

Title: The Shepherd-King, his people and his city  
Text: 2 Samuel 5.1-16  
Theme: The coronation of David over all of Israel  
Series: 2 Samuel  
Prop Stmt: David points to a king and Jerusalem to a capital that will reign forever.

The world's greatest cities are for the most part located on water or very close to it. Some, are located in lush lands surrounded by plenty of farmland that can support dense populations or whose origins can be traced to long-traveled trading routes. That makes sense. But there is one ancient city whose location makes no sense and defies geographical reasons for its prominence. And this is no obscure city. This city has a history of at least 5,000 years. And for 3,000 of those 5,000 she has been known to much of the world. But she does not sit on any great body of water, not by a river, nor by any ancient trade routes. In fact, the closest body of water is at least 30 miles away. She sits defiantly and deliberately on a rocky mountain slope that is not that prominent. She has cliffs and gorges that rest in a climate that will freeze you in windy and snowy winters and bake you in sweltering summers. Who would pick this place to live? This unlikely location for any city became one of the world's most famous, the claim of 3 major world religions, the capital of 2 peoples, the historic temple of the 1 true God and the only city that is now on earth and forever in eternity – Jerusalem, also known as “the Holy City” as well as, the city of David. Today, the flag of Israel, known by the star of David, flies over this city, this capital of the small but seemingly indestructible and bewildering people of Israel.

For those of you who are investigating what it is that we believe, and wondering is there a factual and objective basis that our faith is grounded in, this is a good question for you to wrestle with. How can you explain the historicity and significance of Jerusalem apart from the Bible? It is fascinating. It is intriguing, but it is more than that. It is compelling. There is a reason why this city has been a focal point of the world for thousands of years. You are compelled by the historical events that are witnessed and evidenced by this city to face and wrestle with the truths about God, His Son, Jesus, and his claims and his call on your life. I pray that you will.

This city is mentioned a few times in Joshua and even fewer times in Judges as the home of the Jebusites. That is all about to change. This chapter changes history. From now on, an otherwise obscure, desolate looking mountain village of about 15 unimpressive acres will be the focal point of history. It all changes here.

Read text:

The story of the Bible is the story of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. This is where all of human history is headed. All of it. This is what defines your life and your future, whether you realize it or not. This is the story that connects all of the stories of the Bible. The Old Testament is the story of Israel. The kingdom of Israel, which was the kingdom of David, was a preview of the kingdom of Christ. The Old Testament paved the way for the New Testament. The New Covenant people of God (the church) stands on the Old Covenant people of God. So, in the OT we see all of these patterns that help us realize that there is one big story that ties it all

together. David is the king who is a preview of the perfect king. David is born in Bethlehem and goes from there to Jerusalem. Well, what does that sound like? Jesus! That's the point. There are so many similarities that I want you to see because I want you to know what your life is about and in fact what all of life is about. There is one eternal, sovereign king. He is Jesus Christ. He came to this earth; he came to us to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. We could not save ourselves from our sin. We could not save ourselves from the consequences of our own rebellion against God. Christ came to save us by purchasing our salvation by means of his life and death on the cross. In order to be in his kingdom, you have to accept Christ as your king and your savior. This text is a preview of that. Notice...

1. **The king is (at last) received.** (1-5)

a. **We come on his terms.** (1a)

David was a good, wise and patient king. He waited for the northern tribes to come to him in order to receive him as their king. With the death of Abner, Ish-bosheth, and now two other army officers (Baanah and Rechab), the northern tribes were in disarray. Their army was scattered and they had no functional government. David could have invaded and forced his leadership on them. But he waited. He waited for them to admit the obvious. They needed him. They really had no other options. But they had to come to that point. Finally, when they were humble enough, the elders of the rest of the tribes gathered together and came to David. They came to David. They came on his terms. This was not a partnership of equals. This was an act of submission and happy acceptance. You are our king. You are, our rightful king. You are our rightful king whom we belong to.

b. **We come because of who he is.** (1b)

*"Behold, we are your bone and flesh."* What a gift David is to them. He is not a foreign ruler or commander, demanding them to bow down to him while he puts his boot on their neck. He is a skilled warrior, competent leader, successful commander who is one of them. He is an Israelite. They all have Abraham, Isaac and of course Jacob as their father. He is one of them.

c. **We come because of what he has done.** (2a)

