

# KING DAVID PROSPERING

## *United Kingdom*

2 Samuel 1 - 10

### STRUCTURE

**Key-person:** David

**Key-locations:** Hebron, Jerusalem

**Key-repetitions:**

- David anointed king: of Judah (2:4); of all of Israel (1-3).
- Triumphs, one after the other in David's life: captured Jerusalem (5:7); David defeated the Philistines (18:1); the Moabites (8:2); the king of Zobah (8:3); the Arameans (8:5); the Edomites (8:13); David reigned over Israel, doing what was just and right (8:15); he showed kindness to Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul (1-13).
- David worshiped the Lord: he brought the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem (6:12-19); he wanted to build a temple for the Lord (7:1-2); David prayed to the Lord (7:18-29).
- David sentenced men to death: the man who confessed to killing Saul (1:16); the two men who killed Ish-Bosheth while he was napping (4:11-12).
- God's actions on David's behalf: the Lord had promised David that he would shepherd his people Israel (5:2); the Lord was with David and made him more and more powerful (5:10); the Lord gave Prophet Nathan a revelation of how he would bless David (7:1-17); the Lord gave David victory wherever he went (8:14).

**Key-attitudes:**

- David and his men felt sorrow at the news of Israel's defeat and Saul's and Jonathan's deaths.
- David's anger at the man who killed Saul and the men who killed Ish-Bosheth while he slept.

- Conflict: war with enemies.
- Positive attitude about David.
- David's joy when he brought the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem.
- David's desire to build a temple for the Lord.
- David worshiped the Lord.

**Initial-situation:**

Samuel was the last of the judges. Israel's leaders requested that Samuel give them a king. The Lord led Samuel to anoint Saul as king.

On two occasions, Saul disobeyed the Lord. Since Saul rejected the Lord's command, the Lord rejected Saul as king. The Lord sent Samuel to anoint David as king. The Spirit of the Lord entered David and empowered him.

Saul became jealous of David and tried to kill him. David lived as a fugitive in wilderness hideouts with Saul pursuing him.

The Philistines made war on Israel and archers wounded Saul. Saul took his own sword and fell on it. Saul died because he disobeyed the Lord.

**Initial-problem:**

A young man announces to David that the army of Israel was defeated in battle and that Saul and his son Jonathan were dead.

**Final-situation:**

David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people. David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul.

### BIBLE STORY

#### **David, King of Judah; Ish-Bosheth, King of Israel**

Three days after Saul's death, a young man showed up from Saul's army camp. He bowed facedown on the ground before David. He told David, "I escaped from the Israelite camp. The army of Israel has been defeated. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead."

David asked, "How do you know Saul and Jonathan are dead?"

The young man answered, "I came upon Saul, wounded and leaning on his spear. The enemy was closing in. Saul called out to me, and ordered me to put him out of his misery. So I killed him. I removed the crown from his head and the bracelet from his arm and brought them here to my lord."

David and his men ripped their clothes to show their sorrow. They cried because of the death of Saul and Jonathan, and because the army of Israel had been defeated.

David told the young man, "You sealed your death sentence when you said you killed the Lord's anointed king" (1:1-16).

David composed a funeral song mourning the deaths of Saul and his son Jonathan (1:17-27).

David moved to Hebron along with his two wives. David's men and their families also went to live in and around Hebron. Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and anointed David king over the house of Judah (2:1-4). David was 30 years old when he became king of Judah (5:1-5).

Meanwhile, Abner the commander of Saul's army, took Ish-Bosheth, son of Saul, and made him king over all Israel. Ish-Bosheth was 40 years old when he became king over Israel, and he ruled two years. The tribe of Judah, however, followed David (2:8-11).

There was civil war; Abner with the soldiers of Ish-Bosheth fought against Joab and David's men. David's men defeated Abner and the men of Israel (2:12-17). David's followers grew stronger and stronger, while the supporters of Ish-Bosheth grew weaker and weaker (3:1).

While Ish-Bosheth was taking a noonday nap, two of his military men entered his bedroom, stabbed him, and cut off his head. They took the head of Ish-Bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, your enemy. This day the Lord has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his offspring."

David answered the two men, "You wicked men killed an innocent man in his own house and in his own bed; I find you guilty of murder and will rid the earth of you!"

So David gave an order to kill the two who had murdered Ish-Bosheth (4:1-12).

### **David's Successes as King of All of Israel**

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "When Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord told you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel; you will become their ruler.'"

