

“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 16

Last week we finally anointed David -- the new King of Israel! God's promise to him has been fulfilled, and he's ready to rule over Israel and Judah. Israel is ready to follow him, which they should've done before. The men came to follow him with a loyal heart, we're told. You can read 1 Chronicles 12:23-40 for a good description of the number of men that came and the attitude of their hearts. Now David has some work to do. It's crucial that he continues to try to unite the north and the south. His capital has been in Hebron, but now he must choose a city that will be acceptable to both kingdoms. If he remains in Judah, he would alienate Israel, and if he moves north to Israel, he would insult Judah. He must consolidate. What should he do? Let's see what happens!

First Day

- 1. Read II Samuel 5:1-10. What facts do you find? Also read I Chronicles 11:4-9 for additional information. What is the main point in verses 6-10?*
- 2. Where did David decide to make his capital? How did he plan to conquer it?*
- 3. Who became the chief and captain?*

David is pretty smart. He decided to capture a city named Jebus (Judges 19:10), or Jerusalem. This city was situated in Benjaminite territory, but close to the border of Judah. It was still occupied by the Caananite tribe of Jebusites, who had never been expelled from the land (Judges 1:21). The Jebusites were sure that the walls of their stronghold were so impossible to penetrate that even an army of handicapped could keep David's army out. (vs 6) David seemed to use his own personal army, thus making it the "City of David." Jerusalem was not only the religious and political capital of the Jewish nation, but David's favorite place as well.

Jerusalem, (the city of peace), was a strategic location for the people of Israel. It was a city on a hill, well-fortified, central to all the tribes. It was easy to defend because of its hilltop location. Later, David's son Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 6-7, II Chronicles 3-4), and did many things to beautify the city. The New Open Bible gives many facts about the city of Jerusalem that I thought you would find interesting:

"Several centuries after Solomon's time, in 586 B.C., the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and carried its inhabitants into captivity. Although the temple and the city and its surrounding walls were rebuilt by the returning Jewish exiles some time later, Jerusalem was not restored to its previous splendor. This task, ironically, fell to Herod the Great, Roman ruler of Palestine about the time of Jesus. He restored the temple to its previous state in an attempt to appease the Jewish people and also built several other beautiful buildings in Jerusalem. This building program continued throughout the period of Jesus' public ministry.

The Holy City played a significant role in the life and ministry of Jesus. At the age of twelve, He went to Jerusalem, where He amazed the temple leaders with His wisdom and knowledge (Luke 2:47). At the close of His public ministry, He was crucified, buried, and resurrected at Jerusalem.

As Jesus predicted (Matt. 23:37-39), the city of Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70 when the Jewish people rebelled against the Roman authority. Rome eventually built a city on the site, but it was considered off-limits for the Jews. This situation changed in 1919, when Israel regained its stature as a Jewish nation and Jerusalem was reestablished as its capital city.

After the reinstatement of Israel, many Jews from throughout the world moved back to their homeland. Most of these Jews settled in a new city west of the old city of Jerusalem. Following the Arab-Israeli War of 1948-49, the new city was allotted to the Jews, while the old city remained in Moslem hands. But Israel reunited Jerusalem during the Six-Day War of 1967, when it took control of the Moslem section of the city. Today,

Jerusalem is revered as a holy city by three world religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.”

Back to our text. It appears that David caught the Jebusites by surprise by entering the city through the water shaft. He then dwelt in the “stronghold,” which is a fortress or a type of castle. Verse 9 tells us he then built all around The “Millo.” The “Millo” is a Hebrew word meaning “filling,” which is evidently a rampart consisting of two walls with a space between them filled in. The definitive article before the name indicates that it was a well-known fortress, on a great hill called Zion.

4. According to verse 10, what, (or whom), is David’s greatness attributed to?

5. Read II Samuel 5:11-16 and I Chronicles 14:1-17. Why do you think Hiram would want to help David?

Most believe this reference to Hiram as the king of Tyre is in the future tense, because Hiram was not ruler at this time. Obviously cultural relations were being built long before Hiram became king and established a friendship with David (I Kings 5:1).

6. David decided he needs more wives. (Yuck!) How many more kids did he have?

This mention of more wives and children is a record of facts, not of God’s approval. Remember, polygamy was forbidden. Many of these kids brought trouble to the house of David, especially in the life of Solomon. Although God didn’t approve, His divine favor was not taken away from David.

