



November 11, 2018  
2 Samuel 2-5  
Pastor Larry Adams

## The Rise of the King's Reign

Hi Everyone. My name is Larry Adams and I want to take a moment to thank you for reading this message. At Golden Hills we are committed to exalting Jesus and preaching the Word. Your downloading of this message is a great encouragement to us, as we know that our ministry is going out to spread God's Word all over the world.

We want you to know, too, that in no way do we intend these messages to be a replacement for your involvement in a good local church, where, sitting under the authority of pastors and other teachers, you can learn to worship, grow and serve and be engaged with a body of believers where you can grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We realize also, that some of you may be in areas of the world where there is no local church. Therefore, we hope these messages you are using, to gather with your family or other believers, or people from the community that it will be a great encouragement to you, as you hear God speak into your life, helping you to become disciples who are true, reproducing followers of Jesus Christ.

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If you have your Bible today, turn with me to the book of 2 Samuel. We're going to be looking at chapters 2-5, as we continue on in our series, *Regalia* (all things pertaining to the king and the kingdom). In chapters 2-5, we're going to see how God gives rise to the reign of His king. It is a sloppy, messy, bloody, conflicting series of events, but God is sovereignly working in all those things to bring about His purposes. Just like God is working today, in all of the circumstances of our lives, to bring about the reign of His king and His kingdom.

I'm going to be reading excerpts of this and try to summarize these chapters a bit as we look at how God is working today and in these chapters, we're going to see how God is working even in our lives to bring about the salvation that He is offering to you and me.

Here is the way it was written in 2 Samuel 2:1-7

In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked.

The LORD said, "Go up."

David asked, "Where shall I go?"

"To Hebron," the LORD answered.

<sup>2</sup> So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. <sup>3</sup> David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. <sup>4</sup> Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah.

When David was told that it was the men from Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul.<sup>5</sup> he sent messengers to them to say to them, “The LORD bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him.<sup>6</sup> May the LORD now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this.<sup>7</sup> Now then, be strong and brave, for Saul your master is dead, and the people of Judah have anointed me king over them.”

War breaks out between the house of Saul and the house of David. When you get to chapter 3 and 4, you see how all of God’s working through these circumstances brings about what would happen in chapter 5, beginning in verse 1:

<sup>5</sup> All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood.  
<sup>2</sup> In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”

<sup>3</sup> When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

<sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years.

<sup>5</sup> In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

Let’s pray together: *Father, there is so much going on here, as part of our history as Christians. It reminds us that the same God who works so sovereignly in all these circumstances, to give rise to the king and the kingdom, is the same God who is working today in all of our circumstances, to give rise to the king and the kingdom. So Lord, help us to see Your hand at work, that we may find comfort and even joy in the midst of all that we face, because we’ve come to trust a God who is sovereign over all. We’ll thank You, in Your precious name, amen.*

Sovereignty is a hard thing to illustrate. This isn’t the best example, but when my kids were little – in elementary school. Occasionally I would go to meet them at lunch. We’d go outside on the playground to play. Now, when the kids were like in first and second grade, and were playing basketball (let’s say), some of the bigger kids would want to come over and steal the basketball. So the kids would yell and scream and all that. Eventually, I say what was happening. I said to the bigger guys, “Hey, how about these little guys and I take you on in basketball?” They were all-in. One of the things I loved about doing that was, being three feet taller than anyone else on the court, I could control the game. So I could control who got the ball, who didn’t get the ball, who shot, who got blocked, who got the rebound, who didn’t. I could keep the score close, or I could make it a blow-out. I loved it. The little guys loved it. The bigger guys – it took them a long time to figure out what was happening. They would just keep showing up! Every week. I would be in total control of the game. I could make it come out any way I wanted. I was, in some ways, sovereignly controlling the game.

God is total sovereign over everything. All people. All nations. All circumstances. In fact, He knows what we’re going to think before we think it. He knows what we’re going to say before we say it. He knows what we’re going to do before we do it. He controls kings and kingdoms. He controls the spark that sets a forest ablaze. Every beat of my heart is numbered by God; He has it fully in His hand. He is totally sovereign. And He is not playing a game. He is building a kingdom.

Throughout history, God has been in sovereign control of the people and events to give rise to His king and that kingdom. That's why in this section of 2 Samuel 2-5, it's all about God's sovereign hand to bring about the rise of His king.

You see, Saul and his reign as king is over. Saul is dead. But David did not immediately become king. He waited for God's time. That's why in chapter 2:1, it begins like this: "In the course of time ..." David waited.

