

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
DAVID'S ROAD TO THE THRONE
2 SAMUEL 5:1-5

Introduction

The nation of Israel is in a time of severe crisis.

Their old king, King Saul, had been killed by the Philistines in battle. Saul's three eldest sons were also killed in the same battle. This left the kingdom in disarray.

After learning of Saul's death, David returned from his time of exile and went to the city of Hebron. When he arrived there, he is crowned King by the people of Judah. (2 Samuel 2:1-4a) It appeared that a change in dynasty was finally about to take place and David would finally be on the throne of Israel as promised by the LORD.

But Abner, the head of Saul's army, had other plans. Saul had this other living son, Ishbosheth, whom Abner, quickly anointed as the King of Israel. (2 Samuel 2:8-10) Not that Ishbosheth actually ruled anything. He was actually just a puppet king. Abner was the one calling the shots in Israel.

This set the stage for the brutal civil war between Judah and all the rest of Israel. It also prevented David from seeing the immediate fulfillment of God's promise to make him king over Israel!

2 Samuel 3:1 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

In the midst of this civil war we saw how that Abner had plans to give Israel over to David after he had a disagreement with Ish-bosheth, but in the midst of implementing that handover, Abner was killed by Joab.

So a couple of Ish-bosheth's army captains had the idea that they would pick up where Abner left off. So, they murdered Ish-bosheth in his own bed, cut his head off and carried the head to David in Hebron.

Little did they know that David didn't approve of acquiring the kingdom in such an underhanded way. So David had the captains killed.

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That's the background for our Scripture passage tonight. (Read 5:1-5)

We've seen how the road to the throne for David has been a difficult one indeed. It has wound its way through some tragic and very dark byways. David had been scorned, hated, and vilified. He had been hunted, hounded and harassed. Nevertheless, David has ended up right where the Lord had promised him he would eventually be—On the throne as the King of all Israel!

As we read and study the events that surrounded David's rise to power in Israel, we can see some parallels with events within our lives as believers.

From the moment David was anointed as King by Samuel (i.e. by the LORD), until he was actually crowned King over all the land by the people of Israel, there were many problems and trials that fell across both his and Israel's pathway.

**I. THERE WAS THE PLACE OF PARTIAL SUBMISSION!
(2:1-11)**

A. The New King Was Crowned. (2:1-4a)

The moment he had waited for since he was a teenager had finally arrived. He was accepted, adored and anointed by his people. He was crowned king by the people of Judah. No doubt, he believed the day would soon come when he would rule over all Israel.

B. The New King Is Challenged. (2:8-11)

No sooner was David crowned king in Judah, than some unexpected events began to unfold up north. All of the people, except the tribe of Judah, bowed to Ish-bosheth and proclaimed him to be the king.

This event set the stage for the first real division within the nation of Israel. When two kings attempt to rule the same nation, that is a recipe for trouble!

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Application

What does this have to do with us? There is a parallel between these events and what happens in our own lives when we come to Jesus for salvation.

When we are saved, we get a new King in our life. We get saved and in the that we acknowledge Christ as our Savior and Lord.

He is the Lord Jesus Christ! From that moment of our salvation we begin to serve the Lord Jesus Christ!

It is possible, however, for a believer to offer Jesus Christ only partial submission. We come to Him for salvation with good intentions.

1. We want to be saved and we want to go all the way for the Lord, but somewhere along the way, we begin to pull back.
2. We begin to hold back areas of our lives that we control as we see fit.
3. We keep back compartments of our heart that we reserve for our own use.
4. Instead of laying everything at the feet of Jesus and acknowledging Him to be the Lord over every square inch of our life, we hold back areas, often large areas, over which we rule.

It may be some habit that we refuse to lay down.
It may be some person that we refuse to separate from.
It may be some activity that we refuse to give up.
It may be some command that we refuse to obey.
It may be some old grudge that we will not forgive.
The possibilities are endless, but the results are the same.