7. There is good reason these kids are mentioned. Joseph came from the line of Solomon (Matthew 1:1-16), and Mary came from the line of Nathan (Luke 3:31). Why is this significant?

We had a lot of reading today, so we will end here. The birth of Jesus is prophesy fulfilled. The Word tells us that Jesus would be from the line of David. God is perfect in His plans, isn't He? Tomorrow we'll see the Philistines come after David. They weren't too happy about this king thing! Have a good day as you rejoice in your Savior, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Memory Verse of the Week: *“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth.” Psalm 50:2*

Second Day

Practice your memory verse. Isn't it a pretty verse?

1. *Let's begin today by reading II Samuel 5:17-25. List the main facts in this section. Are there any repeated words or thoughts? What would you title it?*

After Israel anointed David as king, the Philistines' attention was captured, especially after he took Jerusalem. David's power was a major threat to them. When David heard they were coming after him, verse 17 tells us that he went down to the stronghold. Most commentators believe that this is actually referring to the stronghold in Adullam, because David probably hadn't finished building his city. Also, it usually says that people “go up” to Jerusalem, not “down.”

The valley of Rephaim is an extremely fertile valley, south of Jerusalem. It is thought that this valley was frequently the arena for contests involving “champions” or warriors who belonged to some special military elite, known in ancient Israel.

2. *What did the Lord tell David to do? Did he obey?*
3. *How did David describe the victory?*

David said that the Lord broke through the enemies like a burst of water, perhaps referring to the suddenness of a flood. This would explain why the Philistines left their idols behind, being caught off guard.

4. *According to 1 Chronicles 14:12, what did David do with their idols?*

The Philistines regrouped, and came back again! David inquired of the Lord again, this time receiving a new battle strategy.

5. *What did God tell David to do? How was this plan similar to the plan God gave Elisha in II Kings 7:6-7?*

6. *Did it work? What was the result, according to 1 Chronicles 14:17?*

David didn't attack his enemies without a word from the Lord. He knew that he needed God on his side. God "broke through" the enemies' camp. We also have battles we face every day. Our enemy is after us like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8). It is vital that we never try to go up against our enemies without the Lord on our side. The battle belongs to the Lord, not us. Ephesians 6:10 tells us to "be strong in the Lord and the power of His might!"

7. *Are you in the middle of a battle? Do you need a "break through"? What do the following verses say?*

A. *Psalm 20:6-8*

B. *Psalm 44:4-8*

C. *Psalm 55:22*

D. *Psalm 118:5-9*

8. *Where do we find victory? Read Philippians 4:13, 1 John 5:4-5, James 4:7, and Romans 8:37.*

9. *Why can't we fight the battle on our own? (Are you trying right now?)*
10. *Why was David so sure of victory when he entered the battle? What lesson can we take from his example?*

Has God told you to move forward into a specific battle, and you're still hiding in the stronghold? Believe God's Word and be sure that He will deliver you. When the Holy Spirit nudges your heart in a direction, you better go! God knows best, and He always wins.

That's it for today. We find out in our next chapter that something is missing from the City of David. I wonder what it is? See you tomorrow!

Third Day

What's your memory verse? Can others see God shining through from your life?

Once David was settled in Jerusalem, his family grew, and experienced much military success. But something was missing. The Ark of the Covenant was not there. The Ark represented God's presence among His people, and David knew that it was vital to Israel's very life. The day he brought the Ark of the Covenant was probably one of the most important days of his life. But have you ever done the right thing in the wrong way? Well, so did David. He did it wrong, but then he did it over again. Let's see what happens ...

1. *Read II Samuel 6:1-11. What facts do you find? What new characters do you meet? What is your first impression of this section? What is the main subject of this section?*

2. *Read 1 Chronicles 13:1-14 to get a little more insight to this event. What other information is given?*

3. *How did the Ark get to Kiriath-Jearim in the first place? Review 1 Samuel 6:10-7:2. (This city is also called Baal-Judah.)*

4. *What happened to Uzzah? Why?*

Because David loved the Lord so much, he knew that the Ark should be in Jerusalem so all of Israel could worship before His presence. In his excitement, it seems like he forgot that the Ark was to be treated with reverence, in a specific manner, outlined by the Lord. They needed to refresh their memory of the Scriptures. Instead of doing it in the way God commanded, he followed the example of the Philistines (1 Samuel 6:7-8), placing it on a cart.

