



THROUGH MANY TRIALS, TOILS & SNARES...

ESTABLISHING THE KINGDOM

2 Samuel 2:8 – 5: 12

Sermon 2 OF 12 in “THE HEART OF A KING” series

4th May 2025

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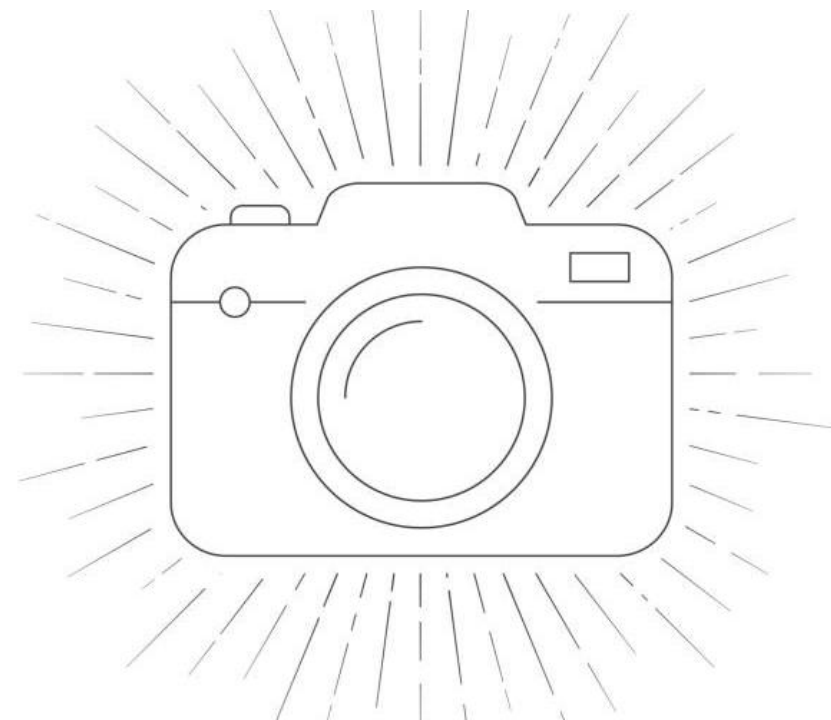


- OPPOSING FORCES
- DIFFERENT AGENDAS
- HUMAN POLITICS
- AMBITIOUS OPPORTUNISM
- DIVIDED LOYALTIES
- BETRAYALS
- MURDER
- ACTS OF VENGEANCE AND BLOODSHED
- WICKED VIOLENCE



- DAVID
- ABNER
- ISH-BOSHETH
- JOAB
- ABISHAI
- ASAHIEL
- RIZPAH
- MICHAL
- PALTIEL
- BAANAH
- RECHAB





❑ **2 SAMUEL 2: 8 -11**

❑ **2 SAMUEL 3:1, 6**

❑ **2 SAMUEL 5: 1 – 5; 10; 12**

2 SAMUEL 2: 8 - 11 (NASB. 1977)

- **BUT ABNER THE SON OF NER, COMMANDER OF SAUL'S ARMY, HAD TAKEN ISH-BOSHETH THE SON OF SAUL, AND BROUGHT HIM OVER TO MAHANAIM.**
- **AND HE MADE HIM KING OVER GILEAD, OVER THE ASHURITES, OVER JEZREEL, OVER EPHRAIM, AND OVER BENJAMIN, EVEN OVER ALL ISRAEL.**
- **ISH-BOSHETH, SAUL'S SON, WAS FORTY YEARS OLD WHEN HE BECAME KING OVER ISRAEL, AND HE WAS KING FOR TWO YEARS. THE HOUSE OF JUDAH, HOWEVER, FOLLOWED DAVID.**
- **AND THE TIME THAT DAVID WAS KING IN HEBRON OVER THE HOUSE OF JUDAH WAS SEVEN YEARS AND SIX MONTHS.**

TWO CAMPS

2 Samuel 2: 8, 9

THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY ABNER IS ESSENTIALLY
A REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE END OF SAUL'S KINGDOM .

