

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 4-5

2 SAMUEL 4:1-7 - THE DEATH OF ISHBOSHETH

V. 2-3 - "THIS PASSAGE STRESSES THAT THOSE WHO KILLED ISH-BOSHETH WERE NOT PARTISANS OF DAVID BUT WERE FROM SAUL'S OWN TRIBE." (ESV STUDY BIBLE NOTE 2 SAMUEL 4:2-3).

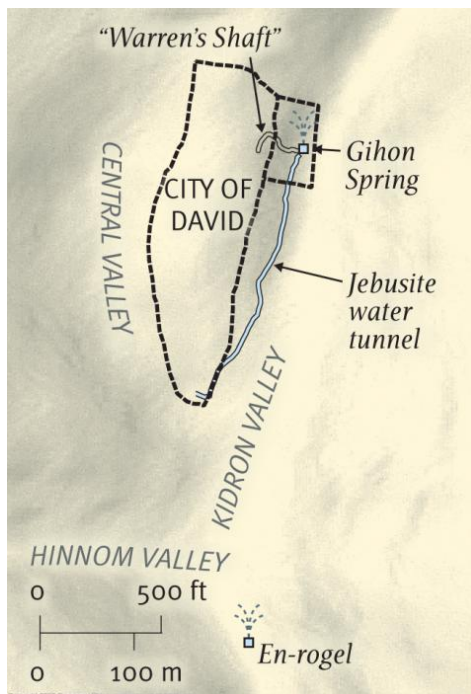
V. 4 - THIS VERSE IS PROBABLY INSERTED HERE TO SHOW/REMIND THE READER WHY MEPHIBOSHETH WAS NOT APPOINTED KING.

2 SAMUEL 4:8-12 - DAVID TOLD OF ISHBOSHETH'S DEATH

IF YOU REMEMBER FROM 2 SAMUEL 1:13-16, WHEN DAVID WAS TOLD BY AN AMALEKITE THAT SAUL HAD DIED, AND THAT THE AMALEKITE HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE KILLING OF SAUL, DAVID KILLED THE AMALEKITE. SURELY IF THESE MESSENGERS BRING WORD TO DAVID THAT THEY KILLED SAUL'S SON, ESPECIALLY WHILE HE WAS INNOCENTLY TAKING A NAP, THEY WILL FIND NO BETTER FATE THAN THE AMALEKITE BEFORE THEM! ALSO, ISHBOSHETH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AN ENEMY OF DAVID! HE HAD JUST RETURNED MICHAL TO DAVID AND AGREED TO PEACEFUL TERMS THROUGH ABNER. THE KILLING OF ISHBOSHETH WAS MURDERED.

DAVID NEVER TOOK VENGEANCE NOR SOUGHT HIS VINDICATION AGAINST SAUL OR HIS FAMILY INTO HIS OWN HAND. HE TRUSTED GOD. THIS IS EVEN EVIDENT AS HE HEARS THE NEWS OF ISHBOSETH'S DEATH - "AS THE LORD LIVES, WHO HAS REDEEMED MY LIFE FROM ALL DISTRESS... (V. 9)"

CHAPTER 4 DESCRIBES THE END OF SAUL'S KINGDOM AND THE NARRATORS TAKE THE TIME IN THIS CHAPTER TO SHOW DAVID INNOCENT FROM THE DEATH OF ABNER AND ISHBOSHETH, SETTING HIM UP TO BE THE KING OVER THE UNITED ISRAEL IN CHAPTER 5, FREE FROM THE BLOOD OF HIS RIVALS.



2 SAMUEL 5:1-5 - DAVID ANOINTED KING OVER ALL OF ISRAEL

2 SAMUEL 5:6-9 - DAVID CAPTURES JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM WAS PREVIOUSLY HELD BY THE JEBUSITES DURING THE REIGN OF SAUL. WITH DAVID'S FIRST ACT AS KING OVER ALL OF ISRAEL, HE DEFEATS THE JEBUSITES AND TAKES THE CITY OF JERUSALEM AS HIS NEW CAPITAL. DAVID'S MEN ENTER THE CITY THROUGH THE WATER TUNNEL (V. 8)

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE CONQUEST OF JERUSALEM - 1 CHRONICLES 11:4-8 4 THEN DAVID AND ALL ISRAEL WENT TO JERUSALEM (THAT IS, JEBUS); AND THE JEBUSITES, THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND, WERE THERE. 5 THE INHABITANTS OF JEBUS SAID TO DAVID, "YOU SHALL NOT ENTER HERE." NEVERTHELESS DAVID CAPTURED THE STRONGHOLD OF ZION (THAT IS, THE CITY OF DAVID). 6 NOW DAVID HAD SAID, "WHOEVER STRIKES DOWN A JEBUSITE FIRST SHALL BE CHIEF AND COMMANDER." JOAB THE SON OF ZERUIAH WENT UP FIRST, SO HE BECAME CHIEF. 7 THEN DAVID DWELT IN THE STRONGHOLD; THEREFORE IT WAS CALLED THE CITY OF DAVID. 8 HE BUILT THE CITY ALL AROUND, FROM THE MILLO EVEN TO THE SURROUNDING AREA; AND JOAB REPAIRED THE REST OF THE CITY.