5. *How was the Ark supposed to be transported? Read Exodus 25:14 and Numbers 4:15. What did these guys do wrong?*

6. *How did David react? Why?*

7. *Why did David leave the Ark in the house of Obed-Edom?*

David didn't understand what on earth happened! Was this how God would repay him for his desire for all Israel to be able to worship with the Ark? David did the right thing, but in the wrong way.

8. *Why do you think God judged this act so harshly?*

9. *Have you ever done the right thing in the wrong way? (Doesn't the end justify the means?) What happened?*

We can tell as we read the Psalms that David loved God with all his heart. But John tells us in John 14:15, "if you love Me, keep My commandments." If we truly love the Lord, we will do what He says. If God said to transport the Ark in a certain way, David should have done it that way. God's way is always the right way, even if we don't understand. Obedience is a sign of our love for God.

10. *Why is God so strict on the issue of obedience?*

11. *Are you obeying the Lord in every area of your life? Are you obeying Him in the small things, as well as the big? Are you obeying the things He's given you to do as a wife? A mother? A Christian woman?*

We'll finish this chapter tomorrow. If you forget the specifics about the Ark, review lesson 3. The Ark is a very important subject in this chapter. You'll see that tomorrow, as we see David's reaction. Unfortunately, David's wife Michal is not quite as excited as he.

Fourth Day

Continue to practice your verse. How does it speak to your heart?

1. *Let's read II Samuel 6:1-12. Why does David decide to try again?*
2. *Read I Chronicles 15:1-15. (David figured out the problem, didn't he?) What insight does this section give us?*

3. *Read II Samuel 6:13-23. David was excited, wasn't he? How did he show it? Also read I Chronicles 15:25-29.*

4. *How did Michal react? What are some reasons she may have responded the way she did?*

The Ark was put in the tabernacle and a series of offerings was made. Only a priest could place the sacrifices on the altar, but if you were ceremonially clean you could assist him, which was probably what David did. After David offered the sacrifices and blessed the people, he went home, perhaps to celebrate with his wife. He was probably shocked at what he was confronted with.

5. *How does David respond to her accusations?*

David was showing humility before his God, and Michal seemed to be embarrassed, or disgusted with his public display of worship. She may have thought it was inappropriate. Maybe she was still upset with David for taking her from Palti. Whatever her reasons, she seems to be more concerned with outward appearances, while David was revealing his heart toward God.

6. *David wrote a song of praise that day to thank the Lord. Read I Chronicles 16:7-36. Are there any reoccurring themes in this song?*

7. *Choose some phrases that particularly speak to your heart. How does this song encourage you?*

8. *Are you as excited as David about the things of the Lord? Are you excited to worship the Lord, to read His Word, and to be in His presence? Does that describe your relationship with Him, or have you lost your thrill of being one of His? (Meditate on this one for awhile ...)*
9. *How was Michal punished for the attitude of her heart? (How sad!)*
10. *Are you guilty, like Michal, in caring more about the outward appearance of your worship than your heart before the Lord? What is an example of this?*

David is so excited about this he can't stand it! Again we see David's heart for the Lord in how he handled his mistake. He was upset at God because he didn't understand what the problem was, but he didn't remain in his anger. He sought the Lord and found out what the problem was, and took care of it. He made the changes that were necessary. I am so thankful for the Holy Spirit who continually shows us the changes that need to be made in our lives. May we be sensitive to His voice as He speaks to our hearts.

Fifth Day

Write your verse from memory.

