

#2 - 6/10/2018 - Crowned - 2 Samuel 2:8-4:12

God honors leaders who are committed to His purpose

I. Abner rebels against God by establishing Ish-bosheth as king over Israel - [2 Samuel 2:8-11](#)...

2 Samuel 2:10 *Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he was king for two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David.*

Though Judah recognizes David as king, Israel makes Saul's son Ish-bosheth their king. *"The house of Judah, however, followed David"* [[2 Samuel 2:10b](#)]. This passage is an example of the resistance of the world to the rule and reign of God, and the terrible effects of such rebellion. David was God's anointed king, and as such he represented God's rule and reign over the whole kingdom of Israel.

Instead of submitting to this rule, however, Abner attempts to take matters into his own hands and continue Saul's kingdom through Saul's son Ish-bosheth. The name Ish-bosheth literally means "man of shame," and that is exactly how his illegitimate rule ends overthrown by Abner, since he only reigns for two years [[2 Samuel 2:10a](#)]. May we not follow Saul and Ish-bosheth in rebellion against the Lord; rather, may we submit to God in humble obedience and experience the joy of our salvation that such obedience provides!

“What negative consequences of sin have you experienced in your life?”

• Spend some time today confessing to God any ways that you have rebelled against Him lately. Then spend some time in thanksgiving, expressing your gratitude for the forgiveness and redemption that is yours through Jesus.

II. David defeats Ish-bosheth at Gibeon - 2 Samuel 2:12-32...

The kingdom of Israel was split between two kings. David as king of Judah and Ish-bosheth as king of Israel-the other 11 tribes.

Vv.12-16 Abner, as the commander of Ish-bosheth's army, goes out from Israel into David's territory at Gibeon. Joab, as commander of David's army, goes from Hebron to meet Joab at Gibeon. Upon their meeting, the terrible effects of the division become immediately apparent: twelve members of David's army go against twelve members of Ish-bosheth's army, and each of the twelve kill one another.

Vv.17-32 shows us the fierceness and bloodiness of the ensuing battle. We see the effects of this division and superiority of David's kingship over Ish-bosheth. While Ish-bosheth killed 19 of David's men, David killed 360 of Ish-bosheth's men. Judah has a victorious king, David triumphs over his enemies.

Much like the scene before us in today's passage, we live on a battleground. Our fight, though, is not primarily *against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places*" [Ephesians 6:12]. We fight the forces of sin, the world, and Satan. But give thanks to God that we do not fight these forces alone. Just as Judah had a victorious king to fight their battles for them, so also we have a victorious King, who by His resurrection from the grave has ultimately won the battle for all who trust in Him.

“ What are your greatest battles? Specifically, what spiritual battles are you enduring?

• Ask God to be your refuge and strength amid the turbulent tide of the world. Thank Him for sending His Son Jesus Christ as a victorious King, who won the battle over sin, death, and Satan by His resurrection from the dead.

III. David finds a new ally - 2 Samuel 3:8-11... ⁹ *May God do so to Abner, and more also, if as the LORD has sworn to David, I do not accomplish this for him,* ¹⁰ *to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah,”*

Abner was an unlikely ally for David because he had been at war with him for over 10 years, as the military commander for Saul and then for Ish-bosheth. However, Abner took one of Saul's concubines and Ish-bosheth interpreted this as establishing a right to the throne of Israel and threatened Abner.

Abner's response was that he would help bring to pass the promise God made to David to be king over all of Israel. This was not a fast process as we are told that David reigned over Judah for 7.5 years [[2 Samuel 5:5](#)] while Ish-bosheth was king of Israel [11 tribes] only two years [[2 Samuel 2:10a](#)]. I cannot decipher from the bible where the 2 years fits within David's 7.5 years. Was it at the beginning, middle or end?

This is not an important question for us today, but it demonstrates the patience of David as he waits these years before finally receiving the kingdom he was anointed for as a young boy. In our fast paced world we get upset about how long we have to wait in a Chic-fil-A line for lunch. We get upset with God if He does not answer our prayers the way we want them by the end of the day.

[James 1:2-3](#) tells us we are to be joyful in trials because the testing of our faith produces endurance. Trials include waiting on God sometimes for many years as David patiently waited.

Have I learned to trust God even when patiently waiting for troubles and difficulties to pass?