V. 8 - "THE LAME AND BLIND" - DAVID IS REFERRING TO THE JEBUSITES WITH THIS NAME BECAUSE OF THEIR INITIAL MOCKING OF DAVID (V. 6). HE'S NOT LITERALLY GOING TO JERUSALEM TO DEFEAT THE LAME AND BLIND. (CP. ESV, NET, NIV, NLT, ETC).

AFTER SECURING HIS REIGN OVER ALL ISRAEL, DAVID MOVED HIS CAPITAL FROM HEBRON, A SOUTHERN CITY OF JUDAH, TO A MORE CENTRAL AND TRIBALLY NEUTRAL LOCATION AT JERUSALEM. AT THE TIME, JERUSALEM (CALLED "THE STRONGHOLD OF ZION") WAS HELD BY THE JEBUSITES, AND ITS TERRACED DEFENSIVE WALLS AND NEARBY STEEP HILLS AND VALLEYS MADE IT SEEM IMPENETRABLE. BUT DAVID SENT MEN UP A WATER SHAFT (BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE WARREN'S SHAFT) TO CAPTURE THE STRONGHOLD, AND HE RENAMED IT THE CITY OF DAVID. (ESV STUDY BIBLE)

SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM

LOCATION: "BY THIS MOVE DAVID BOTH ELIMINATED A CANAANITE ENCLAVE FROM THE CENTER OF THE LAND AND GAINED THE CAPITAL FROM WHICH HE COULD RULE A NATIONAL STATE. HEBRON, LOCATED FAR TO THE SOUTH AND ON JUDAHITE SOIL, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY ACCEPTABLE AS A CAPITAL TO THE NORTHERN TRIBES. BUT A CAPITAL IN THE NORTH WOULD HAVE BEEN DOUBLY UNACCEPTABLE TO JUDAH. JERUSALEM, CENTRALLY LOCATED BETWEEN THE TWO SECTIONS AND WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF NONE OF THE TRIBES, OFFERED AN EXCELLENT COMPROMISE." (JOHN BRIGHT, "A HISTORY OF ISRAEL", 3RD ED., PG 200)

MAKE UP OF CITY: AT THE TIME OF DAVID'S CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM FROM THE JEBUSITES, THE AREA THAT WILL BECOME KNOWN AS THE "CITY OF DAVID" WAS RELATIVELY SMALL. IT WAS FORTIFIED AT THE TIME AND STRATEGICALLY POSITIONED ON TOP OF A MOUNTAIN. THE REFERENCE TO "ZION" (V. 7) WAS THE HIGH POINT OF THE MOUNTAIN, WHERE THERE WAS A JEBUSITE FORTRESS. WHEN THE ISRAELITES FIRST ENTERED CANAAN DURING THE TIME OF JOSHUA, JERUSALEM WAS ONE PLACE THEY WERE UNABLE TO CLAIM (JOSHUA 15:63), HOWEVER NOW THAT CONQUEST IS COMPLETE.

JERUSALEM WAS UNIQUE BECAUSE IT HAD A WATER SOURCE (GIHON SPRING) THAT PROVIDED FOR THE CITY'S INHABITANTS EVEN THOUGH THE CITY WAS BUILT ON A MOUNTAIN. THROUGH A SERIES OF TUNNELS AND EARLY ENGINEERING (SOME OF WHICH WILL BE LATER IMPROVED UPON BY ISRAELITE KINGS), THE WALLED CITY, ON TOP OF A MOUNTAIN, COULD BE WATERED BY THE SPRING.

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE: THE CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM WAS A TEMPORARY FULFILLMENT OF THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE FROM GENESIS 15:

GENESIS 15:18-21 - ON THAT DAY THE LORD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAM, SAYING, "TO YOUR DESCENDANTS I HAVE GIVEN THIS LAND, FROM THE RIVER OF EGYPT AS FAR AS THE GREAT RIVER, THE RIVER EUPHRATES: 19 THE KENITE AND THE KENIZZITE AND THE KADMONITE 20 AND THE HITTITE AND THE PERIZZITE AND THE REPHAIM 21 AND THE AMORITE AND THE CANAANITE AND THE GIRGASHITE AND THE JEBUSITE."

