

# DAVID'S ROAD TO ROYALTY

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2 SAMUEL 5:1-5 SUNDAY SCHOOL | 10.18.19

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# CONTEXT

## THEIR SWORDS WILL PIERCE THEIR OWN HEARTS

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- I Samuel 24: David Spares Saul in the Cave
- I Samuel 25: Abigail, Nabal, and David
- I Samuel 26: David Spares Saul in the Camp
- I Samuel 27: David Links Up with the Philistines
- In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to **fight against Israel**. Achish said to David, “You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army.” 2 David said, “Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do.” Achish replied, “Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life.” (I Sam 28:1-2, NIV)
- I Samuel 28:3-25: Saul and the Medium
- I Samuel 29: Achish sends David back to Ziklag (cf. NIV)
- I Samuel 30: David Destroys the Amalekites (cf. NIV), Gives Plunder to Elders of Judah
- I Samuel 31: Saul Falls On His Sword

# CONTEXT

## O HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN!

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- 2 Samuel 1: 1-15 An Amalekite Brings Saul's Crown to David After Claiming To Have Killed Him
- 12 They mourned and **wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan**, and for the army of the LORD and for the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the **sword**. (2 Sam 1:12, NIV)
- 14 David asked him, "Why weren't you afraid to lift your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" (2 Sam 1:14, NIV)
- 2 Samuel 1:17-27 : David Sings A Lament for Saul and Jonathan, "O, How the Mighty Have Fallen..." (2 Sam 1:25, 27)
- 2 Samuel 2:1-7: David Anointed King of Judah
- 2 Samuel 2:8-32: Conflict Between House of Saul and House of David; Abner Kills Asahel (Joab and Abishai's brother)
- 8 Meanwhile, Abner son of Ner, the commander of Saul's army, had taken Ish-Bosheth son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim. 9 He made him king over Gilead, Ashuri and Jezreel, and also over Ephraim, Benjamin and all Israel. 10 Ish-Bosheth son of Saul was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he reigned two years. The tribe of Judah, however, remained loyal to David (2 Sam 2:8-10, NIV)

# CONTEXT

## ○ HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN!

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- The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. (2 Sam 3:1, NIV)
- David settled down in Hebron, having six sons by six different wives (2 Sam 3:2-5)
- 17 He **must not take many wives**, or his heart will be led astray... (Dt 17:17a, NIV)
- 2 Samuel 3:6-19: Abner Switches Sides
- After being (falsely?) accused of sleeping with Saul's concubine by Ish-Bosheth: 9 May God deal with Abner, be it ever so severely, if I do not do for David **what the LORD promised him on oath** 10 and transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and establish David's throne over Israel and Judah from Dan to Beersheba." 11 Ish-Bosheth did not dare to say another word to Abner, because he was afraid of him. (2 Sam 3:9-11, NIV)
- David Makes a Deal With Abner – but Asks for His Wife, Michal, Back (2 Sam 3:12-16)



# CONTEXT

## ○ HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

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- Abner conferred with the elders of Israel and said, “For some time you have wanted to make David your king. 18 Now do it! For **the LORD promised David**, ‘By my servant David I will rescue my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies.’ ” (2 Sam 3:17-18, NIV)
- 19 Abner also spoke to the Benjamites in person. Then he went to Hebron to tell David everything that Israel and the whole tribe of Benjamin wanted to do. 20 When Abner, who had twenty men with him, came to David at Hebron, David prepared a feast for him and his men. 21 Then Abner said to David, “Let me go at once and assemble all Israel for my lord the king, so that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may rule over all that your heart desires.” So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace. (2 Sam 3:19-21, NIV)

## CONTEXT

### ○ HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

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- 24 So Joab went to the king and said, “What have you done? Look, Abner came to you. Why did you let him go? Now he is gone! 25 You know Abner son of Ner; he came to deceive you and observe your movements and find out everything you are doing.” 26 Joab then left David and sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern at Sirah. But David did not know it. 27 Now when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into an inner chamber, as if to speak with him privately. And there, to **avenge the blood of his brother Asahel**, Joab stabbed him in the stomach, and he died. (2 Sam 3:24-27, NIV)

# CONTEXT

## ○ HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

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- 28 Later, when David heard about this, he said, “I and my kingdom are **forever innocent** before the LORD concerning the blood of Abner son of Ner. 29 May his blood fall on the head of Joab and on his whole family...(2 Sam 3:28-29a, NIV)
- 31 Then David said to Joab and all the people with him, “Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and walk in mourning in front of Abner.” King David himself walked behind the bier. 32 They buried Abner in Hebron, and the king wept aloud at Abner’s tomb. All the people wept also. (2 Sam 3:31-32, NIV)
- David fasts for the rest of the day and: 37 So on that day all the people there and all Israel **knew that the king had no part in the murder of Abner son of Ner.** (2 Sam 3:37, NIV)

