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2 SAMUEL 5:1-25

Today we'll see David finally being crowned king of all Israel. **Seven and one-half years** before he had been anointed king of Judah and today we're going to see **all** the Israelites come and make him their king. **This has been a very long time coming!**

Verses 1-5...

David was anointed by Samuel at around **twelve or thirteen years** of age. Then, around **eighteen years** later he was crowned king of Judah, and **seven and one-half years** later he is crowned king of all Israel.

*You know, sometimes when God promises us something, it doesn't come right away. It took **twenty-five years** for David to finally be king of all Israel.*

God's will doesn't always happen immediately. But, God's will does always happen. God doesn't always operate on our timetable, but His timetable is perfect.

David said more than once, "I waited **patiently** upon the LORD."

Most of us wait **impatiently** upon the Lord. And I guess we do it because it does so much good! 😊

God's mill doesn't always grind fast, but it always grinds exceedingly fine, doesn't it? God doesn't operate in time and space as we do. God's will was for David to be king, but certain obstacles had to be removed...

Saul had to be removed...
Abner had to be removed...
Ish-bosheth had to be removed...

Now was God's time for David to be crowned. God's will was about to be accomplished. The obstacles had been removed. And the people affirmed it.

We need to remember the people had been **divided**. Some supported the house of Saul and some supported the house of David. But now they were **united** in their support of David as their king.

And we see in the verses we just read not only a new sense of unity, but a new sense of joy and a new sense of an understanding of God's will and also a new sense of commitment...
- not a partial half-hearted commitment but a total commitment!

Well, what happened after David became king?

Verses 6-11...

David was faced with a new challenge. Here we see David taking steps to further unite the people of Israel.

David knew he needed to establish **one city** as the capital of Israel. The capital city of Judah was Hebron, and if he had chosen Hebron, the people of Israel would have been mad. The capital of Israel at that time was Mahanaim, and if David had chosen that city the people of Judah would have been mad.

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So, David did a very wise thing. He chose the city of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem was inhabited by the Jebusites and they didn't take kindly to David coming in and making their city the capital city of his kingdom and they weren't going to give up their city without a fight. And they really thought they could whip David and his army.

In fact, they said, "Hey, our blind and crippled can beat you!"

Verse 8 doesn't mean David hates blind people and crippled people. He's being facetious here. He's simply saying, "Men, they said they're going to hold us off with their blind and lame. When you get there, kill their blind and lame."

Now, David's never had any problem with the Jebusites before. He's battled Saul and he's battled the Philistines. He's been troubled by Abner and Ish-bosheth... But, here he has new opposition.

Being in the will of God doesn't always mean our roads are smooth. Being in the will of God sometimes brings us challenges and it sometimes brings us opposition...but it always brings us victory.

Verse 7 tells us David captured the stronghold of Zion and verse 9 tells us David lived in the stronghold of Zion and called it "the city of David" and then began to build around it. By the way, the "city of David" was not the entire city of Jerusalem...it was only a small area of it.

Verse 10...

David was in God's will and God was with David and David became greater and greater.

Verse 11...

In these verses we see that Hiram, the king of Tyre sent cedar trees and skilled folks to build David a house. Hiram was not a believer in Jehovah, but he wanted very much for David to be his ally.

Verses 13-16...

These verses tell us of more concubines and more wives and more children... You'd be surprised how many commentators just skip over these verses. It's like they're not even there.

We said last week that God had decreed that the kings of Israel were not to multiply wives unto themselves. And we saw last week as well as today that that's exactly what David did.

God had said the kings were not to multiply wives unto themselves because that will turn the kings heart away. And we're going to see that in the life of David, but even more so in the life of Solomon. The downfall of both of them was the same thing. Like father like son is a true adage, isn't it?

David's trouble with women didn't start with Bathsheba. It started here in his early manhood. David was a better boy

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than he was a man.

When you think of David as a boy, as a shepherd, singing his psalms, a heart for God...you don't find a young man in all the Word of God with more of a heart for God than David.

And yet, David as a man was not nearly the *man* of character as he was a *boy* of character. And that happens in the lives of lots of men.

Now the question is this. Why did God put up with it? *Well, as I thought about that this week, I don't have nearly the problem wondering why God put up with David as I do wondering why He puts up with the things I do.*

But, if you'll look back in verse 12 I think you'll see the reason God put up with David.

Verse 12...

