

## 2 Samuel 3:8-11

<sup>8</sup> Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ishbosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman?

<sup>9</sup> So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;

<sup>10</sup> To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba.

<sup>11</sup> And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him.

## 2 Samuel 3:27-32

<sup>27</sup> And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

<sup>28</sup> And afterward when David heard it, he said, I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner:

<sup>29</sup> Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread.

<sup>30</sup> So Joab, and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

<sup>31</sup> And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier.

<sup>32</sup> And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept.

## 2 Samuel 5:12

<sup>12</sup> And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

### David Made King Of Israel

What type of man was Saul's military leader? His anger against the house of Saul was so great that he betrayed his nation. His desire for turning the kingdom to David was motivated by personal revenge. He had known God's plan for David, but he had never aligned himself with it. We find very little in Abner's character to admire, but very much to shun. We find here several scenes from David's life that reveal his character: his family life, his reactions to murders, and how he regarded the Lord's place in the ruling of a nation. We see some of the Lord's response to him and we see much to praise in David's life.

Abner's actions serve as a stark contrast to David's character. While Abner's motivations were rooted in personal vendettas and self-interest, David consistently sought to align his actions with

God's will. Despite the chaos and betrayal surrounding him, David's responses were often marked by a deep sense of justice and a desire to honor the Lord.

For instance, when faced with the murder of Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, David's reaction was not one of triumph but of mourning and justice. He condemned the murderers and ensured they faced the consequences of their actions (2 Samuel 4:9-12). This incident highlights David's commitment to righteousness and his respect for the sanctity of life, even when it involved his enemies.

Moreover, David's family life, though not without its challenges, often reflected his reliance on God. His psalms frequently express his trust in the Lord's guidance and his dependence on God's strength in times of trouble (Psalm 23, Psalm 27). These personal reflections provide a window into David's heart and his unwavering faith.

In the broader context of ruling a nation, David's reverence for God's authority was evident. He sought the Lord's counsel in his decisions and recognized that his kingship was ultimately under God's sovereignty. This humility and acknowledgment of God's supreme rule set David apart as a leader who prioritized divine guidance over personal ambition.

Through these scenes, we see a man after God's own heart, whose life was a testament to the power of faith and obedience. David's story encourages us to seek God's will in all aspects of our lives and to trust in His perfect plan, even when faced with adversity.

**2 Samuel 3:8-11** Abner, captain of Saul's army, had made Saul's son, Ishbosheth king of Israel, that is, of the tribes exclusive to Judah. He had done it, partly, from loyalty to Saul. Perhaps also from desire for power, for Ishbosheth seems to have been weak and

prone to yield to Abner. But one day Ishbosheth accused Abner of immorality concerning Saul's concubine. This so angered Abner that he turned his support from his king and vowed to turn the kingdom from Saul's family to David. He declared this to accord with God's stated purpose for David—as **the Lord hath sworn to David**. His rage frightened Ishbosheth speechless.

The enemy uses God's words to his advantage many times. Abner sent word to David of his intention and received a favorable, but conditional, reply. He sought the approval of the elders of Israel and especially of Benjamin, the tribe from which King Saul had come. He used two arguments: (1) their former desire for David to be their king, and (2) the Lord's purpose for David (2 Samuel 3:17-18). Then he went to David and agreed to put the kingdom under his rule. David sent Abner away with his blessing.

**2 Samuel 3:27-32** When Joab heard this he was very displeased. Abner was his old enemy and slayer of his brother (2 Samuel 3:18-24). It was probable now that he had come to be his rival. Joab called him back from his homeward trip. On pretense of a private conversation, Joab led Abner aside and killed him. Thus he gained revenge for his brother's death and destroyed his rival. When David heard of it, he testified that he or his kingdom, Judah, were guiltless of the blood of Abner. He showed his attitude toward murder in his prayer of concern in 2 Samuel 3:29.