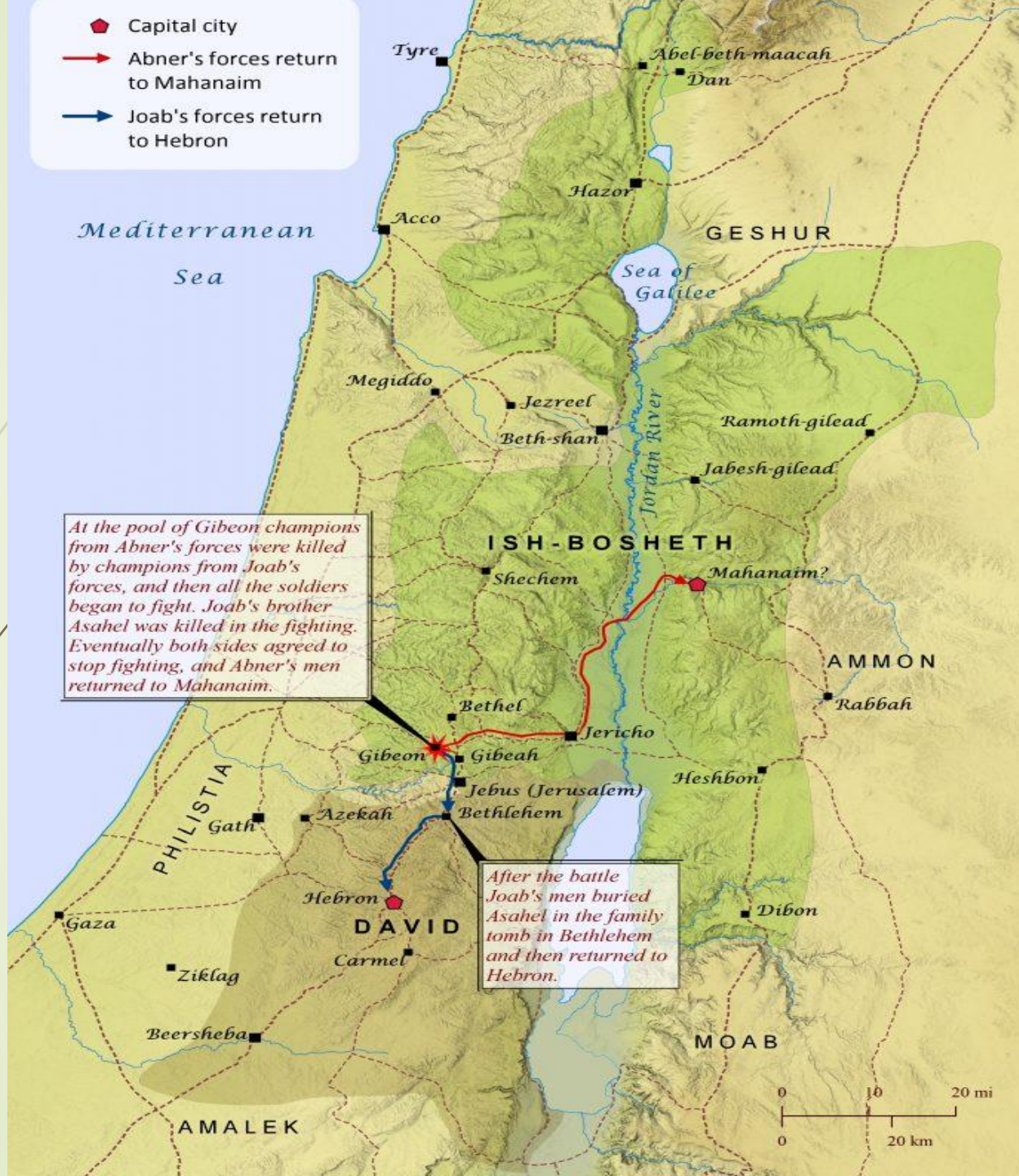
IT WAS **REBELLION** AGAINST THE NEW KING

THIS WAS IN SPITE OF HIM BEING PRESENT AT SAUL'S
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DAVID AS KING -

***“AND NOW, BEHOLD, I KNOW THAT YOU SHALL SURELY
BE KING, AND THAT THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL SHALL BE
ESTABLISHED IN YOUR HAND”***

