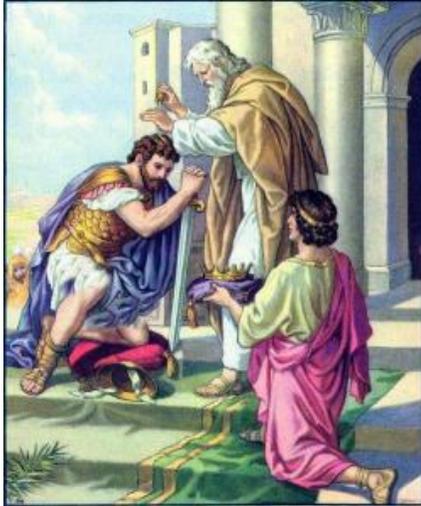


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 3



DAVID MADE KING OF ISRAEL

Scripture Texts: 2 Samuel 3:8-11; 2 Samuel 3:27-32; 2 Samuel 5:12

What type of man was Saul's military leader? His anger against the house of Saul was so great that he betrayed his nation. His desire for turning the kingdom to David was motivated by personal revenge. He had known God's plan for David, but he had never aligned himself with it. We find very little in Abner's character to admire, but very much to shun.

We find here several scenes from David's life that reveal his character: his family life, his reactions to murders, and how he regarded the Lord's place in the ruling of a nation. We see some of the Lord's response to him and we see much to praise in David's life.

MEMORY VERSE: *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.*
— **Luke 1:32**

Abner Turns to David and Is Slain

2 Samuel 3:8-11 Abner, captain of Saul's army, had made Saul's son, Ishbosheth king of Israel, that is, of the tribes exclusive of Judah. He had done it, partly, from loyalty to Saul. Perhaps also from desire for power, for Ishbosheth seems to have been weak and prone to yield to Abner.

But one day Ishbosheth accused Abner of immorality concerning Saul's concubine. This so angered Abner that he turned his support from his king and vowed to turn the kingdom from Saul's family to David. He declared this to accord with God's stated purpose for David—as **the Lord hath sworn to David**. His rage frightened Ishbosheth speechless. The enemy uses God's words to his advantage many times.

Abner sent word to David of his intention and received a favorable, but conditional, reply. He sought the approval of the elders of Israel and especially of Benjamin, the tribe from which King Saul had come. He used two arguments: (1) their former desire for David to be their king, and (2) the Lord's purpose for David (**2 Samuel 3:17-18**). Then he went to David and agreed to put the kingdom under his rule. David sent Abner away with his blessing.

2 Samuel 3:27-32 When Joab heard this he was very displeased. Abner was his old enemy and slayer of his brother (**2 Samuel 3:18-24**). It was probable now that he had come to be his rival. Joab called him back from his homeward trip. On pretense of a private conversation, Joab led Abner aside and killed him. Thus he gained revenge for his brother's death and destroyed his rival. When David heard of it, he testified that he or his kingdom, Judah, were guiltless of the blood of Abner. He showed his attitude toward murder in his prayer of concern in **2 Samuel 3:29**.

Abner was Saul's captain when Saul pursued David to kill him. Yet David mourned his death as that of a dear friend. He wept in real sorrow. He called the nation to mourning. They shared his feelings. David was admired and approved by his people as we read in **2 Samuel 3:1** and **2 Samuel 3:36**.

With the strength of Abner gone, Ishbosheth became weaker than ever and his kingdom disorganized. In an overzealous attempt to make way for Israel to come under David's strong leadership, two of Ishbosheth's captains slew him. Thinking to gain approval, they brought his head to David. They knew little about David. Instead of praising, he ordered their execution.

Israel Anoints David King

2 Samuel 5:1-5 Now in need of a leader and prepared by Abner's negotiations, the elders of Israel came to David with three reasons why he should be their king: (1) He and they shared common ancestry—the same **bone**

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and **flesh** (Abraham and Jacob). (2) David previously had done good service to these tribes under Saul (**1 Samuel 18:12-16**). (3) It was the Lord's will that David be **captain over Israel**.

David made a league with them. No details are given. No doubt he promised to be a good king and they promised to be loyal subjects. This would compare to the type of league we made with Christ when we come into His kingdom. **They anointed David king over Israel.** This anointing was by men, but was in agreement with the choice of God signified earlier by the anointing He commanded Samuel to perform (**1 Samuel 16**).

Acknowledging God's Hand

Abner and Joab each thought he saw problems ahead. Each used his own plan and effort to solve them. Baanah and Rechab allowed their own thoughts to control their actions. This was not necessary in order for God to give David the kingdom. God's power is not dependent upon our efforts. True, we can limit Him by doubt and disobedience. But He does not need our self efforts.

Consider Elijah pouring water over the sacrifice before praying for fire. He removed all suspicion of man's help that God's action might be plainly seen. How does this compare with the actions of Baanah, Rechab, Abner, and Joab? God will work His plan unaided by our efforts. The only help He needs from us is obedience to Him alone.

2 Samuel 5:6-12 In these verses we find the following facts: (1) David grew great; (2) The Lord was with him; (3) David perceived that the Lord had established him king; (4) David knew the blessings upon him and the kingdom were for Israel's sake, not his. God directed David's path.

David's Response

The blind and the lame. This passage may be puzzling to many. Some suggest that the Jebusites thought David weak, so put lame and nearly blind ones to defend Jerusalem. This was probably an exaggeration. They taunted him that to come in he must overcome these weak ones. David took the challenge and smote them at the water course of the wall.

David's reign over Judah was administered from Hebron, a town some twelve miles south of Jerusalem. To rule all Israel, he moved to Zion, the eastern hill of Jerusalem. This is a type of Christ's spiritual kingdom. Read **Romans 11:26; Hebrews 12:22; and Revelation 14:1**. Mary was visiting Elizabeth in Hebron at the time of the Holy Conception. Christ's earthly ministry was conducted from Jerusalem. His heavenly ministry is conducted from Mount Zion, the Church of God.

The Lord God of hosts was with him. No wonder David **grew great**. He **perceived that the Lord had established him king**. This is valuable insight for any person to possess—to recognize God's hand in his accomplishments and not to proudly take glory to himself. If we will meet His conditions, God will do for us as He did for David.

JUST A THOUGHT

**If you have God's promise for a thing,
isn't that enough?**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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