

The Path to Power (II Samuel 2:1-7; 5:1-10; and 6)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. Position and power come from God.
2. Power evolves through humility (God's Theorem of Evolution).
3. God blesses faithful leadership.
4. Power expands through obedience.
5. Those in power should honor God.

Question: Have you ever waited or are you now waiting for a promise from the Lord to materialize in your life? If so, then how is it making you feel?

- B. Conclusion from the last lesson - Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle. **I Samuel 31:3-4 says**, "And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it."
- C. In II Samuel 1:1-16, David is greeted by an Amalekite. He has just returned from a battle with the Amalekites that had attacked his camp in I Samuel 30:1.
1. The Amalekite came upon a wounded, dying King Saul, and finished him off at Saul's command. How did David react?
 2. In verse 15, David ordered one of his men to fall upon the Amalekite. Fall comes from the Hebrew word (*paga`*) which means to encounter or to strike.
 3. David was upset with the Amalekite because the man had not had respect for God's anointed.
 4. **Question.** Saul was supposed to have killed all the Amalekites in I Samuel 15:1-3. Where did the Amalekite come from that told David about Saul?
 5. Dr. Ronald F. Youngblood connected the end of Eli in I Samuel 4:12-17 to the end of Saul in II Samuel 1:1-9.
 - a. Eli lost his family and his priesthood in the one day, and so did Saul.
 - b. Dr. Youngblood believes that the author intentionally tried to relate the two stories to each other to show the end of "degenerate" leaders.
 - c. Dr. Youngblood may or may not be correct. ***If he is correct, then it shows what Jesus was talking about in John 15:2, 6.***
- D. In II Samuel 1:17-27, David lamented over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.
1. Saul had been David's biggest earthly enemy, but David did not rejoice over Saul's death.
 2. He was even saddened to think that Israel's enemies would rejoice over Saul's death. II Samuel 1:20 says, "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph."

The Path to Power (II Samuel 2:1-7; 5:1-10; and 6)

3. **II Samuel 1:23 says**, "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions."
4. David understood that God loved them both, and he had a genuine godly love for both of them, even though Saul did not share that love for him. **David's love for Saul parallels God's love for us.**
- E. How long had David run from Saul? How long had Saul been king?
 1. **Acts 13:21 says**, "And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years."
 2. According to II Samuel 5:4, David was 30 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 40 years over Israel.
 3. Two sources on the Internet say between 8 and 10 years.

II. In II Samuel 2, David began his path to power.

Question: With Saul out of the way, David's path to the throne would be without difficulty. **True or False.**

- A. In verses 1-6, David went to Hebron.
 1. In verse 1, David was still consulting the Lord about what to do.
 - a. **Nine times David inquired of the Lord** (I Samuel 23:2, I Samuel 23:4, I Samuel 30:8, II Samuel 2:1, II Samuel 5:19, II Samuel 5:23, II Samuel 21:1, I Chronicles 14:10, and I Chronicles 14:14). **Saul only once and then he was where he should not have been** (I Samuel 28:6).
 - b. David's example is worthy of being followed.
 - c. Characteristics of an Old Testament saint.
 - 1) **From II Timothy 3:16, we know that an Old Testament saint could experience some kind of influence (short of being indwelt) by the Holy Spirit.** That verse says, "All scripture is given by **inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," and it would have applied to Old Testament writers, as well.
 - 2) **From Romans 10:1-2, we know that an Old Testament saint would have a zeal for God according to knowledge.** That verse says, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, **but not according to knowledge.**"
 - a) The Old Testament saint would have been looking for the First Coming of Christ just as we look to the Second Coming.
 - b) The Old Testament saint would not have put his or her confidence in the works of the Law.