## CONTEXT

### ○ HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

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- When Ish-Bosheth son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel became alarmed (2 Sam 4:1, NIV)
- 7 They had gone into the house while he was lying on the bed in his bedroom. After they stabbed and killed him, they cut off his head. Taking it with them, they traveled all night by way of the Arabah. 8 They brought the head of Ish-Bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, “Here is the head of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, your enemy, who tried to kill you. This day the LORD has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his offspring.” (2 Sam 4:7-8, NIV)



## CONTEXT

### ○ HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

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- 9 David answered Rekab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, “As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, 10 when someone told me, ‘Saul is dead,’ and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and put him to death in Ziklag. That was the reward I gave him for his news! 11 How much more—when wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed—should I not now demand his blood from your hand and rid the earth of you!” (2 Sam 4:9-11, NIV)



## 2 SAMUEL 5:1-3

### THREE ROYAL REASONS

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- All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. 2 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.’ ” 3 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. (2 Sam 5:1-3, NIV)
- After deaths of Saul, Abner, and Ish-Bosheth, David is the only “rational” option to be king (Bergen, 318)

## 2 SAMUEL 5:1

### 1) DAVID IS THEIR BONE AND FLESH

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- **All** the tribes of Israel travel to the southern capital to anoint their new king (Wolf, 293) “**All**” repeated 3x (2 Sam 5:1, 3, & 5; Youngblood, 342)
- The elders were the collective leaders, fathers of various households (Long, 428), David would need their endorsement (Long, 428; IVP). Abner had already talked with the elders about David (2 Sam 3:17; Youngblood, 342)
- Expression “flesh and blood” is literally “bone and flesh” (IVP; Anderson, 75; Firth, 362; Youngblood, 343). עֶשֶׂם (ešem) = **bone** (TWOT, 690); בָּשָׂר (bāśār) = **flesh** (TWOT, 135).
- Perhaps, they have stood together in strength (**bone**) and in weakness (**flesh**) (Arnold, 450)
- As a fellow descent of Jacob, he is a blood-relative of all tribes (Anderson, 75; Vannoy, 291; cf. Gen 29:14; Judg 9:2; 2 Sam 19:12-13; Firth, 362; Youngblood, 343) – even those in the north (Arnold, 451) – not only because he married Michal (2 Sam 2:26; 19:42 cf. Gen 2:23; Anderson, 75)

## 2 SAMUEL 5:1

### 1) DAVID IS THEIR FLESH AND BONE

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- 14 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,” 15 be sure to appoint over you a king the LORD your God chooses. **He must be from among your fellow Israelites. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not an Israelite** (Dt 17:14-15, NIV; Arnold, 452; Vannoy, 291; Baldwin, 207; Youngblood, 343)
- 16 The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.” 17 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. (Dt 17:16-17, NIV)



## 2 SAMUEL 5:1

### 1) DAVID IS THEIR FLESH AND BONE

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- 18 When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. 19 It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees 20 and **not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law to the right or to the left.** Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel. (Dt 17:18-20, NIV)

## 2 SAMUEL 5:2

### 2) DAVID WAS A SUCCESSFUL MILITARY LEADER

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- Even when Saul was king, David was the most successful war general (Arnold, 451; Bergen, 318 cf. 1 Sam 18:12-16; Vannoy, 291). David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17; Vannoy, 291)
- **Hebrew women:** As they danced, they sang: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.” (1 Sam 18:7, NIV; Vannoy, 291)
- **Philistine commanders:** 5 Isn’t this the David they sang about in their dances: “ ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands’?” (1 Sam 29:5, NIV; Youngblood, 343)
- 30 The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with **more success** than the rest of Saul’s officers, and his name became well known. (1 Sam 18:30, NIV; Baldwin, 207)
- 19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. 20 Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and **fight our battles.**” (1 Sam 8:19-20, NIV; Firth, 362; Youngblood, 343)

## 2 SAMUEL 5:2

### 3) THE LORD HAS CHOSEN DAVID

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- There are several reasons (historical, sociological, psychological) why David should be king, but the most important is **theological: God chose him** (Arnold, 451 cf. 1 Sam 13:14, 16:12-13; Vannoy, 292; cf. Anderson, 77)
- Samuel (1 Sam 16:1f.), Abigail (1 Sam 25:30; Bergen, 318), Abner (2 Sam 3:9, 18; Bergen, 318), etc. all knew this. Even Saul admitted David would be king (1 Sam 24:20).
- David has been a **shepherd** since his youth (cf. 1 Sam 16:11; Arnold, 451; Evans U, 157; Firth, 363; Youngblood, 343). Ancient Near Eastern kings were often called **shepherds** (Arnold, 451; Baldwin, 208; Firth, 362; Youngblood, 343)
- **Good biblical leaders are often called shepherds** of God's people (Arnold, 451; Firth, 362; Youngblood, 343; cf. Ps 78:71; Jer 3:15, 23:4; Eze 34:23, 37:24; Anderson, 77; cf. Num 27:17) – **as are bad leaders** (Jer 2:8; Anderson, 77; cf. Jer 23:12; Eze 34:1-10; Zec 11:4-17; Youngblood, 343)
- Ultimately, the LORD is the shepherd of the LORD's people (Evans U, 157; Youngblood, 343 cf. Ps 74:1, 77:20, 78:52, 95:7; Baldwin, 208; cf. Ps 23; Arnold, 451; Gen 48:15, 49:24; Ps 80:2; Isa 40:11, 49:10; Anderson, 77). **“My people”** (Bergen, 318)



