

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 36

2 Samuel 2-6, 1 Chronicles 11-16

Tuesday Night Bible Study, October 6, 2009

--OUTLINE:

- I. TURBULENCE SURROUNDING THE ASCENSION OF DAVID TO THE THRONE AFTER THE DEATH OF SAUL
- II. STANDING BEFORE THE KING EXPECTING A REWARD BUT RECEIVING THE SENTENCE OF DEATH INSTEAD
- III. ISRAEL ALIGNED WITH THE WILL OF THEIR HEAVENLY KING UNDER DAVID'S LEADERSHIP AND THE BLESSINGS THAT RESULT

--INTRO:

--Tonight we will see the fulfillment of God's plan for David's life on the straight and narrow path in spite of the major spiritual storms he had to go through...

--Samuel anointed David as the king of Israel at 20 years of age by divine appointment, but then David spent 10 years in exile fighting for his life followed by another 7 years as king over Judah while being at continual war with the other tribes.

--from a human perspective things seemed hopeless at times and how everything would come together was unclear, but David continued to walk by faith (for the most part) and focused on God rather than his circumstances; and sure enough the storm eventually cleared, and he became king over all Israel as God promised.

--the story of David should be an encouragement to keep our focus on God rather than our circumstances when we are surrounded by spiritual storms... we may be unable to see how everything will come together, but we can rest assured that God is always working beneath the surface to fulfill His plan for our lives!

--2 Corinthians 4:7-10 is a great theme verse: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

I. TURBULENCE SURROUNDING THE ASCENSION OF DAVID TO THE THRONE AFTER THE DEATH OF SAUL

--after Saul died and his primary barrier to the throne was removed, David didn't rush to power, even though he had already been anointed king by divine appointment; rather, the first thing David did was seek direction from the Lord, thus, in a small way, proving once again why he was the person God chose.

--2 Samuel 2:1: "It happened after this [*Saul's death*] that David inquired of the Lord, saying, 'Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?' [*at this time David was living in exile south of Israel*] And the Lord said to him, 'Go up.' David said, 'Where shall I go up?' And He said, 'To Hebron.' "

--from David's perspective it was unclear exactly how he would take the throne and whether or not everybody would recognize him as the king.

--David then led his army and their households to Hebron, and the elders of the tribe of Judah made David king over the tribe of Judah.

--after David was made king over the tribe of Judah, the commander of Saul's army, Abner, made Saul's son Ishbosheth king over all the other tribes of Israel; then war between the two sides ensued – and thus the spiritual opposition to God's will through David continued.

--2 Samuel 3:1 gives a summary of this: "Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker."

--Ishbosheth gets mad at Abner for having a relationship with one of Saul's (Ishbosheth's father's) former concubines; this in turn infuriates Abner and causes him to break ties with Ishbosheth and give his allegiance to David...

--2 Samuel 3:12: "Then Abner sent messengers on his behalf to David, saying, 'Whose is the land?' saying also, 'Make your covenant with me, and indeed my hand shall be with you to bring all Israel to you.'"

--David agrees to make an alliance with Abner, and then Abner persuades the elders of Israel to make David their king rather than Ishbosheth: "Now Abner had communicated with the elders of Israel, saying, 'In time 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 the hand of all their enemies.'" (2 Samuel 3:17-19)

--Joab, the commander of David's army, murders Abner in revenge for when Abner killed his brother in a previous battle; Joab was probably motivated by fear also, as Abner would have been a threat to Joab's position in David's army.

--David is deeply distressed by the murder of Abner and mourns for him.

--David had known Abner since his early days; it was Abner who first introduced David to king Saul after David killed Goliath.

II. STANDING BEFORE THE KING EXPECTING A REWARD BUT RECEIVING THE SENTENCE OF DEATH INSTEAD

--after Abner died, two officers in Saul's army who would have been under Abner's command decided to assassinate Ishbosheth in order to try and earn good favor with David; but their plan backfired just like the plan of the Amalekite who fabricated a story about Saul's death...

--2 Samuel 4:9-11: "But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother [*the two that murdered Ishbosheth*], the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all adversity, 10 when someone told me, saying, 'Look, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag — the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news. 11 How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?"

--Throughout David's life he often saw things from a spiritual perspective. David speaks of his life as having been "redeemed from all adversity" and would have preferred to see Saul, Rechab, and Baanah redeemed from their problems rather than being murdered through corrupt motive.

--in this attitude David exemplifies what it means to love our enemies. (Romans 12:17-21)

--it is worth repeating the point from part 35 of this series that these two accounts of people standing before the king expecting a reward but receiving the sentence of death instead is a vivid illustration of what it will be like for most people when they stand before God, the King of the Universe, on the day of judgment...

--Matthew 7:21-23: Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, **I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**"

--Matthew 25:41-42: "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...'"

--without a personal relationship with God through Christ, all good works that humans do are marred by their sinful nature and from God's perspective appear as "lawlessness" and "filthy rags"! (Matthew 7:23, Isaiah 64:6)

--without a personal relationship with God through Christ we are "alienated and enemies" of God. (Colossians 1:21)

--when good works flow out of a personal relationship with God through Christ, God doesn't see our sinful nature but rather He sees Christ in us, mysteriously united to us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit... "it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..." (Galatians 2:20)

--the only way to enter a personal relationship with God is by the barrier of sin that separates us from God being removed through Christ...