When we do this, we are guilty of partial submission to the Lord. We want the best Jesus has to offer, but, we fall short of giving our best and our all in return. Can I get a witness?

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THERE WAS THE PLACE OF PARTIAL SUBMISSION!

II. THERE WAS THE PLACE OF PAINFUL STRUGGLES!

Because of this division in the Nation of Israel, there was a high price paid by the people on both sides. Their partial submission to God's choice as their king cost them plenty in the form of the painful struggles they were forced to endure.

A. It Was A Time Of Terrible Warfare!

2 Samuel 3:1 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

Israel and Judah fought a bitter war over which party would rule the other. Because of this warfare lives were lost, property was destroyed, families were devastated and lives were ruined. But, in the end, the outcome was inevitable.

It was a foregone conclusion that David and his army would win. This had already been determined by the will of Almighty God! (1 Samuel 16:1, 12) The war was waged, but it was a futile war in the end.

Application

When a believer's life is only partially submitted to the Lord, warfare is always the result. From the moment we are saved, until the day we leave this world, the house of Saul (the old nature) makes war against the house of David (the rule of Christ in our hearts).

This warfare is clearly stated in the pages of the Bible!
Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

We have all experienced the trauma this battle can cause.

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It is stated best by the words of Paul as he described this battle from his perspective! (**Romans 7:14-25**)

The Psalmist David also talked his battle with the sins of the flesh!

Psalm 19:12-13 12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Psalm 65:3 Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.

All of us can identify with these men! Amen?!
Where can the saint of God find victory over this warfare?
In total surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ!
Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

When our flesh rules us, there will always be conflict in the soul! *Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:19-21 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,...etc

When the Spirit of God rules, there will be the fruit of the Spirit present! *Galatians 5:22-25 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

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So, if there is warfare in your soul this evening and you are paying a high price as the casualties of this war mount up in your life; the best thing you can do is lift high the flag of surrender. Acknowledge Jesus as your King and let His peace reign in your life!

It Was A Time Of Terrible Warfare!

B. It Was A Time Of Tragic Waste!

In any war there are casualties. We have seen in 2 Samuel 2-4 how that the casualties in this war were severe.

Let me remind you of a few of them.

1. Remember the first battle Of 12 from each side that were slain simultaneously? (2:16-17)
2. Remember young soldier named Asahel was slain by a seasoned warrior named Abner. (2:18-29, 32)
3. Remember how it was mentioned that overall in that first battle that 20 of David's men and 360 of Abner's men died. (2:30-31)
4. Then Abner was murdered by Joab in a revenge killing. (3:27-29)
5. Then Ishbosheth was beheaded while he slept by two assassins, and they are executed by David when they take the head of Ishbosheth to David. (4:1-12)

Sadly, none of these deaths ever had to be! If Israel had only bowed to the will of the Lord and accepted David as their King, they could have been spared all of that grief and bloodshed.

Their partial submission cost them plenty!

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Application

As we think about the warfare in our own lives, and of the times when we have walked in partial surrender to the Lordship of Jesus—What has been wasted in our own lives?

Certainly time has been wasted. People have lost months and years of their lives and service to God because they refused to bow in total submission to King Jesus.

Testimonies and Influence have been wasted.

Opportunities have died before our very eyes never to be retrieved again.

Some people have allowed the whole of their Christian lives to pass by, while they stubbornly refused to yield to Christ's absolute control in their lives.

What a waste! What a tragedy! Think about how sad it will be to stand before the LORD at the Judgment Seat of Christ and find out what could have been? Having to give an account of all the wasted days, wasted opportunities and wasted blessings?

Thank God, **not another moment has to be wasted!** Things can change from this moment forward! The entire direction and devotion of your life can change in this very instant. All that needs to be done is for you to surrender your all to Jesus and acknowledge Him to be your King, your Lord and your absolute Master!

It Was A Time Of Terrible Warfare...Tragic Waste...