Abner was Saul's captain when Saul pursued David to kill him. Yet David mourned his death as that of a dear friend. He wept in real sorrow. He called the nation to mourning. They shared his feelings. David was admired and approved by his people as we read in 2 Samuel 3:1 and 2 Samuel 3:36. With the strength of Abner gone, Ishbosheth became weaker than ever and his kingdom

disorganized. In an overzealous attempt to make way for Israel to come under David's strong leadership, two of Ishbosheth's captains slew him. Thinking to gain approval, they brought his head to David. They knew little about David. Instead of praising, he ordered their execution.

Abner's death marked a significant turning point in the power struggle between the house of Saul and the house of David. David's genuine mourning for Abner demonstrated his respect for those who served faithfully, even if they were once his adversaries. This act of mourning not only showcased David's integrity but also his ability to unify the nation through compassion and justice.

David's reaction to the murder of Ishbosheth further highlighted his commitment to righteousness. By executing the captains who killed Ishbosheth, David made it clear that he would not tolerate treachery or the shedding of innocent blood, even if it seemingly benefited his cause. This decision reinforced his image as a just and godly leader, one who sought to establish his kingdom on the principles of justice and mercy.

In 2 Samuel 4:9-12, David's response to the captains' actions is recorded: "David answered Rechab and Baanah, his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, 'As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from all adversity, when someone told me, saying, "Look, Saul is dead," thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag—the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?' So David commanded his young men, and they executed them, cut off their hands and

feet, and hanged them by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner in Hebron.”

This passage underscores David’s unwavering commitment to justice and his reliance on God’s guidance in his leadership. It serves as a powerful reminder that true leadership is not about seizing power through any means necessary but about upholding righteousness and trusting in God’s timing and provision.

**2 Samuel 5:1-5** Now in need of a leader and prepared by Abner's negotiations, the elders of Israel came to David with three reasons why he should be their king: (1) He and they shared common ancestry—the same bone and flesh (Abraham and Jacob). (2) David previously had done good service to these tribes under Saul (1 Samuel 18:12-16). (3) It was the Lord's will that David be captain over Israel.

David made a league with them. No details are given. No doubt he promised to be a good king and they promised to be loyal subjects. This would compare to the type of league we made with Christ when we come into His kingdom. They anointed David king over Israel. This anointing was by men, but was in agreement with the choice of God signified earlier by the anointing He commanded Samuel to perform (1 Samuel 16).

David’s anointing as king over Israel is a powerful reminder of God’s sovereignty and His divine plan. Despite the political turmoil and human negotiations, it was ultimately God’s will that prevailed. This moment also highlights the importance of unity and obedience among God’s people. The elders of Israel recognized God’s choice and submitted to His will, anointing David as their king.

This act of anointing David can be seen as a foreshadowing of the anointing of Jesus Christ, the ultimate King and Savior. Just as

David was chosen by God and anointed to lead Israel, Jesus was chosen and anointed to bring salvation to all humanity. Our acceptance of Jesus as our King involves a similar covenant, where we pledge our loyalty and obedience to Him, and He promises to be our faithful and righteous leader.

Furthermore, David's reign began in Hebron, where he ruled over Judah for seven years and six months before becoming king over all Israel. This period of waiting and gradual fulfillment of God's promise teaches us about patience and trust in God's timing. Even when we face delays or challenges, we can be confident that God's plans for us are good and will come to fruition in His perfect timing.

In our own lives, we can draw inspiration from David's journey. Just as David was called to lead and serve, we too are called to fulfill God's purposes in our lives. By aligning ourselves with God's will and trusting in His guidance, we can experience the abundant life that Jesus promised.

Abner and Joab each thought he saw problems ahead. Each used his own plan and effort to solve them. Baanah and Rechab allowed their own thoughts to control their actions. This was not necessary in order for God to give David the kingdom. God's power is not dependent upon our efforts. True, we can limit Him by doubt and disobedience. But He does not need our self efforts.

Consider Elijah pouring water over the sacrifice before praying for fire. He removed all suspicion of man's help that God's action might be plainly seen. How does this compare with the actions of Baanah, Rechab, Abner, and Joab? God will work His plan unaided by our efforts. The only help He needs from us is obedience to Him Alone.

