

GOD ESTABLISHES DAVID AS KING OVER ISRAEL

2 Samuel 2:1-5:16 (Key verse 5:12)

And David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

Introductory Notes

In 1 Samuel 8 the people of Israel came to Samuel and asked him to appoint a king over them.¹ At first Samuel was displeased with their request.² However, when he prayed to the Lord about this, God did not oppose His people's request.³ In fact, God was well aware of Israel's oppression at the time at the hands of the Philistines and eager to deliver them.⁴ In fact, God had compassion on His people who from the beginning when God appointed leaders over Israel, was oppressed by wicked people.⁵ Therefore God was eager to provide them with a "*home of their own and no longer be disturbed.*"⁶ To achieve this, God planned to establish a kingdom for his people and appoint a king to rule over them.

But this king that God wanted to appoint and the kingdom that he wanted to establish would not be like any other king or kingdom. No! God assigned a deeper meaning to them both, in that wanted Israel's king and Israel's kingdom to be pointers to the eternal King Jesus and His eternal kingdom,⁷ meant not only for the Israelites but all the nations of the world. For it is through Israel's suffering at the hands of their enemies that we can learn more about our sufferings at the hands of sin. Also, it is through Israel's deliverance by the hand of their king⁸ that we can understand the deliverance from sins Jesus brings. So it was with this dual purpose; firstly to deliver Israel from the Philistines immediately and secondly to deliver the world from sin eternally; that God chose and anointed Saul⁹ as the first king over His people and established his kingdom in Israel.

However, as we all know from 1st Samuel study, it did not take long for Saul to reveal his true colours. During the first battle with the Philistines, Saul for the first of many times, openly disobeyed the word of the Lord when he offered up a burnt offering without Samuel.¹⁰ At that very moment,

¹ **1 Sam 8:5** - 5They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead b us, such as all the other nations have."

² **1 Sam 8:6** - But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD.

³ **1 Sam 8:22** The Lord answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."

⁴ **1 Sam 9:16** he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me."

⁵ **2 Sam 7:10**

⁶ **2 Sam 7:10**

⁷ **1 Samuel 13:13** - if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.....**Genesis 12:3** – all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.... **2 Sam 7:13** He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **2 Sam 7:16** 16Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me your throne will be established forever." **Gen 49:10:** The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

⁸ Previously Moses, Joshua, the Judges and Samuel

⁹ **1 Sam 9: 17** - When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people."

¹⁰ **1 Sam 13:1-15**

God decided to replace Saul as ruler of His people. Samuel in no uncertain terms said to Saul: *You have done a foolish thing, You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command.*" (1 Sam 13:13-14). On a second occasion, Samuel again said to Saul: *"The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you.*" (1 Sam 15:27-28) Because Saul rejected the word of the Lord, God rejected Saul as king and decided to pass on the promise of Christ's eternal kingdom to a man after his own heart.¹¹

David was this "man after God's own heart"the "one better than" Saul. Yet while Saul was still alive, God sent Samuel to Jesse in Bethlehem, where he appointed the boy David as Israel's future king.¹² Saul jealously realised that David was the one Samuel spoke about to replace him.¹³ So he tried to kill David more than once.¹⁴ But God did not give David into his hands. (1 Sam 23:14) Until Saul realised that God was indeed with David, and would surely appoint him king over Israel and establish his kingdom forever.¹⁵

The question is, what was the difference between Saul and David? David was a man after God's own heart, not because he was perfect or sinless. But because he was a man who humbly obeyed the Lord His God and feared Him with all his heart. This we see in chapters 16-31 in 1st Samuel and the first 5 chapters of 2nd Samuel. David's words, his reactions and behaviour reflects that of Jesus Christ. And that is what we will be focusing on in this second study of 2 Samuel.

But before we start with study 2, and in context of the key verse, it is important to point out that it was well known among the Israelites that David was God's chosen servant to be king over His people Israel. We know this based on what Abner said to king Ish-Bosheth in 2 Sam 3:9: "May God deal with Abner, be it ever so severely, **if I do not do for David what the Lord promised him on oath and transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and establish David's throne over Israel and Judah from Dan to Beersheba.**" Abner also said to the elders of Israel: "For some time you have wanted to make David your king. Now do it! **For the Lord promised David, 'By my servant David I will rescue my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their**

¹¹ **1 Sam 15:10-11**

¹² **Sam 16:1, 12-13** The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.".....So he sent for [David] and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

¹³ **1 Sam 8-9:** Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David

¹⁴ **1 Samuel 20: 31:** As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!"

¹⁵ **1 Sam 24:20-21** I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."

enemies.” (2 Sam 3:18) The elders of Israel themselves said to David: In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’” (2 Sam 5:5) It is important to be mindful of this, because if Abner and the rest of the elders in Israel knew God chose David as Saul’s successor, why did it take them 7 years and 6 months to accept him as their king? Why did Abner in the first place set Saul’s son Ish-Bosheth up as king when the tribe of Judah anointed Saul as their king? Another related question is why did David not just insist that he is the Lord’s anointed and force his kingship on the people of Israel? We will think about this during the study.

Lastly, as I mentioned earlier, a central theme in the book of 2 Samuel that we need to keep in mind all throughout our study, is that David’s kingship and kingdom are pointers to Jesus Kingship and kingdom. This was God’s ultimate goal and purpose when he established David as king in Israel and exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. (5:12) Already then, God had you and me in mind.

With all this said, let’s approach this second study in two ways:

1. Let’s closely observe how God established David as king in Israel.
2. Let’s closely observe David’s reaction to everything that came his way for 7 years and 6 months it took for God to do so.