You see, God had made a promise to Abraham. And God's promises are going to come true regardless of who is on the throne. I want to tell you...God doesn't sit up in heaven wondering how He's going to work around whoever is the President or whoever is the king or the queen of any country.

God usually works in spite of them. God always works His will no matter what they want to do.

There's a verse over in the *Book of Daniel* that says,

"God does what He wishes among the hosts of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth, and no one can ward off His hand or say, 'what hast Thou done?'"

God had a plan for His people...and it included David. And I'm so glad we serve a God who looks beyond our faults and is able to use us anyway!

David realized that God had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel! God had a greater plan than we see in the life of David at this point. The Lord Jesus Christ would come from David's line. And we'll see that more next week.

We see only a little bit of the picture, but God sees all of it!

Well, we've seen God's will being accomplished and we've seen David's new challenge and his new opposition and new victories...

Let's look at some old enemies...

Verses 17-21...

The events of this passage are believed to have happened right after the events of *verse 3*. Many times the Holy Spirit inserts things just a little out of chronological order. For example, *verse 11* says David's house was built.

Well, that didn't happen overnight. It takes a long time to build a house even today and can you imagine how long it would have taken to build a house for the king back then?

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The Philistines came against David when they heard the nation of Israel was no longer divided. As long as Israel was divided against itself and was experiencing civil unrest, the Philistines didn't feel threatened.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, **“Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself shall not stand.”**

And as long as Israel was at war within her own nation, the Philistines didn't bother to come against them, but when they united the Philistines began to fear for their own national security and they decided they would come against Israel before Israel came against them.

What happened when the Philistines came against Israel?

First of all David went to his stronghold.

Then, David inquired of the Lord **what he should do.**

Then, God answered and told David to go against the Philistines...

“Go up, I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.”

David went against them and defeated them and gave God the glory...verse 20...

Verse 22-25...

Here we see old enemies coming back again!!

And again David asked the Lord what he should do and this time God commanded David to use a *different tactic*... **“Don't go up directly, David.**

Circle around behind them and come at them in front of the balsam or mulberry trees.”

Now, we don't know how much time elapsed between *verse 21* and *verse 22*, but we know that Philistines had time to regroup and come back at Israel again.

And we know that David asked God for a word of instruction and He gave it and they defeated the Philistines again.

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In the time we have left, I want us to see some applications from this lesson.

If we see this lesson and all these lessons in *2 Samuel* as simply history lessons we'll have learned something, but I believe God would have us to learn something for our everyday lives from the examples and principles He sets forth in this old book that the Holy Spirit wrote so many years ago.

As one writer put it... *“All Scripture is not written to us, but all Scripture is written for us.”*

1) We need to learn to wait on the Lord...

**Remember when we went over to the sanctuary and wrote our promises on the floor? Well, when I got up from writing mine, Mrs. Ella May, Polly Dogan's mom, was standing there beside me. She said that Dave had gone to get a pen.**

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I asked her if I could write her verse on the floor for her. And her promise was *Isaiah 40:31...*

**“...Those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength;  
they will mount up with wings like eagles,  
they will run and not get tired. They will  
walk and not become weary.”**

Now, Isaiah lived many years after David, but I believe David lived by these words and we should too.

Someone once explained this verse this way:

**“Mounting up with wings as eagles speaks of soaring power.  
Running and not getting tired speaks of surging power.  
Walking and not becoming weary speaks of sustaining power.”**

**And we see David doing all this, don't we? God had a purpose in David's waiting those twenty-five years for the throne. He was teaching David lessons that David could learn no other way. And He wants us to learn these lessons as well.**

If we want to mount up with wings as eagles and run and not get tired and walk and not become weary...if we want power that soars and surges and sustains...then we must learn a very hard lesson and that lesson is to wait on the Lord.

God's timing is perfect. His thoughts and His ways are not our thoughts and ways. They are so much higher!

I pray in our old age that we can truly learn to wait on the Lord patiently...not impatiently! I promise to remind you of this, if you'll promise to remind me!!

2) In our waiting we need to trust God completely...

David had God's promise. God had promised him the throne. However, Saul was on the throne.

**But David refused time and again to take matters into his own hands. He knew that God would deliver him the kingship in His time and in His way.**

David was content to wait. Now, we know that David did some foolish things during his time of waiting. He made some bad decisions...going off to the land of the Philistines and all...but David still had a heart for God and trusted Him.

Saul, on the other hand had it all. But, he displeased God so much that God had to take the kingdom from him.

