



MOVING UP • David's Rise to Power Culminates

What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

2 Samuel 5:6-25

In this lesson, we get a few snapshots of David's reign as king of Israel. Just after becoming king, God begins to establish David as the great monarch who will guide His people back to Himself. This chapter points to the day when God will establish His kingdom in the hearts and lives of those who follow David's greater son Jesus. You and your group should not look to David as the grand hero. You should point your group to Jesus as the great King and General, who has conquered the sin in our hearts to build His Father's kingdom.

In the first part of chapter 5, David takes over Jerusalem and establishes the city as a stronghold for himself. The passage tells us that David knows God is the giver of the kingdom. Unlike Saul, David understands he is a simple beneficiary of God's good grace. In the last half of the chapter, David defeats the mighty Philistines yet again. Don't think that David is such a mighty warrior though. He is on one level, but on a completely higher and more glorious level, God is the one fighting the battles for David (v. 24).

David Takes Over Zion (5:6-16)

David makes quick work after becoming king of Israel. Immediately he goes against the Jebusites in battle. The Jebusites are confident that David will not be able to penetrate their forces. They sarcastically say, "Even a blind and lame man could keep David out of this city." Well, they are dead wrong. What they don't know is that the Lord is with David (v. 10). David and his men overwhelm the Jebusites and take the stronghold of Zion (Jerusalem) and verse 9 says that David lived there, called it "the city of David," and built the city "from the Millo inward." God blesses David and builds the kingdom the way it should be built. David has only been king for what might be a few days or weeks, but he has arguably accomplished more for God's people than Saul ever did.

A key verse in this first section is verse 12: "And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel." Isn't this wonderful! This is something that Saul never once acknowledged. But David is a man after God's own heart and understands that he has nothing apart from God Almighty. As we will come to see, David isn't perfect by any means, but his heart is consistently turned toward the Lord. David understands God's ownership of all things (see Ps. 24). Lead the group to see that every blessing we experience comes from God and that hardships (like David's) refine us and only increase the sweetness of God's blessings.

What's the Big Idea?

After becoming king over all 12 tribes of Israel, God establishes David's capital in Jerusalem and gives him victory over his Philistine enemies. God has finally brought His promise of kingship to David. God's establishment of David's kingdom foreshadows the way He desires to establish Jesus' kingdom through us.

What's the Problem?

We often look inward and trust ourselves instead of looking upward to God, from whom all blessings flow.



David Defeats the Philistines...Again! (5:17-25)

Now David's enemies probably were not very excited to hear that he had become king. David's long-time rivals, the Philistines, hear of the news and go up to search for him. As David hears of their pursuit, he doesn't seek vengeance or go to someone else for advice. Instead, David turns to the LORD for help. "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" he asked (v. 19). God indeed shows up, declaring, "I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand." David has proven himself to be a great warrior, but it would all be in vain if God had not been fighting for him.

The chapter ends with the Philistines rearing to fight David once again. If you remember back to I Samuel, it seems as though they have quite the memory loss because they were defeated so many times before! Nevertheless, this time is not a charm as the LORD went before David to strike the Philistines. David has not yet lost a battle because he is thoroughly seeking the Lord, trusting that God will be his vindicator and protector.

Conclusion

This chapter shows David looking away from himself and toward God for help. Oftentimes, we look inward and trust ourselves instead of looking upward to God. God is the great giver of blessings and we need to turn to Him and trust that He will restore, confirm, strengthen and establish us by His grace (1 Pt. 5:10). He did that for David and He will do it for us today. As you prepare for the study, pray that God would move in your group members so that they might examine their hearts to find the areas where they are not seeking the Lord. As we've said, the reason we can look to God and not ourselves lies in the fulfillment of what God promised through David, namely that Jesus Christ has been given as our great king. Our ultimate allegiance should be in Christ, not ourselves or any other person or thing.

What's Our Response?

We must turn to God and trust in His blessing to define our lives.

What Are the Questions?

2 Samuel 5:6-25

LAUNCH

How do you struggle to trust God when it feels like He's placed you in a situation that's "against all odds?"

EXPLORE

Read 2 Samuel 5:6-10.

1. What is the crisis in this narrative?
2. How does David make the Jebusites eat their words?
3. Read Genesis 15:18-21. In what way is David's victory a fulfillment of a centuries-old promise of God?
4. What is the narrator's assessment of David at the end of this section?
5. What relationship do you observe between the fulfillment of God's promise and the development of God's servant David?

Read 2 Samuel 5:11-16.

6. How does the attention David receives from the king of Tyre express God's blessing to David?

7. How does David interpret the favor of the king?

8. What does verse 12 say about God's purpose in blessing David?

9. Read Deuteronomy 17:14-17. How do verses 13-16 show both David's strength and folly?

Read 2 Samuel 5:17-25.

10. What crisis does David face in these verses?

11. How does David respond to this crisis each time?

12. How does God respond?

13. What does David's naming of the battle place in verse 20 say about God?

APPLY

14. Read Luke 4:18-21. What similarities and dissimilarities do you see between the establishment of David's kingdom and the establishment of the kingdom of David's greater son, Jesus?

15. Read John 15:4-5. In what way do these verses suggest an analogy between the way David depended on God and the way we must depend on Jesus to see His kingdom established in our world?

16. What from David's experience in this chapter motivates you to be more radically connected to Jesus?

17. This chapter shows that God fulfills His promise to establish His kingdom powerfully (verse 20) and against all odds (verses 6-7) as He grows His people (verse 10). What is an opportunity God has placed before you that you can see Him using to fulfill His promise to establish His kingdom while growing you in the process?

What Are the Answers?

1. The Jebusites taunt David, saying even the blind and lame could keep him out of Jerusalem.
2. He captures the city.
3. David's victory gave the Israelites the land of the Jebusites that God initially promised to Abraham.
4. He became greater and greater because the LORD God of hosts was with him.
5. God fulfills His promise as He grows His servant David.
6. It shows the extent of God's blessing to David that foreign kings would offer him resources.
7. He realizes that God had established him and blessed him.
8. He did it for the sake of His people Israel.
9. A growing family with multiple wives was a sign of strength in the Ancient Near East. But it was foolish for David to disobey God's command by multiplying wives.
10. The Philistines attack.
11. He seeks God's guidance.
12. He gives him specific guidance and defeats the Philistines.
13. It says that He's the master of breakthrough and that His power is like a rushing torrent on behalf of His people.
14. Similarities: God's hand was with them both, they both brought freedom and blessing; dissimilarities: fundamentally physical kingdom v. fundamentally spiritual kingdom, tainted with foolishness v. completely pure, apparently excluded some v. open to all, temporal v. eternal.
15. Just as David depended completely on God, we must depend completely on God's Son Jesus Christ.
16. Allow the group to discuss.
17. Allow the group to discuss.

Memorize

And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.

2 Samuel 5:12