

# LESSON 9

## DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL

(READ 2 SAMUEL 5-8)



### Introduction

Today, some three thousand years after King David made Jerusalem his capital city, nearly three-quarters of a million people call it home. Of this figure, a little more than five hundred thousand people are Jews, two hundred thousand are Muslim, and nearly fifteen thousand are Christians. Jerusalem remains a city in conflict, a city populated by three major religions—Jews, Christians, and Muslims. We may even call Jerusalem a “tinder box,” for all three faiths “claim” the Temple Mount—Israel’s holiest site.

At the time of David, the Jebusites lived there, but the story of Jerusalem is much older. Genesis 14:18 contains the earliest mention of the city. Melchizedek, king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, lived there. This king and priest brought food to Abraham as he and his victorious army passed nearby. Jerusalem, known then as Salem, was already in existence at the time of Abraham. In Joshua 10:1–4, we read about Adoni-zedek. This king of Jerusalem died fighting the Israelites. Still the Jews could not dislodge the Jebusites from Jerusalem (Joshua 15:63). The tribe of Benjamin received the land around Jerusalem, but Jerusalem remained in the hands of the Jebusites. Years later, during the time of the judges, we read, “The people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem” (Judges 1:21). King David would do so. King David would establish a new national capital and center of worship in Jerusalem.

### Hebron

Read 2 Samuel 5:1–5. Before David conquered Jerusalem, he made his headquarters at Hebron, some forty miles to the southwest. Hebron is a city rich in Jewish history—claiming the title of “World’s Oldest Unwalled City” and “City of the Patriarchs.” Here, Herod the Great built a monumental tomb for Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Leah, still seen in Hebron today.

Soon the tribes of Israel arrived in Hebron to share their plans to make David king. They gave three reasons: (1) David was their kin, (2) David was successful militarily, and (3) they had heard of David’s divine appointment by God to “shepherd” them. At thirty years of age, David received their anointing as king.

**107.** How many years did David reign in Hebron over Judah? in Jerusalem over Judah and Israel?

**108.** What was the total length of David’s reign?



### **Israel's New King**

Read 2 Samuel 5:6–25. David and his men moved north to attack the Jebusites. David's men did something no other Israelite force could have accomplished—they defeated the city of Jerusalem. David took additional wives and concubines among the women living in Jerusalem. More sons and daughters would follow.

**109.** With whom did David make an alliance to build his palace?

**110.** An old nemesis, the Philistines, challenged David. How did God assist David in his time of need?

### **God's Promise to David**

Read 2 Samuel 6:1–7:17. God granted David another victory. David responded to God's faithfulness by moving the ark of the covenant from Kiriath-jearim (called Baale-judah in our text) to Jerusalem.

**111.** While moving the ark, one of the oxen stumbled. What happened to the man who touched the ark? (Note: We may wonder why God took such action. Since the Bible notes, "the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah," perhaps Uzzah acted irreverently toward the ark. God's action is not unprecedented—He struck down Nadab and Abihu for their irreverence [Leviticus 10:1, 2].)

**112.** The ark remained in the home of Obed-edom for three months before completing its journey to Jerusalem. We also learn of Samuel's successor as prophet. Who replaced Samuel?

**113.** In a dramatic series of "I wills," similar to what we find in Genesis 12:1–3, God made a covenant (agreement) with David. As you read these "I wills" in 2 Samuel 7:9–17, notice that God's covenant required nothing of David. God made a dramatic messianic promise to David like He did to Abraham in Genesis 12:3b. Where do you find this promise in God's covenant with David?

**114.** To whom did God grant permission to build His house of worship? Why not David?

### **"Who Am I, O Lord God"**

Read 2 Samuel 7:18–29. The Bible records David's prayer given in response to God's Word through Nathan. God denied David's request to build a permanent home for the ark of the covenant

**115.** How did David respond to God's answer?

### **David's Wars**

Read 2 Samuel 8. Several years of military conquest occupy this chapter. At one point, Israel's land holdings reached from the Mediterranean Sea eastward to Damascus, Syria, and the Euphrates River in Iraq, then southward to the Sinai Peninsula.

**116.** What proof of God's faithfulness to David shines out in this chapter?



**117.** David soon found out that he could not administer a nation alone. What did David do to administer “justice and equity to all his people?”

### **God’s Word for Today**

We see David’s humility before God in his prayer found in chapter 7. David also wrote Psalms 18:27; 25:9; and 149:4, and in each of these verses David mentions the word humble.

**118.** What does God promise those who are humble before Him?

**119.** The opposite of humility is boastfulness or pride. What words of advice does Paul offer about boasting in 1 Corinthians 1:31?

**120.** What effect might we see if all Christians began boasting in the Lord and walking humbly before Him?

### **In Closing**

- Examine God’s covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1–3) and His covenant with David (2 Samuel 7:9–17).
- Review the story of David and Bathsheba.
- Read 2 Samuel 9–12 to prepare for the next session.

Pray: Father, we thank You for David, who sought after You with his whole heart. Make us more like him in our determination to follow You. We want to be men and women after Your heart. Amen.