C. It Was A Time Of Troubled Waiting!

While all of this warfare and waste was going on, what was David doing? As we have read these chapters, we've seen he was not doing much at all. He was mostly passive as the battles were being fought around him.

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He was merely waiting on that moment when everything God has promised him would be delivered into his hands. For David it was a time of patient, but troubled waiting.

Application

When Jesus saved us by His grace, He saved us for His purposes! Do you believe that? What are His purposes for us?

He saved us to serve Him, He saved us to do His will in the world, He saved us to glorify Him in and through our lives!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Hebrews 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Yet, while we waste our time with partial surrender, He patiently waits for the day when we will finally yield ourselves totally to Him and to His will for our lives.

While He waits, He speaks to us about our condition. He speaks to us through the still, small voice of the Holy Ghost!

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He speaks through His infallible, inerrant Word!
He speaks through chastisement and by using the circumstances of life to get our attention. (Hebrews 12:5-16)
Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

When He does these things, He is merely trying to show us that He has a better way for us to live our lives. If we will only yield to Him, the warfare and the waste will be handled by Him. The casualties will diminish and life will take on new meaning.

When Jesus is recognized to be the King of kings and the Lord of lords in our life, He establishes His kingdom of peace, love, joy and blessing in our lives! Isn't that what you really want? It only comes our way when Jesus is King and Lord of our life!

THERE WAS A PLACE OF PARTIAL SUBMISSION...PAINFUL STRUGGLES...

III. THERE WAS A PLACE OF PROFOUND SURRENDER. (5:1-5)
After years of struggle and civil war, all the elders of the people of Israel came to David and anointed him to be king over the entire land.

This is the third time David has been anointed as King.
The first was by Samuel in 1 Samuel 16.
The second was by the people of Judah.
The third was by the entire nation.

They are finished with partial submission. They crown David King of Israel. And as they do, they acknowledge three great truths.

These are important to our understanding of what it means for Jesus to be our King as well.

A. They Acknowledged A Relationship. (Vs 1)
They come to David acknowledging the fact that there is a family relationship between them.

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They are saying, "*David we are connected by blood.*" Only one with that family connection would have been fit to rule over them.

Application

One of the first steps in yielding control of our life totally to the rule of King Jesus is to recognize our connection to Him.

He is qualified to be our King because He died on the cross to redeem us from our sins!

When we came to Him for salvation, we became connected to Jesus by His blood! And, when we got Him, we did not get part of Him, we got all of Him!

They Acknowledged A Relationship...

B. They Acknowledged A Responsibility. (Vs. 2a)
Israel remembered the heroic deeds of David. They remembered His power and the victories God gave Israel when he was leading the armies. They remembered all that David had done for the nation and they realized they have a responsibility to bow before him.

Application

If we would just stop to think of what Jesus has done for us, we would immediately see our responsibility to Him.

The very fact that He would die for us and save us from our sins and from an eternity in Hell is cause enough for us to bow before Him in humble surrender to His Lordship in our lives.

If we acknowledge the fact the He saved us we are also admitting the truth that we owe Him our very lives. The very least we can do is surrender to Him as our Lord and our King, Rom. 12:1-2.

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They Acknowledged A Relationship...A Responsibility...

C. They Acknowledged A Revelation! (Vs. 2b)

They verbalized their understanding of the fact that David was King of Israel by the will of God. They seem to grasp the truth that to bow to David as their king is to bow to the will of God for their lives and for their nation!

Application

The same is true in our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus is Lord! Not because I say so, but because God has said so!

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

So, it is our duty to Him to bow to Him! We are to acknowledge Him to be Lord of all and then do our best to honor Him as our Savior, our Lord, our God and our King. After all, we will give and account to Him someday of how we have responded to His Lordship in our lives!

Romans 14:8-12 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. 10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Conclusion

The road to the throne was long and hard for David; but he finally arrived there and was crowned king of all Israel. Imagine the hardships the nation would have been spared if they had bowed before David sooner!

But, let's not be too hard on those folks. Are you acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord and King in your life? Is He in His rightful place?