1 SAMUEL 24: 20 (ESV)

A PICTORIAL OVERVIEW OF EVENTS IN 2 SAMUEL 2: 8 – 5: 12





MAHANAIM (lit. "TWO CAMPS")

2 Samuel 2:
8, 12

MAHANAIM IS CENTRAL TO THE REGION
EAST OF JORDAN, KNOWN AS GILEAD

ABOUT 15 MILES SOUTH OF JABESH-
GILEAD

BY THE JABBOK RIVER THAT FLOWS WEST
INTO THE JORDAN RIVER

ORIGINALLY NAMED BY JACOB WHEN
HE MET 2 ANGELS. IT WAS ALSO WHERE
HE DIVIDED HIS COMPANY INTO "TWO
CAMPS" (Genesis 32: 2, 7, 10)

**THE IRONY OF ABNER'S CHOICE OF
MAHANAIM AS ISH-BOSHETH'S CAPITAL –**

**HE WAS, BY HIS ACTIONS, DIVIDING THE
PEOPLE OF ISRAEL INTO TWO CAMPS.**

**IN MAKING THE NORTHERN TRIBES CHOSE A
KING OTHER THAN DAVID, A CHAIN OF EVENTS
WAS SET IN MOTION THAT WOULD ULTIMATELY
LEAD TO THE EMERGENCE OF TWO KINGDOMS
“ISRAEL” AND “JUDAH” AFTER SOLOMON'S
DEATH**

IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ELIMINATE DIVISION ONCE ITS SEED IS SOWN AND TOLERATED

2 SAMUEL 2: 8 – 11; MATTHEW 13: 24 – 30

ONCE THE SEED OF DIVISION IS ALLOWED TO GROW, IT BECOMES LIKE A WEED THAT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO REMOVE

NOT ONLY ARE WEEDS HARD TO REMOVE BUT THEY CAN BE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM, AND INTERTWINED WITH, THE WHEAT.

IT IS LIKE TWO DIFFERENT AGENDAS AT WORK IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

WE NEED TO HEED THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT (Matthew 13: 24 -30). THE BATTLES WE FIGHT ARE SPIRITUAL AND NOT JUST POLITICAL.

nb. The word used in Matthew is 'darnel' – a weed resembling wheat

***“ ONCE THE SEED OF DIVISION IS
SOWN, & ESPECIALLY AFTER IT
IS ALLOWED TO GROW, IT
BECOMES LIKE A WEED THAT IS
VERY DIFFICULT TO REMOVE ”***

Dr Matthew Jacoby, 2016

**WE NEED TO BE AWARE THAT BY CHOOSING TO FOLLOW
CHRIST, TO HAVE HIM AS OUR KING,
WE ENTER A SPIRITUAL CONFLICT.**

**SO DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER CONFLICT.
HIS KINGDOM WILL COME – ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.**

2 SAMUEL 3: 1, 6 (NASB. 1977)

- ➡ NOW THERE WAS A LONG WAR BETWEEN THE HOUSE OF SAUL AND THE HOUSE OF DAVID;
AND DAVID GREW STEADILY STRONGER,
BUT THE HOUSE OF SAUL GREW WEAKER CONTINUALLY
- ➡ AND IT CAME ABOUT WHILE THERE WAS WAR BETWEEN THE HOUSE OF SAUL AND THE HOUSE OF DAVID
THAT ABNER WAS MAKING HIMSELF STRONG
IN THE HOUSE OF SAUL.

