

11. The Monarchy: Pt. IV

REVIEW

- Old Testament Overview
- New testament Overview
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- The Exodus out of Egypt
- The Wilderness Wanderings
- Camped at Mt Sinai
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- The Conquest of Canaan
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I. A Review: The Setting

We are now focusing on the Period of the Monarchy:

- The Beginning of the Monarchy (1052-931 BC)
 - Saul (reigned: 1052-1011 BC)
 - David (reigned: 1011-971 BC)
 - Solomon (reigned: 971-931 BC)
- Following his coronation, Saul immediately attacked the Philistines
- The Text describes 2 Extraordinary Failures of Faith on Saul's part that cause him to forfeit his position of King
- This leads to an extended (15 years) transition of leadership between Saul and David
- David is anointed King in place of Saul (I Sam. 16:12-13)
- Saul had reigned about 25 years by this time
- David was about 15 years old
- He would assume the throne at age 30
- This was the first of 3 anointings of David:
 - Here
 - Over the southern portion of the country i.e., Judah (II Sam. 2:4)
 - As King over all Israel (II Sam. 5:3)
- David's Rise to Prominence: The Slaying of Goliath (I Sam. 17)
- Saul's Resentment of David forces David to flee into the Wilderness
- We see the excellence of David and the evil of Saul highlighted

- Saul directed his son Jonathan and his servants to kill David but he protected him
- On two separate occasions David spares Saul's life:
 - The caves of En-Gedi (I Sam. 24:6, 11)
 - The Wilderness of Ziph (I Sam. 26:9-11)
- David flees from Saul and joins up with the Philistines (I Samuel 27)
- During these years of fleeing from Saul David is being groomed for leadership
 - David patiently waiting on God to make him King
 - These difficult times are the context for the many Psalms David wrote
 - David was learning to lead men

NB: As an Example....

I Sam. 24:1-12

- David's men recommended that David kill Saul in the cave
 - David says no (vv 6, 10)
 - CONTRAST with Saul: He followed the people in not destroying the Amalakites and in saving the spoil (I Sam. 15:1-33, esp. v. 24)
- Saul Foolishly Consults the Witch of Endor (I Sam. 28)
 - The Philistines gather for battle against Israel (Saul is king)
 - Samuel has died
 - Saul becomes frightened by the Philistines and seeks the Lord

6 When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets. 7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at En-dor."

- Saul disguises himself and seeks counsel from the Medium

9 But the woman said to him, "Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who are mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you then laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?"

- Saul asks the Witch to summon Samuel and he appears

1Sam. 28:15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am greatly distressed; for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has departed from me and answers me no more, either through prophets or by dreams; therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I should do." 16 And Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? 17 "And the LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David. 18 "As you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day. 19 "Moreover the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the LORD will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!"

- This event lays the groundwork for the death of Saul and the ascent of David

- The Philistines are preparing to attack Israel
 - The kings of the Philistines command that David leave them because they doubt his loyalty
 - David is forced to separate himself from the Philistine alliance (I Sam. 29)
 - Even the Philistines knew of the exploits of David

I Sam. 29:5 “Is this not David, of whom they sing in the dances, saying, ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands?’”

- David battles against the Amalakites (I Sam. 30)
 - David and his 600 men leave the Philistines and return to their homes in Ziklag (in the Negev)
 - They discover that the Amalakites had raided their homes and taken their wives (including 2 of David’s wives)

NB: When David’s followers found out that the Amalakites had taken their wives and children they turned on David and threatened to stone him. David, however, turns to God:

I Sam. 30:6 Moreover David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people were embittered, each one because of his sons and his daughters. **But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.**

- David also seeks counsel from God

I Sam. 30: 8 And David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I pursue this band? Shall I overtake them?” And He said to him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them, and you shall surely rescue all.”

