

# LESSON 8

## JUDAH ANOINTS DAVID

(READ 2 SAMUEL 1-4)



### Introduction

Israel's first king was dead. Saul lay slain on Mount Gilboa in the Jezreel Valley.

David, the last of the three principal players in 1 and 2 Samuel, was miles to the southwest at Ziklag, unaware of the day's events. David had returned to Ziklag, a city that Achish, king of Gath, had given him and his men in exchange for their military service (1 Samuel 27:6). He carried the spoils of war, which he divided among his men (1 Samuel 30:19, 20, 26). The exact location of the ancient city of Ziklag affords fuel for the fires of debate. Two sites are possibilities—Tel Sera and Tel Halif. Both sites are located about ten miles north of Beer-sheba in territory once occupied by the Philistines, with Tel Sera located eight miles west of Tel Halif. Regardless of Ziklag's precise location, God made sure David played no role in Saul's death.

So far, David has met his defining moments with success. However, ahead of him lie some challenges that will test his faith. Beginning now, incidents will occur in David's life that will test his faith and tempt his flesh. David will not remain sin-free. Sometimes his defining moments will sweep him off his feet and onto his knees, seeking God's mercy and forgiveness. David, the man after God's own heart, needed God's forgiveness, just as we do, through his descendant—Jesus Christ.

### The Men of Jabesh-gilead

A tragic aftermath occurred—Philistine raiders removed Saul's armor and placed it on display in the temple of their pagan goddess, Ashtaroath (1 Samuel 31:10). Saul's body and those of his sons—including Jonathan—hung on the outer walls of Beth-shan, near where they died. The Philistines taunted God. Then they believed that their victory proved their god's superiority. The men of Jabesh-gilead sent raiders to rescue the bodies. They burned them and buried them (1 Samuel 31:13).

95. Why did the men of Jabesh-gilead treat the bodies of Saul and his sons with such respect? If you need help with this answer, take a quick review of 1 Samuel 11.
96. What do you think was going through the minds of the Israelites upon hearing the news of Saul's death?
97. How do you think David received the news of the death of Saul? of Jonathan?



### **David Learns of Saul’s Death**

Read 2 Samuel 1. News of Saul’s death finally reached David at Ziklag. An Amalekite runner reported about the battle at Mount Gilboa, miles to the northeast. The runner told David that he had killed Saul at Saul’s request.

98. Why did David have the runner killed?

99. David eulogized Saul and Jonathan in a song often called “The Song of the Bow” (1:19– 27). How might this relate to Christ’s words in Matthew 5:44?

### **David, Judah’s King**

Read 2 Samuel 2:1–3:5. As was his custom, David “inquired of the Lord.” The Lord directed David to move his family to Hebron. There the men of Judah came to David and anointed him their king. When Abner, Saul’s general, anointed Saul’s son, Ish-bosheth, king of Israel, he set a civil war in motion.

100. As war raged, David’s wives bore him sons. Match the names of David’s sons in the left-hand column with the names of their mothers in the right-hand column.

- |               |       |         |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| A. Amnon      | _____ | Maacah  |
| B. Chileab    | _____ | Eglah   |
| C. Absalom    | _____ | Abital  |
| D. Adonijah   | _____ | Ahinoam |
| E. Shephatiah | _____ | Haggith |
| F. Ithream    | _____ | Abigail |

### **Abner Joins David**

Read 2 Samuel 3:6–21. Abner, Saul’s powerful commander, soon defected from Ish-bosheth’s service. Ish-bosheth was paranoid like Saul. He falsely accused Abner of sleeping with Saul’s concubines.

101. In this account, we also see a side of David that people often overlook—his polygamy. God intended for marriage to be between one man and one woman for life (Genesis 2:24). David now had an unusual command for the defecting Abner. What was it?

### **The Murders of Abner and Ish-bosheth**

Read 2 Samuel 3:22–4:12. To avenge the murder of his brother (2 Samuel 2:18–23), Joab sent a message that brought Abner into his presence. In a private meeting, Joab killed Abner.

102. Deception marked the murder of Abner. How did Joab deceive Abner? How did David react when he heard the news?

103. Identify Jonathan’s son and the likely reason he never challenged David for the throne (2 Samuel 4:4).



**104.** Ish-bosheth, too, died by deception. Following the murder of Ish-bosheth, Recab and Baanah anticipated a great reward from David. How did David react to their deed (2 Samuel 4:12)? Why?

### **God's Word for Today**

When it came to remaining faithful to his promise to Saul and Jonathan, David passed this defining moment with flying colors. However, David was not without sin.

**105.** What weakness in David have you detected?

**106.** God planned that marriage be a monogamous relationship between one man and one woman for life. Sometimes pastors read Ecclesiastes 4:12 as part of a wedding service. Why is this verse appropriate to read at weddings, and what might it suggest about David's faith?

### **In Closing**

- Review God's plan for marriage found in Genesis 2:24 and Ephesians 5:22–33.
- Learn more about the city of Jerusalem at the time of David by consulting a Bible dictionary or other reliable source.
- Read 2 Samuel 5–8 to prepare for the next session.

Pray: Have mercy on us, Lord. We sinners need Your mercy. Father, turn our hearts to You, we pray in Christ's holy name. Amen.