

# **Bible Study June 12, 2024**

## **2 SAMUEL 5 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)**

Ephesians 6:12 (AMP)

***<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.***

### **David Becomes King Over Israel**

***<sup>1</sup> All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. <sup>2</sup> In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”***

2 Samuel 3:17-18 (NIV)

***<sup>17</sup> Abner then had a word with the elders of Israel: “For some time you have been wanting David as your king. <sup>18</sup> Now take action, for the LORD has said of David: By David my servant I will save my people Israel from the power of the Philistines and from the power of all their enemies.”***

***<sup>3</sup> When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king 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 became king, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.***

This was the third time David was anointed king. First he was privately anointed by Samuel (1 Samuel 16:13). Then he was made king over the tribe of Judah (2 Samuel 2:4). Finally he was crowned king over all Israel. David's life as an outlaw had looked bleak, but God's promise to make him king over all Israel was now being fulfilled. Although the kingdom would be divided again in less than 75 years, David's dynasty would reign over Judah, the southern kingdom, for over 400 years.

David did not become king over all Israel until he was 37 years old, although he had been promised the kingdom many years earlier (1 Samuel 16:13). During those years, David had to wait patiently for the fulfillment of God's promise. If you feel pressured to achieve results and success quickly, remember David's patience. Just as his time of waiting prepared him for his important task, a waiting period may help prepare you for whatever God has planned.

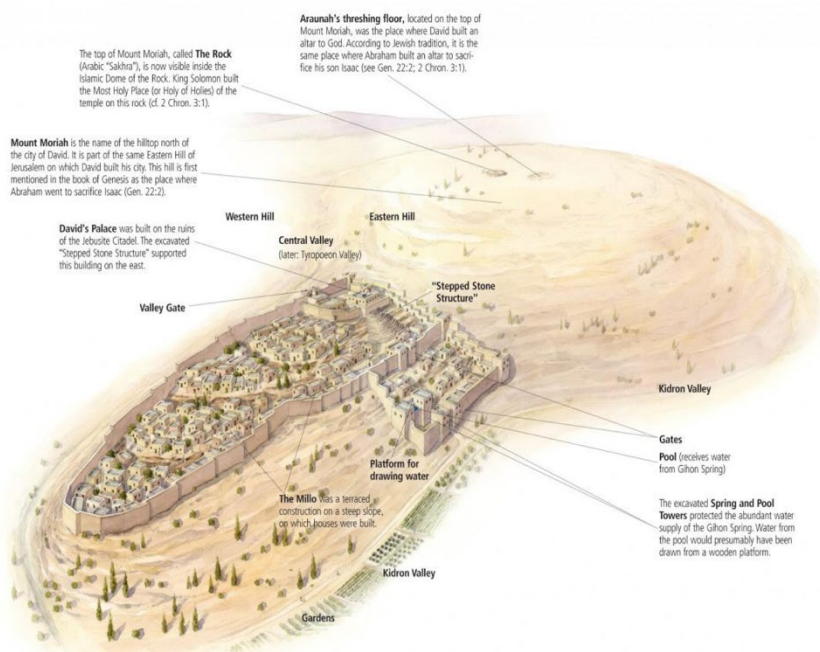
### **David Conquers Jerusalem**

***<sup>6</sup> The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, “You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward***

**you off.” They thought, “David cannot get in here.”<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David.**

The fortress of Zion (which became the city of Jerusalem) was located on a high ridge near the center of the united Israelite kingdom. It was considered neutral territory because it stood on the border of the territory of the tribes of Benjamin and Judah, and it was still occupied by the Jebusites, a Canaanite tribe who had never been expelled from the land (Judges 1:21). **Because of its strategic advantages, David made Jerusalem his capital.**

**The Jebusites had a clear military advantage, and they boasted of their security behind the impregnable walls of Jerusalem, also called Zion.** But they soon discovered that their walls would not protect them. **David caught them by surprise by entering the city through the water tunnel.**



