

“Shepherd and King”
2 Samuel 5:1-5
(Preached at Trinity, September 23, 2018)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Chapter 5** contains several episodes, each relating to the establishing of David's kingdom. They are not necessarily in chronological order. For example, Hiram's reign only overlapped with the last ten years of David's reign. The war with the Philistines may have preceded the capture of Jerusalem and the report of David's concubines covered a large part of his reign.
2. As the chapter opens we find all that God promised coming to pass. David is being anointed king over Israel. We read in **Verse 1** "all the tribes of Israel came" but this doesn't mean all the people. Instead, we read in **Verse 3** they were represented by their elders. We read, "then they anointed David king over Israel."
3. God works in His timing, but He never fails.
David was pursued by Saul for many years. At times David was in despair and saw his life as lost.
1 Samuel 20:3 NAU - "But truly as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is hardly a step between me and death."
1 Samuel 27:1 NAU - "Then David said to himself, "Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape into the land of the Philistines. "
4. But God is not slack in His promises. He doesn't waver, He doesn't turn away. God's promises will be fulfilled in spite of opposition, in spite the passing of time. All of David's fears were pointless.
Does this say anything to us regarding all of our fears. How many difficulties are in your future? The relocation and remodel our church was highly stressful for me. I often had to remind myself: The only difference between this present time and last year is I didn't know about it. But God did, and when the trial arrived He saw me through. Why do we fear? Why do we become anxious?
5. **Verse 3** declares God establishing His kingdom. David was God's king. He wasn't the full expression of the kingdom of God but he served as the foreshadow of God's ultimate and perfect King. The Bible from the beginning is a display of God's redemptive purpose. David was the foreshadow of the ultimate King whose throne is everlasting.
6. The delegation of elders came to receive David as their king.
There are three reasons given:
 - David was their kinsman – **Verse 1** – "your bone and your flesh"
They were claiming David as their king, submitting to His rule.
This truth is carried forth for those coming to Christ. They must trust Him as their Head and be united to Him as His body.

- David was an effective leader – **Verse 2** – “you were the one who led Israel in and out.” David had been their savior, defending them from their enemies. Those who come to Christ today must embrace Him as their Deliverer – He has delivered us from sin, death, the wrath of God and Satan. The Law can no longer condemn us. Satan can no longer accuse us. Our debt has been fully satisfied.
- David was God’s King – “You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.”

7. The third was the most significant. Putting it at the bottom of the list doesn’t speak well to the spiritual condition of Israel. They were more concerned about David being a kinsman and his ability to wage war than the fact he was God’s anointed. Their spiritual weakness did not hinder God’s sovereign purpose.

I. God raised up a Shepherd for His people

Psalm 78:70-72 NAU - "He also chose David His servant And took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹ From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. ⁷² So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands."

A. David was a shepherd before he was a king

1. The shepherd was the lowest of occupations. In families it was usually reserved for the youngest son – consider David
2. The work demanded countless hours of watching over the flock
This was how the angels found the shepherds at the birth of Christ
Luke 2:8 – “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.”
3. In time, however, the metaphor of shepherd gained significance for the leaders of God’s people. Instead of caring for God’s people they neglected and abused them. They were greatly denounced for abandoning the fold of God’s people.

Isaiah 56:10-11 NAU - "His watchmen are blind, All of them know nothing. All of them are mute dogs unable to bark, Dreamers lying down, who love to slumber; ¹¹ And the dogs are greedy, they are not satisfied. And they are shepherds who have no understanding; They have all turned to their own way, Each one to his unjust gain, to the last one."

Jeremiah 23:1-2 NAU - "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!" declares the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds," declares the LORD."

Ezekiel 34:2-5 NAU - "Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock? ³ "You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat *sheep* without feeding the flock. ⁴ "Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them. ⁵ "They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered."