As you go on in chapter 2, you discover that David enquires of God through Abiathar the priest. "Should I go up to the city? Or should I go up to my own Judah?" Remember, he is in Ziklag – Philistine territory – and he is asking God, "Is it time to go up to my homeland?" God says, "Go up." "Where should I go?" "Go to Hebron." Hebron is a very centrally-located city for the kingdom of Judah. David is anointed king of Judah, and Judah alone.

Meanwhile, Abner, who was the commander of Saul's army, takes Saul's remaining son, Ishbosheth, a 40-year-old man, and installs him as king of Israel at Gibeon. Joab, who is the leader of David's armies in Judah, gets wind of it. He sees the threat, so he goes to Gibeon to face off against Abner and Saul's troops.

Now in those days, often it would be a strategy to choose some guys from each side and have them fight, rather than involving the whole army. That's what the whole David and Goliath thing was about: Goliath was challenging one man to come from Saul's army. Those two would duke it out, and the rest of the army doesn't have to be destroyed.

So here is Joab with David's troops and here is Abner with Saul's troops, and they picked 12 guys each. They have them stand up. They're going to fight. The winners will determine the outcome. The problem was, they hadn't counted on each guy grabbing his opponent and shoving a knife in their side. All 24 of them died! It was a tie! So that didn't solve anything. So war broke out. Joab's (David's) forces overpowered Israel. Abner ran for his life.

Joab had a little brother named Asahel. Apparently, he was a pretty fast guy. He went chasing after Abner. Now, Asahel was no match for Abner in battle. Abner knew it. He didn't want to mess with Joab again, so he said to Asahel, "Quit chasing me! You can't win. It won't work. Break off! You're going to lose!" Asahel kept coming. He was going to kill Abner at all cost. So, in a clean act of war, in his own self-defense, Abner killed Asahel. Joab got word of it and started chasing after him with the whole army. Abner convinced him that it would come to no good. So Joab withdrew, but he bore that grudge.

When you get to chapter 3, you read (3:1), "The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker."

At Hebron, David took on four more wives. Six total, now. He had six sons.

Abner, head of Israel's army decided he would make a move. So he slept with one of Saul's former concubines. This was making a claim of royalty for himself. It was a total immoral act and a total affront to Ishbosheth, because Abner was becoming frustrated with Ishbosheth. When Abner realized that not even this would bring him the kingdom, he went to David and said, "David, I can bring all of Israel over to you." David agreed. He said, "Abner, provided that you bring my former wife, Michal, Saul's daughter, Ishbosheth's sister. Because she had been pledged to be married, and we were married but she was taken from me and illegally given to another man. I want you to bring Michal with you when

you come.” Ishbosheth agreed to this with his sister, acknowledging through that act, that in giving the daughter of Saul back to David, he is acknowledging David as the rightful king.

David came to peace terms with Abner and Israel and Ishbosheth, and sent them on their way.

Joab, by the way, came back after all this. He found out that David had made peace with Ishbosheth and Abner. He was furious. He was still harboring that grudge over Abner’s killing of his brother, Asahel. So, Joab invited Abner to come to Hebron. When he was there, Joab pulled him aside and murdered him, in an act of cold blood.

David was innocent. But when he learned of it, he didn’t do anything to bring Joab to account for his crime.

When you get to chapter 4, the intrigue continues: Ishbosheth, king of Israel, had a couple guys in his army whom he used to send out raiding. They saw Ishbosheth’s power beginning to fail. So they decided to do something to gain favor with David. So they sneaked into Ishbosheth’s house while he was taking a nap in the afternoon, and they killed him. They cut off his head. They brought the head to David at Hebron. There, they thought they would be rewarded, but David said, “You remind me of some guys who came. When they told me Saul was dead, they thought they were going to be rewarded, but I killed them. Now, I’m going to kill you and rid the earth of you. For you have killed an innocent man in his bed.” So David had those men killed.

Saul is dead. Jonathan is dead. Saul’s sons are dead. Now, Ishbosheth is dead.

When you get to chapter 5, David is anointed king over all of Israel. Now he is over Israel and Judah. David captured the Jebusite city of Jerusalem. He had more wives and more kids. He defeated the Philistines and he prepares to bring the ark of God’s covenant into Jerusalem for the first time.

The rise of the king’s reign is now established by God. It was messy! It was bloody! It was full of betrayal and conflict that brought an innocent David to be king. God would use him to defeat Israel’s enemies – all in God’s time.

David is the forerunner of the greatest king we’ll ever know – Jesus. An innocent Jesus, who went through a process that was messy, bloody and full of betrayal and conflict, to arise as the king, who would go on to defeat our greatest enemy – all in God’s time.

