

Character Study: David
Part 3 – David Becomes King
I Samuel 29 – II Samuel 7

What's happening?

- When the princes of the Philistines learned that David was staying with them, they asked him to leave, fearing that he would turn and fight against them. (29:1-11)
- The Philistines went to battle against Israel once again. When the battle was over, Saul and three of his sons (including Jonathan) were dead. (31:1-13). Hearing the news, David was overcome by emotion and mourned and wept bitterly. (II Sam. 1:1-27)
- David was made the king over Judah, but the leaders over the other tribes did not accept David as their king, picking Ishbosheth (one of Saul's sons) to rule over them instead. This resulted in a civil war between those who had followed Saul and those who followed David. (2:1-3:39)
- Ishbosheth was killed by some of David's followers, but David was not pleased and had the murders put to death. Those who had been against David had a change of heart, and all of the Israelites came and gladly anointed David to be their king. (4:1-5:5; note I Chron. 12:38-40)

What's God doing?

> In His timing, God established David as the king over all Israel. God's blessing was upon the Israelites, allowing them to retake Jerusalem, (calling it the City of David, 5:6-7), giving them a great leader in David (5:10-12), and given them rest from their enemies (7:1).

What's to learn?

→ The path that led David to his throne was not easy. Even after Saul was killed, David faced opposition from some of Saul's loyal followers. However, God was in complete control. Sometimes we may face many bumps along the road as we follow God's will, but we can be confident that God is working out all the details.

→ When God is working His will, even if things may not go as smoothly as we would like, it is always reassuring when we see God's hand at work. In what ways can you see evidence of God at work? What evidence do you see of God doing things in your life? Take time today to thank Him for the faithfulness and goodness He has shown to you!

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