In contrast to these men, David consistently sought God's guidance and waited for His timing. When David had the opportunity to kill Saul, he refrained, trusting that God would fulfill His promise in His own way and time. This demonstrates a profound faith in God's sovereignty and a willingness to submit to His will.

Similarly, we are called to trust in God's plan and timing. Our role is not to force outcomes through our own efforts, but to remain faithful and obedient, trusting that God will accomplish His purposes. As **Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."**

**2 Samuel 5:6-12** In these verses we find the following facts: (1) David grew great; (2) The Lord was with him; (3) David perceived that the Lord had established him king; (4) David knew the blessings upon him and the kingdom were for Israel's sake, not his. God directed David's path.

**Let's delve deeper into these points:**

**David grew great:** This greatness wasn't just in terms of power or wealth, but in his character and faith. David's greatness was a reflection of his obedience and trust in God. As we grow in our faith, we too can experience this greatness, not for our own glory, but for God's purpose.

**The Lord was with him:** David's success was not due to his own abilities alone, but because the Lord was with him. This is a reminder that when we walk with God, His presence is our strength and guide. We are never alone in our journey.

**David perceived that the Lord had established him king:** David recognized that his position and authority were given by God. He understood that his role was part of God's divine plan. In our lives,



we must also recognize and acknowledge God's hand in our achievements and positions.

**David knew the blessings upon him and the kingdom were for Israel's sake, not his:** David understood that the blessings he received were not just for his benefit, but for the greater good of Israel. This teaches us that our blessings and successes are meant to be shared and used for the benefit of others, to further God's kingdom.

Just as God directed David's path, He directs ours. We must remain humble, recognizing that our successes are not solely our own, but are part of God's greater plan. Let us use our blessings to serve others and glorify God.

**The blind and the lame.** This passage may be puzzling to many. Some suggest that the Jebusites thought David weak, so put lame and nearly blind ones to defend Jerusalem. This was probably an exaggeration. They taunted him that to come in he must overcome these weak ones. David took the challenge and smote them at the water course of the wall.

David's reign over Judah was administered from Hebron, a town some twelve miles south of Jerusalem. To rule all Israel, he moved to Zion, the eastern hill of Jerusalem. This is a type of Christ's spiritual kingdom. Read Romans 11:26; Hebrews 12:22; and Revelation 14:1. Mary was visiting Elizabeth in Hebron at the time of the Holy Conception. Christ's earthly ministry was conducted from Jerusalem. His heavenly ministry is conducted from Mount Zion, the Church of God.

The Lord God of hosts was with him. No wonder David grew great. He perceived that the Lord had established him king. This is

valuable insight for any person to possess—to recognize God's hand in his accomplishments and not to proudly take glory to himself. If we will meet His conditions, God will do for us as He did for David.

David's conquest of Jerusalem is also a reminder of the power of faith and determination. Despite the taunts and seemingly insurmountable obstacles, David trusted in God's promise and acted with courage. This mirrors our own spiritual journey, where we may face challenges that seem beyond our ability to overcome. Yet, with faith in God's guidance and strength, we can achieve great things.

Furthermore, David's move to Zion symbolizes the establishment of a new, divine order. Just as David's reign from Zion marked a new chapter for Israel, Christ's reign from the heavenly Mount Zion signifies the establishment of His eternal kingdom. This kingdom is not bound by earthly limitations but is a spiritual realm where God's presence and authority are fully realized.

In our lives, we are called to recognize and embrace this spiritual kingdom. By aligning our hearts and actions with God's will, we become part of His divine plan. Just as David acknowledged God's hand in his success, we too must give glory to God for our achievements and trust in His continued guidance.

## CLOSING

As we conclude today's lesson, let's remember the unwavering love and grace of our Lord. May we carry the teachings of Scripture in our hearts, allowing them to guide our actions and decisions. Let us

strive to live out our faith daily, reflecting the light of Christ in all we do.

Let's bow our heads in prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the wisdom and guidance You have provided through Your Word. Help us to apply these lessons in our lives, to grow in faith, and to be a beacon of Your love to those around us. Strengthen us, Lord, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit, so that we may walk in Your ways and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.