**<sup>8</sup> On that day David had said, "Anyone who conquers the Jebusites will have to use the water shaft to reach those 'lame and blind' who are David's enemies." That is why they say, "The 'blind and lame' will not enter the palace."**

**<sup>9</sup> David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the terraces inward. <sup>10</sup> And he became more and more powerful, because the LORD God Almighty was with him.**

**<sup>11</sup> Now Hiram king of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David. <sup>12</sup> Then David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.**

"David realized that the LORD had confirmed him as king over Israel." Although the pagan kingdoms based their greatness on conquest, power, armies, and wealth, David knew that his greatness came only from God. To David, being great meant keeping a close relationship with God personally and nationally. To do this, David had to keep his ambition under control. Although he was famous, successful, and well liked, he gave God first place in his life and served the people according to God's purposes. Do you seek greatness from God or from people? In the drive for success, remember to keep your ambition under God's control.

**<sup>13</sup> After he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him.**

Although David sincerely sought after God, he had weaknesses like any other person. One of those weaknesses was his desire for many wives. Sadly, the children born to these wives caused David and the kingdom much grief. David also set an unhealthy pattern for his son Solomon. (For more on the problems caused by David's many wives, (see the note on 3:2-5)

- 3:2-5 David suffered much heartache because of his many wives. Polygamy was a socially acceptable practice for kings at this time, although God had specifically warned against it (Deuteronomy 17:14-17). Sadly, the numerous sons born to David's wives caused him great trouble. Rape (2 Samuel 13:14), murder (13:28), rebellion (15:13), and greed (1 Kings 1:5-6) all resulted from the jealous rivalries among the half brothers. Solomon, one of David's sons and his successor to the throne, also took many wives, and they eventually turned him away from God (1 Kings 11:3-4). Although most people don't practice polygamy today, people who divorce or remarry also must guard against rivalry among their children.

***<sup>14</sup> These are the names of the children born to him there: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, <sup>15</sup> Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, <sup>16</sup> Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet.***

### **David Defeats the Philistines**

***<sup>17</sup> When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold.***

The Philistine oppression of Israel had begun in the days of Samson (Judges 13–16). The Philistines were still Israel's most powerful enemy even though David had once been considered a friend and ally (1 Samuel 27; 29). Because they occupied much of Israel's northern territory, they apparently did not bother David while he was king of Judah to the south. But when they learned that David was planning to unite all Israel, they tried to stop him.

The "stronghold" is the mountain stronghold in the wilderness of Judah that David had used when defending himself against Saul.

***<sup>18</sup> Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; <sup>19</sup> so David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?"***

***The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands."***

How could David get such a clear message from God? He may have prayed and been urged to action by the Holy Spirit. He may have asked God through a prophet. Likely, however, he went to the high priest, who consulted God through the Urim and Thummim, which God had told the Israelites to use for just such a purpose.

***<sup>20</sup> So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them. He said, "As waters break out, the LORD has broken out against my enemies before me." So that place was called Baal Perazim. <sup>21</sup> The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off.***

***<sup>22</sup> Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; <sup>23</sup> so David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the poplar trees. <sup>24</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the poplar trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD***

***has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army.”<sup>25</sup> So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.***

David fought his battles the way God instructed him. In each instance he (1) asked if he should fight or not, (2) followed instructions carefully, and (3) gave God the glory. We can err in our “battles” by ignoring these steps and instead (1) doing what we want without considering God’s will, (2) doing things our way and ignoring advice in the Bible or from wise people we consult, and (3) taking the glory ourselves or giving it to someone else without acknowledging the help we received from God. Responding this way is sinful.

After David became king, his first order of business was to subdue his enemies, a task the nation had failed to complete when they had first entered the land (Judges 2:1-4). David knew this had to be done in order to (1) protect the nation, (2) unify the kingdom, and (3) prepare for building the Temple (which would unify the people’s religious practices under God and help abolish idolatrous influences).

### **2 Corinthians 10:4-6 (NIV)**

***<sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup>casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup>and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.***