

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 20 (May 8-14, 2016)

In this week's study, we will see David ascend to the throne that God had promised to him through Samuel. He continues to display the humility and integrity that guided his life when he was in exile.

**Sunday**, May 8 (read 2 Samuel 1:17-27)

*"I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women." (2 Samuel 1:26)*

In today's text, David mourns over the death of King Saul and his sons. A lesser man would have been thrilled that his enemy had died, but David continues to respect the **office** of the king to which he will soon be crowned. In the printed verse above, God's chosen vessel concludes his lament with a tribute to his best friend, Jonathan. Unfortunately, liberal theologians have used this verse to claim that the two men of God were actually homosexuals. I have found that most people attempt to use the Bible to verify their individual worldview; therefore, those who do not have the Spirit of God will never be able to properly discern the Word of the Lord (see 1 Corinthians 2:14). Pray that the Spirit will speak to you as you read His Word daily!

**Monday**, May 9 (read 2 Samuel 2:1-7)

*Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. (2 Samuel 2:4)*

As usual, David consults the Lord for instructions concerning his next assignment (v. 1). I hope we are learning from this great leader that **prayer** is the only way to find God's will. David and his men, along with their families, go to Hebron in obedience to God, where his fellow tribesmen anoint him king over Judah (v. 2-4a). His first act as king is to honor the men of Jabesh Gilead who risked their lives to bury King Saul's body (v. 4b-7). Pause for a moment to reflect on David's character. He refuses to lay a hand on the Lord's anointed king; he puts to death the Amalekite man who falsely claimed to have killed Saul (1:1-15); after God takes Saul's life, he continues to honor his evil predecessor. Can we learn a lesson from this great man of God?

**Tuesday**, May 10 (2 Samuel 5:1-5)

*"And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their leader.'" (2 Samuel 5:2b)*

In today's text, we see David being crowned king over the entire land of Israel. Up until this time, he had been the king of **Judah** for seven and one half years (v. 5) while Saul's other son, Ish-Bosheth ruled in Israel (2:8). David foreshadows the Lord Jesus Christ in several ways: 1) Both were born into the tribe of Judah, 2) Both were 30 years old when they began their ministry, and 3) Both were identified as shepherds (see John 10:11). I'm aware that some believers choose to study only the New Testament. Those who do this are missing a tremendous blessing! God's Word fits together perfectly, from Genesis to Revelation! Each book points the reader to Jesus Christ!

**Wednesday, May 11** (2 Samuel 7:1-17)

*Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you." (2 Samuel 7:3)*

David has successfully brought the ark back to Jerusalem and placed it under a tent that he has pitched for it (6:17). The king feels guilty, however, because he enjoys a fine house of cedar while God's ark stays in a tent. His prophet, Nathan, assures David that the Lord is on his side, so he can go forward with any plan he may have. At night God changes all this by giving Nathan a specific message for King David. The Lord says that David and Israel will prosper in his rule (v. 9-11), but his son (Solomon) will be the one to build a temple. Don't miss God's promise in v. 11 that He will build a house for David (heaven). The Lord also promises spiritual security for David's son who is to build the temple (v. 12-16). It is the same promise that you will see in Acts 16:31, because it provides for the recipient and his family!

**Thursday, May 12** (read 2 Samuel 7:18-29)

*Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: "Who am I, O sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?" (2 Samuel 7:18)*

I want you to read David's entire prayer today. You will note that he understands God's grace and mercy. He is well aware that he and his family are totally undeserving of the wonderful life he is experiencing (v. 18-21). David acknowledges the power and uniqueness of God as well as His love and protection for the nation of Israel (v. 22-24). He then turns to the promise God has given to him, both for now and for the future, for the sole purpose of glorifying the Lord (v. 25-26). He closes by accepting God's promise, not knowing that it will ultimately be fulfilled by the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ (v. 27-29). What a great model prayer for us to follow!

**Friday, May 13** (read 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-3)

*Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet." (2 Samuel 9:3b)*

Today's passages begin one of the greatest stories of love and commitment found anywhere in the Bible. David has previously made a vow to King Saul in which he promises to provide for Saul's family after he ascends to the throne (1 Samuel 24:21). His close friend, Jonathan, who is now deceased, has a son named Mephibosheth who had suffered an injury when his nurse dropped him at the age of five (v. 4:4). David wants to respect his friend's memory by honoring his son (9:1). To accomplish this, the king sends for Ziba, a servant of Saul's estate (v. 12). The servant informs David that Jonathan does indeed have a son, but he is crippled in both feet (v. 3). The story pictures our call to walk with Jesus. We do not deserve this honor, because we are spiritually lame. God, by His grace, will provide everything we need, as we will see in tomorrow's devotion.

**Saturday, May 14** (read 2 Samuel 9:4-13)

*So Mephibosheth ate at the king's table, like one of the king's sons. (2 Samuel 9:11b)*

This love story is only a **foreshadowing** of the greatest love story ever told. Read it carefully so that you can praise God today for the grace you have received. You, like Mephibosheth, are not capable of walking daily with the king; however, you, like Mephibosheth, are invited to eat at the King's table. Through salvation, God has restored the years that the locusts have eaten (v. 10; see also Joel 2:25) and has given you a daily supply of food from His storehouse (Matthew 6:11). You will be a guest of honor at the Lamb's Supper in the earthly kingdom (Revelation 19:1-10)! Can you praise Him today?