1. *Let's take a few minutes to review our chapters. How many times is the Ark mentioned in chapter 6?*
2. *David had a heart to worship the Lord. How would you define "worship"?*

3. *What other things are people guilty of worshipping?*

4. *Can you find any Scriptures that speak to us on the topic of worship? (For example; who should be worshipped? How should we worship?)*

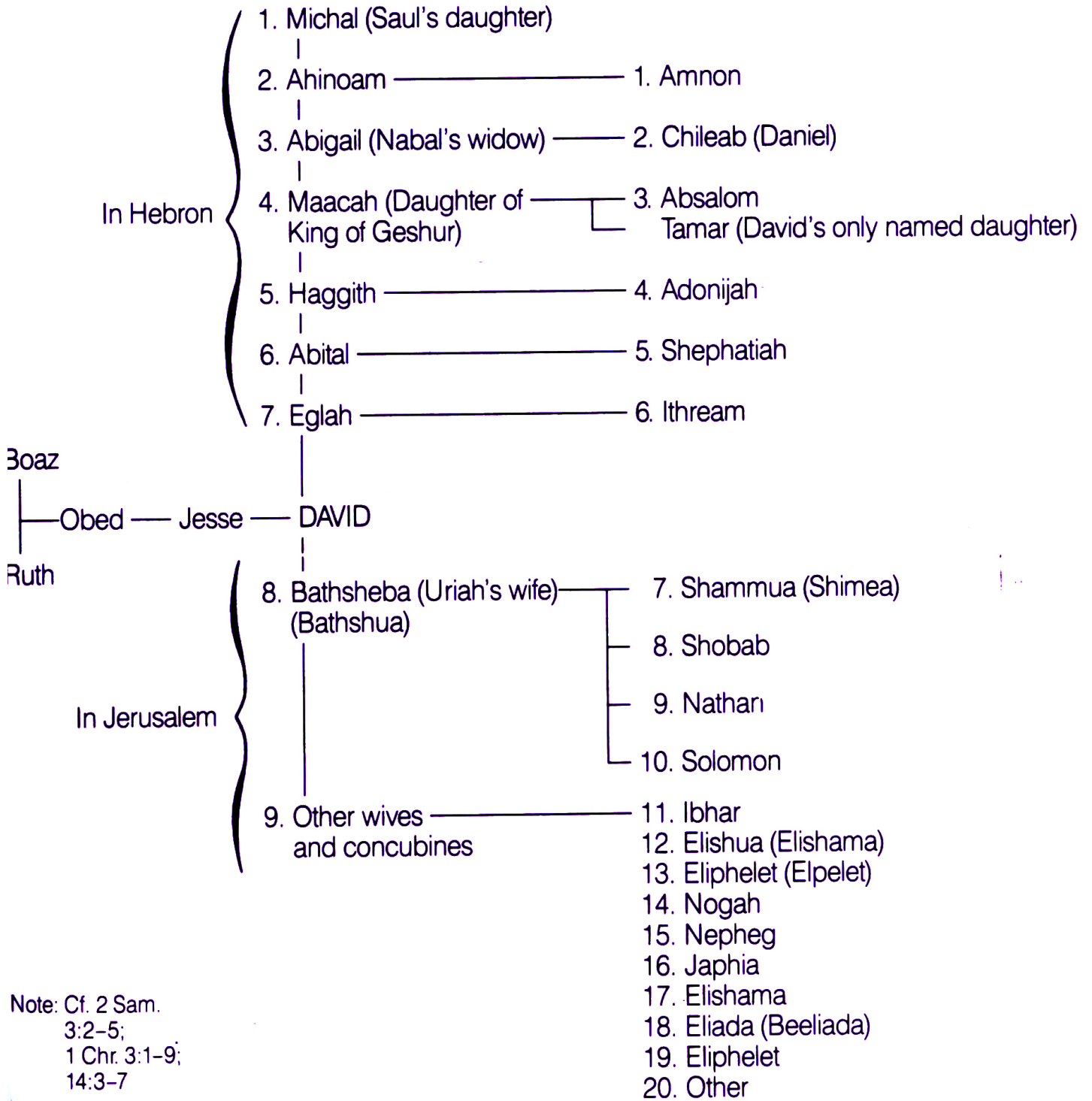
5. *Why is humility such an important aspect of worship?*

6. *Do you treat your husband with respect, or do you constantly judge his motives, as Michal did David?*

7. *If you don't agree with your husband, what should you do?*

8. *From the two chapters we've studied, what made the biggest impact on your heart?*

We'll see you next week. On the next page is a chart showing David's family line. Hopefully it will help you keep everyone straight as we learn more about his family in future lessons. God bless you this week as you rejoice in the Lord and worship at His holy hill!!!!



Note: Cf. 2 Sam.
3:2-5;
1 Chr. 3:1-9;
14:3-7