--Romans 3:21-24: "But now **the righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, **through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe**. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

--Romans 5:22-25 speaks of the righteousness of Christ being "**credited**" to our account when we trust in Him.

III. ISRAEL ALIGNED WITH THE WILL OF THEIR HEAVENLY KING UNDER DAVID'S LEADERSHIP AND THE BLESSINGS THAT RESULT

--after Abner speaks to the elders of Israel, they make David king over the entire nation... "Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel." (2 Samuel 5:3-4)

--this was the beginning of a brief, shining period in Israel's history where Israel as a nation was aligned with the will of their heavenly king.

--seventeen years passed since David was first anointed king by Samuel under God's direction, seventeen years of fighting against the spiritual opposition that wanted to prevent David from becoming king and serving as a key link in God's master plan of salvation, and then at age 37 David finally begins to reign over all Israel. (17 years... 10 years in exile and 7 years reigning over the tribe of Judah only)

--as Israel was aligned with the will of their heavenly king, blessings naturally followed...

--the armies of all the tribes of Israel united under David's leadership at Hebron... David's army that once numbered 400 soldiers now had over 345,400 soldiers. (1 Chronicles 12:23-40) This kind of military strength and unity in Israel hadn't been seen since the days of Joshua.

--1 Chronicles 12:38-40: "All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. 39 And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. 40 Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen — provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, **for there was joy in Israel.**"

--the unification of the 12 tribes of Israel under David was further solidified when David and his army conquered Jerusalem and made Jerusalem the capital of Israel...

--until that time Jerusalem was controlled by a pocket of Jebusites that were never driven out of the land as they were supposed to be driven out during the initial conquest under Joshua. (1 Chronicles 11:4-9)

--the most important quality of David's army was not its size and strength but its alignment with the will of God, as 1 Chronicles 14:8-17 points out in Israel's battle with the Philistines...

--before engaging the Philistines David "inquired of God" to seek His direction (1 Chronicles 14:10)

--and when they fought the Philistines God provided supernatural victory comparable to victories seen under Gideon and Joshua's leadership... 1 Chronicles 14:14-17: "David inquired again of God, and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; circle around them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. 15 And it shall be, when you hear a sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall go out to battle, **for God has gone out before you** to strike the camp of the Philistines." [*the 'sound of marching' in the trees was a physical sign of the angelic army that God sent ahead of Israel to fight for them while they stood back and waited...* David could have had the same victory with his original army of 400!] 16 So David did as God commanded him, and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gibeon as far as Gezer. 17 **Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.**"

--after David conquered Jerusalem, the king of Tyre donated supplies and laborers to David for building the capital palace...

--1 Chronicles 14:1-2: "Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house. 2 **So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, for his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of His people Israel.**"

--David kept a humble perspective on his success and understood that it wasn't for his sake but rather for the sake of God and His kingdom, a stark contrast to most other nations where the rulers were viewed as gods! (for example, rulers in Egypt were viewed as gods and selfishly enslaved vast numbers of people to spend a lifetime building pyramids to serve as the ruler's tombs!)

--then in Jerusalem, the new capital of Israel, for the first time in over 20 years the Ark of the Covenant was reunited with the Tabernacle...

--the Tabernacle was symbolic of God's dwelling place in Israel as Israel's heavenly king, and the Ark of the Covenant was symbolic of God's throne, **and thus the reunion of the Ark with the Tabernacle was symbolic of Israel once again being aligned with the will of their heavenly King.**

--for over 20 years during Saul's reign the Ark of the Covenant had essentially been sitting in storage collecting dust!

--it was recovered from the Philistines after they stole it, and then it was stored in the house of Abinadab.

--1 Samuel 7:2-4: "So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD. 3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

--it wasn't until David's reign over all of Israel that Israel experienced lasting victory over the Philistines.

--1 Chronicles 16:1-43: "So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. ... 7 On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD: 8 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! 9 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! 10 Glory in His

holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! 11 Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore! 12 Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, 13 O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! 14 He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. 15 Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, 16 The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, 17 And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel for an everlasting covenant, 18 Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance," 19 When you were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it. ... 25 For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 27 Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place. ... 40 [*the Levites offered*] burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and **to do according to all that is written in the Law of the LORD which He commanded Israel.**"

--once again Israel is following their heavenly King and the full function of the Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant are restored – "all that is written in the Law".

--preview of next study... in the following chapter David tells Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under tent curtains." (1 Chronicles 17:1)

--David then decides to build a permanent house for the Ark of the Covenant, but God speaks to David through the prophet Nathan, "**You shall not build Me a house to dwell in. ... I tell you that the LORD will build you a house...**" (1 Chronicles 17:4-10)

--David was looking at the meaning of a dwelling place from an earthly, temporal perspective; but what God has planned for David and all His children in the big picture is far greater than David could imagine!

In the next study we'll explore the profound reality of God 'building David a house' and it's connection to Jesus Christ and us!