



1

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - As already noted, David ruled as king over the tribe of Judah for seven and a half years. Verse one of chapter 3 covers the bulk of that time with the simple statement that there was war between the house of Saul and David and David was progressively prevailing.

2

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - David's family grew substantially in these years with six sons born to him through six different wives.
 - Abner grew stronger and more arrogant in Israel to the point of claiming one of Saul's concubines for his own.
 - In the culture of the world of that time multiple wives and concubines represented the strength of a king. To take a king's wife or concubine was seen as claim to his kingdom.

3

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - When challenged by Ish-bosheth, Abner determined to hand the rest of Israel over to David.
 - Note that Abner knew the promise of God to set up David and his house over Israel rather than the house of Saul.
 - The response of Ish-bosheth to Abner's declaration erases all doubt that he was a puppet king.

4

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - Abner immediately began to put his plan into action to hand over the kingdom to David.
 - He invited David to make a covenant with him and promised in return to turn over the kingdom to David.

5

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - Abner immediately began to put his plan into action to hand over the kingdom to David.
 - David accepted the overture with the caveat that first his first wife, Michal, the daughter of Saul be returned to him.
 - Saul had given Michal to another man, Paltiel, when David fled from Saul. (1 Samuel 25:44)
 - Ish-bosheth, probably at the instigation of Abner, ordered Michal's return to David.

6

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 - David accepted the overture with the caveat that first his first wife, Michal, the daughter of Saul be returned to him.
 - Paltiel accepted the gift of a wife of another man and now had to face the consequences of that action.

7

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- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - Abner conferred with the leaders of the tribes of Israel and reveals that he was aware of their desire to have David as king over them.
 - Abner now lets them know this move has his support which was what had been holding them back.
 - He reminds them of God's choice of David as king.
 - He gave special attention to the tribe of Benjamin since that was the tribe of Saul.

8

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - Abner immediately began to put his plan into action to hand over the kingdom to David.
 - Abner and twenty of his men went to David at Hebron and pledged to deliver the rest of the nation of Israel to David.
 - David received them with hospitality and sent them away in peace.

9

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - Joab's response to Abner's visit
 - Joab was out on a mission during Abner's visit.
 - Joab rebuked David for receiving Abner and sending him away peacefully.
 - Joab accused Abner of deceit.
 - Unbeknownst to David, Joab sent messengers to Abner having him return.
 - Joab took him aside under the pretense of delivering a private message and killed Abner to avenge the death of his brother Asahel.

10

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - David's response to Abner's death
 - Proclaimed his innocence in the matter
 - Pronounced curses on the house of Joab
 - Although Joab was the blood avenger Asahel had been killed in battle and according to David's instruction to Solomon in 1 Kings 2:5, Joab's action was not acceptable.

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David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - David's response to Abner's death
 - Pronounced curses on the house of Joab
 - These curses include:
 - Physical affliction
 - Menial labor
 - Defeat in battle
 - Poverty

12

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - David's response to Abner's death
 - Ordered Joab and all the people to actively mourn Abner's death.
 - David, in a position of humility, followed the body of Abner to the gravesite.

13

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - David's response to Abner's death
 - David's lament carries with it a recognition that Abner, the mighty and seasoned warrior had let down his guard and fallen before a wicked and deceptive act.
 - David refused food the rest of the day to further empathize his grief over the death of Abner.

14

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - David's response to Abner's death
 - David further expressed his respect for Abner.
 - David explained his lack of punitive action against Joab as restraint based on trusting God to bring judgment on the evildoers.

15

David established as king. 2 Samuel 2:1-5:16

- David as king over Judah. 2:1-4:12
 - David's response to Abner's death
 - David's actions assured the people of Israel that he had nothing to do with the death of Abner.
 - A notation is also made of the favor David has with the people in general.

16

Lessons

- Cultural norms exert a powerful influence but God's law does not change.
- Sooner or later you will realize the futility of resisting the known will of God.
- Never let your guard down.
- Beware of vengeance.
- "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you," (1 Peter 5:6, ESV)

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