Notes: For different timelines for David's life: king in Hebron over Judah in 1000BC & dies 961BC [here](#), & [here](#), king in Hebron over Judah in 1010BC & dies 970BC [here](#) and [here](#), David king in Hebron 1011BC & dies 971BC [here](#) in good chart from creation to 95AD, 3 timelines [here](#),

IV. A complicated picture of turmoil and trouble - 2 Samuel 3:12-16... David told Abner: ¹³ *“Good! I will make a covenant with you, but I demand one thing of you, namely, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul’s daughter, when you come to see me.”*

Michal was Saul's daughter and David's wife that he left in Jerusalem when he fled. David had children with 6 women in Hebron. ^A

We live in an age of deep skepticism concerning politics, politicians, and positions of power. When we look at royal life in 2 Samuel 3, we find many wives, concubines, power struggles, changing allegiances, and much spoil. In other words, we find deeply corrupted governments. This occurs in David's camp as well as Ish-bosheth's. Compare to God's commands for Israel's kings. ^B

Yet this picture of sin shows us that God's promises to David and us are not contingent upon our broken faithfulness to God, but His unfailing faithfulness to us. Amid David's unfaithfulness to God's standard for kingship, we find God faithfully making David *“stronger and stronger,”* while the house of Saul becomes *“weaker and weaker”*. ^C And God promised David that He would *“transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah”*. ^D

We owe our allegiance to an infinitely great and righteous King, our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ In what other ways does David succeed or fail to meet God's standard for kingship? ^B

~ As you consider your own sin and unfaithfulness to the Lord, where do you find yourself getting overwhelmed? The advice of our culture would be, *“Pull up your bootstraps and do better, be better.”* How does scripture suggest we should respond?

~ Spend time today confessing to God your unfaithfulness to Him. Then, pour out your heart in worship and thanksgiving for His perfect faithfulness to you on the basis of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ask Him to transform your heart and your mind, so that you may repent of sin and serve Him faithfully.

Notes: A- [1 Samuel 19:11-12](#); [2 Samuel 3:2-5](#); B- [Deuteronomy 17:17-20](#); C- [2 Samuel 3:1](#); D- [2 Samuel 3:10](#);

V. Shuttle diplomacy resulted in agreement but a Bloody Aftermath - 2

Samuel 3:17-21... ¹⁷ Now Abner had consultation with the elders of Israel, saying, "In times past you were seeking for David to be king over you. ¹⁸ Now then, do it! For the LORD has spoken of David, saying, 'By the hand of My servant David I will save My people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies.'"

Abner persuaded the troops under his command, the leaders of the 10 northern tribes and the Benjamites to accept David as their lawful king. Saul and Abner were Benjamites, and if the tribe of Benjamin submitted to David, the other tribes had no reason to resist. Ish-bosheth had abandoned any claims on the crown.

David held a banquet for Abner, indicating that he wanted to reconcile all the factions and end the bloodshed once and for all. David held no ill will for Abner or Ish-bosheth.

However, here was a bloody aftermath to this agreement. First, Abner had committed an offense against Joab by killing his brother Asahel. Joab treacherously murdered Abner, an act of vengeance that was undeserved. ^A It made David appear to be treacherous, since people would think that Joab acted at David's behest. David therefore responded with a formal oath and curse on Joab, the strongest assurance he could give that he was not involved in the murder. Then, he led in the mourning over Abner. ^B

After this, two ruthless men murdered Ish-bosheth and gave the head to David. This made David appear vicious, since some would assume that he had commissioned the murder. He regarded Ish-bosheth as a decent man and as no threat. David ordered the assassins to be beheaded buried the head of Ish-bosheth. ^C

A lot of pain results from people rebelling against God and it extends beyond the immediate rebels. Are you rebelling against any of the commands of God? If so what can you do limit the pain for self and others

Notes: A- [2 Samuel 3:22-30](#); B- [2 Samuel 3:31-39](#); C- [2 Samuel 4:5-12](#)

Summary Application 2 Samuel 2:8-4:12

1. Spend some time today confessing to God any ways that you have rebelled against Him lately. Then spend some time in thanksgiving, expressing your gratitude for the forgiveness and redemption that is yours through Jesus.
2. Ask God to be your refuge and strength amid the turbulent tide of the world. Thank Him for sending His Son Jesus Christ as a victorious King, who won the battle over sin, death, and Satan by His resurrection from the dead.
3. Have I learned to trust God even when patiently waiting for troubles and difficulties to pass?

4. As you consider your own sin and unfaithfulness to the Lord, where do you find yourself getting overwhelmed? The advice of our culture would be, %Bull up your bootstraps and do better, be better.+How does scripture suggest we should respond?

5. A lot of pain results from people rebelling against God and it extends beyond the immediate rebels. Are you rebelling against any of the commands of God? If so what can you do limit the pain for self and others?

6. Memory Verse **Ephesians 6:12** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*