



## **“REASONS TO REJOICE”**

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,  
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

### ***I and II SAMUEL Lesson 15***

*We ended our lesson last week with David mourning the death of Saul and Jonathan. Again we were reminded how important it is not to hold a grudge, as we see how tender David’s heart was for a man who was determined to kill him.*

*David’s time had now come. Now he could be king like God had promised. Unfortunately, it wasn’t that easy. There were still those who did not want David to be in power. There always seems to be opposition, doesn’t there? A civil war soon breaks out that lasts many years. Let’s read the next three chapters and see what God has in store for us!*

#### **First Day**

- 1. Read II Samuel 2:1-32. List some of the important facts in this chapter.*
- 2. Who are the main characters? What is the main point in this chapter?*
- 3. What is your first impression of this chapter? (What fact or application point first jumped out at you?)*

4. *Read verses 1-11 again. Verse 1 uses the phrase “after this.” What is this referring to?*
  
5. *How did David know where to go? Who went with him?*
  
6. *Why did David appreciate the men of Jabesh Gilead so much?*
  
7. *How had David already shown himself to be a different kind of king than Saul?*

*When the time of mourning was over for Saul and Jonathan, David knew the time had come for him to take the throne, but he didn't know exactly how to do it. David went to the Lord for his directions, asking for wisdom and guidance. God was very specific in His directions. There are many reasons that the Lord may have chosen Hebron to be the capital. Hebron was the largest city in Judah and the burial place of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Because it was located in the mountains, it was secure against attack. Many trade routes also converged at Hebron, making it difficult to cut off supply lines during wartime.*

*The men of Judah anointed David in verse 4. This was the second of three anointings of David (I Samuel 16:13, II Samuel 5:3). While the men in the southern region were getting on board with David, something else was happening up north. Not everyone wanted David to be the king of Israel; especially one man.*

8. *Explain what happened in verses 8-11.*

9. *What do we know about Abner? Read I Samuel 14:50-51, 17:55-58, and 26:5, 14-16 to refresh your memory. What kind of relationship do you think David and Abner had?*
10. *Why do you think Abner wanted Ishbosheth to be the ruler? What could have been his motives?*

*Let's end here for today. The men of Jabesh Gilead must have been shocked to have a king that actually showed kindness to them and blessed them in the name of the Lord. They were used to ol' King Saul, the man that only thought about himself. What a difference they would continue to see in this new leader. See you tomorrow!*

**Memory Verse of the Week:** *“So 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.” II Samuel 5:3*

### **Second Day**

***Practice your memory verse.***

*Verse 10 tells us that Ishbosheth's reign lasted two years, and David was king in Hebron 7 1/2 years. Most think that Ishbosheth most likely didn't begin his reign for 5 years after Saul's death. Israel apparently had no king, or perhaps Abner, Saul's general, ruled the country.*

1. *Read II Samuel 2:12-32. Describe what happened at the pool of Gibeon. Why were they fighting?*

2. *Who was in charge of David's men?*
3. *How was he related to David? (Read 1 Chronicles 2:16)*
4. *Who won?*

*This type of fighting was often used as a way to avoid extreme bloodshed from an all-out war. This time, it seemed like they were evenly matched, so a full-on war broke out anyway.*

5. *How is Asahel described?*
6. *Why did Abner want Asahel to put armor on?*
7. *What happened to Asahel? Who kept pursuing Abner?*

*When Abner reaches the hill of Ammah, all the Benjamites came together and stood behind Abner. Joab blows his trumpet after some words with Abner, and the battle stopped. Abner and his people went one way, while Joab and his men went another. They buried Asahel in Bethlehem and then traveled through the night until they reached Hebron.*

8. *How many of Joab's men died? How many from Abner's army?*
9. *Why do you think Joab's men did so well in the battle?*

*It's interesting that Asahel's pursuit of Abner is recorded in such great length. We see why when we read the next chapter and find out that, although Joab stops chasing Abner, he never let go of the bitterness and anger he felt toward him for killing his brother. Joab ends up killing Abner for revenge (3:27). Asahel's death gave Joab and Abishai the justification they needed for the killing of Abner, the strongest rival to Joab in either part of Israel.*

*How sad it is when a country is involved in a civil war. Instead of being united, Israel was divided. To bring that point closer to home, we often find ourselves in a type of “civil war” within our own homes. We allow disagreements to come in between us as husband and wife, child against parent, sibling against sibling. A house divided will certainly fall. We must make sure that we live in unity with those in our family.*

- 10. What does God think of unity? Read Psalm 133. Can you give any other Scriptures concerning unity?*
  
- 11. Is there unity in your household? Are there any areas in which you can develop more unity?*
  
- 12. Is it possible to disagree, but still be unified? How?*
  
- 13. Why is it so important for a husband and wife to present a unified front to their children? What are some of the dangers of allowing a “civil war” to take place in the home?*

*I pray that you are allowing the Lord to be in the center of your marriage, family, and relationships. He and He alone will enable us to live in unity! Take a few minutes today meditating on all the “**Reasons**” you have to “**Rejoice.**” Unity is only one of them!*

**Third Day**

***What's your memory verse? Why is this an important verse?***

1. *Please read II Samuel 3:1-5. What was the result of the war between Israel and Judah?*

2. *Name David's wives:*

*Name David's children:*

*During the time David was in Hebron, he continued his practice of polygamy. This was a common practice of the day, but was forbidden by God (Deuteronomy 17:14-17). Because of this, David experienced much heartache. Many of his sons caused a lot of trouble (II Samuel 13:14, 13:28, 15:13, and 1 Kings 1:5-6). We will read about them soon. David should not have done what was acceptable at the time, but what was right before the Lord.*