David made a treaty with the leaders of all the tribes of Israel at Hebron in the presence of the Lord. They anointed David king over all the twelve tribes of Israel.

David was 30 years old when he became king over Judah in Hebron. He was 37 years old when he became king over all Israel and Judah (5:1-5).

David and his men captured the city of Jerusalem. David then took up residence in the fortress. David became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him (5:6-10).

The king of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David. David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and had made his kingdom prominent for the sake of his people Israel (5:11-12).

David constantly defeated the Philistines in battle (5:17-25).

A multitude went with David to bring the Ark of God to Jerusalem. David, wearing a priest's linen robe, danced before the Lord with all his might. They brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets. They set the Ark in its place inside the tent that David had

pitched for it. David sacrificed whole-burnt-offerings and fellowship offerings before the Lord. After he had finished sacrificing the offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty. Then the people returned to their homes (6:1-19).

David settled in his palace and the Lord gave him peace from all his enemies around him. Then David told Nathan the prophet, "I am living in a palace of cedar, while the Ark of God remains in a tent."

Nathan replied to David, "Do what you have in mind. The Lord is with you."

That night the Lord spoke his word to Nathan saying, "Tell my servant David, 'The Lord says: You are not the person to build a house for me to live in. I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt till now. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. I never commanded any of Israel's rulers to build me a house of cedar.'

"The Lord Almighty says to David: 'I took you from the pasture tagging along after sheep to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you and I have mowed your enemies down before you. Now I will make you as famous as any of the great men on the earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. I, the Lord, will establish a dynasty for you. When you die, I will raise up your child to succeed you and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house to honor me, and I will make his kingdom strong forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. Your family and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'"

Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation (7:1-17).

Then King David went into the tent and prayed to the Lord, "How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no God but you. And no one is like your people Israel; a nation unique on earth! You performed wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people. You freed your people from slavery in Egypt. You established your people Israel as your very own forever. And you, O Lord, became their God.

"And now, Lord God, keep the promise you have made concerning me and my family. O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, 'I will build a dynasty for you.' That is why I found courage to offer you this prayer. O Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your words are true, and you have promised these good things to me, your servant. Now, I ask you to bless my family, that it may continue forever before you. O Sovereign Lord, you have spoken, and with your blessing the family of your servant will be blessed forever" (7:18-29).

In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines. The Lord gave David victory wherever he went (8:1-14).

David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people (8:15).

David asked, "Is anyone left from Saul's family? I want to show kindness to this person for Jonathan's sake."

David discovered that Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, and grandson of Saul, was still alive (9:1-3). Mephibosheth was crippled in both feet (4:4).

David sent for Mephibosheth. David told Mephibosheth, "Don't be afraid, for I will show you kindness for your father Jonathan's sake. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul. From now on, you will always eat at my table."

Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "You are very kind to me, your servant. And I am no better than a dead dog!" (9:4-13).

## GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

## SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did David become king of all of Israel?
2. What were some of God's actions on David's behalf?
3. What were some of the triumphs that David experienced?
4. How did David express his worship of God?
5. What were some of the positive things that David did?

## LIFE-LESSONS

1. A person may be chosen by God for a specific responsibility and still must wait for God's timing to assume the responsibility. David was a boy when he was anointed king (1 Sam 16:13); however, for many years David was either a servant of King Saul or he was fleeing from Saul. He only became king after Saul's death. When he was 30 years old, he became king of Judah (2 Sam 2:4). Seven and a half years later he became king over all of Israel (2 Sam 5:3-5).

was a prophecy about Jesus, who is the King of Kings. This was the first of the prophecies that the Messiah would be a descendant of David (Ps 132:11; Is 9:7; 11:1; Jer 23:5; Eze 37:24-25). Acts 2:30 applied 2 Sm 7:11-13 to Christ.
2. Sometimes when a person desires to do something for God, the Lord says no. God did not allow David to build a house for him (2 Sm 7:5).
3. Jesus Christ is the descendant of David who will reign forever. God promised that a descendant of David would reign forever (2 Sm 7:11-13; 16). This
4. God pours out his favor on his servants because of who he is and not because of a person's merit. God informed David that his son who would follow him as king would build the Temple, and that David's descendants would be kings (2 Sm 7:5-16). David responded in prayer that the Lord had done this, not because of who David was, but because of who God was (2 Sm 7:20-22).
5. A person can trust God to do what he promised. David knew God would do what he said he would in the revelation given to Nathan (2 Sm 7:25).