A COMPLEX CHARACTER WHO REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK OF GOD (a)

- SON OF NER, BROTHER TO KISH, SAUL'S FATHER; COUSIN TO SAUL (1 Samuel 14:50,51)
- **COMMANDER OF SAUL'S ARMY** WHO HAD WITNESSED DAVID KILLING GOLIATH (1 Samuel 14:50; 17:55)
- BROUGHT DAVID TO SAUL (1 Samuel 17:57); SHARED A PLACE WITH DAVID AT SAUL'S TABLE (1 Samuel 20:25)
- **WITNESSED SAUL'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DAVID'S FUTURE** AT LEAST TWICE (1 Samuel 24:20; 26:25)
- YET **REFUSED HIMSELF TO ACKNOWLEDGE DAVID AS KING** FOLLOWING SAUL'S DEATH & INFLUENCED ISRAEL TO CHOOSE ANOTHER KING

A COMPLEX CHARACTER WHO REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK OF GOD (b)

- KNEW THAT ISH-BOSHETH WAS NOT THE LORD'S MESSIAH AND THAT HIS ACTIONS WERE AN INCITE TO ISRAEL TO REBEL AGAINST THE LORD AND TO PROVOKE A CIVIL WAR.
- **A LAWLESS MAN** WHO TRIED TO RULE OVER ISRAEL INSTEAD OF GOD.
- **A PROVOCATEUR** - AFTER 2 YEARS, MOVES HIS ARMY TO GIBEON, 5 MILES FROM DAVID'S BORDER (2 Samuel 2:12)
- **A DOUBLE-CROSSER** WHO FALLS OUT WITH HIS PUPPET KING AND DEFECTS TO DAVID

A COMPLEX CHARACTER WHO REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK OF GOD (C)

- A **SMOOTH-TALKER** WHO CONVINCES JOAB TO BE MERCIFUL BECAUSE 'UNITY MATTERS MORE THAN THE LORD'S NAME' (2 Samuel 2: 24- 29)
- A **SELF-SERVING** MAN WHO LOOKED OUT FOR HIMSELF
- ATTEMPTS TO WIN DAVID OVER BY PROMISING
 - (i) THAT IF THEY ENTERED A COVENANT HE WOULD 'BRING ALL ISRAEL OVER TO' DAVID (2 Samuel 3:12);
 - (ii) TO TURN HIM INTO A KING LIKE SAUL SO THAT DAVID 'MAY BE KING OVER ALL [HIS] SOUL DESIRES' (2 Samuel 3: 21)

**ABNER WAS MAKING HIMSELF STRONG IN THE HOUSE OF
SAUL** (2 Samuel 3:6)

**ABNER WAS CLEVER AND AMBITIOUS –
HE WAS A MAN WHO MADE THINGS HAPPEN
HE INITIATED THINGS
AND
HE PLOTTED TO ENSURE THAT EVENTS WENT HIS WAY & FOR HIS
ADVANTAGE

BUT
ALL THE MACHINATIONS OF MEN ALWAYS WILL COME TO NOTHING
BEFORE GOD.**

**THEN ABNER SENT MESSENGERS TO DAVID...NOW ABNER
HAD CONSULTATION WITH THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL...**

(2 Samuel 3:7-21-6)

**DISAPPOINTMENT & DISILLUSIONMENT
WITH ISH-BOSHETH SETS IN**

DISAGREEMENT OCCURS

**ABNER REACHES OUT
TO DAVID AS WELL AS THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL
BUT
CONTINUES TO PLOT**

ABNER



**WAS ABNER'S
BEHAVIOUR DIFFERENT
AFTER HIS CHANGE OF
ALLEGIANCE?**

2 SAMUEL 3: 12 - 21

THERE IS NOTHING AS SAD AS A SELF-DELUDED MAN

(1 Samuel 15:20; 2 Samuel 3:6, 9,10,12)

HIS BEHAVIOUR WAS SELF-SERVING.

ABNER NEVER CONFESSES HIS OWN FAILURES.

HE NEVER ADMITTED THAT

- a) HE WAS WRONG TO MAKE ISH-BOSHETH KING;**
- b) HE ACTED AS THOUGH ISRAEL WERE HIS OWN PEOPLE;**
- c) HE TRIED TO USE HIS OWN CLEVERNESS AND POWER TO DEFY GOD'S PURPOSES.**

**HIS ARROGANCE KNEW NO BOUNDS
HE OVERESTIMATED HIS POWER**

THE LORD LONGS FOR A PEOPLE WITH A PASSION FOR HIS NAME (Matthew 6:24)

PROUD & DISOBEDIENT PEOPLE WHO FAIL TO HONOUR HIS NAME WILL FALL

MANY ALTERNATIVES SEEK OUR ALLERGENCE TODAY, BUT YOU CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS. THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE ULTIMATELY

OUR KING IS JESUS. HIS KINGDOM IS GOD'S KINGDOM. ARE YOU WILLING TO FOLLOW JESUS AND HIS REIGN OR ARE YOU DRAWN TO SOMETHING ELSE?