3. *What are some examples of things that Christians do today that are "socially acceptable," but not right before the Lord. (Are you guilty of doing this?)*

4. *David's son Solomon inherited the throne from David, but also some bad habits. He did many things that he was commanded not to do (including practicing polygamy). When Solomon came to the end of his life, he had learned a big lesson. Read some of Solomon's insights and write the main point of the verse(s).*

**A.** *Ecclesiastes 1:12-17*

**B.** *Ecclesiastes 2:10-11*

*C. Ecclesiastes 5:10-12*

*D. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*

5. *Read II Samuel 3:6-39. List some of the facts that you find. What is the main point of this chapter? What would you title it?*

6. *What was Abner and Ishbosheth's disagreement about?*

*Saul's wives and concubines were passed into the possession of his successor at the time of his death. By Abner taking Saul's concubine, he was challenging the royal rights of Ishbosheth, which was considered treason. When confronted, Abner never admits to any wrong-doing. Abner had most likely come to realize that as David's house grew stronger and stronger, he was soon to take over Israel. When he got angry at Ishbosheth, he decided to turn over the kingdom to David.*

7. *How did Ishbosheth feel about Abner? (vs11) What kind of king was Ishbosheth?*

8. *What do you think may have been some of Abner's motives in turning to David's side?*

9. *How did Abner approach David? (For instance, was he apologetic for dividing the kingdom, etc.?)*

10. *What was the one thing David requested before he would join forces with Abner? Why?*

11. *Why do you think extra time was given in convincing the Benjamites to follow David?*

*There are a few possible reasons that David may have asked for Michal to be returned to him. He may have still loved her (that's a romantic thought!), but he also may have made a smart political move. It had been a slam on David when his wife was given to another, and to receive her back was a show of authority. Also, if Saul's daughter was returned to him, others who were loyal to Saul might be persuaded to follow him also. Unfortunately, Michal seemed to become a pawn to be passed back and forth to show power. Michal's poor husband was devastated. Though our heart wrenches as we read this section, we must remind ourselves that Paltiel should never have taken another man's wife.*

12. *What happens when Joab hears about David's agreement with Abner?*

13. *How does David respond to Joab's actions? (Why don't you think David punished Joab for his actions?)*

14. *What did David make all the people do when Abner died? Why do you think he led the mourning?*

15. *Why do you think it was important to David that all Israel knew that David wasn't the one who killed Abner?*



16. *Abner is an example of a man who, like Saul, was concerned with his own interests. His motives always seemed to be full of greed and selfishness. What is the biggest lesson we can learn from his life?*

*That's it for today. I pray that our motives will be driven by our passion to please the Lord. I pray that we wouldn't choose sides according to what we can get out of it. Oh, Lord, help us to always check our motives before we take action.*

### **Fourth Day**

***Do you know your memory verse?***

1. *Read II Samuel 4:1-8. What new characters do we meet? What is the main point in this section?*
2. *How did Ishbosheth feel when he heard of Abner's death? Why?*
3. *How did Jonathan's son become lame? (There seems to be no reason to introduce Mephibosheth here, except to set the stage for chapter 9.)*
4. *Why do you think Rechab and Baanah wanted to kill Ishbosheth?*

5. *What did they do with Ishbosheth's body?*

6. *Before we go on, in what way was Ishbosheth's character weak?*

*Ishbosheth was definitely a "puppet king." Abner was the one with the real power. He also lacked the moral strength that he needed. Take a minute and reflect on your personality. Is your character weak or strong?*

7. *Read II Samuel 4:9-12. When the brothers presented the head to David, how did he respond?*

8. *Why wasn't he happy that the throne was now his?*

9. *Why do you think he killed these men for killing Ishbosheth, but didn't kill Joab for killing Abner?*

10. *Again, what can we learn from David in how he handles the death of his enemies?*

*David referred to Ishbosheth as a "righteous man" in verse 11, meaning "innocent," or one who deserved better from his subject. David did not seem to see Ishbosheth as wicked. He didn't fault him for thinking he was in line for the throne, but he was too weak to stand against Abner. David wasn't going to kill Ishbosheth. He knew God would give him the throne in His time.*

*David wanted to unite Israel, so he wanted those who were subject to Ishbosheth to know he was not responsible. He wanted Israel to know that he was a just and fair leader, so he dealt harshly with these murderers, and gave them a proper burial. David was a smart and wise man.*

### **Fifth Day**

***Write out your verse from memory.***

***1. Read II Samuel 5:1-5. Did the tribes of Israel come together?***

***2. What three reasons does Israel give for deciding to support David?***

*David is finally anointed as King over all of Israel in verse 3. It is now totally public. This was a memorable event in David's history. W.G. Blaikie said, "To be able to look back on even one case of a Divine promise distinctly fulfilled to us is a great help to faith in all future times." What an awesome faith builder that must have been! David waited a long time to see God's promise fulfilled.*

***3. Has God ever given you a promise that took a very long time to be fulfilled? Can you share it with your group? Did it increase your faith?***

***4. Are you still waiting for a promise to be fulfilled? How does the life of David encourage you?***

5. *What is the biggest point of application you personally received from these three chapters? How did God speak to your heart?*

6. *What did you learn about God in this lesson?*

7. *Did you learn anything about yourself?*

8. *What is the biggest lesson you learned from the life of Abner?*

9. *What's the biggest lesson you learned from the life of Joab?*

*We read a lot of chapters, met a lot of characters, and learned many lessons.*

*I pray that we take to heart the things we learned this week. Aren't you excited that each and every promise in the Word of God is for you? Aren't you excited that God keeps every promise? Those are two awesome*

***“Reasons to Rejoice!”***