What was the difference? We've already said it. Saul is like the man who hears the Word and knows exactly what is expected of him, yet he goes his own way and does his own thing.

I don't believe Saul was a saved man, but in a way we can liken him to the Christian who knows what he or she should do, but refuses to do it... for example...

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...the believer who spends time reading the newspaper or novels but rarely ever picks up the Word of God...

...the believer who only cries out to God when his back is against the wall...

...the believer who knows he should be in God's house on Sunday, and yet finds all kinds of excuses to be somewhere else...

The difference between Saul and David was a heart difference. God knows our thoughts! God knows the intents of our heart! And God knew Saul's heart and He knew David's and there was a huge difference in the two. He knew David trusted Him. He knew Saul didn't! He knew David had a deep regard for the things of God and He knew Saul didn't!

When Saul was faced with a decision, he sought out the witch of Endor. When David was faced with a decision, he sought the counsel of Almighty God.

My prayer is that we will be like David. May we not turn back. Jesus said, *"No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

David had a heart for God. Saul didn't. David loved and longed for the things of God. Saul didn't.

Saul looked back. David looked forward. Saul wasn't fit for the kingdom. David was. May we be like David!

3) When enemies come against us, we need a stronghold...

David tells us over and over that God is our refuge...our rock...our shelter...our fortress...our strong tower that we can run into...our stronghold!

We don't need to run to the world! We don't need to run to secular books, or secular counsel, or secular psychology. We need to run to God. If He then leads us to seek counsel, we need to be sure it's Godly counsel and lines up with the Word of God.

4) The victory isn't ours...it's God's...

Just as God gave the Philistines into David's hands, He will defeat our enemies as well. And the sooner we realize that we are helpless to defeat our enemies without God's divine intervention, the better off we'll be!

5) Old enemies don't give up...

The Philistines came back again and we'll see as we go along in this book that they came back again and again and again...

So, what do you do when your enemies come back?

You do what you did before and what David did before.  
You get on your knees before God and pour out your frustration  
and just as God was there for David, He will be there for you.

6) The way to victory yesterday may not be the way to victory today...

Sometimes what won the victory yesterday is totally ineffective for the battle that is going on today.

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**We need to learn when old enemies come back that we cannot rest on past victory nor can we presume upon past strategy...because sometimes God changes His strategy. And whatever He tells us to do, we are to do it!**

**God told David to go up against the Philistines and then God also told David not to go up against the Philistines.**

**“Go up against the Philistines and I’ll deliver them into your hand.” David trusted God. David obeyed God and David was victorious.**

**Then David asked God again, and God said, “David, I don’t want you to go up against them face to face. I want you to surround them behind the mulberry trees and then wait.**

**I don’t want you to do anything. I don’t want you to sharpen an axe. I don’t want you to sharpen a sword. I don’t want you to do anything but wait until you hear the sound of marching in the trees...just obey and wait.”**

**Think about David’s encounter with Goliath. David went against Goliath with a slingshot and five smooth stones. We’re told that Goliath had four brothers. I’d at least have picked up some sharp jagged stones. ☺**

**But, have you ever thought about this... We never hear of David using that weapon again...I mean, he didn’t go through life using his slingshot against the Philistines and the Jebusites and all his other enemies, did he?**

**When I thought about this I remembered the verse we used in our class book last year...the year 2001.**

**“Be steadfast, immovable...always abounding in the work of the Lord...knowing that your labor is not in vain.”**

**On one hand Paul says... “be immovable”. And on the other hand, Paul says, “abound”. What does this mean?**

**Sometimes we’re to stay still...  
Sometimes we’re to move...**

**Whichever we’re to do to win the victory, He will tell us. When the enemy comes against us, we just need to rely on God anew and afresh. We need to be flexible. We need to simply be ready to do what God tell us to do.**

**We need to learn that old enemies will come back...**

**We need to learn that we cannot rest on past victory nor can we presume on past strategy...because sometimes God changes His strategy!**

**And whatever He tells us to do we’re to do!**

**God’s way brings victory!  
Not some of the time!  
Not part of the time!  
Not most of the time!  
God’s way always brings victory!**

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**We can't stop old enemies from coming back. A lot of time when they come back they're stronger than ever before.**

**May God help each of us to know that when we look to Him for our guidance and victory, and rely on Him, we'll not trust ourselves...we'll trust only Him!**

**I hope you've seen the sweet and precious grace of God this week. I know He's manifested it in your life. He surely has in mine! Each week, we'll see that grace fleshed out in very vivid ways!!**