***NOW THERE WAS A LONG WAR BETWEEN THE HOUSE OF
SAUL AND THE HOUSE OF DAVID***

**DAVID'S KINGDOM IN THE EARLY DAYS
WAS LIKE THE KINGDOM OF JESUS;**

**BY HIS DEATH, JESUS DEFEATED HIS ENEMIES
BY HIS RESURRECTION HE HAS BEEN DECLARED AS GOD'S KING.**

**HOWEVER, HIS KINGDOM IS NOT YET UNIVERSALLY
ACKNOWLEDGED.
ENEMIES OPPOSE HIM WHILE RIVALS VIE FOR POWER
(1 Corinthians 15:25)**

**AND DAVID GREW STEADILY STRONGER,
BUT THE HOUSE OF SAUL GREW WEAKER CONTINUALLY**

THE KINGDOM OF JESUS IS GROWING STRONGER AND STRONGER.

**THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN YOU CANNOT SEE THIS TRUTH
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE IN THE THICK OF THE STRUGGLE**

BUT THE TRUTH IS...

**GOD IS AT WORK, SOVEREIGN OVER ALL HUMAN WICKEDNESS,
FOOLISHNESS, AND WEAKNESSES.**

**GOD IS ESTABLISHING HIS KINGDOM AND HIS KING
AND HE WILL COMPLETE WHAT HE STARTED**



POWER IN THE HANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS IS NEVER COMPLETELY WISE AND GOOD

(John Woodhouse, 2015)

A SAD STORY OF POLITICS, AMBITION, REVENGE AND GREED. BUT ALSO ONE OF HOPE AND A DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S SOVEREIGN RULE

MAN'S ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THE COMING OF GOD'S KINGDOM OR TO TURN EVENTS TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE WILL EVENTUALLY FAIL

NO ONE IS WISE ENOUGH, GOOD ENOUGH, OR POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT MAN INTENDED – ONLY GOD – AND HE WILL DO WHAT HE WILL DO. GOD WILL SEE TO IT.

2 SAMUEL 5: 1 – 5 (NASB. 1977)

- THEN **ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL CAME TO DAVID AT HEBRON AND SAID, “BEHOLD, WE ARE YOUR BONE AND YOUR FLESH.”**
- “PREVIOUSLY, WHEN SAUL WAS KING OVER US, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LED ISRAEL OUT AND IN. AND THE LORD SAID TO YOU, ‘YOU WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND YOU WILL BE A RULER OVER ISRAEL.’”
- SO **ALL THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL CAME TO THE KING AT HEBRON, AND KING DAVID MADE A COVENANT WITH THEM BEFORE THE LORD AT HEBRON; THEN THEY ANOINTED DAVID KING OVER ISRAEL**
- **DAVID WAS THIRTY YEARS OLD WHEN HE BECAME KING, AND HE REIGNED FORTY YEARS**
- **AT HEBRON HE REIGNED OVER JUDAH SEVEN YEARS AND SIX MONTHS, AND IN JERUSALEM HE REIGNED THIRTY-THREE YEARS OVER ALL ISRAEL AND JUDAH**



THEN ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL CAME TO DAVID AT HEBRON

**THE ELDERS HAD HEARD THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF DAVID FROM
ABNER (2 Samuel 3:17, 18) AND IT WAS GOOD TO THEM (2 Samuel 3: 19)**

**THEY & ALL ISRAEL WERE HOWEVER DISTURBED WHEN THEY HEARD OF ABNER'S
DEATH (2 Samuel 4:1)**

**BUT, DAVID'S BEHAVIOUR AND HONOURING OF ABNER CONVINCED THEM
THAT ABNER'S DEATH WAS NOT DAVID'S DOING (2 Samuel 3: 37)**