In David's case, they do not recognize him as king because of his bloodline. There are two other things that make it clear, with one of them being what David has done. He was the one who led them out to battle and successfully fought their wars. There was really no other leader they had who was that good, but there is more. The other factor was what God had said.

d. **We come because of the promises and plan of God.** (2b)

*"The LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'"* God called David to be a Shepherd-King. God called David to rule over his people, like a shepherd tends to his flock. The people of Israel acknowledged that this is what God called

David to do, and helped make David do that. All of those years that David spent as a boy tending his father's sheep was ordained by God to help prepare David to be a king. This is the kind of king God wants for his people and he wants his people to recognize this, submit to it and enjoy it. God has designed his king to care for and cultivate his people. It's a beautiful marriage.

e. **We are received into his covenant.** (3)

*"King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD and they anointed David king over Israel."* David is already king. David is the one with the power and authority. He does not need them, they need him. A covenant is not a contract between equals. It is a sacred oath between a sovereign and subjects whereby each are bound to the other. David set the terms. He is the ruler. The elders accepted it, they were the subjects. It was all done before the Lord, meaning this was a covenant that fitting and proper. It was how the Lord wanted it to be. He wants his people to have good leadership and he wants his people to follow well. Of course, every bit of this points to Christ. It really is fascinating.

In order for you to actually be part of the kingdom of Christ, you have to come to him on his terms. Like David who was already king, Jesus is already king and will forever be king. And, like David who was patient and waited for the rest to come around to their senses and realize that they really need him, Christ is patient. As 2 Peter 3.9 says, Christ *"is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."* But, do not presume that Christ will be patient forever. As the very next verse says, *"the day of the Lord will come like a thief."* Christ gives you plenty of opportunity to realize and admit the obvious. You need him as your king. In fact, you have to have him as your king. He is king. He is good, wise, strong and saving. He says from sin and death all who come to him. But, in order for you to benefit from that, you have to come to him, on his terms and declare your allegiance to his kingdom. Why would you do that? You do that because you recognize that he is someone like you. You recognize what he has done. You embrace the promises and plan of God and you embrace the new covenant that Christ has established. Christ came to this earth to take upon himself a human nature. He is one of us. As one of us, he did for us, and in our place, what we could not do for ourselves. He lived a perfect life. He then offered up his perfect life as the full and final payment for our sins. His death on the cross paid for the penalty of our sins. Christ absorbed upon himself, the just and righteous wrath for our sins. He died for us. Only Christ could effectively die in our place and he did. The life of Christ was the fulfillment of the promises and plans of God that were laid out throughout the OT. The death of Christ was the eternal sacrifice that founded the New Covenant. Christ established the New Covenant, the new, eternally binding relationship between him, the Sovereign and those who accept him as Savior and King. The king is at last received. Have you received him. Is Christ your king?

Verses 4-5 summarize David's reign. And for the first time Jerusalem is mentioned which sets the stage for what we are about to read.

2. **The enemy is (at last) defeated.** (6-8)

David is now the king over the entire nation. If this nation was going to be unified under him, he needed to pick a capital that would be recognized by all. Hebron was too far south. Mahanaim was where Saul lived and David's reign was a new dynasty. Verse 6 says that David and his men went to Jerusalem. This was a big risk. It made sense. This city was not part of Judah or Benjamin or any other tribe in a practical sense because Israel had not been able to conquer it and occupy it. If, David could bring the armies together, accomplish a victory together, defeat an ancient enemy together, establish a new capital together, it would be an ideal beginning to his unified reign. But, if he failed, it would be an astounding defeat that would be nearly impossible to recover from.

4,000 years ago (about 800-1,000 years before David), Jerusalem was called Salem and was an unwallled village that was ruled by a king/priest named Melchizedek who was a genuine worshiper of God. About 150 years later, the people of Jebus (Jebusites) took over this village and lived there, eventually building a wall around the village for protection. They lived there for over 800 years. The Jebusites are mentioned by God in a promise that God made to Abraham at the end of Genesis 15. God promised Abraham that he would give the land of (list of nations, including the Jebusites) to Abraham's descendants. That promise is not mentioned here, but it would not surprise me if David knew about it and was banking on it for his success. The little city was well fortified and sat on a piece of ground that made it easy to defend and difficult to attack. Inside the walled city was a spring of water, so the people in the city could outlast the people outside of the city. It was easy to understand why the Jebusites were so confident that David could not defeat them. After all, they had basically lived there for 850 years with perhaps only brief seasons of not being in control. They told David that he could not and would not defeat them and that if their army was made up of blind and lame people it would still beat David. But things didn't turn out that way. One simple sentence in v.7 summarizes it. *"Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, the city of David."*