4. David was a shepherd of a different sort. His experience as a shepherd of his father's sheep prepared him to guide and care for God's people.
 5. William Blaikie – "It was not a mere arbitrary arrangement that David should have been a shepherd before he was king. There were many things in the one employment that prepared the way for the other. In the East the shepherd had higher rank and a larger sphere of duties than is common with us. The duties of the shepherd, to watch over his flock to feed and protect them, to heal the sick, to bind up the broken, and to bring again that which was driven away, corresponded to those which the faithful and godly ruler owed to the people committed to his scepter. It was from the time of David that the shepherd phraseology began to be applied to rulers and their people; and we hardly carry away the full lesson that the prophets intended to teach in their denunciations of 'the shepherds that fed themselves and not the flock' when we apply these exclusively to the shepherd of souls." ¹
 6. David was shepherd of a people given to him by God. He was *their* shepherd and *they* were his sheep. It was a permanent relationship fulfilled through God's true Shepherd.
- B. David would be a foreshadow of Jesus Christ, the True Shepherd of His people
1. Like David, Jesus was Shepherd of a particular people, those whom the Father gave to Him.
 2. Ezekiel uses David as a type of the Messiah
Ezekiel 34:22-26 NAU - "I will deliver My flock, and they will no longer be a prey; and I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³ "Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. ²⁴ "And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken. ²⁵ "I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. ²⁶ "I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing."
 3. Jesus is called the Good Shepherd
John 10:11 – "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

¹ Blaikie, William Garden. (2005). *Expository Lectures on the Book of 1 Samuel*. Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books, pages 257-258.

4. Jesus is also called the Great Shepherd
Hebrews 13:20 – “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,”
5. As our Great Shepherd He will surely lead us into His fold
Isaiah 40:10-11 NAU - "Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him. ¹¹ Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry *them* in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes."
6. David would later write of the true Shepherd
Psalms 23:1-2 KJV - "The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."
David knew what it was to be a shepherd, to know his sheep, to care for them, to protect them. David knew of such a perfect Shepherd.
7. In the New Testament pastors are to shepherd our Lord's flock. Jesus is referred to as the Chief Shepherd.
1 Peter 5:2-4 KJV - "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."
 - a. Like the shepherds of old, pastors are to guide and feed God's people.
 - b. New Testament shepherds have a higher calling—they are to guide the sheep to the Chief Shepherd.

II. In David God raised up a king for His people

- A. God always had leaders for His people
 1. Moses led Israel out of Egypt and led them through the wilderness
 2. Joshua led Israel into Canaan
 3. The great periods of sin in Israel was when they lacked strong leaders
Judges 21:25 KJV - "In those days *there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*"
 - a. King after king would lead Israel into ever deeper sin
 - b. King Jeroboam would become the model of Israel's wicked leaders
1 Kings 14:16 NAU - "He will give up Israel on account of the sins of Jeroboam, which he committed and with which he made Israel to sin."
- B. But David was of a different sort. He was a man after God's own heart. God promised that he would be a ruler for His people
2 Samuel 5:2 NAU - "You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel."
 1. At the heart of the promise was that this would be a righteous ruler
 2. The first time this word was used in the Old Testament was with regard to Saul. Saul was the answer to Israel's demand for a king. There was great hope in him.

1 Samuel 9:16 NAU - "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over My people Israel; and he will deliver My people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have regarded My people, because their cry has come to Me."

1 Samuel 10:1 NAU - "Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you a ruler over His inheritance?"

But Saul was self-indulgent and did not obey God. Saul was like most of Israel's future kings.

3. After the sin of Saul this word was used in the promise of another king.

1 Samuel 13:14 NAU - "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

- a. This describes the leadership of David. The people spoke of David's strength in **Verse 2**. David was a mighty warrior.

2 Samuel 5:2 NAU - "Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and in."

- b. David would defend Israel from her enemies. He conquered and seized Jerusalem, the City of David. He would conquer the Philistines.

- c. David foreshadowed the coming Messiah

C. Jesus Christ is our ultimate Mighty King

1. Jesus defends us from our enemies – Satan, sin, and the flesh
2. John received a vision of the coming of this great conquering King
Revelation 19:11-17 NAU - "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. ¹³ *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." "

Conclusion:

1. David was chosen by God and equipped by God to be the king and leader of His people. This was also true of the earthly reign of our Savior. The Spirit of God came upon Him mightily.

John 3:34-35 NAU - "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand."

Isaiah 40:10-11 NAU - "Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him. ¹¹ Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry *them* in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes."

2. King David points us to our glorious King, the Shepherd of our souls, our Savior. Have you met Him?

Is He your Shepherd? Have you heard His voice?

John 10:14 NAU - "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me"

John 10:27-28 NAU - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

Is He your King? Have you bowed before His rule?

At His ascension He was raised to His throne. When He returns He will come with power. But He reigns now as Lord of lords and King of kings. His Kingdom is a present reality. His people bow before His sovereign majesty. Have you bowed before His throne? Have you declared in your heart, "Jesus is Lord?"