**ISH-BOSHETH'S DEATH REMOVED ANY REMAINING OBSTACLE TO THE
NORTHERN TRIBES TO ACCEPT DAVID AS THEIR KING (2 Samuel 3:17) –
THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY REASON TO DELAY.**

FAITH COMES FROM HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD

(Romans 10:17, NASB)

**THE MEANS BY WHICH PEOPLE COME TO THEIR SENSES IS HEARING
THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF JESUS CHRIST**

**PEOPLE MAY HAVE OBSTACLES & EXCUSES THAT STAND IN THE WAY
OF COMING TO CHRIST.**

**BUT IF THE GOSPEL IS PROCLAIMED AND HEARD WITHOUT FEAR OR
FAVOUR, SUCH HINDERANCES (IN WHATEVER FORM THEY MAY BE)
WILL BE SWEEPED AWAY (2 Corinthians 10: 4,5)**

3 REASONS WHY THE ELDERS CAME TO DAVID AT HEBRON

(2 Samuel 5: 2, NASB)

a) “WE ARE YOUR BONE AND YOUR FLESH” Lit. **WE ARE YOUR BODY**. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED DAVID AS KING. THEY REALISED WHO THEY WERE IN RELATION TO DAVID

b) “WHEN SAUL WAS KING...YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LED ISRAEL OUT AND IN” Lit. “**YOU ARE OUR SAVIOUR**”. ISRAEL CAME TO THEIR SENSES AND SAW THAT EVEN WHEN SAUL WAS KING, DAVID WAS THEIR SAVIOUR.

c) “**YOU ARE OUR SHEPHERD**” THE TRIBES COMING TO DAVID AT HEBRON IS A WONDERFUL PICTURE OF WHAT IT MEANS TODAY FOR PEOPLE TO COME TO GOD’S KING – JESUS CHRIST!



**THEN ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL CAME TO DAVID AT
HEBRON..SO ALL THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL CAME TO THE
KING AT HEBRON..**

**THE FACT THAT IS UNDERLINED HERE IS THAT
THE ELDERS CAME TO DAVID AT HEBRON.**

DAVID DID NOT GO TO THEM AT MAHANAIM.

**DAVID DID NOT TAKE THE LEADERSHIP OF
ISRAEL THAT WAS ABOUT TO BECOME HIS;**

HE RECEIVED IT.



***AND KING DAVID MADE A COVENANT WITH THEM
BEFORE THE LORD AT HEBRON; THEN THEY ANOINTED
DAVID KING OVER ISRAEL***

**WHAT HAD BEGUN IN 1 SAMUEL 16:1 HAD NOW REACHED ITS GOAL.
DAVID WAS NOW KING OVER ISRAEL (2 SAMUEL 5:3)**

**DAVID WAS NOW TAKING CENTRE STAGE
AND WE ARE ABOUT TO SEE WHAT GOD CAN DO
THROUGH A PERSON WHO LOVES HIS NAME.**

**THROUGH ALL THE TRIALS, TOILS AND SNARES,
GOD'S GRACE AND PURPOSE WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL**

BEING FAITHFUL DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERYTHING MAKES SENSE OR THAT YOU ARE HAPPY WITH YOUR SITUATION

BEING FAITHFUL TO GOD DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU CANNOT TAKE YOUR SITUATION TO THE LORD

YOU CAN COMPLAIN – BUT DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GOD BUT COMPLAIN TO GOD (eg Psalm 6 & 13)

THIS IS TRUE FAITH, THIS IS REAL FAITH

#3b

2 SAMUEL 5: 10 (NASB. 1977)

➤ **AND DAVID BECAME GREATER AND GREATER,
FOR
THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS WAS WITH HIM.**

2 SAMUEL 5: 12 (NASB. 1977)

➡ **AND DAVID REALISED
THAT THE LORD HAD ESTABLISHED HIM
AS KING OVER ISRAEL,
AND
THAT HE HAD EXALTED HIS KINGDOM
FOR THE SAKE OF HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL**



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