**This portion of 2 Samuel reminds us that God is the one who sovereignly works to give rise to the reign of His king and His kingdom.**

**How does He do it? By sovereignly working through circumstances to establish His king, and by sovereignly working through circumstances to establish His kingdom. The same God who is working in our circumstances today for that same purpose. God gives rise to the king’s reign by sovereignly working through circumstances to establish His king.**

It says in 2 Samuel 2:1-4; 5:1-4

2 In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. “Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?” he asked.

The LORD said, "Go up."

David asked, "Where shall I go?"

"To Hebron," the LORD answered.

<sup>2</sup> So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. <sup>3</sup> David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. <sup>4</sup> Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah.

<sup>5</sup> All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood.

<sup>2</sup> In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'"

<sup>3</sup> When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

<sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years.

There is a television show that I've watched a couple times. I don't recommend it. It's called *Family Feud*. If you haven't seen it, the audience is surveyed with some questions. They take the top 100 answers and the contestants have to guess what the top answers were. Whoever gets the most points, wins. That's kind of the gist of it. In 2012, Steve Harvey was leading this thing. One of the questions was, "When someone mentions the king, to whom might he or she be referring?" In other words, who is the king? The top four answers: 81 people said Elvis Presley! 7 people said God or Jesus. 3 people said Martin Luther King, Jr. (which is fine), but 2 people said the "Burger King." Really? That's who you think of? (laughter). Obvious confusion that day, who the king was.

In the tenth century BC, in Israel and Judah, if you'd asked the question, "Who is the king?" you would have gotten the same kind of confusion. The answers would have been all over the barn. Some would have said, "Saul is the rightful king." "No, his son, Jonathan." "No, one of his sons like Ishbosheth." "No, it should be Abner." "No, it should be David."

I wasn't clear who had the rightful identity to be the king. But God was sovereignly working in the circumstances behind the scene, to leave no doubt. He was giving rise to His king, King David. David, knowing that he has been anointed king by Samuel (remember that?) as a boy, he waited on God's time to reign. He asked God to direct the steps. That's why he says (2 Samuel 2:1) –

In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked.

The LORD said, "Go up."

David asked, "Where shall I go?"

“To Hebron,” the LORD answered.

He asked where to go, and God answered. As soon as David got there, he was anointed king. One of the first things he did was to reach out in grace, to an enemy, Jabesh-Gilead.

Jabesh-Gilead housed the people that were very much aligned with Saul. They were fighting against David. But David loved Saul despite the fact he had become his enemy. Kind of like Jesus, who loves us even though we sin against Him.

This David reached out to Jabesh-Gilead. He said, “Because of your kindness in burying Saul, I’ll reach out in kindness to you.” He offered them an agreement of peace. He said, “Come to me because they have anointed me king over Judah.”

David did not take the kingdom by force. He waited for God’s sovereign time to establish him as king, and for him to be lifted up. Just like you and I are called to wait on God’s time in all of our circumstances. Just like Jesus did.

Remember, it was Jesus who waited for God’s time to be fulfilled in His life and ministry. He was very aware of the timing that God was working. Remember, at the wedding feast of Cana (John 2:1-4)? It was a Tuesday (3<sup>rd</sup> day):

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there,<sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”

<sup>4</sup> “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”

When the disciples wanted Him to go to Jerusalem and appear publicly (John 7:6-8), He said --

<sup>6</sup> Therefore Jesus told them, “My time is not yet here; for you any time will do.<sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.<sup>8</sup> You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.”

In John 7:30, when He preached at the temple courts and the people tried to seize Him, they couldn’t because his hour had not yet come.

After riding into Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday morning, He had a different message. John 12:23-28 --

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.<sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.<sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.<sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.<sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

People, when you're reading in the scriptures and you see Jesus say over and over again, "Not yet, not yet, not yet, not yet, not yet!" Then ... "NOW!" When He says, "NOW," pay attention to what He is telling you. The now was Him riding into Jerusalem to die for the sins of the world. The king was coming to conquer the enemy.

John 12:24-28 --

<sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

You see, when the time was right, God would anoint His chosen king for His given purpose. So David was anointed in God's time. So was Jesus.

Remember what happened in Bethany in Matthew 26:6-13 --

<sup>6</sup> While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. [Mary anointed him with a very expensive perfume.]

<sup>8</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. <sup>9</sup> "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

<sup>10</sup> Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup> The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Why? Because the hour of His death had come. He was going to reign as king over sin, death and the grave. He was the king who was coming to die. This was His anointing as king, just as David had his anointing as king.