JERUSALEM WILL BECOME THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL/JUDAH, THE LOCATION FOR THE TEMPLE, AND THE SETTING FOR GOD'S SALVATION STORY. JERUSALEM WILL ALSO AS THE LOCATION FOR THE FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THE REDEEMED AND RESURRECTED AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. (ISAIAH 2:1-4, MICAH 4:1-3, REVELATION 21, ETC)

2 SAMUEL 5:10-12 - DAVID "REALIZES" HIS GREATNESS

V. 11 - THE KING OF TYRE REACHES OUT AND SENDS MATERIALS AND WORKERS TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR DAVID. LIKELY THE CEDARS OF LEBANON, WHICH WERE RENOWN IN THE ANCIENT WORLD. HIRAM WILL SELL SOLOMON THE MATERIALS TO BUILD THE TEMPLE (1 KINGS 5)

DAVID HAS A MOMENT IN V. 12 WHERE HE "REALIZES" THAT THE LORD HAS ESTABLISHED HIM AS KING OVER ISRAEL. THIS WAS NOT BECAUSE HE WAS IGNORANT OF GOD'S HAND UP TO THIS POINT, BUT RATHER A MOMENT WHERE THE MAGNITUDE OF ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED UP TO THIS POINT HITS HIM AND HE REALIZES HOW GOOD GOD HAS BEEN. DAVID'S SUCCESS, VICTORY, SUSTAINING, VINDICATION, AND NOW FAVOR WAS BECAUSE "THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS WAS WITH HIM (5:10)"

MANY OF THE PSALMS EXPRESS DAVID'S HEART OF GRATITUDE THAT THE LORD WAS WITH HIM. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PSALM 30 SPEAKS TO THIS MOMENT WHEN DAVID'S HOUSE IS DEDICATED. (THE WORD FOR "HOUSE" USED IN THE TITLE OF PSALM 30 IS THE SAME WORD FOR HOUSE AS IN A PRIVATE DWELLING OR THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AS IN THE TEMPLE).

PSALM 30

2 SAMUEL 5:13-16 - DAVID'S CHILDREN BORN IN JERUSALEM

V. 14 - SOLOMON MENTIONED HERE, (THOUGH CHRONOLOGICALLY IN THE NARRATIVE OF 2 SAMUEL HE HAS NOT YET BEEN BORN) IS DAVID'S SON AND EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR.

2 SAMUEL 5:17-21 - DAVID & THE PHILISTINE'S FACE OFF AGAIN

AS 1 SAMUEL CLOSES, DAVID WAS LIVING AMONGST THE PHILISTINES IN GATH - NOW THEY ARE BACK TO FIGHTING AGAINST EACH OTHER.

"UNTIL NOW THE PHILISTINES MAY HAVE CONSIDERED THAT DAVID WAS TO SOME EXTENT STILL THEIR VASSAL (1 SAMUEL 27); AT LEAST THEY MUST HAVE BEEN HAPPY ABOUT HIS STRUGGLE WITH ISH-BOSHETH. BUT WHEN DAVID BECOMES KING OVER ISRAEL (I.E., BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH) AND EVEN CAPTURES JERUSALEM, THEY REALIZE THAT HE IS A THREAT. (ESV STUDY BIBLE NOTE)"

V. 21 - PHILISTINES LEAVE THEIR IDOLS, WHICH ARE THEN "CARRIED AWAY"...

1 CHRONICLES 14:12 - THEY ABANDONED THEIR GODS THERE; SO DAVID GAVE THE ORDER AND THEY WERE BURNED WITH FIRE.

2 SAMUEL 5:22-25 - THE PHILISTINES RETURN, BUT THE LORD BRINGS VICTORY

V. 22-23 - DAVID AGAIN INQUIRES OF THE LORD. NOTICE THAT THIS TIME HE RECEIVES A DIFFERENT ANSWER.

2 SAMUEL 5:24-25 (NLT) 24 WHEN YOU HEAR A SOUND LIKE MARCHING FEET IN THE TOPS OF THE POPLAR TREES, BE ON THE ALERT! THAT WILL BE THE SIGNAL THAT THE LORD IS MOVING AHEAD OF YOU TO STRIKE DOWN THE PHILISTINE ARMY." 25 SO DAVID DID WHAT THE LORD COMMANDED, AND HE STRUCK DOWN THE PHILISTINES ALL THE WAY FROM GIBEON TO GEZER.

CLEARLY THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH DAVID! GOD'S HAND OF BLESSING IS UPON DAVID IN MULTIPLE WAYS AS WE HAVE SEEN IN JUST THIS CHAPTER ALONE. THIS WAS GOD'S PLAN FOR A KING ALL ALONG - A MAN WHO FEARED THE LORD, WAS THANKFUL, HUMBLE AND DEVOTED. GOD WILL WORK WITH DAVID TO ESTABLISH HIS PURPOSES ON THE EARTH AND CONFIRM THE COVENANT THAT GOD HAD MADE 14 GENERATIONS, APPROX. 800 YEARS BEFORE TO ABRAHAM! WITH DAVID'S FIRST ACT AS KING IS TO CAPTURE GOD'S CITY. GOD'S KING IS FINALLY IN JERUSALEM, AND NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE SYMBOLIC PRESENCE OF YAHWEH HIMSELF TO RETURN TO HIS PEOPLE.