## 2 SAMUEL 5:2

### 3) THE LORD HAS CHOSEN DAVID

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- Jesus is the **Good** Shepherd (Jn 10:11, 14), **Great** Shepherd (Heb 13:20), and **Chief** Shepherd (1 Pet 5:4; Youngblood, 343)
- Shepherd-model leadership differs from **oppressive** kingship (cf. 1 Sam 8:10-18; Baldwin, 208 cf. Youngblood, 343)
- Shepherd-leaders can abuse their power, looking out for **themselves** instead of the flock (Youngblood, 343). Nathan uses a sheep metaphor when he indicts him for his adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam 12:1-4; Youngblood, 343)
- The LORD appointed David as “ruler” (נָגִיד | *nāgîd*) as Saul was called (cf. 1 Sam 9:16; Bergen, 318), likely meaning “one who was designated” (Anderson, 76)
- **Samuel’s farewell speech:** 12 “But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’—even though **the LORD your God was your king** (1 Sam 12:12, NIV)
- Hb. verb לָאֵץ (*šā’al*) means to **ask... beg** (TWOT, 891). Saul (לְאֵץ) likely means “**asked...for**” (NIDOTTE, 1178)
- 13 Now here is the king you have chosen, **the one you asked for [šā’al]**; see, the LORD has set a king over you (1 Sam 12:13, NIV). **Careful what you wish for...**



## 2 SAMUEL 5:3 CUT A COVENANT



- Covenant likely included regulations for kingship (Long, 428; Arnold, 452; Anderson, 76) – likely mutual obligations (Evans U, 157; Vannoy, 292; Firth, 363; Youngblood, 344)
- 25 Samuel explained to the people the rights and duties of kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the LORD. Then Samuel dismissed the people to go to their own homes. (1 Sam 10:25, NIV; IVP; Arnold, 452; Firth, 363)
- We are not sure of the time delay between the reign of Ish-Bosheth and David (Evans U, 157)
- After being anointed King of Judah in 2 Sam 2:4, David is now anointed King over all Israel (IVP; Youngblood, 344; cf. Arnold, 452) – as Abner intended (cf. 2 Sam 3:21; Evans U, 157) – before the **LORD** (Vannoy, 292; Bergen, 318; Firth, 363; Youngblood, 344)

## 2 SAMUEL 5:4-5 ROYAL REPORT

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- 4 David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. (2 Sam 5:4-5, NIV)

## 2 SAMUEL 5:4-5

### ROYAL REPORT

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- Royal report / “formula” (cf. 1 Sam 13:1; 2 Sam 2:10; 1 Ki 14:21, 22:42; Long, 429; cf. Bergen, 318; Youngblood, 344)
- David becomes king of Judah at 30; 30 often “describes a man in **prime** of life” (Anderson, 75). Becomes king of all Israel when ~ 38 (Wolf, 293).
- **Joseph** became a leader in Egypt at 30 (Gen 41:46; Youngblood, 344). One could become a **Levite** at 30 (cf. Num 4:3; Anderson, 76; Baldwin, 208; cf. Num 4:47; Youngblood, 345). **Saul** became king at 30 (1 Sam 13:1). **Jesus** began his ministry around 30 (Lk 3:23; Anderson, 76; Baldwin, 208; Youngblood, 344)
- 40 is a common round number in Scripture that describes the “traditional length of a generation” where the one group of active adult men are replaced by the next (Anderson, 77 cf. Judg 3:11, 5:31, 8:28; 1 Sam 4:18; 1 Ki 11:42; Baldwin, 208; cf. Ps 95:10; Youngblood, 345; cf. 1 Sam 13:1)
- David reigns until he is about 70 (Wolf, 293), likely from around 1010-970 BC (IVP)

## 2 SAMUEL 5:1-5 CONCLUSION

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- **Important:** David did not **conquer** or **coerce** the northern tribes (Payne, 323).
- David did not kill his way to the top; the LORD handled it
- The tribes of Israel **willingly** come together under him and he rules over the **united kingdom** (Payne, 328; Firth, 363 cf. Wolf, 293)
- David was anointed quite a while ago (1 Sam 16:6-13; Arnold, 452); David's **road to royalty was long** (Anderson, 77; Baldwin, 208; Firth, 362). This is the **climax** (Vannoy, 291)
- The most important qualification for spiritual leadership is theological – being chosen by God
- Through it all, we can see God's hand removing David's enemies and guiding him to the throne.
- In spite of hardships, David just had to **wait on and trust in the LORD. So should we** (cf. Ps 37)!

Last week's lesson and more → [CatchForChrist.net](http://CatchForChrist.net)



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