



+ This week at Magdalen Road church we finished off our sermon series in Samuel. We zoomed ahead to 2 Sam 5 as we saw David being appointed as king over all of Israel.

In this chapter we got a glimpse of what it meant for God's people to be at rest. In the first half of the chapter David is established as the king over his people, bringing peace to the nation, whilst in the second half of the chapter David protects his people from two Philistine attacks.

+ Gods Shepherd king provides (v1-12)

Following the deaths of David and Jonathan (chapter 31) and the subsequent death of Saul's son Ish Bosheth (chapter 2), the elders of Israel from all the tribes assemble to seek to persuade King David to rule the entire nation. They begin by reminding him of the fact he is their own flesh and blood - pointing to both a 'brotherly solidarity' but also that the Davidic king is like a 'husband' to the people (as he uses Genesis 2 type language). Next they emphasise the fact that he's already led them in a kingly-military type way in previous battles and so he's proved himself and they trust him. Finally they say that God has chosen him to be their Shepherd King!

He covenants himself to them and then rules initially from Hebron for seven years before later seeking to conquer Jerusalem. There are perhaps various reasons why Jerusalem is a good target and place for David to rule from: perhaps it is **politically** expedient as Jerusalem is part of the Benjaminite territory (Saul was a Benjaminite hence David is maybe rebuilding bridges again). Perhaps it is expedient in **military** terms because geographically Jerusalem is an excellent fortress set on a mountain. However, the final reason-**theological**-is perhaps the best. It's that the people had never conquered the Jebusites and that in one sense had never fully inherited the land they were meant to.

We read of the Jebusites in Genesis 15 (v18-21) as God promises the land to Abrah(ah)am. The people that try to remove the Jebusites on a couple of occasions but that either been unwilling (Judges 1v21) or unable (Joshua 15v63). Here we see David finally bringing God's people into the land and removing all the enemies. Here we see God's King living under, obeying and trusting the rule of God.

Despite the Jebusites' cocky taunts David conquers them in the city and then establishes it as his own -building a palace there with wood from neighbouring Tyre. They would also provide wood for Solomon as he built the temple in the years to come.

So does this now mean peace and rest? No.

+ Gods Shepherd king protects (v17-25)

The Philistines once again attempt to conquer David. Twice they come to attack each time being defeated by Israel. We remarked that unlike Saul, David seeks counsel from the Lord, before going into battle with the Philistines - he's a king who relies on the word of God. We noted that the Valley of Rephaim is named that because it is home to a family of very large giant warriors (reference from under Samuel)-once again the people of God trusting God to remove Giants from the land.

We also noted how the Philistines essentially repeat the same mistake again. A possible glimpse of the nature of reality without God-we just go round and round in circles making the same mistake again and again and again. They leave their idols behind (V 21) because their idols have failed them.

This is in contrast firstly to the beginning of the series when the Ark was taken into captivity and stood before Dagon (1 Sam 4), it's also in contrast secondly to what happens at the next battle where the Lord is clearly with his people - Indeed even going out before them and fighting for them. The Philistine idols are dead whilst the true God is alive. The people didn't even need a military King because God is protecting them!

However despite the high point of this chapter there is still a fly in the ointment...

+ But the perfect Shepherd king is still to come (v13-17)

Nestled at the heart of the chapter we get a glimpse of David's Achilles heel. We read that from this palace he took many more concubines and wives and had many more children. Through the story so far he's already had two or possibly

three wives but he takes many more. Whilst this may well have seemed politically expedient in creating alliances with other nations- this should cause us concern because of Deuteronomy 17 V 17.

Where so often David gets it right he seems to be a very clear example of him getting it wrong and if you know his story don't know it has disastrous consequences for himself and his family and even for the nation As he commits adultery with Bathsheba. When we read that story in the context of this one we realise that perhaps it wasn't quite such a surprise as we sometimes imagine...

We finished with both a challenge and a contrast:

The **Challenge** simply the need to look after marriages and our purity. Guard your hearts, guard against the fact that we seek to justify sin at times... Take care and protect ourselves, but know that the gospel always brings forgiveness and grace. The cross of Jesus is enough.

The **Contrast** was with the Lord Jesus. He is a perfect Shepherd king who pours himself out for his bride the church. Our perfect and true rest will be when we see him face-to-face and then we as the church will enjoy the perfect marriage With our loving groom.

Here are some questions to start off the study for your group...

- What aspects of this series have most stuck with you whether as a challenge or encouragement?
- How did the elders of Israel try and persuade David to be their king?
- Why do you think David wanted to have Jerusalem as the capital city?
- As David is attacked by the Philistines what do you see of his character and leadership? How do they defeat the Philistines? What do we learn about God through these two battles? What do we learn about false gods?
- What do you make of David in this passage? In what ways does he point us to Christ?
- How can we better look after purity and marriages?
- How is this chapter pointing us to rest? In what ways does it fall short?