The Path to Power (II Samuel 2:1-7; 5:1-10; and 6)

- c) The Old Testament saint would have been able to "inquire" of the Lord, just as we pray.
 - d) The Old Testament saint would have sensed the Lord's handiwork in Creation.
 - e) The Old Testament saint could have experienced a personal peace with the Lord.
 - f) The Old Testament saint would have known that the Lord was to be worshipped and that the individual is subject to Him, not vice versa.
- 3) But the Old Testament would not have been anymore perfect than the New Testament saint.
2. In verse 2, he still had the same two wives.
 - a. Ahinoam, who was Amnon's mother (II Samuel 3:2).
 - b. Abigail, who was the mother of Chileab (II Samuel 3:3).
 3. In verses 3-4, he was made king over the single tribe of Judah, and that was the extent of his power in the beginning. In verse 11, he held that position for 7 years and 6 months.
 - a. Position and power come from God.
 - b. Power evolves through humility (God's Theorem of Evolution).
 - c. God blesses faithful leadership.
 - d. Power expands through obedience.
 - e. Those in power should honor God.
 4. It is interesting that the Lord was tougher on David than He had been on Saul. One could say that God was grooming David for the top job.
 5. In verse 5-6, David thanked the men from Jabeshgilead that had retrieved Saul's body from the Philistines.
- B. In verses 7-10, Abner, who had been Saul's top general, made Saul's son, Ishbosheth, king over Israel, and Ishbosheth stayed in the position for two years.
1. Abner did not want David to be king.
 2. He probably still felt some loyalty to Saul.
 3. He also might have been afraid of what David would do to him if he were king.
 4. How did David respond to Abner's rejection of him? **Things that David did not do.**
 - a. He did not openly oppose Abner's decision.
 - b. He did not openly oppose Ishbosheth as being king over the greater part of Israel.
 - c. He did not question why God was bringing him to power in such a slow and unorthodox way.
 5. Once again, David set for us an example that is worthy of being duplicated.
- C. In the rest of the chapter, some of David's men battle with some of Ishbosheth's men.
1. Neither king was involved in the conflict.

The Path to Power (II Samuel 2:1-7; 5:1-10; and 6)

2. But Abner killed Joab's brother (Asahel), and that put Abner and Joab permanently at odds.
- III. Between the chapters (II Samuel 3 and II Samuel 4)
- A. In II Samuel 3, the skirmish that started in II Samuel 2 became a long drawn out war between David and Ishbosheth.
1. The result was that David became stronger and stronger, and Ishbosheth became weaker and weaker.
 2. 2 Samuel 3:1 says, "Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker."
 3. David became involved with more women (Maacah, Haggith, Abital, and Eglah). Of those four, he married Eglah (verse 5). The others were probably concubines.

Question: How can you justify all of the women in David's life? Was this a behavior that was reserved for kings?

4. **NOTE:** In God's plan, one man for one woman for one lifetime. David went against the Lord's plan, and he paid the price. He had great turmoil in his home.
 - a. Genesis 2:23-24 says, "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."
 - b. I Timothy 3:2 says, "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach."
 - c. I Timothy 3:12 says, "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."
 - d. Ephesians 5:31 says, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."
 - e. **So how did David get away with having so many wives and concubines?**
 - f. The answer is that he did not.
5. In verses 30-33, Abner switched sides and joined David's army.
 - a. Then, Joab caught Abner alone and killed him.
 - b. II Samuel 3:33 says, "And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth?"
 - c. David was not happy with Joab, but Joab retained his position as David's lead general.
- B. In II Samuel 4, Ishbosheth was killed, and David avenged his death by executing his killers.

Question: Why did the elders of Israel pick David to be their king? Was it only because Samuel had anointed him to be the future king of Israel? Why or why not?