- David and 600 men take out after the Amalakites
- At one point 200 men are too weary to continue but 400 go on and are successful against the Amalakites and recover the spoil taken from their homes
- Some of the men refuse to divide up the spoil among the 200 men who stayed behind but David confronts them:

30:23 Then David said, “You must not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us, who has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us. 24 “And who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike.” 25 And so it has been from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

- The Philistines attack and Saul is wounded in Battle and commits Suicide (I Sam. 31)
 - The Philistines attack Saul and strike a devastating blow
 - Saul is struck by an arrow and is mortally wounded
 - Saul commands his armor bearer to kill him but he refuses
 - Saul then falls on his spear and dies
 - The Philistines find his body and behead him
 - They then nail his body to the gates of Beth-shan (a key city on a major route in the Jezreel valley)

END OF REVIEW: Begin new material

III. The Reign of David as King over Israel (II Samuel; I Chronicles 13-29; I Kings 1-2)

A. David's Ascent to the Kingship over Judah (II Sam. 1:1-3:1)

1. The report of Saul's death and his lament (II Sam. 1)
2. David is anointed King over Judah by the men of Judah (II Sam. 2)
 - Abner (Saul's Commander of the Army) takes Saul's son Ishbosheth and makes him king over Israel
 - War erupts between the Northern (led by Ishbosheth and Abner) and the Southern (led by David and Joab) parts of Israel
 - The battle goes against Ishbosheth and the Northern armies
 - Joab's brother Asahel pursued Abner to kill him
 - Abner warns Asahel twice to stop pursuing him and is killed by Asahel
3. Over the next several years the House of David becomes stronger and the House of Saul weaker

B. David's Ascent to the Kingship over Israel (II Sam. 3:6-5:16)

1. Abner eventually joins forces with David
 - Abner violates the concubine of Ishbosheth and is confronted by Ishbosheth
 - Abner has assumed more and more power in the North and has become untouchable
 - Abner seeks an alliance with David and his men in the South (Judah)
 - Joab murders Abner

2Sam. 3:26 When Joab came out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah; but David did not know it. 27 So when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the middle of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the belly so that he died on account of the blood of Asahel his brother.

- David mourns over the death of Abner
- The Northern area of Israel eventually embraces David as their king:

2Sam. 5:1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. 2 “Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and in. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.’” 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them before the LORD at Hebron; then they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

C. The Victorious Reign of David (II Sam. 5:17-8:18)

1. David is twice victorious over the Philistines (II Sam. 5:17-25)

a. When the Philistines heard that all Israel had made David king they came to attack.

- David’s response was to seek guidance from God who in turn gave him the victory:

II Sam. 5:19 Then David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Wilt Thou give them into my hand?” And the LORD said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.” 20 So David came to Baal-perazim, and defeated them there; and he said, “The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters.” Therefore he named that place Baal-perazim. 21 And they abandoned their idols there, so David and his men carried them away.

b. A second time the Philistines came up against David in the Valley of Rephaim to attack.

- David’s response *again* was to seek guidance from God who in turn gave him the victory:

II Sam. 5:23 And when David inquired of the LORD, He said, “You shall not go directly up; circle around behind them and come at them in front of the balsam trees. 24 “And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall act promptly, for then the LORD will have gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines.” 25 Then David did so, just as the LORD had commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

2. David has the Ark returned to Jerusalem (II Sam. 6; I Chron. 13)

- David decides to bring the Ark back from Kiriath Jearim to Jerusalem.
- David marshals 30,000 men and spares no expense to bring the Ark up to Jerusalem
- The Ark is placed on a “new” cart pulled by oxen (just like the Philistines—I Sam. 6:7)
- David and all Israel are celebrating the bringing of the Ark up to Jerusalem
- However:

2Sam. 6:6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. 7 And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

- David is angered when Uzzah dies as he touches the Ark. David leaves the Ark in the house of Obed Edom the Gittite for 3 months.

NB: Why did Uzzah have to die?

