command in Deuteronomy 17:17 that the king “shall not acquire many wives for himself....” Later in his life, David would pay the price for his disobedience. The Lord Jesus Christ, our perfect king, has only one bride – his church, and he is our heavenly bridegroom. Our own marriages are to reflect this commitment, and so should our admiration of other Christian leaders. The best of men are men at best, so let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, our true champion.
4. **The kingdom comes in stages.** This fact required patience on David’s part, and it requires patience on ours. God will make good on his promises. His kingdom will surely come. In the meantime, God calls us to be patient, prayerful, and persistent, “always working enthusiastically for the Lord, because [we] know that [our] labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58 NLT, CSB).