

Crowned  
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2 Samuel 3:8-21

“The Lord moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.” We see this played out over and over in scripture. The eventual elevation of David to King of Israel is another example of the two Big Ideas from this text:

- God honors leaders (ie - King David) who are committed to His purposes.
- God will fulfill His purposes for His people in His timing and sometimes in unusual ways.
  
- 2 Samuel is the biblical account of David’s reign as King of Israel
- Chapters 1-10 tell about David’s triumphs. Chapters 11-20 his troubles.
- Last week: Saul had died and David was made king of only Judah.
- One of Saul’s remaining sons (Ish-bosheth) was made king of the rest of Israel (the northern tribes.)
- Abner, Saul’s cousin, chief military commander, and real man in power orchestrated Ish-botheth’s ascension to the throne.
- 2 Samuel 3:1 – “There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David.” – about seven years of civil war in Israel. “David grew stronger and the house of Saul grew weaker. *“The writer implies that Yahweh is with David and against Saul’s house.”*
- 2 Samuel 3:2-5 – David’s family was also growing. Six sons by six different wives in seven years. This was socially acceptable in that day but NOT God’s will. David and his family would pay a high price.
- 2 Samuel 3:6 –Abner was “making himself strong in the house of Saul.”

- Abner was growing so strong that Ish-bosheth the “weak, puppet” king became suspicious that Abner might be plotting a coup. Verse seven:

2 Samuel 3:7 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. And Ish-bosheth said to Abner, “Why have you gone in to my father’s concubine?”

- **What was a concubine? What was Ish-bosheth accusing Abner of?**
- This wasn’t just “The Real Housewives of the Northern Kingdom.” Any idea why there was more significance than a young king angered about an affair with his late father’s mistress? (We’ll fill in that blank in class!)
- We don’t know if Abner was guilty, but he was more than just “ticked off.”

2 Samuel 3:8–11 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, “Am I a dog’s head of Judah? To this day I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David. And yet you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman. <sup>9</sup> God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the Lord has sworn to him, <sup>10</sup> to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba.” <sup>11</sup> And Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

- After years of fighting against David, Abner decides to switch sides.
- Abner was the most powerful man in the Northern Kingdom because he had the respect and loyalty of the army. This was why he was able to put Saul’s son in place as “puppet king.” This would be a major shift for him.

2 Samuel 3:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, “To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring over all Israel to you.”

- Abner offered his influence as a bargaining chip. *“I’m in control of the rest of Israel and I can give it to you with a bow on top if we make a deal.”*
- Let’s pause for an observation. A long seven-year civil war has been raging with Abner leading the opposition against David’s army. Now, what turns the tide is an accusation of immoral behavior. Strange stuff!
- David was interested in a deal, but not without some conditions:

2 Samuel 3:13–16 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> And he said, “Good; I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you; that is, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul’s daughter, when you come to see my face.” <sup>14</sup> Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul’s son, saying, “Give me my wife Michal, for whom I paid the bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.” <sup>15</sup> And Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband Paltiel the son of Laish. <sup>16</sup> But her husband went with her, weeping after her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, “Go, return.” And he returned.

- Michal, Saul’s daughter was David’s first wife, so David was Saul’s son-in-law. But Saul in his jealousy gave her to this man named Paltiel to spite David. David had been running for ten years and fighting for seven, he hadn’t seen her in years. **Why did he make this a condition of the deal for the northern kingdom? Was it romance or politics? What is the deal with buying a bride with “foreskins” of enemies – yuk!-?**
- Abner couldn’t make this happen, it had to be her brother Ish-bosheth.
- Poor Paltiel was the pathetic character in this story (v. 16.)
- After Abner had delivered on David’s condition, he used his influence on the leaders of the northern tribes:

2 Samuel 3:17–19 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> And Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, “For some time past you have been seeking David as king over you. <sup>18</sup> Now then bring it about, for the Lord has promised David, saying, ‘By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.’ ” <sup>19</sup> Abner also spoke to Benjamin. And then Abner went to tell David at Hebron all that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do.

- Verse 18 is significant. Abner tells the leaders to “bring about” making David King because a) they had desired it, and b) it was God’s promise.
- **Why did David need Abner to persuade the leaders? Why not just take his army and threaten them? Why would voluntary submission be better?**
- Abner as Saul’s general had led an army to find and kill David. Now, he’s admitting he knew it was God’s will and promise for David to be king.
- **Did Abner have a genuine change of heart or was it all about politics? We don’t really know from scripture, what do you think?**
- **How are people guilty of doing the same thing Abner did fighting against God’s will for David to be king?**
- **How does verse 18 point toward Jesus as the future Messiah?**
- Dave Guzik: *“This is an illustration of Jesus’ lordship in our life. He is in fact King of Kings of Lord of Lords. But He chooses (for the most part) to exercise His sovereignty only at our invitation.*
  - - Some do not invite Jesus to rule over anything
  - - Some invite Jesus to reign over a small area - like “Hebron”
  - - Some give Jesus reign over everything He has authority over - which is everything.
  - Abner is a good example of someone who eventually surrendered to God’s king. Now he wants to influence others to surrender to God’s king.”<sup>ii</sup>
- Charles Spurgeon drew this same parallel: *“The Israelites might talk about making David king, but that would not crown him...something more decided must be done. The sooner it is done the better. Until the deed is done, remember you are*

*undone; till Christ is accepted by you as king, till sin is hated and Jesus is trusted, you are under another king. Whatever you may think of it, the devil is your master."*<sup>iii</sup>

- Like Abner, many know that Jesus is to be the King over everything yet they fight making Him king. Sometimes we claim Him as King in name only and hold back parts of our "kingdom" as our own to reign over.
- As in Israel of that time, the following applies today: True peace only comes when we submit to the true King!
- What about God's purposes? God had told Samuel to anoint David as the future king. Yet, for years Saul tried to kill David and then, after Saul was dead, Saul's house fought David for even more years. Now, finally David is being elevated to be king of all of Israel.
- **What does the story of David say to us about God's purposes? How can we apply it to God's purpose for our lives today?**

So, What's the Takeaway?

- This passage recounting the eventual elevation of David to King of Israel confirms that God honors leaders who are committed to His purposes.
- David remained obedient despite great odds and God honored that.
- We also saw how David's ascension to the throne of all of Israel is a picture of the eventual appearance of Jesus as Savior and Lord. Jesus has been proclaimed as King but He will not force His reign on anyone.
- Every person must realize that true peace only comes when we submit to the true King! That means acknowledging Jesus as Savior and Lord giving Him authority over all of our lives and not just part of them.
- Finally, we see that as with David, God will fulfill His purposes for His people in His timing and sometimes in unusual ways.
- Here are some scripture verses to claim:

In Psalm 57:2 (ESV) David wrote while hiding from Saul in a cave:

2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

Psalm 138:8 (ESV) David also wrote a promise and a prayer for all of us:

8 The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Isaiah 46:9–11 (ESV) the prophet transcribed the words of God:

9 ...I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' 11...I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

- God offers true peace when submit to the true King: Jesus.
- God will accomplish His purposes for us as He did for David. The question is, whether we like David, will trust Him and not doubt that truth?
- Is there any area of our lives this week where we need to stop fighting God's will and submit to it?

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<sup>i</sup> Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E.,  
<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons23.xlv.html>  
<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons23.xlv.html>