The Path to Power (II Samuel 2:1-7; 5:1-10; and 6)

- IV. In II Samuel 5, David was recognized for his protection of Israel.
- A. In verses 1-2, the elders acknowledged all that David had done for Israel while Saul was king.
 - 1. His exploits in protecting Israel had not gone unnoticed.
 - 2. The Lord had not only selected David to be king because David had a heart for Him, but Israel also selected David to be king because of all that he had done for them.
 - 3. While fleeing from Saul, David had been a protector of Israel against outside invaders. I Samuel 25:21 says, "Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good."
 - B. In verses 3-5, David finally became the king over all of Israel.
 - 1. He became king when he was thirty years old.
 - 2. He remained king for forty years.
 - 3. He had already reigned in Hebron for 6-1/2 years.
 - 4. He would reign over all of Israel for another thirty-three years.
 - 5. When he became king over all of Israel, he was almost thirty-seven.
 - C. In verses 6-10, Jerusalem was held by the Jebusites, who enemies of Israel.
 - 1. Israel was at risk of their enemy's hold on Jerusalem.
 - 2. The Jebusites taunted David.
 - 3. His men and he entered the city through a tunnel. They attacked the Jebusites and took back Jerusalem.
 - D. *The Quarterly said, "David did not become successful by accident. He became great because he trusted God and his faith in God allowed God's power to work in his life. If you want to be successful, put your faith in God."*
 - 1. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
 - 2. Faith (*pistis*) - "the conviction that God exists and is the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Provider and Bestower of eternal salvation through Christ, . . . , belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence)."

Question: Why did Uzzah die for keeping the Ark of the Covenant from falling to the ground? What was wrong with this entire situation? Was the Lord leading David to move the Ark?

- V. In II Samuel 6, David attempted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.
- A. In verses 1-7, the Ark was being brought back, when Uzzah puts out his hand to steady it. When he did that, the Lord struck him dead.
 - B. The Ark had been at Abinadab's house all the way back to the time that the Philistines had released it from their possession (see I Samuel 6:1-21).
 - C. Reasons why Uzzah lost his life.

The Path to Power (II Samuel 2:1-7; 5:1-10; and 6)

1. David had not inquired of the Lord, as was so often his way. In this instance, he acted on his own (verse 2).
2. The people were not moving the Ark in the manner that the Lord prescribed.
 - a. They put the Ark on a new cart (verse 3). Exodus 25:10-14 describe how the Ark was made. It was to have rings on its sides so that it could be carried by the Levites on their shoulders.
 - b. In Exodus 25:22, the Ark was to be a special meeting place with the Lord for worship, and David and his men were not in that spirit of worship.
 - c. The Quarterly says that they were careless in their worship. "Desire and effort without obedience brings judgment."
 - d. The wrong people were moving it. Numbers 4:15 says, "And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: **but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.** These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation."
3. Leviticus 16:2 indicates that Aaron was only to come to the mercy seat on the Ark at certain times, but David was not adhering to that requirement.
- D. Verse 9 says that David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he left the Ark for the next three months.
- E. In verses 13-15, they moved the Ark again, and that time they did it correctly.
 1. They carried the Ark, which satisfied Numbers 4:15.
 2. The people were happy and in a mood for worship, which satisfied Exodus 25:22.
- F. **Compare Saul and David.** Saul lost his throne in I Samuel 13:8-14 when he made an offering to the Lord in Samuel's absence. I Samuel 13:14 says, "But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee."
 1. In I Samuel 13:15-22, the Bible does not record any kind of reaction from Saul concerning what Samuel had said. He seems to have been oblivious to what he had done and to what Samuel had said. In other words, the writer of this part of Scripture, which may well have been Samuel, does not show that Saul does not appear to have been sorry or repentant over what he had done.
 2. In II Samuel 6:8-11, David was sad about what had happened.
 - a. He gave the location a special name (Perezuzzah) to express his sorrow.
 - b. He stopped trying to do the thing that had displeased the Lord. He left the Ark alone for three months.
 - c. He was afraid of the Lord. Afraid (yare') - to fear, reverence, honor, respect. In other words, he repented, and the next time around, he moved the Ark in the manner that it was supposed to be moved.

VI. Next week's lesson: "Thank You, Lord" (II Samuel 7)