How'd he do that? David laid out the plan. In order to penetrate the city's defenses, someone had to break into the water shaft and get into the city that way. But who was going to lead the army? Joab was an accomplished fighter and seasoned leader, but the northern army had reason to distrust him. According to 1 Chron. 11.6, David said that whoever was able to successfully break into the water shaft would be the commander of the army. Ok then. Joab is not the automatic leader. Again, David is not automatically picking the men who have been with him, but is opening this up. Everyone has a chance now and the one who proves himself to David will also prove himself to everyone else. That is exactly what Joab did. We don't know the details, but many have thought that Joab got in, made his way up the shaft, was able to open one of the gates so David and his men were able to enter and conquer the city. And now, finally after 450 years, this enemy was defeated. This city now belonged to the people of God.

David was able to defeat the enemy that taunted the people of God by saying, "you will never get in here. You will never win. You will never defeat us." That sounds like someone else we know, doesn't it? How many times has the evil one whispered to you to just give up fighting against sin, give up on your marriage, give up on following Christ, give up on trying to do the

right thing. You will never win. Beloved, it's a lie. Satan is a liar. He has to lie. The truth is his undoing, so he lies.

Verse 8 sounds harsh and perhaps it is. But, given the fact that David extended such grace and care to Mephibosheth who was lame, this was probably not a reference to all blind and lame, but rather a mocking term for the Jebusites. At any rate, it was not a good slogan for David's kingdom and one that would be undone by Christ who repeatedly healed the blind and the lame. In fact, it was the lame man in Acts 3 who was healed by Peter and John in the name of Christ that created such a massive uproar against the early church even as it drew a lot of attention to the gospel. The nation has come together to make David king. Now, under his leadership, the nation has their first military victory in years and they did it together. A nemesis in their midst is finally removed and the country that has come together now feels like there is the possibility that it is going to at last, stay together. Israel finally looks like she is coming into her own.

### 3. **The capital is (finally) established.** (9-10)

David now has a home. The nation has a capital. The people of God have a shepherd king who lives among them. The king now sets out to build the city. And this little 15-acre walled village begins to rise in the conversations of world leaders. A new city is coming into focus. And to this day, 3,000 years later, Jerusalem remains at the crossroads of history and in the crosshairs of history. Jerusalem will always be relevant, not simply because she has been the capital of Israel, but because remains in the plans of God. Anything that is in the plans of God is going to be relevant, if not controversial and that is the past, present and near future of Jerusalem. One scholar said, "The history of Jerusalem is the history of the world."

She became the capital of Israel and the home of David's dynasty for 22 kings spanning 400 years. She was destroyed by the Babylonians and rebuilt by Nehemiah. She was destroyed again by the Romans, then rebuilt by the Muslims, captured by the crusades and captured by the Muslims. When the Ottoman empire was defeated in W.W. I, the stage was set for the Jews to regain their city, which they did partially in 1948 and more so in 1967. The city will fall again. Jesus speaks of this in Matthew 24 and Revelation 11 speaks of an earthquake that will destroy a tenth of the city. But she will rise once more, never to fall. Actually, she won't rise. She will descend. Revelation 21 tells us where all of history is headed. For those who are followers of Christ, they will be in the kingdom of Christ. These are the people of God who have a shepherd king who lives among them in their city. John writes, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, *"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying nor pain anymore for the former things have passed away."* Then for the rest of the chapter and on into the final chapter of the Bible, John describes what this city will look like and what life in this city will be like. You need

to understand that verses 9 and 10 are proof that God kept his promise then and will keep it now.

4. **Now, the kingdom has begun.** (11-16)

David's kingdom is not a perfect kingdom but it is a preview of what is come. David does what Adam was charged to do. Expand the borders of the garden. David did that. There were other nations that saw that the LORD was with David and they were drawn to that and they loved David and helped him make much of God. Finally, Israel is doing what God called her to do. Be a light to the nations. Show them that this is what it looks like to be a follower of God.