Remember what happened the next day after the anointing? John 12:13 – He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey:

<sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

The king of Israel.

Jesus is anointed king, and rides into Jerusalem the next day.

David is anointed king over the united kingdom, and rides into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5) to claim that city as the city of David.

This is why Paul, when he proclaimed in Acts 13:22-23, all the meaning of Israel's history. He said,

<sup>22</sup> After removing Saul, he [God] made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’

<sup>23</sup> “From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.

There can be no doubt who the king is. His name is Jesus. God has sovereignly worked in all of history to make it known that Jesus is the king. Now, God is working in all of our circumstances to reveal this king, to make Him known through the blessings and the trials. Through the good things and the bad things. Through the easy things and the hard things. Through the things we would choose, and the things we would never choose – God is sovereignly working to reveal in us and through us, that we have a king and His name is Jesus. He makes a difference in our lives. Through those circumstances, God today is giving rise to the reign of His king. That's why we go through what we go through. Just like David. Just like Jesus. God gave rise to the reign of King Jesus, just as He gave rise to the reign of King David.

Not only to establish His king, but **God gives rise to the king's reign by sovereignly working through circumstances, to establish His kingdom.**

That's why it says in 2 Samuel 5:1-5 –

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. <sup>2</sup> In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”

<sup>3</sup> When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

<sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

There are many kings and many kingdoms, but they one day are all going to bow to one king and one kingdom.

I was reading a piece by Lee Eclov, a pastor in Illinois, about an article he read in the Chicago Tribune, called *One Nation, Under Me*. That catches your attention. It said:

Kevin Baugh has his own country – The Republic of Molossia – and if you don't mind, he'd prefer you call him "His Excellency Kevin Baugh." After all, he has an impressive khaki uniform with six big medals, a gold braid, epaulets at the shoulders, and a blue, white and green sash, and he has a general's cap with a gold starburst over the bill. Never heard of the Republic of Molossia? That's understandable because it consists of Baugh's three-bedroom house and a 1.3 acre yard outside of his home in Dayton, Nevada. He has a space program (a model rocket), currency (pegged to the value of chocolate chip cookie dough), a railroad (model size), a national sport called Broom Ball, and in his land-locked desert region, he launched a navy (an inflatable boat). Baugh, a 45-year old father of two is a micro-nationalist, one of a whacky band of do-it-yourself nation builders who raise flags over their front yards and declare their property to be "The Kingdom of Me."

Apparently this is spreading. There are now many kings and many kingdoms. Some of them you would recognize and some you wouldn't. But you need to understand: one day, there will be one kingdom and one king. They will all bow to the true king.

God is building a kingdom and it's not the Kingdom of Me. It is the kingdom of God and of His Christ.

In David's day, it would be seen in the united kingdom of Israel and Judah, coming together as one kingdom under one king. While David would be on the throne in Hebron and later in Jerusalem, there was no question, David understood that it would be God who would be reigning through David from His throne in Heaven. David was merely to be the good shepherd, the under-shepherd, the king heading a line of descendants, leading to the ultimate shepherd-king, Jesus. That is why in 2 Samuel 5:1-2 it says:

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. <sup>2</sup> In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, [remember when Samuel anointed him as a boy] and you will become their ruler.'"

A shepherd-king. You see, it was always God's plan to be the shepherd-king of His people. But when the people rejected God as their king, and chose Saul, God still sought to shepherd His people through Saul. But Saul didn't shepherd the sheep; he mistreated them and led them astray.

So God raised up David, a man after His own heart. He called him to be the one through whom God would shepherd His people, through David. God's kingdom would be established and led by a shepherd-ruler, who would be one with the people, but God's agent to rule and guide them. The whole shepherd-king theme is introduced right here, that God would repeat throughout history.

When the kings who followed David proved to be unfaithful shepherds, forsaking God and abusing the sheep, God carried them off into captivity and destroys their reign. He raised up a prophet to remind His captive people that God was still their shepherd-king and would raise up a ruler through the line of David who will be the shepherd of His people forever.

The prophet He raised up in Babylon for that message was Ezekiel. God said through Ezekiel (Ezekiel 34:15-16),

<sup>15</sup> I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>16</sup> I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

He went on in verse 22-24:

<sup>22</sup> I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. <sup>23</sup> I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

I will shepherd My people. I will raise up My servant David to be prince among them. When you read that you think, wait a minute – *I Myself will shepherd My people through My servant David?* When Ezekiel spoke those words, David had already been dead for over 400 years. So God – is there going to be a resurrection of David? No. God wasn't speaking of the David who had died. He was speaking of David's greater son, Jesus.