- a.) The Law said the Ark was to be carried by the Sons of Kohath (Numb. 3:30-31; 4:15; 7:9) and on poles (Exod. 25:12-15)
- b.) Therefore, Uzzah had to die (Numb. 4:15)
 - David repents of his sin and brings the Ark up to Jerusalem the right way:

2Sam. 6:12 Now it was told King David, saying, “The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, on account of the ark of God.” And David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness. 13 And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.

NB: As the Ark is being brought up to Jerusalem David is overcome with joy before the Lord and his wife sees him “leaping and dancing” before all the people (II Sam. 6:16). She mocks him later:

2Sam. 6:20 But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants’ maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!” 21 So David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the LORD. 22 “And I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.” 23 And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

3. This is a kind of “golden” Age for Israel

II Sam. 8: 6 Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. **And the LORD helped David wherever he went.**

II Sam. 8: 14 And he put garrisons in Edom. In all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. **And the LORD helped David wherever he went.**

IChr. 18:1 Now after this it came about that David defeated the Philistines and subdued them and took Gath and its towns from the hand of the Philistines. 2 And he defeated Moab, and the Moabites became servants to David, bringing tribute. 3 David also defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah as far as Hamath, as he went to establish his rule to the Euphrates River. . . .

. . . 5 When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed 22,000 men of the Arameans. 6 Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus; and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. **And the LORD helped David wherever he went.** . . .

. . . 13 Then he put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became servants to David. **And the LORD helped David wherever he went.** 14 So David reigned over all Israel; and he administered justice and righteousness for all his people.”

D. The Sins and Troubles of David (II Sam. 9:1-20:26)

1. David’s sin with Bathsheba (II Sam. 11-12)

a. David has begun to engage in spiritual compromise

2Sam. 5:13 Meanwhile David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron; and more sons and daughters were born to David.

b. His life became one of ease

2Sam. 7:1 Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies,

c. David commits adultery and murder to cover it up

- David is at *ease* when he should be at *work*

2Sam. 11:1 Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.

- David *covets* and then *considers*

2Sam. 11:2 Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king’s house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. 3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

- David *seeks* Bathsheba and then *sleeps* with Bathsheba

2 Sam. 11:4 And David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. 5 And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."

- David seeks to *cover up* his sin thereby *multiplies* his sin

2Sam. 11:6 Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked concerning the welfare of Joab and the people and the state of the war. 8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and a present from the king was sent out after him.

2Sam. 11:14 Now it came about in the morning that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

- David does not understand the gravity of his sin

2Sam. 11:26 Now when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 When the time of mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.

2. David is confronted by Nathan the Prophet and judgment is pronounced

a. The Lord convicts David about his sin

2Sam. 12:1 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said, "There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 "The rich man had a great many flocks and herds. 3 "But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nourished; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, And was like a daughter to him. 4 "Now a traveler came to the rich man, And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; Rather he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 5 Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die. 6 "And he must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion."

b. The Lord confronts David about his sin

2Sam. 12:7 Nathan then said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 'I also gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! 9 'Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

- c. The penalty for David's sin is described:
- The child must die
 - Evil will come from his own household
 - Violent death of his son Amnon (II Sam. 13:28-29—after he rapes his sister Tamar)
 - Death of Absalom at the hands of Joab and his servants (II Sam. 18:14-15)
 - David has fled Jerusalem because of Absalom's revolt against David
 - Absalom is caught in the branches of an oak tree and then killed by Joab
 - Death of Adonijah at the command of Solomon (I Kings 2:24-25)
 - Note the confession of David in Psalm 51

E. Final Events Relating to David's Reign (II Sam. 21:1-24:25)

1. David sins by taking a military Census (II Sam. 24)
- David's lack of faith leads him to trust in his own strength and not God's ability to give the victory
 - God sends a plague to judge Israel
 - David confesses his sin and makes a sacrifice on Mt. Moriah (site of the Temple to be built by his son Solomon)