Which is why, when Jesus began His ministry at the age of 30 (like David began his kingship at the age of 30), He declared Himself to be the shepherd of God's people, the shepherd of God's kingdom, about whom God had spoken.

That's why it was so significant at that moment when Jesus identified Himself like this (John 10:14-16)

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

One kingdom! One king! David, My servant, will reign over that kingdom forever. That servant of David's line is Jesus.

This David went out and, in the power of God, delivered Israel and Judah from the oppression of their Philistine enemies. But the ultimate shepherd-king Jesus would go out to save His people from their greatest enemy: sin, death and the grave. That's why 700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah said (Isaiah 9:2-7) –

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,

will be fuel for the fire.

What great warrior, what great king, what great deliverer is going to come and conquer a battle like that and bring that kind of joy? People – nobody could have anticipated what Isaiah said next:

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, [a baby is going to do this?!]  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

This is why, when the angel came to Mary and said she would give birth to a son, she would call Him Jesus. He will be great – Luke 1:32-33 –

<sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

God would establish His kingdom through the line of David, who would be the shepherd-king, leading to the ultimate shepherd-king of God Himself, who came to us as He promised, God in human flesh, to save us from our sins and to reign as King of Kings and establish His kingdom forever. This kingdom would have a new center – not Hebron, but Jerusalem.

So David goes up to attack the Jebusite stronghold of Jerusalem in 2 Samuel 5:6. Not only would Jerusalem be more centrally located to the united kingdom, but this would be a city on a hill. Remember? A fortress city. Everything goes "up" to Jerusalem. But God had plans for Jerusalem, greater than even David could possibly know. You see, this city was the city on the hill – the hill called Moriah, where Abraham was told to go to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. In that obedience, God would supply a lamb who would be the substitute for Isaac. And it would be through the blood of that lamb Isaac would be saved on a hill called Moriah.

This would be the place where David would buy a plot of land from a Aruna the Jebusite, where the temple would one day be sited, t

he ark put in place there, and the glory of God would descend in His presence, in that temple. The place where sacrifices would remind the people of their sin and the need for one sacrifice to take away the sins of the world for all time.

This would be the city where Jesus, the ultimate David, the true temple, the atoning sacrifice – would suffer and die. The great high priest would present Himself as the lamb of God.

This is the city where the king would rise, conquering sin, death and the grave. This is the city that He will one day return to, to reign over God's eternal kingdom as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is why, on that day, the angels will blow the trumpets and all of God's people will shout, and the heavenly host will declare (Revelation 11:15) –

“The kingdom of the world has become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,  
and he will reign for ever and ever.”

People – that day is coming! Jesus is going to do that! (cheering and applause).

Then, the words of the people Zechariah will come true (Zechariah 14:9) –

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

One king and one kingdom. As it was with King David, so it will be with King Jesus.

So David's reign is established. 2 Samuel 5 ends with David's defeat of their Philistine enemies, and preparing the way for the ark of God's covenant, to come into Jerusalem for the very first time.

God was sovereignly working through all those things. He is sovereignly working today. We don't like a lot of what happens. We don't understand most of it – not in our lives or what's going on in the world. But I can assure you of this: God is sovereign. He is in complete control. He is working in the circumstances in your life – whatever their cause. He is working in the circumstances in the world, whatever their cause, to bring about what He has promised – to give rise to the reign of His king and the establishment of His kingdom.

That's why we can trust this God. He makes no mistakes. He brooks no revivals. He cannot be defeated.

Jesus is coming again. The king is on the move. He is working in us and through us to make that king and that kingdom real, so the world may see. One day when this king sets foot down again on the Mount of Olives and comes into a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, when all the kings of the world come to bow down at His feet, when He reigns truly over the whole earth, one king and one kingdom, then you and I will join the angels' chorus. The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever.

All God's people said, “Amen!”

*Thank You, Lord. I don't understand a lot of what happens. I don't even like some of it. David didn't understand some of it and he didn't like it either. But now, we look back and we can see Your sovereign hand was at work in every circumstance, to give rise to the reign of Your king, and to give rise to the reign of Your kingdom. So God help us to trust You today, to set our eyes on You today, to believe in You today and to know that You are sovereign and You are king. We look forward to the day, every*

*day, that through our lives You will make the reign of King Jesus known as we look forward to the great and glorious day of His appearing. May it be for Your glory and our joy, we pray in Jesus' name, amen.*